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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor discusses impact of COVID on hotels and tourism sector with stakeholders

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discusses impact of COVID-19 on hotels and tourism industry with officials concerned on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a videoconference from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the hotels and tourism sector and the practical realities at the ground level with stakeholders.

Those who participated in the discussions were:

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism; Daw May Myat Mon Win, Vice-President of the Myanmar Tourism Federation; U Min Kyaw Oo, Secretary-General of the Myanmar Hotel Entrepreneurs Association.

Firstly of all the State Counsellor made some introductory remarks. She said since the COVID-19 pandemic started, the global tourism sector has been hit quite hard; in the presentations submitted by the three participants, she has found the term "new normal" being used; as for her she has not accepted this term yet; this was because she thought that it was still too early to decide whether we should follow the "new normal" way. If we follow the "new normal" way, it sounds as though it was not possible to control COVID.

If we looked back into history, medicines for curing diseases that were thought to be incurable had been found. If continued efforts were put in to find cures, medicines for curing these diseases could be found. Prevention of the disease was more important than curing of the disease. It was more effective. After having been injected with the vaccine for the prevention of the disease, one could live with peace of mind. To have the medical treatment for the disease provides a certain amount of comfort; of course, there would always be costs involved; although a preventive medicine has some costs involved, it is a little bit easier; there were many things to be considered regarding prevention and curative protocols.

In meeting, she wanted to discuss about how much the world's economy has been affected by COVID-19; what were the results and impacts; secondly what was the impact on Myanmar's tourism industry; we need to consider this for the short-term as well as the long-term; in the short-term, we need to consider to what extent we could help the people who are involved in the tourism sector so that they were not hurt too much; how much could the Union Government do and how much could the entrepreneurs from the private sector cooperate; in the long-term if the COVID period is going to last for a long time, we would need to follow the health guidelines and regulations during this period; if the COVID period lasts a long time, the number of travellers would decrease and it would be necessary to take this into account; if the COVID disease disappears quickly, it would be good for everyone; if this disease disappears, we would have to compete with the rest of the world; all the countries of the world would try their best to recover the losses they had suffered during the COVID period and Myanmar would have to compete also. It would be necessary to make sure that the hotels and tourism sector is able to make the adequate arrangements so that the tourists could come; she said she wanted to request the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism to explain about the severe impact suffered by Myanmar and the plans and preventive measures taken so far.

SEE PAGE-3

"People are the key"

Tatmadaw donates medical supplies to Central Women's Hospital

TATMADAW (Army, Navy and Air) provided medical equipment to the Central Women's Hospital in Lanmadaw yesterday to help the hospital in its fight against COVID-19.

A donation ceremony was held at the hospital, and attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, senior officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command's Commander Brigadier General Nyunt Win Swe, Chief of Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Tun Myint, and the hospital's medical superintendent Dr Khin May Thwin and officials.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing handed over 20,000 surgical masks, 200 N95 masks, 500 surgical gowns, 1,000 gloves, 3 buckets of Sodium Hypochloride, Fetal Doppler, CTG Machine (Fetal Monitor), portable ultrasound, and portable X-Ray to the hospital's medical superintendent.

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein presented nutritious foods – 1, 300 eggs, 1, 300 yogurt bottles, 44 packets of Shwe Phee Oo, and 44 packets of Nan Myaing Coffee – for the hospital's patients and staff.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the ceremony to donate medical supplies to the Central Women's Hospital in Yangon on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Dr Khin May Thwin received the foods and expressed words of thanks for the donation.

In addition, Tatmadaw provided foods for press council, artists, and Lethwei organization at the Tatmadaw Hall in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing handed over 500 rice bags, 1,000 visses of oil, 1,000 visses of peas, and 1,000 visses of salt to Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin, who received the foods on behalf of Myanmar Media Council, artists, and Lethwei organization.

