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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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While we still don't have medicines or vaccines to prevent and cure COVID, we will need to change some aspects of our lifestyle even if we cannot change society as a whole in accordance with the requirements: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that it would be necessary to change some aspects of our lifestyle even if we could not change society as a whole in accordance with the requirements while we still don't have medicines or vaccines to prevent and cure COVID. This was what she wrote:

The term "New Normal" is something to think about. Should we say "a new mode of behaviour"; or it is because the world has changed due to COVID to the point of no return that all of us have to live in a new mode of behaviour. At this point, it is still early to make a decision.

Throughout history, all the peoples of the world had to face epidemics and pandemics; it has been estimated that more than a hundred million people died because of the plague that erupted during the 14th century. As a result of this, although there were changes in some societies in the social and economic aspects, we cannot say that people's lifestyle changed.

> Our daily lives have changed because of the industrial revolution and the communications technology revolution; the fact that I'm able to communicate using Facebook is also the result of this change.

Some new forms of international relations which we might say is the result of the catastrophe of the global war (Thahtantara kappa) of World War I and II, now seem to be already outdated.

Our daily lives have changed because of the industrial revolution and the communications technology revolution; the fact that I'm able to communicate using Facebook is also the result of this change.

Human beings have to learn to survive according to the needs of the situation. While we still don't have medicines or vaccines to prevent and cure COVID, we will need to change some aspects of our lifestyle even if we cannot change society as a whole in accordance with the requirements.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 319 after two new cases reported on 9 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached **319** after **two** new imported cases were reported on 9 July, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the **319** confirmed cases, **six** died, **254** have recovered and **237** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 9 July 2020

Total Case	New Case	Total Death Tally
319	2	6

Recovery Update on 9 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
254	4	237

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 9 July 2020

New PUI
41

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"People are the key"

Vice Senior General joins virtual meeting of ASEAN army chiefs

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win joined a virtual meeting for discussing the 21st ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting and the 30th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meeting yesterday.

The Vice Senior General and other ASEAN Chiefs of Army discussed update situations of COVID outbreak in member countries and participation of military members in fight against the pandemic.

The member countries agreed that Brunei will host the 21st ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting online, but the 30th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meeting will not be organized due to the spread of COVID-19.

Moreover, the participants decided that Myanmar will become the rotating host country for 21st ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting and the 30th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meeting.

According to the report from the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Myanmar organized the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting, and the 23rd ASEAN Armies Rifle Meeting in 2013.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar discusses digital cooperation with China



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint is seen at digital coopeation meeting between Myanmar and China on 9 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN online meeting was held between the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), government of Yunnan Province, and Mandalay Region government at 1:30 pm yesterday.

In the first session of the meeting, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung read a message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The message read that this meeting is a cooperative task based on the bilateral and Pauk-Phaw relationship between Myanmar and China.

The message continues that during the time warding off the global COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar is implementing the e-Government system to enhance administrative processes, and the country is turning the challenges and difficulties out of the pandemic into opportunities to bring public services to the digital platform.

The government is working hard to place the e-commerce system into the hands of investors, businesses and members of the public as soon as possible. Electronic technology and digital platforms became a window to living a life with the coronavirus and the new normal. Using e-commerce systems for trade and economic cooperation between Myanmar and China will allow them to function at their normal pace, reduce expenditure, make financial management easier, expand market opportunities, and reduce time and labour for carrying out tasks.

The State Counsellor's message continued that this meeting between the governments of Mandalay Region and Yunnan Province will be a step toward digital cooperation between the two nations while controlling COVID-19. The message wished for the success of trade and business cooperation with the e-commerce system, overcoming the challenges of the pandemic, and uncovering new tasks and progress in increased economic cooperation.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Director Mr Song Tao of IDCPC, Vice-Minister Mr Guo Yezhou, and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai all delivered separate speeches.

The meeting was aimed for collaboration between the local governments of Mandalay Region and Yunnan Province in implementing bilateral agreements of the leaders of both nations, sharing experiences of dealing with COVID-19, strengthening regional cooperation, the BRI and China-Myanmar Economic Corridor projects, especially implementation of digital economy, e-commerce and reducing poverty.

The second session of the meeting continued afterwards.—MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 130/2020

5th Waning of First Waso 1382 ME
(9 July 2020)

10 Defence Services Personnel representatives substituted for Region and State Hluttaws

According to the report presented under Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law on substitution of ten Region/State Hluttaw representatives of Defence Services Personnel who were submitted by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for the 8 November 2015 General Election, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following ten Region/State Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 3/2016 dated on 18-1-2016, the Notification 28/2016 dated on 14-11-2016, the Notification 10/2017 dated on 16-5-2017, the Notification 169/2018 dated on 6-11-2018 and the Notification 6/2019 dated on 15-1-2019 with those shown on the right column.

Sagaing Region Hluttaw		
(1)	BC 38809 Major Thet Win	BC 41961 Major Hla Htut Naung
(2)	BC 48766 Captain Yarzar Htet	BC 54204 Captain Yan Kyaw
Bago Region Hluttaw		
(3)	BC 37164 Major Pyae Phyo Zaw	BC 38102 Major Tin Naing Win
Magway Region Hluttaw		
(4)	BC 51849 Captain Nay Lwin Htoo	BC 51847 Captain Hlaing Myint Tun
Yangon Region Hluttaw		
(5)	BC 27768 Major Aung Than Win	BC 37703 Major Myo Min Tun
(6)	BC 39028 Major Nyein Chan Aung	BC 42524 Major Kyaw Swar Win
(7)	BC 39067 Major Hein Zaw	BC 45584 Major Kyi Pe Lin
Shan State Hluttaw		
(8)	BC 19035 Lt- Col Maung Maung Ko	BC 32037 Lt- Col Ye Naing Tun
(9)	BC 30589 Major Soe Thu Tun	BC 29777 Major Soe Thu
Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw		
(10)	BC 33535 Major Naing Htoo Aye	BC 38505 Major Mon Myat Thu Soe

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

The meaning of independence

Independence does not mean an undisciplined way of life. Independence strictly dictates that we live a disciplined life. Independence can survive only with discipline. After we achieve independence, the people need to observe discipline more strictly.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech broadcast on radio on 5 April 1947)



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in 13th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting via Video Conferencing





Union Minister U Kyaw Tin joins the 13th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 9 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated in the Video Conference of the 13th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting at 1:00 pm yesterday from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mr Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The Meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand from Mekong countries.

At the meeting, the Ministers discussed and exchanged views on enhancing Mekong-Japan cooperation to effectively prevent and control the COVID-19 and to achieve the Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The Ministers also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation for post COVID-19 economic recovery in the Mekong region.

In his statement, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin mentioned that the Mekong countries have been able to bring the COVID-19 pandemic under control. In sharing Myanmar's experience, he stated that Myanmar has also been able to control the virus so far, attributing to its early action on monitoring since early this year and the ability to mobilize the people, volunteers and well-wishers through its "Whole-of-Nation" approach. He added that the Government has adopted the COVID-19 Emergency Recovery Plan (CERP) to cushion the financial, social and economic impact. He stressed the need to enhance cooperation between Japan and Mekong countries in their efforts for both pandemic response and economic recovery.

The Union Minister added that promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in particular for prevention, control and response of public health emergencies has already occupied a place of priority under the Mekong-Japan Cooperation even before the COVID-19 outbreak, and Myanmar is also striving to achieve UHC through the implementation of the National Health Plan (2017-2021). He thanked the Japanese Government for providing Avigan tablets, primer and reagent for the National Health Laboratory (NHL), and 2 billion Japanese Yen assistance for medical equipment and facilities to help Myanmar's response to the pandemic.

The 13th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting issued the Co-Chairs' statement relating to the Mekong-Japan Cooperation for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Integral Strengthening of Economic Relations.

According to the statement, the Ministers agreed to strengthen timely sharing of information in combating COVID-19, enhance scientific cooperation in epidemiological research and establish strong and self-reliant national healthcare systems among the member countries of the Mekong-Japan Cooperation.

Also present at the Meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 128/2020

5th Waning of First Waso 1382 ME
(9 July 2020)

One Defence Services Personnel representative substituted for Pyithu Hluttaw

According to the report presented under Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law on substitution of one Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Defence Services Personnel who was submitted by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for the 8 November 2015 General Election, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following Pyithu Hluttaw representative shown on the left column under the Notification 1/2016 dated on 18-1-2016 with those shown on the right column.

Pyithu Hluttaw

(1)	BC 25804 Lt- Col Myo Khaing	BC 30563 Lt. Col Aye Shwe

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 129/2020

5th Waning of First Waso 1382 ME
(9 July 2020)

Two Defence Services Personnel representatives substituted for Amyotha Hluttaw

According to the report presented under Section 33 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law on substitution of two Amyotha Hluttaw representatives of Defence Services Personnel who were submitted by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for the 8 November 2015 General Election, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following two Amyotha Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 27/2016 dated on 14-11-2016 and the Notification 5/2019 dated on 15-1-2019 with those shown on the right column.