On behalf of the organizations, Chairman of Myanmar Media Council Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing expressed thanks to Tatmadaw for the donations.

Senior General and party then cordially greeted the attendees and treated them with foods, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Public Notification

6th Waning of First Waso 1382 ME
10 July 2020

1. The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) deems it necessary to continue implementing preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and made an announcement on 27 June 2020 that all directives, notifications, requests to the public, and orders issued by Union-level institutions and ministries regarding the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 until 30-6-2020 (excluding those that have been ordered to be eased) will be extended to 15-7-2020.
2. An additional exemption of 75 units will be deducted from domestic consumption between the dates of 1 July to 15 July for residential houses, religious buildings and domestic civil society organizations (excluding embassies, UN agencies and international organizations) when COVID-19 preventive measures were increased.
3. All relevant households that have consumed from 1 to 75 units of electricity will have their meter bill and service fees exempted.
4. Domestic consumption of 76 units and above will have to make payments according to the different levels of consumption rate. Local civil society organizations in the NGO category are the only type of non-domestic consumer that will have the exemption applied to them. The other non-domestic types will have to continue payments in regular rates.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Martyrs' Day to be commemorated with online exhibitions

THE two Bogyoke Aung San museums in Yangon and Natmauk will show online exhibitions to mark the 73rd Martyr's Day on 19, 20 and 21 July as a move to prevent transmission of COVID-19 viral disease.

The events can be explored at https://www.nationalmuseumyangon.gov.mm and https://www.facebook.com/nationalmuseumyangon for Bogyokoe Aung San Museum (Yangon) and https://www.generalaungsanmuseum.com and https://www.facebook.com/National-Museum-Nay-Pyi-Taw-809739482451309 for Bogyokoe Aung San Residence Museum (Natmauk).

In addition, the celebrations can be viewed at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture's website http://www.moculture.gov.mm, and Facebook pages MORAC-Culture News, Department of Archaeology and National Museum and National Museum Nay Pyi Taw the whole year round starting from 16 July 2020. —GNLM

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Spread democracy!

We must spread democracy and must try to build an independent Myanmar through this system. Only democracy is suitable for independence as it is the only system that supports peace. So, democracy must be our goal!

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Bogyoke Aung San at the fourth State leaders meeting in August 1945)

State Counsellor discusses impact of COVID on hotels and tourism ...

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung explained impacts of COVID-19 on the industry and recovery plans.

He said the number of inbound visitors in January this year was over 400,000, but it declined to about 6,000 in April, including those through land borders. After the trans-border visitors have been banned and the 14-day quarantine period imposed, the foreign visitors did not enter the country.

The MoHT has adopted the Myanmar Tourism Relief Plan that reflects CERP and its first phase has been implemented at the end of June. The relief plan included a one-year exemption of licence fee, 6-month postponement of taxes, 1 per cent interest loan and surveying the COVID-19 impacts.

The ministry will conduct tourism-related payment training for the persons with no job and no income due to the outbreak of COVID-19 after travel restrictions from one area to other regions have been lifted; the national tourism guidelines have been adopted for ensuring safety tourism services amid the pandemic based on the directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture before the businesses are allowed for reopening.

The Union Minister added the ministry has resumed the industry with domestic travellers while international airports have not come into operation, and people failed to follow the directives and it was a challenging situation for the country; the industry has seen only less than 10 per cent of previous figures; while the government has a limited capacity to provide full support to this industry, the most appropriate way is to work of resumption of this industry in line with the rules and directives.

Vice-President of the Myanmar Tourism Federation Daw May Myat Mon Win discussed people suffered anxiety during COVID-19 outbreak, and that it is expected they will travel to free from their distress.

She suggested the need for new tourist destinations as Myanmar has abundant natural attractions to the visitors; the tourism industry is a major driving force for the national economy helping people from all strata of society.

She also talked about the requirement of a clean environment with no debris in promoting the tourism sector, while tourists have preferred unspoiled areas with fresh air and natural beauties.