Amyotha Hluttaw

(1)	BC 38051 Major Htet Lin	BC 29866 Major Tin Naing Oo
(2)	BC 38066 Major Tin Aung Hein	BC 38140 Major Phyo Sithu Win

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Union Minister U Thein Swe addresses ILO Virtual Global Summit on COVID-19 and World of Work via video link

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe participated in the videoconference of the Constituents' Day event, dubbed, 'ILO Virtual Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work' yesterday at 4:30 pm from Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event, the Union Minister delivered a speech in a pre-recorded video.

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, labour ministers, as well as leaders of workers and employers from ILO member countries, participated in the videoconference, which emphasized how to effectively respond Covid-19's impact on jobs.

At the event, through the pre-recorded video, the Union Minister U Thein Swe said that the Global Summit will help maintain the momentum of the World of Work, and give important guidelines. As the "UN Policy Brief: The World of Work and COVID-19" says, the government must look after health of workers and, at the same time we carefully must take measures to sustain the momentum of businesses. Regarding how Myanmar responds to the COVID-19 crisis, the Myanmar government, together with all the stakeholders, take enormous efforts based on "a whole of nation approach" for prevention, containment and treatment for COVID-19.

He added the government has put exert efforts in line with the ILO's policy framework to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, with forming a committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by COVID-19, and raising funds for three main types of businesses that are adversely affected by COVID-19.

Interest rates, income taxes and trade taxes were reduced, while providing assistance to both employers and employees and arranging relief flights to bring Myanmar migrant workers back home.

Myanmar officials welcomed Myanmar migrant workers at border crossings, and transported them to quarantine centres in respective areas.

In cooperation with ILO, Myanmar organized relevant tripartite meetings since before the first COVID-19 case of Myanmar was confirmed.

The Union Minister U Thein Swe added that Myanmar will create more jobs in agricultural sector, and nurture skilled workers in various sectors.

The Union Minister concluded his speech by saying that COVID-19 has killed many people and adversely affected the country's economy as well as social lives, but people across the world believed to overcome the COVID-19 crisis by cooperating with each other in order to achieve better social lives.—MNA *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*



Union Minister U Thein Swe makes a pre-recorded video speech at the ILO Virtual Global Summit 9 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoHS conducts review on COVID-19 measures

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe held a videoconference with the relevant officials of regions and states yesterday morning about challenges in the fight against COVID-19 in respective areas.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said that the country has 319 confirmed cases of COVID-19 cases up to 9 July and 254 recoveries. He said 50 percent of the transmissions are imported cases with the new cases also from foreign countries. Authorities have tested 88,234 people for the disease and only 0.9 per cent of people under surveillance, 0.2 per cent quarantined, 3 per cent of those who had close contact with confirmed cases, and 0.36 per cent of all lab specimens tested positive for COVID-19.

Since the inception of the disease, 19 patients underwent serious treatment with only 5 patients requiring ventilators. About 58 per cent of all confirmed patients did not show any noticeable symptoms. All patients quarantined in each hospital are currently in good health. The number of people under quarantine has gradually gone down with each week and there are currently 6,114 people in quarantine sites and 23,780 people under quarantine.

The Union Minister added that there are about 1,200 returnees per day and if the relevant ministries and organizations cooperate in quarantining them, the potential for a second wave of COVID-19 will be reduced. Therefore, the Social Affairs Ministers for each region and state should keep providing for that sector.

The ministry has also instructed to conduct surprise checks in factories and workplaces, which are given permission to reopen upon passing initial inspections, by negotiating with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, said the Union Minister.

He said there has been a decline in the use of loudspeakers to disseminate public awareness on COVID-19 and so the Regional Social Affairs Ministers should make concerted efforts to expand this activity once more. He said the in-charges of regional and state public health and medical services departments should collect the directives and health instructions of COVID-19 released by the ministry, study the daily analysis of COVID-19 to become skillful, and to be mindful of daily official e-mails sent by the ministry on COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

The Union Minister said that when State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National- Level Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, led the videoconferences with experts from respective sectors and the general public, she said the instructions and feedback from the people are important and the ministry gives equal priority as well.

The regional and state public health departments must cooperate with Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Health Assistant Association and Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association in conducting preventive measures against COVID-19. The Union Minister also said he wanted the 17 heads of regional and state public health and medical services departments who attended the meeting to provide their honest opinions regarding all processes for COVID-19.

Next, the Social Affairs Ministers for Yangon Region and Kayin State, and the Security and Border Affairs Minister for Mandalay Region presented their respective efforts in the fight against COVID-19. The officials of regional and state public health departments also discussed about the various preparations, processes, directives and other aspects in combatting COVID-19.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win, Director-General Dr Thar Tun Kyaw of the Union Minister's Office, and Dr Soe Oo of Public Health and Medical Services Department engaged in the discussion. The Union Minister delivered a closing speech at the end of the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Unoin Minister Dr Myint Htwe discusses with local officials online on 9 July about challenges in the fight against COVID-19. **PHOTO:MNA**

COVID Fund grants K100 bln to over 3,300 businesses in 4 months

By Nyein Nyein

MORE than 3,300 enterprises have been granted over K100 billion from the Coronavirus Fund in the past four months, as per the data of a committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

The committee has been granting the loan to the business stricken by the pandemic from the initial fund, with K50 billion allocated from the country's revolving fund and another K50 billion from the social welfare fund. The priority sectors are CMP garment business, hotel and tourism service and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The interest rate for a one-year period is only one per cent.

Regarding the Fund, 85 businesspersons have been granted K5.696 billion in the first batch, while 113 enterprises were selected for K4.495 billion in the second batch, 111 enterprises in the third batch for K3.5466 billion, 417 in the fourth batch for K15.079 billion, 290 in the fifth batch for K8.7335 billion, 2,078 in the sixth batch for K49.116 billion and 307 in the seventh batch for K14.5564 billion.



Government has put K100 billion into COVID-19 fund to remedy local businesses hit by the pandemic.
PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKHTILA)

The applicants approved by the committee will be screened in line with banking rules and procedures, and they are not eligible for the loan if they get sued by a bank. The remaining applications are being processed, the committee stated.

Last 4 July, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry released a statement that the addition of K100 billion will be put into the fund to remedy the businesses hit hard by the pandemic. The fund will be provided to businesses three times, with K35 billion given out each in the first batch and the second batch and K30 billion in the third batch. The types of prioritized businesses, loan term and rules will be released soon.

The funding will be allocated from K150 billion of the Union General Reserve Fund. And, K100 billion will be added into the second-time funding, while K50 billion will be transferred into the social welfare fund as the initial COVID fund was set up with it, the ministry stated.

The committee was formed on 13 March and Union Minister U Thaung Tun for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations was appointed as the chairman of the committee.

The committee is responsible for measures to address the negative impacts of the coronavirus crisis on trade and tourism sectors; short, medium and long term measures to respond to the coronavirus crisis, together with the private sector and related associations; creation of new jobs for those employees who have been laid off at the factories; conducting vocational education to the workers; and additional measures to explore new markets to buy raw materials for CMP garment businesses in the country instead of relying on the sole market-China.

Additionally, the public and private sectors need to cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories, the committee urges.

Furthermore, as the long-term strategies, the committee will request Myanmar President office to give tax exemption and reliefs depending on the situations of the COVID-19 impacts on SMEs and to provide loans to the domestic businesses at a low-interest rate.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Fishery exports soar to over $700 mln in 2019-2020FY

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 26 June in the 2019-2020 financial year reached US$703.7 million, an increase of $105 million from the year-ago period, according to the statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

The figures stood at just $598.7 million during a-year ago period.

During the current FY, the fishery exports are expected to reach a record high. So far, over 580,000 tonnes of fishery products have been shipped to the external market. The export volume reflects an increase of 70,000 tonnes compared with those registered in the last fiscal year. Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) expected to earn more than $800 million from fishery exports in the current fiscal year, said an official of MFF.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

Myanmar's fishery exports have declined over the past three months, owing to the coronavirus pandemic impacts. However, Myanmar witnessed a large volume of exports in the post-pandemic period.

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

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

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

An MFF official said the federation has asked the government to tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

According to the MFF, integrated poultry and fish farming cannot ensure food safety, which is a requirement for export. Therefore, the federation has asked for the formulation of a law to restrict that kind of mixed farming. Fish farming must be conducted as a large-scale project to get access to Project Bank loans, according to the MFF.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Chin State pulls 3 domestic investments

By Nyein Nyein

CHIN State drew three domestic investments over the four years of the incumbent government, despite zero foreign direct investments in the state according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Those businesses brought into the capital of K3.368 billion. Chin State stands at the bottom in attracting domestic investments.

Over the past four years, Yangon Region stood at the first place attracting 178 domestic investment businesses made by Myanmar Citizens, followed by Mandalay Region with 68 projects at the second place and Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions, with 45 each at the third place respectively.