She remarked the possible developments in digitalization and automation at hotels, tracking of data to the customers and digital payments, and utilizing experiences of returnees who working hotel and tourism industry in foreign countries.

Secretary-General of the Myanmar Hotel Entrepreneurs Association U Min Kyaw Oo said that there are 2,091 hotels and guesthouses registered at the ministry across the country and some guesthouses licenced by local authorities.

The hotels and tourism industry is related to the business in transportation such as taxis, horse-carts, trishaws and boats, with the roadside vendors, souvenir shops, tour guides and healthcare works.

Hotel reservations began to decline at the end of January, some cancellations in February, decreasing inbound visitors in mid-March, increasing cancellation at the booking websites and zero reservation of a room in April.

He also talked about other difficulties in service charges, maintenance charges and electricity bill during the pandemic, and requested additional loans for the industry.

He continued discussions about reopening of hotels in line with the healthcare guidelines and conducting online training courses of online reservation, supervisory courses and hotel guest list management system.

> Union Government would provide effective support to the hotels and tourism sector as much as possible. To help the people during their difficult times was investing in the future of the country. We need to help when help is needed. Only then would our country develop without losing its momentum.

He also presented the needs of environmental conservations in tourist attractions, for example in Inlay floating market, endangered species and ecosystem.

The State Counsellor said to consider the problem in a practical manner, it would not be easy to run the tourism sector in a safe manner from the health point of view; the tourism industry was not like the construction industry; the reason why the construction industry was permitted to restart early was that it was in the interest of the State; in the construction industry, it was possible to keep the workers apart from each other; however in the tourism industry, it was very difficult to practise social distancing.

She said the other day she saw a photograph of domestic tourists visiting the U Bein bridge; when she looked at the photo she saw that the people were grouped together; for family groups, it was not a problem; however looking at the photo, it could not be just one family; they were all staying together with other tourists; in the tourism industry, it was important to stay physically apart from each other.

Because of the nature of the tourism industry, as many tourists wish to visit the holy and sacred pagodas, how do we keep the visitors six feet apart from each other; we need to work this out in a practical manner; we would need to limit the number of tourists allowed to enter the pagoda at one time.

During the COVID period, many of the hotels have been affected; hotel owners have given a lot of support regarding COVID matters. When we ask foreigners to go into hotel quarantine, they preferred to stay in hotel quarantine rather than hospital quarantine. In making arrangements for them it would have been impossible without the cooperation of hotel owners. She said she was very grateful and appreciative for the cooperation of hotel owners; she wished to say that in facing the COVID challenges, hotel owners were in the frontlines.

For the hotels industry to succeed we need a lot of visitors; if the number of visitors was not big, hotel owners would have to struggle harder; we would all have to decide in a collaborative manner how to approach the problem of the hotels industry. In some countries they keep the tourists in expensive hotels; these tourists are rich. Their hotel industry was based on this. In other countries, they have inexpensive hotels; as for Myanmar we wish to follow the middle path; we do not wish our country to become a tourist destination where people can come cheaply. Some western tourists go to eastern countries because of the cheap prices. Some tourists travel to these places because of their interest in the culture and environment. Some travellers who are on the lookout for cheap prices do not care much about the environment or the surroundings. That was why there have been incidents where the natural environment was damaged.

After this, the State Counsellor made her concluding remarks. She said she would look at the rules and regulations for granting loans to the hotels industry. She said the Union Government would provide effective support to the hotels and tourism sector as much as possible. To help the people during their difficult times was investing in the future of the country. We need to help when help is needed. Only then would our country develop without losing its momentum.

She continued to say that she wanted to help all the small businesses that were connected with the hotels and tourism sector. She said she wanted the hotel owners to use their websites to market their hotels by posting the unique dishes offered at their hotels, training courses and cooking lessons. They could also post how to visit nice places for relaxation.