Additionally, domestic investments also flow into Tanintharyi Region from 36 projects, Mon State from 28, Shan State from 25, Magway Region from 22, Kayah State from 16, Kayin State and Bago Region each from 15, Rakhine State from 11, Nay Pyi Taw from nine and Kachin from eight, the DICA stated.

A total of 524 domestic enterprises put investments of K9,566 billion into the country between 2016-2017 fiscal year and 2019-2020FY (as of May-end).

Those domestic investments permitted by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and endorsed by the respective region and state investment committees flow into the following 12 sectors; oil and gas, power, transport and communication, real estate development, hotels and tourism, mining, livestock and fisheries, industrial estate development, agriculture, construction, manufacture and other service sectors.

Of them, the real estate development sector has pulled the largest domestic investments, followed by other service sectors in the second place and manufacturing sector in the third place.

MIC has been prioritizing labour-intensive enterprises among proposals.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

River erosion-related displacement increases this year in Magway Region



Waterway conservation is more important than prevention of coastal erosion in Magway Region that has seen higher number of river erosion-related displacement this year. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

THE number of people displaced by river bank erosion has increased this year in Magway Region when compared to that of last year, according to the Disaster Management Department.

Although only about 200 households were displaced by the river bank erosion in 2019, about 300 families were displaced from 1 April till 9 July 2020.

"The department provided monetary assistance amounting to K100,000 to each household to buy the house materials and K2,100 to each family member to buy the ration. We have already provided K30 million. As long as they are in danger, we need to support them promptly," said U Myint Soe, the regional head of the Disaster Management Department.

The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is also conducting preventative measures to mitigate erosion of the river banks, spending yearly the funds from the Union Government budget, the regional government budget and the emergency fund.

"We have received monetary assistance from the department. However, we have to mortgage our possessions to be able to buy the land. We have also lost the farmland because of the river bank erosion. We have to start our lives again, building houses and religious buildings," said U Pho Lone, a resident facing the woes of the landslide disaster.

Although waterway maintenance is more important than prevention of river erosion, we need to give priority to providing of assistance to the people who are suffering from the erosion. So, we have to spend budget more on the prevention of river erosion than on waterway maintenance.

A total of 33 erosion incidents have occurred in Magway Region with more than 1,100 people suffering from the disaster. Among them, 14 occurred in Yenangyaung township, eight in Minbu district and 11 in Pakokku district, according to the Disaster Management Department. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Dengue fever infects 12 in Pathein in 2 months

A total of 12 people are suffering from Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) with no reported deaths for two months in Pathein Town, it is learnt.

In May and June 2020, about 12 patients in Pathein were infected with DHF and there are no reported cases of death, according to Pathein General Hospital.

Only three patients out of 12 are in a serious situation in Pathein General Hospital. Dengue fever mostly occurs in the rainy season from June to August in the country. The DHF cases are highly reported in September.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection causing severe flu-like illness and, sometimes causing a potentially lethal complication called severe dengue.

People are warned to take precautionary measures against DHF transmission for lack of sanitation and unhygienic water storage which are blamed for causing this troublesome infectious disease.

The global incidence of dengue has grown dramatically in recent decades. About half of the world's population is now at risk. There are an estimated 100-400 million infections each year, WHO reports. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Sesame plants in Magway under threat by drought

A ten-day drought in Magway Township is likely to damage the sesame plants, according to the local sesame growers.

"The 45-day-old sesame plants are being faced with the problem of lack of rain this year. Now, it is the blossoming time but we could not get enough rain. Some of the plants are already damaged. This year, the local growers may be faced with the loss of profit because the yield of sesame will decline double," said a local sesame grower.

Although Magway Township Agriculture Department received the information about the damages of the sesame, the department does not have the proper record of damage volume of sesame, according to the Agriculture Department in Magway Township.

"The land of the sesame plantation is different. We have to repair the land to suit the weather. We have to change the crops and seeds. We are also providing the awareness training, said an official from the Agriculture Department. The Agriculture Department is planning to assist the local farmers for their loss in cooperation with the civil societies organizations. —Poe Poe (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Magway Region mainly grow sesame. **FILE PHOTO**



Now was not the time to become careless and carefree

It has been learnt from the news that in other countries, people thought that the worse was over but the COVID-19 second wave came in; if possible, Myanmar wants to prevent the complete occurrence of COVID-19 second wave; Myanmar does not wish to see an outbreak.

Therefore, from the viewpoint of prevention as well as treatment, the public should be informed about the things that need to be heeded and why. That was why she wanted health professionals to make people understand these things clearly. Now was not the time to become careless and carefree.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses COVID-19 measures online with Red Cross society members, volunteers



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds online meeting with Red Cross Society members and volunteers on 9 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Secretary of the National Volunteers Steering Unit, held a virtual meeting with the Red Cross Society members, volunteers, and charity workers in Ayeyawady Region, Nothern Shan state, Yangon Region, Kayah State and Kachin State, discussing their experiences and requirements for the fishting against the COVID-19.

During the discussion, the Union Minister said that the country was proud to see that the people participated energetically in carrying out the voluntny works through the COVID-19 period and as those works were acknowledged; although he wanted to give the chest badges and certificates of honour individually in person, due to the condition, he could only go and give them to the respective officials in the States and Regions; that he wanted the volunteers and hilanthropic organizations who participated in the COVID-19 prevention, containment and treatment processes to discuss their experiences and that it was an advantage by a new way to discuss with all the volunteers from the respective places in a short time.

Afterwards, the volunteers and members of Red Cross Society and organizations from the regions and states discussed as per township; they stated that there was a shortage of funds to arrange foods for quarantine facilities as the time goes by, the need of surgical gown, glove and mask in welcoming and delivering the people repatriated from abroad to quarantine centres , connecting the repatriated people who came from non-official crossings with the responsible officials, the wish for careful supervision of the border crossings not to let people come illegally, difficulties in welcoming the repatriated people at the Central Railway Station and at "0-Mile" of the Expressway, the concern about repatriated people being mixed with the normal travellers at the railway station although they were arranged to go in separated carriage, the need for fuel and travel allowance for welcoming the repatriated people in respective townships, that the people are not taking much attention to social distancing and wearing mask anymore, educating and spraying disinfectant, the plan to do washing hand campaign and mask campaign since the school would reopen soon, that they were coordinating with the responsible persons to reduce the anxieties of the students and the parents, as the teacher would need not only to teach but also to do prevention in schools, they wanted providing educational assistant groups as per the township and to carry out the giving certificates of honour to those who had not yet received.

Moreover, the volunteers and charity workers from the places which have natural disasters every year said mentioned that they wanted providing life jackets , life boats and multi-purpose buildings and to conduct the prevention process of COVID-19 if the disaster occurred.

The Union Minister said that they would support which could be done directly as fast as they could and for the negotiation with the respective departments would also be negotiated; to send the list of the people who had not received yet the certificates of honour; that he would let the responsible officials to go and do field research regarding with the prevention of natural disaster in respective townships; that the discussions and suggestions were very useful and he urged them to keep cooperating as the COVID-19 period had not over yet.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



MNHRC officials discuss human rights situation in Insein prison on 9 July. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Human rights commission inspects Insein Prison

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission visited Insein Prison in Yangon Region yesterday to ensure that there was no violation of basic human rights.

MNHRC members led by U Kyaw Myint and U Kyaw Soe visited Insein Prison on 8 and 9 July and inspected the prison cells, warehouse, buildings, medical ward, canteen, water tanks, visiting rooms and preparations for COVID-19.

They then met with several inmates individually and asked them whether there had been violations of human rights, difficulties in prison visits, access to basic necessities and human rights situation in the prison.

They took records and will send their findings to relevant departments for further actions. —Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

10 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Citizens' precautions called key to defeating dengue, COVID-19

WHILE we are staying vigilant to remain safe from the coronavirus, the dengue outbreak has been looming steadily on the horizon in this rainy season.

Twelve people have died of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) in our country from January to 6th July, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Meanwhile, eight cases have been found in Pantanaw, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

This is only the start of the peak dengue season and the number of dengue cases is often observed to increase at the beginning of the four-month rainy season, which starts in June.

Dengue should not be taken lightly, as it has directly affected more people than COVID-19. Just because we are battling COVID we should not forget other dangers, such as dengue and chikungunya, which strike during the rainy season.

In 2019, over 20,000 people were infected with the mosquito-borne disease with 123 deaths.

> The regional governments will have to do their best to identify manpower and resources for following prevention guidelines. Citizens must be careful and take precautions.

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, the number of dengue cases in 2017, 2018 and 2019 reached about 80,000, with some 450 deaths.

Limiting dengue outbreaks requires rapid action; early warning systems need to be prompt and efficient. Detecting a dengue outbreak in its early stages means fewer people get sick. If fewer people suffer, then the cost of treating and containing the disease is significantly less.

In the rainy season, we should also focus on other diseases, such as waterborne diseases and influenza, along with leptospirosis, which occurs during the rainy season.

This year, containing these illnesses will be more difficult due to the coronavirus pandemic, which could affect the operationalization of the standard operating procedure (SOP) that governments follow to keep other diseases under control.