Now is the best time to give training to staff members who need to be restructured so that they would be able to fit in their new work places; it would be beneficial for the country if arrangements could be made to build small buildings for one or two nights stay in the beautiful natural environment to study and enjoy the natural environment; she wanted the tourism industry to encourage the beautiful natural environment of Myanmar.

SEE PAGE-4

State Counsellor discusses impact of COVID on hotels and tourism ...

FROM PAGE-3

The natural environment is changing; we need to change what needs to be changed; when we change it is very important to change in the interest of the majority. She added that she wanted all the participants to consider the fact that during the COVID period, this was the opportune moment to review and reassess the hotels and tourism sector to make it better and make it possible to operate at a higher level.

Challenges are not difficulties but opportunities. During this period when we have many challenges, the tourism sector was also one of the challenges; the tourism sector is "heart to heart" connection; from this, we need to go one step further and encourage visitors who come to Myanmar not only to have "heart to heart" connection but also "mind to mind" connection; we need to make them understand our history, our situation, and our challenges; our country is facing many challenges; basically the reason why there have been misunderstandings is that we have many problems, lack of knowledge of the past and also inadequate knowledge of the present.

She added this is the reason why she wanted to urge all the participants to work to establish a "mind to mind" connection starting from "heart to heart" connection. In whatever you do, bear in mind to work for the happiness and safety of the people. She wanted the hotels and tourism sector to work towards the happiness and safety of the people, the country and the Union and to keep this in mind always; the Union Government will work to the best of its ability; she also wanted the entrepreneurs, and all the responsible officials in the related sectors to collaborate and cooperate. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Investment Commission approves investment proposals including shrimp farming processing and cold storage in Taninthayi Region

U Thaung Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations presides over the regular meeting of the commission via videoconferencing on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO:MNA**

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held a regular meeting on-line, this morning. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Chairman of the MIC. Members of the Commission participated in the meeting from their respective offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. The meeting approved 8 new projects in the livestock, manufacturing, oil and gas and other sectors as well as additional investments in 9 existing projects. The approved projects amounted to USD 135.144 million and Kyat 54.115 billion. The projects are expected to provide 2,008 job opportunities. Among the new projects approved by the meeting is a USD 115 million shrimp farm and cold storage facility in Taninthayi Region. The project is expected to create over 1,000 jobs.

Notwithstanding COVID-19, both local and foreign investments continue to show interest in Myanmar. Singapore, the People's Republic of China and Thailand head the list of countries that have invested in Myanmar in the current fiscal year. Investment in the power sector accounted for (26.52%). This was followed by the oil & gas sector (26.44%) and the manufacturing sector (14.28%) of the total permitted amount of foreign investment.—MNA

YBS contribution to management funds exempted until end-July

YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) has extended again the exemption for YBS companies from contributing management funds until the end of July, according to YRTA.

Previously, the YBS buses operating for the convenience of the commuters to be able to travel within Yangon region were exempted from contributing of K4,000 per bus daily to the YRTA management funds from 27 March to 30 April. Then, YRTA has extended the exemption till 31 May to be of help to the YBS buses. Then, the exemption period was extended again up to 30 June and now again to the end of July, according to YRTA. This move of YRTA is to support YBS companies during the coronavirus crisis, said YRTA Managing Director U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

Earlier, about 4,500 buses ran daily on Yangon roads. Following the impact of coronavirus pandemic, the number of YBS buses has decreased to over 3,300. At present, 126 bus lines are providing public transport amid the pandemic, according to YRTA. YBS companies must report to the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) on their daily process such as applying for waivers and recording the routes as usual.

Moreover, YRTA is making efforts to solve the problems facing YBS buses under the supervision of the Yangon region government if the bus lines find it hard to overcome the problems.