This year, the problem is further complicated because the symptoms (fever, sore throat and body ache) of Covid-19, dengue and malaria, and a few other diseases such as typhoid and common flu overlap.

While battling with the COVID-19, regional health authorities and sanitation workers have been conducting home inspections and educate residents on what they can do to protect themselves from the disease and to prevent mosquito breeding at home following the SOP procedures.

The SOP includes fumigating and treating water with larvicide to kill the mosquito larvae, making drains flow properly, checking houses for stagnant water and public outreach on protocols related to these illnesses.

Containing the dengue outbreak depends on how we systematically and effectively manage the public health services.

The regional governments will have to do their best to identify manpower and resources for following prevention guidelines. Citizens must be careful and take precautions..

In commemoration of 73rd Martyrs' Day

19th July, 1947 - 19th July, 2020

General Aung San
(13 Feb 1915 -19 Jul 1947)

GENERAL Aung San was born in Taungywa Gyi Village, Natmauk, Magway District on 13 February 1915. His father was U Phar, a lawyer, and his mother was Daw Suu. He was the youngest in 9 siblings. His childhood name was Htein Lin. As his elder brother's name was Aung Than, he was named Aung San. His grandpa; Bo Min Yaung, a village headman of Myoe Lu Lin Village, fought against the British colonialists.

When he was eight years old in 1923, he received his primary education at a Buddhist monastic school named Natmauk De Pin Kayar U Thaw Bi Ta's Lawka Dat Monastery.

1928 -- He attended Yenangyoung National High School for secondary education. He stood first in all classes.

1930 -- He passed the Seven Standard in the A category and he was one of the top 10 students at the national level. He was awarded a monthly stipend of 10 kyats for 3 years till he joined Rangoon (Yangon) College.

18 May 1930 -- His father, U Phar passed away.

In **1932 --** He matriculated with distinctions in Burmese and Pali.

He finished IA in Yangon University in 1934.

1935-36 -- He was elected as the executive committee member of the Rangoon University Student Union (RUSU), was in charge of Information and an editor of Oway Magazine.

1936 -- There appeared in print in the Oway magazine a provoking article entitled " Hell Hound at Large", which was actually written by Nyo Mya, which is considered as a lashing personal attack on Bursar U Tin. As a responsible editor of the magazine, Aung San refused to disclose the writer's name. As a result, Ko Nu was expelled from the university in February. A rumour arose that Aung San was going to be expelled. This incident led to the Students' Strike. After the strike, Aung San became vice president of the Rangoon University Student Union. Since then, the All-Burma Student Unions (ABSU) come to exist.

1938 – He became president of RUSU and ABSU. At the same time, he joined Dobama Asiayone and became Thakhin Aung San. He resigned from RUSU and ABSU in November and started his career as a politician. Over a short period of time, he became the general secretary of Dobama Asiayone.

15 Aug 1939 -- The Communist Party of Burma (CPB) was formed and Thakhin Aung San served as Secretary of the CPB.

1 Oct 1939 – He helped to found Bama-htwet-yat Ghine (Freedom Bloc) and became its general secretary. After a short period, he co-founded the People's Revolutionary Party (PRP). After World War II, the party was renamed as the Burma Socialist Party and it existed as the central Underground Unit.

12 July 1940 – He went underground due to an arrest warrant issued by the British government.

8 Aug 1940 -- He went to China with Thakin Hla Myaing (Bo Yan Aung) to contact with China Communist Party. They arrived in Amoy on 24 Aug and later reached Tokyo, Japan, on 12 November.

3 March 1941 -- He came back to Yangon, and one week later, on March 10, he and his four comrades arrived in Japan for military training with the first batch of the Thirty Comrades.

26 December 1942 -- The Burmese Independence Army (BIA) was founded in Bangkok, Thailand with the help of the Japanese and became chief-of-staff Major-General Aung San (Bo Teza).

20 May 1942 -- The British Army withdrew from Burma.

6 Sep 1942 -- He married Daw Khin Kyi.

13 June 1943 -- His first child, Aung San Oo was born. In July 27, BIA was formed into the Burma Defence Army (BDA). He served the duties of a colonel.

1 Aug 1943 -- When the Japanese declared Burma as an independent nation, he became War Minister.

10 May 1944 -- His second son, Aung San Lynn was born.

27 March 1945 – The Burma Independent Army revolted against the fascists at Ponnar Kyun, Thayet District.

19 June 1945 -- His daughter, Aung San Suu Kyi was born.

9 April 1947 – His party the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) won the election and he was elected as a Member of Parliament.

13 January 1947 – He went to London to reclaim Independence.



General Aung San
(13 Feb 1915 -19 July 1947)

27 January 1947 -- Signed "Aung San–Attlee Agreement"

12 February 1947 -- Signed "Panglong Agreement" with 22 leaders from ethnic groups.

13 July 1947 -- He gave his last public speech urging his people to mend their ways and urge them for more disciplined.

19 July 1947 (Saturday) – General Aung San and his cabinet members were assassinated by Galon U Saw and accomplices.

■

Small-scale agricultural support programme for farmers coming soon

Deputy Permanent Secretary U Hla Tun

By Htet Hlyan

THE repercussions of COVID-19 has stalled agricultural and livestock breeding businesses in addition to the manufacturing sector. Myanmar's tourism industry, hotel industry, textile and garment industry and other businesses including those run by farmers are facing the negative repercussions of COVID-19.

This is why the government designed the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) to reduce the harmful effects of the disease and overcome it together.

The action plan aims to develop the socioeconomic livelihoods of people living in rural areas and their main vocation and source of income from agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is implementing the small-scale agricultural support programme and Deputy Permanent Secretary U Hla Tun answered some questions regarding the project to assist local farmers.

Q: Can you tell us some of the action plans of the ministry regarding the economic relief plan for COVID-19?

A: The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry formulated the CERP and sent it to our ministry on 28 April 2020.

Our ministry has to implement the action plans in Goal 2 of the CERP – 2.1.7. Support to Farmers, Small AgroProcessors, Seed Farmers and AgroBusinesses for Planting and Income Retention. The ministry will review subsections (a) to (d) under action plan 2.1.7 for plans that may not be compatible with fund requirements and will be implemented by the seven departments under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

We've sent back K132,461.56 million necessary for the action plans to the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI) on 8 June 2020. MoPFI made a decision at its coordination meeting on 10 June 2020 to permit K92,611.970 million for subsections (b) and (d) of action plan 2.1.7.

Q: How will you utilize the allotted funds to help farmers?

A: We will implement subsection (b) of action plan 2.1.7 which entails cash or lending support to smallholder farmers who have lost sales revenue or remittance income to support input purchases in time for monsoon planting.

The Agricultural Department will work closely with seed production farmer associations and seed production companies to implement the rice seed production for 100,000 acres project in Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory and the 14 states and regions.



Deputy Permanent Secretary U Hla Tun

If farmers can have access to the best crop strains and acquire the amount when they need it, then it will boost agricultural production, increase their income and develop their livelihoods as well. This project will remedy the negative effects of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector and will use K14,911.330 million from allotted funds.

The Rural Development Department will implement the village capital fund project in villages with 101 households and above. They will allocate K30 million to each of these 1,200 villages. They will then allocate K20 million for each of the 550 villages with 51 to 100 households, and K10 million to each of the 250 villages with 50 households and under. Thus, they will utilize a total of K42,000 million for all 2,000 villages for farmers facing financial hardships, households wishing to work on manufacturing and small-scale trading, and households effected by COVID-19.

The Fisheries Department will supply 2000 fingerlings and K40,000 per acre for all 150,000 acres of fish breeding businesses, utilizing K6,000 million in funds, to ensure the fishery sector manages to raise and meet fish consumption.

The Department of Industry is aiming to provide the necessary machinery to farmers to ensure they can plant the monsoon crops and winter crops before the end of 2020. They will use K1,256.850 million from funds to meet this goal.

Q: Can you explain the processes under subsection (d) of action plan 2.1.7?

A: We will implement the Cash for Work project to create jobs that will generate income for local people. The Rural Development Department will select labour intensive projects using K25,000 million for the Cash for Work project. It will be implemented in 2,488 villages that have large number of unemployed residents, people working for daily wages, those with vulnerable populations, have proportionately large or significant cases of communicable diseases, have ease of transport and regional security, villages with active enthusiasm and unity, villages high on the multi-dimensional index, and villages with a large number of returnees from working overseas.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is working after restrictions have been lifted to implement the livestock breeding, production and creating job opportunities in 100 townships. The townships with the most negative effects from COVID-19 and residents with the most enthusiasm or experience with livestock. A hundred trainees will be selected from each township and the department will either implement village-level livestock breeding projects or impart training on livestock breeding systems so that local residents can attain jobs. The project will use K1,440 million from allotted funds.

The Department of Fisheries will use K60.770 million from allotted funds to organize 30 training sessions for seamen on marine safety and security. The training courses will be held in coastal regions such as Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State, Mon State and Taninthayi Region.

SEE PAGE-10

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Makarimi Abissola ADECHOUBOU as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Benin to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Tokyo.

Mr Makarimi Abissola ADECHOUBOU earned a Bachelor Degree in Applied Economics and a Master Degree in Applied Economics from University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in 1979 and 1980 respectively. He served at the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in various capacities from 1995 to 2008 in Senegal and Togo. In 2008, he was the Head of UNCDF Regional Office for Southern and East Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa. He then served as the Head of UNCDF Regional Office for Africa in Dakar, Senegal and Johannesburg, South Africa and for Southern and East Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2013 to 2015. He was the International Expert – Consultant in Financial Inclusion and Rural Development with African Development Bank (AfDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2015. Then, Mr Makarimi Abissola ADECHOUBOU was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Benin to Japan with jurisdiction over fourteen countries in Asia and Oceania in 2017.

He is married, with 5 children.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 9th July, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 10th July, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing 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: Weak to moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10thJuly, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers.Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th July, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Directive for conducting surprise inspections on factories,workshops and workplaces

5th Waning of First Waso, 1382 ME
(9th July 2020)

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and a combined team of experts began inspecting factories, workshops and workplaces starting from 20-4-2020 to check whether they are adhering to regulations and recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent COVID-19. Those that passed the inspections were allowed to reopen.
2. Initial inspection was not carried out at some workplaces, including private businesses with a small workforce, small-scale emerging businesses and household businesses.
   Small task groups consisting of officials from township-level committees for containment and emergency response against COVID-19 in Nay Pyi Taw Council and the states and regions worked together with the General Administration Department, MoLIP and MoHS to inspect the remaining workplaces starting from 16-5-2020.
3. Factories, workshops and workplaces are required to follow regulations and recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Sports for effective prevention against the spread of COVID-19.
   Similar task forces comprised with township-level committees against COVID-19, the GAD, MoLIP and MoHS will continue conducting surprise inspections to the workplaces for these regulations and recommendations.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Certificates, titles to be conferred on Buddhist monks in congratulatory ceremony

CERTIFICATES and titles will be conferred on the Buddhist monks who completed the 72nd Tipitakakawvida Selection Exam organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The event will be held together with congratulatory ceremony at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) in the precinct of Siri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar, at 8 am on 1st Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME on 20 July (Sunday).

The Department of Religious Affairs has confirmed that the monks who passed the exam have been informed to contact the exam department at Pubba Videha monastery near the Kaba Aye pagoda by 3 pm on 19 July, whether they receive or not the invitation letters for the event.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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55 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Taiwan (China-Taipei)

THE cargo China Airlines flight landed at the Yangon International Airport on the morning of 9 July, bringing back a total of 55 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in Taiwan (China-Taipei).

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for 21-day quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries in relief flight and charter flight in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and brought back a total of 7,142 citizens to date. -- (MNA)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals returned from Taiwan (China-Taipei) queue for immigration process at the Yangon Internaitonal Airport on 9 July 2020. **PHOTO : MNA**

Small-scale agricultural support programme for farmers coming soon

FROM PAGE-9

The Department of Irrigation and Water Management will use K1,138 million from allotted funds for repairing different types of canals in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions as they suffer damage from floods annually. The project will employ local residents.

The Agricultural Mechanization Department will use K204 million from funds and department-owned tractors to cover the cost of oil for farmers.

The Small Scale Industries Department will use K600.210 million from funds to train 9,000 trainees on value added products such as regional cuisine, accessories, electricity, clothing, weaving, wood, bamboo, handicrafts, and household items, effectively an on job training programme.

Q: Can you explain what benefits will arise from these projects?

A: The first and main objective is to ensure food security and adequate support during the economic repercussions from COVID-19. The projects will assist people living in rural areas to achieve better living standards and will use 92.611 billion from the Union budget to do so. This will create numerous benefits to 70 per cent of the nation's population, who live in rural areas, within 3 months. While the projects themselves will be short-termed, the effects will last for the long term.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

A: CERP is being implemented with funds from the Union budget and affiliated development organizations. We will use the World Bank's loan to develop agricultural products after COVID-19, implement market networking under CERP 2.1.7 (c), the contract agricultural system, and upgrading laboratories for quality testing.

The EU is providing assistance of EURO 70 million for reforming the nutrition sector and we will be signing an agreement with them soon. We will be using funds from there for COVID-19 relief and rehabilitation matters as well.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

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Advanced script writing course conducted in Yangon

AN advanced script writing course is being conducted at the Search for Common Ground (SFCG) beginning 7 July.

Scriptwriter Dr Aung Min from the Yangon Film School is leading the one and half month course for six staff members of MRTV, aiming to produce TV series about traditional dances of Myanmar national people.

The course is organized by the MRTV and the SFCG to present diverse cultures of national people and enhance friendly relationships among them. The SFCG is a non-governmental organization formed in 1982, and its headquarters are in Washington DC of the United States and in Brussels of the Belgium.

In cooperation with MRTV, the SFCG started production of educative and awareness programmes since 2014.—MNA ■

Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung



An advanced script writing course is in progress in Yangon on 9 July. **PHOTO:MNA**

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 319 after one new case reported on 9 July

FROM PAGE-1

Two new cases of COVID-19 on 9 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Oversea travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
318	6	Male	Tonzang Township, Chin State	No	Yes, India	People's Hospital Tiddim	Positive	Held under quarantine (Tonzang Township)
319	27	Male	Taze Township, Sagaing Region	No	Yes, Philippines	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mingalardon Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

Myanmar Rice Federation to sell rice at discount price

MYANMAR Rice Federation will sell rice to people at discount price from its stockpiled reserve rice Eimahta which were accumulated from export companies since the last week of April and early May this year. Retail shops and factories are invited to apply for purchasing permit at the MRF for each 108-lb rice bags at K22,800. The federation will supply 200 rice bags to each shop in one time.

However, the retailers and the factory owners must sell rice at maximum price of K,1,000, K.1,050 or K1,100 per Pyi, depending on the ranges of location.

The retail shops and factories can contact phone numbers 09694386994 and 09694386995to the Myanmar Rice Federation and 09694386996 to the Myanmar Rice Merchants Association.—Aung Thu Ya ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Masked robbers hold up a home in Ponnagyun Tsp

FOUR identified robbers mugged a house in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, on 6 July.

According to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, the 4 masked robbers broke into the home of Daw Than Nu Aye in Sanpya Ward while her husband was on a business trip to Sittway. They broke down the front door around midnight and held Daw Than Nu Aye and her 8-year old son at knifepoint.

They reportedly stole a pair of earrings, three bracelets, a necklace and three rings worth of K3.8 million and left the mother and son tied up in their home. Authorities are looking into the matter and will pursue appropriate further action.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Invitation for Open tender No. (1/2020)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (5000) Metric Tons, (15) Lot of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,

(a)	(100) Metric Tons each	(5) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
(b)	(200) Metric Tons each	(5) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
(c)	(500) Metric Tons each	(3) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
(d)	(1000) Metric Tons each	(2) Lot Monywa, Mine Site

2. Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be wining tender.

3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 7th August 2020 (14:00) hrs and Opening Tender is (15:00) hrs.

4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No. (19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee
Departmental of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

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Embassy of India, Yangon Tender Notice

Requirement of Manpower – one Receptionist, one Office Assistant and one MTS. Details are available in the Embassy's website **https://embassyofindiayangon.gov.in/** Tender - Tender (Embassy's) and CPP Portal. The last date is **31 July, 2020**.

Acknowledgement of Changing Pesticide Trade Name

The trade names of the following pesticides, manufactured by Syntech International Co., Ltd registered at Pesticides Registration Board with the name of distributor by Farm Link Co., Ltd have been changed in reference to import and distribution.

Sr.	Trade Name (Old)	Trade Name (New)	Active Ingredient	Type of Registration	Registration No
1.	Foregone 10 EC	One Go	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 10%EC	Provisional	P-2017-3385
2.	AT-Kill 25 SL	Two Go	Fomesafen 25% SL	Provisional	P-2017-3379
3.	AT-Pender33EC	Kyo Shinn	Pendimethalin 33% EC	Provisional	P-2017-3384

For the above reason, in accordance with the objection of changing trade names may come and object at the Co Secretary, Pesticide, Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township withtin(14)days.
Farm Link Co., Ltd. No. 242, Kanaung Minthargyi St., Industrial Zone (2), Hlaing Tharyar T/S.,Yaongon. 09-264189400, 09-797777587, 09-783231907

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TikTok's Hong Kong exit a 'win-win' business move



TikTok has skyrocketed in popularity since coronavirus lockdowns. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

HONG KONG — Viral video platform TikTok's withdrawal from Hong Kong is a savvy commercial move that sidesteps thorny privacy issues but it will not shield the app completely from accusations of collusion with China, experts say.

As Facebook, Twitter and other US tech giants risk angering China by refusing to share Hong Kong user data, Chinese-owned TikTok has also portrayed an image of principle by pulling out of the territory.