Currently, YRTA is cooperating with YBS companies to prevent the spreading of the coronavirus pandemic according to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

In response to the global viral disease, YBS companies and the public are cooperating in such activities as promotion of health awareness campaign by putting stickers, distributing pamphlets and keeping the hand sanitizers on board the buses, installing basins and placing soaps and ensuring systematic disposal of garbage near the bus stops and the railway stations. At present, over 100 bus lines are operating buses on about 135 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle and city transit. —Nyein Nyein ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

YRTA has extended exemption of management fee K4,000 per bus daily till the end of July. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds first meeting with literary consultant team of Sarpaybeikman

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held the first coordination meeting with the newly formed literary consultant team of Sarpaybeikman yesterday.

The meeting was held at the office of Printing and Publishing Department of MOI in Yangon.

In his opening remark, the Union Minister advised on holding the consultant team's coordination meetings twice a month at the initial stage, and then monthly meetings for sharing ideas and encouragements of senior consultants to the editors with lesser literary experiences.

The nine-member new consultant team was formed with Sithu Dr Thaung Kaung, Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danubyu), U Maung Hlaing (Mg Swe Ngal), Daw Mya Mya Than (Ma Hnin Phwe), Daw A Win (Librarian), U Ohn Myint (Mg Yint Mar-Kyaunggone), U Than Ohn (Mg Ze Yar), U Kyi Win (Lawka Amon) and U Htay Win (Mg Lin Yeik) who are the veterans writers of Myanmar literary world.

The formation of new consultant team was aimed to foster literary development works, to improve independence and quality of translation and publication and to modernize development of Sarpaybeikman library.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint also urged the consultant team to lead in organizing activities such as literary events and paper reading sessions.

Those attendees at the meeting discussed upgrade of literary development works, quality of publications, book productions from Sarpaybeikman paper reading session, training course for editorial teams to promote practices of literary studies, republishing famous books of Sarpaybeikman, using social media platforms to give young generation knowledge about activities of Sarpaybeikman, translation of Myanmar cultures into English and publications of science and technology books.

In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint met with cartoonists who are contributing their works regularly in the newspapers Myanma Alin and the Mirror, and the journals Doe Kyay Ywar and Shwe Thway, publication of Sunday Cartoon collection, upgrade of Shwe Thway Journal, electoral cartoon campaign for 2020 General Election, broadcast of cartoon animation programme for MRTV and development of 'cartoon museum'. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint speaks during the meeting with literary consultant team of Sarpaybeikman at the office of Printing and Publishing Department in Yangon on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UAGO holds Universal Periodic Review meeting

The meeting on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is in progress at the Union Attorney-General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Attorney-General's Office held a meeting on the process of Universal Periodic Review yesterday.

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said that Myanmar's UPR reports were submitted twice in 2011 and 2015 as per the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); the third edition will be submitted in October this year.

He continued to say that the report preparation committee had submitted the fourth or final versions of draft to the national level UPR Committee.

The UPR has encouraged the government to implement a mechanism on human rights affairs.

The attendees at the meeting discussed implementation of decisions in the third coordination meeting of national committee, plans for establishment of national level mechanism for Myanmar human rights, and submitting the national report to the UN Security Council.

The meeting was attended by Union Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Myanmar Human Rights Commission Chairman U Hla Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Union Attorney-General's Office Dr Thidar Oo, Director-General Dr Thi Thi Myint, Director-General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Chan Aye and the respective officials from the Union Attorney-General's office.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