The moves were triggered by China's imposition of a security law on Hong Kong last week aimed at quashing a democracy movement, and gives police new powers to censor the internet.

TikTok's exit from Hong Kong was partly an effort to shake off the "label of it being a company that is controlled by China and shares data with the Chinese government," Zhu Zhiqun, a political science professor at Bucknell University in the United States, told AFP.

However TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, has a similar app for mainland China called Douyin that does share users' data with the Chinese government.

And while Douyin is not officially available for download in Hong Kong, ByteDance is happy for it to be used in the city of seven million people.

"The company does not have plans to make Douyin available on the Hong Kong app store, but Douyin has local Hong Kong users who have downloaded it in mainland China," a ByteDance spokesman told AFP.

'Win-win'

Leaving Hong Kong allows TikTok to focus on building its increasingly lucrative American market, while ceding only a little bit of ground to its sister app, according to tech expert Elliott Zaagman.—AFP ■

Invitation for Prequalification – Engineering, Procurement and Construction for Overhead Power Transmission lines and Substation Extensions of Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

1. Entrusted by Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Co. Ltd, Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited (UREC) now invites Applications for Prequalification for Engineering, Procurement and Construction of Overhead Power Transmission Lines and Substation Extensions for Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. Scopes of Works
   2.1 Package 1
   - 500kV double-circuit overhead power transmission line from newly-built power plant to 500kV West University Substation with a length of 206km approximately, proposed conductor cross-section of 4×630mm2 and overcrossing Ayeyarwady River for one time at span of about 1.35km;
   - Extension of two bays in 500kV West University Substation near Yangon, including one 500MVA main transformer and five circuit breakers;
   - Extension of four bays in 230kV Pathein Substation;
   - Extension of two bays in 230kV Athoke Substation.

   2.2 Package 2
   - 230kV double-circuit overhead power transmission line from newly-built power plant to Pathein Substation with a length of 69km approximately and proposed conductor cross-section of 2×400mm2;
   - 230kV double-circuit overhead power transmission line from Pathein Substation to Athoke Substation with a length of 55km approximately and proposed conductor cross-section of 2×400mm2.
3. Only eligible Applicants with the following key qualifications should participate in the prequalifying process:
   3.1 For Package 1
   The applicants or their subcontracted installation entity and design institute should:
   - possess integrated construction qualification class A for power sector or particular construction qualification class A for power transformation and transmission, and integrated design qualification class A for power sector;
   - as designer, installer or EPC contractor in the past five years:
     - complete 500kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 400km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) in China;
     - complete 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 100km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) outside China;
     - complete at least one 500kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line with large span (not less than 1km) for overcrossing obstruction in China or 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line with large span (not less than 1km) for overcrossing obstruction outside China;
     - complete at least four 500kV or higher voltage substations in China or at least two 230kV or higher voltage substations outside China.

   3.2 For Package 2
   - possess integrated construction qualification class A for power sector or particular construction qualification class A for power transformation and transmission, and integrated design qualification class A for power sector;
   - as designer, installer or EPC contractor in the past five years:
     - complete 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 500km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) in China;
     - Complete 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 100km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) outside China.
4. Applicants with the completed similar projects in Myanmar will be preferred.
5. A complete set of Prequalification Documents in Chinese may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible applicants upon the submission of a written application together with the appendixes to demonstrate the qualifications and experiences as well as the certificate of legal representative or the power of attorney of legal representative, and the effective identity certificate of legal representative or authorized representative to the Email Address: tushangsong@urec.com.cn; cc: urec-mlg@urec.com.cn.from 8:00, July 8th to 16:00 July 13th, 2020 (local time).
6. Upon receipt of the specified application and appendixes, UREC will send the Prequalification Documents in electronic version to the email address given by the qualified applicant.
7. The Applications for Prequalification should be submitted in the sealed envelopes before 16:00 July 29th, 2020(local time).
8. Refer to the Prequalification Documents for details of the requirements for Preparation and Submission of Applications for Prequalification together with Security.

US judge dismisses GM suit against FCA

DETROIT — A US federal judge on Wednesday dismissed General Motors' lawsuit against Fiat Chrysler, citing "holes" in GM's claim that bribes by its rival to labor union officials raised GM's costs.

In a stinging ruling, US District Judge Paul Borman, who last month called the suit a "waste of time," issued the ruling that "dismisses GM's Complaint with prejudice" -- meaning it cannot be appealed.

GM alleged that FCA bribed auto union officials to secure an unfair advantage in labour talks and try to force it into a merger with FCA.

The complaint, which contained salacious details about extravagant gifts and meals, was built on a massive federal corruption probe of the United Auto Workers which has led to the conviction of 14 people.

FCA has fought the suit and called its claims baseless and a perversion of a US law aimed at organized crime.

The judge agreed, saying there are "several separate grounds for dismissal," adding in a comment on one of GM's claims in the 94-page, 198-paragraph complaint that "Further scrutiny of this theory reveals additional holes in its logic."

But GM said it would not give up.

"We strongly disagree with the District Court's order and will pursue our legal remedies," the company said in a statement, without elaborating.

"There is more than enough evidence from the guilty pleas of former FCA executives to conclude that the company engaged in racketeering and our complaint showed in detail how their multi-million dollar bribes caused direct harm to GM."—AFP ■



General Motors lost its complaint against Fiat Chrysler after a federal judge issued a stinging ruling. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Huawei deepens ties with Europe's biggest telecom firm: reports

BEIJING — Huawei Technologies Co. has deepened its business cooperation with Europe's largest telecom operator Deutsche Telekom AG despite U.S. security warnings about the Chinese tech giant, media reports said Thursday.

Germany's Handelsblatt reported that Deutsche Telekom had agreed with the Chinese company to accelerate the introduction of "U.S.-free" Huawei equipment, citing internal documents obtained by the business newspaper.

Deutsche Telekom depends heavily on Huawei in several fields such as 5G network, broadband and cloud services, while the United States has been pushing its allies, including Germany and Japan, to exclude Huawei from government contracts.

The German company has denied the Handelsblatt report, Reuters news agency said, but Huawei is believed to be confident that it has already created a close relationship with Deutsche Telekom. — Kyodo ■

UK construction looks to cement recovery from virus woes

LONDON — Cranes whir above the affluent market town of Guildford, southwest of London, as Britain's construction sector cranks back into gear after a damaging coronavirus lockdown.

Many of the nation's builders downed tools when the government effectively shut the country on March 23, ordering the public to stay at home as the outbreak took hold.

More than three months later, restrictions are gradually being lifted and activity is picking up speed.

At Guilden Park in Guilford, construction of a new £38 million ($48 million, 42 million euros) student accommodation complex project stopped for nearly five weeks.

When completed next year, the development will comprise 533 student rooms across four six-storey buildings.

Although the government allowed some sites to carry on as normal through lockdown, Guilden Park stopped work to ensure its 75 workers could operate safely.

"There was so much focus on the new measures with COVID-19 that you could not take your eye off the ball," said project manager Barry Kerr, 34.

"Everybody realised it was not just about health and safety -- it was about their families," he told AFP at the facility.

Isolation room

Preventative measures introduced included a one-way system, reduced staff, and increasing the number of on-site canteens, changing rooms, toilets and hand-washing facilities.

Start times and breaks were staggered, a fingerprint entry scanner removed and employees had to declare themselves healthy every day.—AFP ■



The lockdown to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus forced many construction sites to halt work. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lithuania tests digital waters with collector coin

VILNIUS — With several countries pushing forward to introduce digital currencies, eurozone member Lithuania rolled out Thursday an electronic collector coin as a pilot project to get some real experience with virtual money.

"LBCOIN" can be purchased on the Bank of Lithuania's e-shop by collectors from Thursday and will be issued on July 23, Lithuania's central bank said in a statement.



Lithuania's digital collector coin LBCOIN is not round but rectangular and made of silver. **PHOTO: AFP**

It consists of digital tokens which can be traded in for a credit card-shaped silver coin worth 19.18 euros -- the year of Lithuania's declaration of independence.

The coin will have legal tender status similar to other euro collector coins but the Bank of Lithuania said its use as a means of payment "will not be encouraged".

Nevertheless, the issuance of 24,000 digital tokens and 4,000 physical collector coins will hopefully provide some valuable insights.

"One of the key elements is to test this coin from the point of view of cyber security," Marius Jurgilas, a board member of the Bank of Lithuania, told reporters.

The Bank for International Settlements, which brings world central banks together, said last month the coronavirus crisis is likely to speed up the development of state-backed digital currencies as the demand for electronic retail payments has boomed.

Facebook's ambitious digital money initiative -- Libra -- which is tentatively scheduled to launch later this year, has spurred countries to take another look at creating their own electronic money despite security issues that bitcoin and others have experienced.—AFP ■

Japan to tighten export criteria for coal-fired power plants

TOKYO — Japan will tighten its criteria for supporting exports of coal-fired power plants amid criticism that the practice goes against global efforts to curb global warming.

"We've made big progress," Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi told reporters after a meeting of a government panel on infrastructure exports.

Japan has backed coal-fired power generation projects via such entities as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The government's conventional stance is that if a foreign country has no choice but to turn to coal as its energy source, Tokyo will extend assistance for the installation of cutting-edge power generation facilities based on the country's request. Energy-scarce Japan is the only nation among the Group of Seven countries pushing coal-fired power plants. Faced with mounting global criticism, the government is taking a fresh look at its heavy dependence on coal-fired power generation, which is used to meet about a third of energy needs in Japan where most nuclear power plants remain offline after the 2011 crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi complex.— Kyodo ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (031W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (031W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GLOBAL HARMONY

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLOBAL HARMONY VOY. NO. (220044)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKW** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

Notice to VALENTIN STEFAN

Under instruction of **Ten Mile Hotel, No. 887, Kyaung Street, Sawbwargyi Gone, Insein Township, Yangon Region**, it is hereby notified as follow. It was learnt to known that you, while lodging at **Ten Mile Hotel** invented and installed a car by own intellectual in Myanmar and it was kept at the hotel with you. **Ten Mile Hotel** also permitted to lodge for having trusted to your business and promise. But now, it is remained to pay **USD 2,915** and **Myanmar Kyat 1,194,983/-** payable to **Ten Mile Hotel** by you. You were sent notice on **(3-6-2020)** and you left the hotel with effect from **(5-6-2020)** but no payment was made. Therefore, you are hereby notified to come and settle at Ten Mile Hotel within **(14)** days with effect from this notic date.

Under instruction
U Kyaw Swar Htet (Advocate), Sr. 12891
Office Address : No. (561), Room (603), Merchant Street, MAC Tower, Kyauktada Township

Millions under Australia lockdown as global cases hit 12 million

MELBOURNE — Millions of people in Australia's second-biggest city went into lockdown on Thursday to battle another coronavirus outbreak, as the number of infections worldwide surged past 12 million.

Caseloads and death tolls have risen relentlessly in many of the world's biggest nations, with three million confirmed cases in the United States alone. In Melbourne, five million people began a new lockdown just weeks after earlier restrictions ended as Australia battles a COVID-19 resurgence, with residents bracing for the emotional and economic costs. "The idea of not being able to see people that you love and care for is really distressing, really distressing," said a tearful Melbourne resident, Monica Marshall, whose 91-year-old mother recently entered a care home.

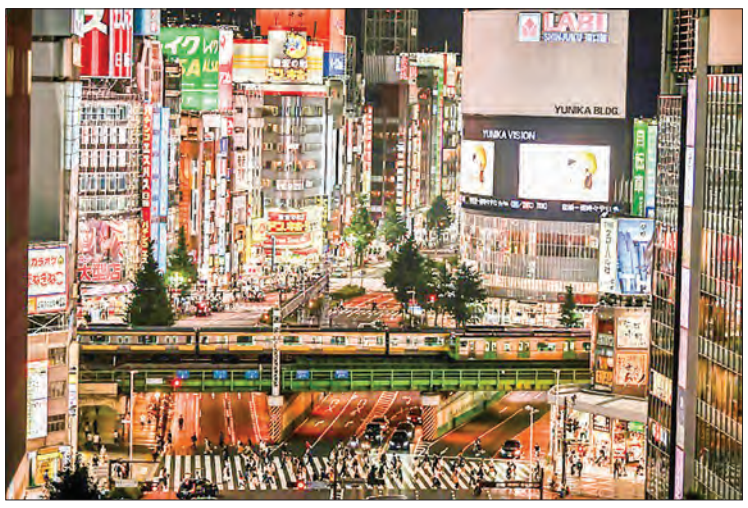
"I hope that people have got the message that they really need to take notice -- it's very disconcerting watching some people on the news where they really don't care." With no vaccine or effective treatment available, experts have warned that social distancing is necessary to contain the virus -- despite opposition in many parts of the world due to economic costs and misinformation.

Shoppers in Victoria state -- of which Melbourne is the capital -- stripped shelves bare on Wednesday before the lockdown began, and the country's largest supermarket chain said it had reimposed buying limits on items including pasta, vegetables and sugar.—AFP ■



With no vaccine or effective treatment available, experts have warned that social distancing is necessary to contain the virus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tokyo to pay nightclubs to close as virus cases surge



Tokyo has seen a fresh surge of virus cases, particularly in its major commercial and entertainment districts, including the famed Shinjuku. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TOKYO — Tokyo unveiled plans Thursday to offer nightclubs subsidies to close as new coronavirus infections in the capital hit a single-day record, with many linked to entertainment districts.

Under the plan, the Tokyo metropolitan government will give 500,000 yen (US$4,660) to nightclubs and other venues -- including so-called host and hostess bars -- if they close for more than 10 days, local media reported.

Host and hostess bars offer guests the opportunity for flirtatious conversation with attractive companions, alongside high-priced drinks.

The bars are often used by businessmen to entertain clients.

Kaori Kohga, head of the industry association representing hostesses and clubs, gave the announcement a lukewarm reception.

"It's a good start," she told AFP, "but 500,000 yen per club is not sufficient to curb the cases in these districts.

"Money may only go to clubs, not individual hostesses," she added. "I'm afraid that the effect of the proposed subsidies may be limited."

The measures came after a fresh surge in coronavirus cases in Tokyo, particularly in the capital's major commercial and entertainment districts, including famed Shinjuku.

Tokyo said the number of new coronavirus infections reached a single-day record of 224 on Thursday.

"The number of cases related to night-time districts played a role to a certain extent," Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said.

"We need to be on further alert," she added.

Despite the record number and recent rises in cases, the government has said there is no need to reimpose restrictions and spokesman Yoshihide Suga said plans to further loosen rules on mass gatherings would go ahead on Friday.—AFP ■



Seoul Mayor Park Won Soon speaks at a press conference in Seoul on Jan. 30, 2018, ahead of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics opening on Feb. 9. **PHOTO: (KYODO)**

Seoul mayor goes missing following sexual assault claim

SEOUL — South Korean police said Thursday that Seoul Mayor Park Won Soon, tipped as a possible 2022 presidential candidate of the ruling Democratic Party, has gone missing, amid reports he faced a criminal complaint of sexual assault.

Park's daughter filed a police report at around 5:15 pm that he "had left home four to five hours ago after leaving words like a will, with his phone currently off," according to Yonhap News Agency.

The police and the city have confirmed that Park, wearing a hat and jumper and carrying a backpack, left his official residence in Seoul early in the day and did not show up for work, while he cancelled a scheduled event appearance.

Park's former secretary is believed to have recently filed a criminal complaint with police, alleging she had been sexually assaulted by him, according to Yonhap.

Police, mobilizing drones and police dogs, are reportedly concentrating their search in the area of Gilsangsa Temple in Seoul's northeastern ward of Seongbuk where his mobile phone signal was last accessed.

Park, a human rights lawyer, was first elected mayor of Seoul in 2011. He was re-elected in 2014 and again in 2018.

He has won praise for his handling of the coronavirus situation in Seoul. In a public opinion poll in May, he had a 60.5 per cent approval rating.—Kyodo ■

China executes man in coronavirus-rage killing case

BEIJING — A Chinese man who stabbed to death two people at a coronavirus travel checkpoint was executed Thursday, the Supreme People's Court said.

Ma Jianguo was driving with friends to a village in rural Yunnan for a karaoke party when he came to a barricade blocking his path.

One member of the group tried to remove the barrier, sparking a dispute with people manning it.

Ma, aged 24, then stabbed two checkpoint volunteers several times in the abdomen, killing them, the court said in a posting on its official social media account.

At the time of the killings in February tens of millions of Chinese were under complete lockdown at home as the country grappled with a worsening coronavirus outbreak.

"During a grade-one major public health emergency response in Yunnan province, Ma Jianguo refused to abide by epidemic prevention and control policies, as well as traffic control measures," a ruling on the court's website said.

Since the coronavirus epidemic erupted late last year in the central city of Wuhan, China has charged hundreds of people with offences related to the crisis.—AFP ■

‘Consensus’ Notre-Dame spire should be rebuilt as it was



Notre-Dame was partly destroyed by fire in April last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PARIS — There is a “large consensus” that the spire of the fire-damaged Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris should be rebuilt as it was, France’s new culture minister said Thursday.

The massive 19th-century spire collapsed into the nave of the church bringing a large section of the roof with it as a blaze tore through the rafters of the cathedral in April last year.

Roselyne Bachelot told French radio that “there was a large consensus in public opinion and among those deciding” the issue for the spire to be rebuilt exactly as it was.

Her comments came hours before a commission that is set to rule on the thorny question was due to meet.

But Bachelot said the final decision was in the hands of French President Emmanuel Macron, who up until now has supported a modern architectural “gesture” on the 13th-century monument which was partly destroyed by the fire.

Macron wants Notre-Dame restored to its former glory by 2024, in time for the Paris Olympics.

But reconstruction work has been plagued by delays due to the weather, sanitary concerns over lead pollution and most recently the coronavirus pandemic. —AFP ■

Can Trump keep his finances secret? US Supreme Court to rule on cases

WASHINGTON — Can Donald Trump refuse to hand over his financial records to Congress and New York prosecutors simply because he is president of the United States? The Supreme Court will rule Thursday on two related cases to answer this, with potentially widespread political implications.

The decision by the nine justices could lift the veil on Trump’s finances ahead of the November 3 election.

Unlike all of his predecessors since Richard Nixon in the 1970s, New York real estate mogul Trump refused to release his tax returns, despite promising to do so during his 2016 White House campaign.

Trump made his fortune a key component of that campaign, and his lack of transparency raises questions about his true worth and possible conflicts of interest.

Congressional investigations have raised questions about whether Trump has sensitive financial exposure to Russia, and also whether he has used questionable accounting loopholes to avoid paying taxes in the 1990s and 2000s.

Attorneys for Trump claim the president enjoys total immunity during his time in office, and that this is necessary so he can concentrate on his work without being “harassed” by prosecutors or lawmakers.



The US Supreme Court is set to rule on two cases involving the disclosure of President Donald Trump’s finances. **PHOTO: AFP**

During the proceedings, one of the attorneys even argued that the president could shoot someone on 5th Avenue in New York and not be prosecuted until he left office -- echoing a Trump 2016 campaign boast claiming that he would not lose any voters if he committed such a crime.

The cases could have long-term implications for the ability of lawmakers to scrutinize presidents, as well as test the claim by Trump’s attorneys that a president is immune from criminal investigation while in office.

Stormy problems

One of the cases before the Supreme Court relates to an investigation opened by the state of New York, and poses the specific question of the president’s immunity from prosecution.—AFP ■

Condolences
Daw Hla Mae
(100 years)

Deepest heartfelt condolences to Yin Mae Khin (Pu Su), Dr Pe Thet Khin (Mg Mg), Thida and family, in fond memory of our dearest Ma Ma Annie (Daw Hla Mae).
The Gale sisters.

George Floyd said officers would ‘kill’ him in new recording transcript

MINNEAPOLIS — George Floyd said he couldn’t breathe more than 20 times, called out for his children and late mother and said officers would “kill” him before he died in Minneapolis police custody, new evidence showed.

Floyd, a black man, died on May 25 when a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. His death has unleashed a massive wave of protests against systemic racism and police brutality in the United States and inspired demos across the world.

Video of his death went viral and showed Floyd shouting “I can’t breathe” and calling for his mother as he suffocated. But transcripts of the police officers’ body camera footage, filed Tuesday in Minnesota state court by Thomas Lane, one of the officers involved in Floyd’s death, has revealed new details about his final moments.—AFP ■

Luxembourg’s Pierre Gramegna running for Eurozone president

LUXEMBOURG — Eurozone finance ministers, known as the Eurogroup, will elect their new president on Thursday, filling a key job just as the continent is facing the worst recession in EU history.

Among the 19 ministers, three have bid for the post: Spain’s Nadia Calvino, the favourite who is part of Madrid’s left-wing government, Ireland’s centre-right Paschal Donohoe and Luxembourg centrist Pierre Gramegna.

The job is considered one of the Europe’s key positions, along with the heads of the European Commission, EU Council and the European Parliament.

Whoever wins will be tasked with watching over a massive EU recovery plan that is still in negotiation as well as reviving stalled reforms of the single currency that is widely seen as needing fixing.

The eurozone economy is set to contract by a record 8.7 per cent this year, with mass unemployment and other dire consequences still a possibility.

51-year-old Calvino, who would become the first woman to lead the Eurogroup, has the support of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the countries of the south.

But “she also has major opposition from the Dutch and that whole gang who say ‘they’d rather die’,” said a European source.

Her opponents, mainly from free-market leaning member states, say the job requires compromise between countries of the north, who adhere to budgetary discipline, and those in the south, who are considered to be more lax. —AFP ■



Eurozone finance ministers, known as the Eurogroup, will elect their new president on Thursday, filling a key job just as the continent is facing the worst recession in EU history. **PHOTO: AFP**

MFF president helps contributions in Yangon against pandemic

U Zaw Zaw, president of the Myanmar Football Federation recently provided necessary cash assistance through Ayeyarwady Foundation in Yangon, according to the statement with the foundation.

The MFF president donated cash aid of K10 million to Waibargi and South Okkalapa hospital in Yangon, where most of the COVID-19 fighting response are being undertaken.

Next, he also donated K6.3 million to swab team from Yangon Regional Health Department as bonus for 30 health workers and K3 million to Pathein hospital for the ease of transportation during swab test to Yangon.

The foundation also provided to the quarantine camps of National Football Teams' Apartments in Yangon for quarantined persons who were repatriated from Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines since 11 June 2020, according to the statement with the Ayeyarwady Foundation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Warrix to sponsor match ball, kit supplier in Suzuki Cup 2020

WARRIX, one of Asia's leading sports brands, will act as an official football supplier of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020, according to the ASEAN Football Federation.

Being an official match ball supplier for all matches of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020, Warrix will supply the ball boy kits and referee kits throughout the event. It will also produce apparels, bibs and captain armbands for the tourney.

The AFF Suzuki Cup is the most important showcase of South East Asia's greatest football talents, and the tourney has scheduled to be held in November and December 2020.

Mr Wisan Wanasaksrisakul, Managing Director, Warrix Sport Co., Ltd., said, "We have continuously strived for innovation in our products using the latest technology as we believe in providing quality sportswear and equipment to enhance athlete performance across all sporting levels. Having sponsored various national football teams and major football clubs in South East Asia, this latest partnership with the AFF Suzuki Cup further underlines our commitment to grow and develop one of the most popular sports in the region", he added.

Warrix also supported Myanmar Football Federation at the MFF Warrix Futsal Open Cup held in Mandalay last year.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

AFC to restart Champions League in September at centralized venues



Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia celebrate victory in last year's AFC Champions League final against Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds. **(AFP PHOTO/BEHROUZ MEHRI)**

KUALA LUMPUR — Asia's Champions League will resume in September with remaining group games played at centralized venues and a single-leg final in December, officials said Thursday following a six-month coronavirus hiatus.

The continental club championship, featuring 32 teams stretching from Saudi Arabia in the west to Japan in the East, was suspended in March after just a handful of matches as travel restrictions kicked in across Asia to contain the pandemic.

Chinese clubs Shanghai SIPG, Shanghai Shenhua and Guangzhou Evergrande are yet to play any group stage match after travel restrictions were imposed on teams from China, where the virus was first reported.

But with the pandemic starting to ease in many countries, the AFC Thursday announced new dates for the competition.

The four rounds of West Zone group stage matches for teams largely based in the Middle East will be crammed into 11 days from September 14 to 24 at a centralized venue still to be named.

The East Zone has a greater match backlog and aim to complete their group fixtures from October 16 to November 1 also in a centralized venue yet to be named.—AFP ■

Pogba lauds Man Utd's 'beautiful' attack

LONDON — Paul Pogba has applauded Manchester United's "beautiful" attack, relishing his role in the team's push for a Champions League spot after a season ravaged by injury.

The French World Cup winner's return to fitness has been a key factor in United's run of four wins and a draw in five games since the restart.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men, who play Aston Villa on Thursday, are fifth in the Premier League, four points behind Leicester with a game in hand, and on a 16-game unbeaten run in all competitions. Pogba looked destined to leave Old Trafford for the second time in his career before the coronavirus lockdown but has since formed a formidable partnership with Bruno Fernandes in midfield. He said his extended period on the sidelines had further enhanced his love for football and he was "really, really happy" to be back.

"Just being back training, touching the ball and doing what I love is amazing," he told manutd.com. "I missed it so much."

The midfielder said Solskjaer's team had made major strides after an indifferent start to the season.

"We play more as a team than we did before, we enjoy it even more, we defend together, we attack together, and this team is stronger as well," he said.—AFP ■

Ryder Cup postponed to 2021 due to coronavirus

MIAMI — This year's Ryder Cup golf showdown between Europe and the United States was postponed to 2021 on Wednesday, becoming the latest major sports event disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The PGA of America, Ryder Cup Europe and the US PGA Tour announced the 43rd edition of the biennial matches, which had been set for Whistling Straits in Wisconsin on September 25-27, will instead be staged on September 24-26, 2021.

Safety concerns rose as COVID-19 cases continue to soar across the United States and no one involved wanted to stage a Ryder Cup without the passionate crowds whose cheers and songs animate an atmosphere unique in golf. "As disappointing as this is, our mandate to do all we can to safeguard public health is what matters most," PGA of America chief executive officer Seth Waugh said.—AFP ■



Europe Ryder Cup captain Padraig Harrington of Ireland, left, and US captain Steve Stricker will have to wait until next year for their golf squads to meet at Whistling Straits after organizers postponed the event until 2021 on Wednesday. **(AFP PHOTO/ANDREW REDINGTON)**