161 Myanmar citizens fly back home from PRC, Thailand on 10 July

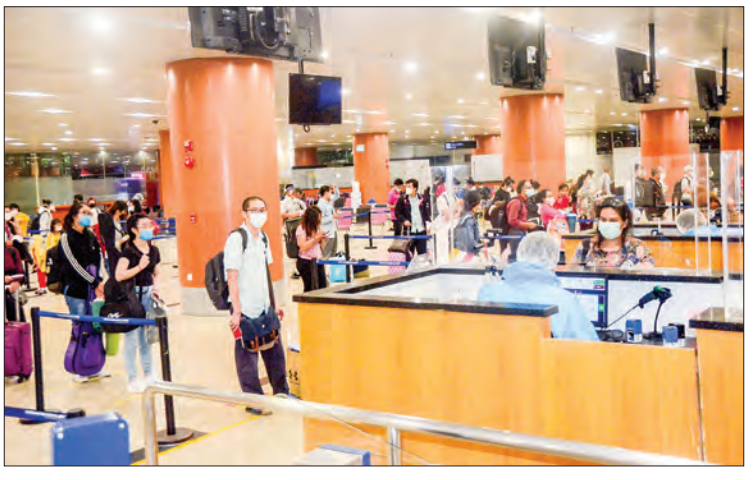
A total of 161 Myanmar nationals – 75 from the People's Republic of China by the Myanmar Airways International and 86 from Thailand by the Myanmar National Airlines – arrived back home yesterday after they were stranded in these countries due to suspension of international flights amid COVID-19.

On arrival at the Yangon International Airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided the returnees with proper medical checks and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

The ministry has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

A total of 7,301 Myanmar citizens have been brought back home to date. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar nationals returned from foreign countries queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Working Committee on resettlement of IDPs, KHCC hold third meeting

THE Working Committee on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kachin State and Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee (KHCC) organized their third coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was held in accordance with the COVID-19 health guidelines.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said that his deputy minister has led the working committee to implement resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State.

Since taking office, the government has focussed on the affairs of ethnic people and peace process to ensure resettement of Kachin IDPs in accordance with the ministry's policies and strategic procedures, he said.

He continued that "National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Closure of IDP Camps" was already drawn up, and the works that are included in the strategy will be undertaken.

The attendees of the meeting on resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State pose for a group photo at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

The national strategy will help the ministry effectively cooperate in resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State, and a pilot project was already set up, he added.

Rev Dr Hkalam Samson, his capacity as the Chairperson of KHCC, said that the step-by-step works on resettlement of IDPs are a move toward peace.

The purpose of the third meeting will focus on sending back IDPs to their places of origin soon, smoothly and safely with dignity and conducting educative programmes for locals, he added.

Rev Dr Hkalam Samson urged the attendees to conduct humanitarian mine clearance activities, and carry out social protection and drug rehabilitation works, and also stressed the importance of returning IDPs to their natives peacefully.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Kachin State's Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Nay Lin Tun, Social Affairs Minister U Nay Win, Command Staff Colonel of Northern Command Colonel Tun Nay Linn, the working committees' members and KHCC's officials led by Chairman Rev Dr Hkalam Samson, who is also the chairman of KBC. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 326 after seven new cases reported on 10 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached **326** after **seven** new imported cases, who returned from India, Bangladesh and the Philippines, were reported on 10 July, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the **326** confirmed cases, **six** died, **256** have recovered, **240** have been discharged from hospitals and **28** have been under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 10 July 2020

Total Case	New Case	Total Death Tally
326	7	6

Recovery Update on 10 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
256	2	240

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 10 July 2020

New PUI
28

Seven new cases of COVID-19 on 10 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
320	26	Female	Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region	No	Yes, the Philippines	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mingalardon Township)
321	26	Female	North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, the Philippines	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Insein Township)
322	20	Male	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kyauktada Township)
323	56	Female	Bahan Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kyauktada Township)
324	38	Male	South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kyauktada Township)
325	38	Male	Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Bangladesh	Maungtaw District People's Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Maungtaw Township)
326	28	Male	Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Bangladesh	Maungtaw District People's Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Maungtaw Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

Need to prevent and severely restrict dangerous illegal border crossings

In this type of situation, all of us need to prevent and severely restrict dangerous illegal border crossings. Those who come in illegally do not enter quarantine; if they carry the infection, the disease can spread to others. The steps needed to be taken to investigate and search for people who might have been exposed to the disease (contact tracing) and to quarantine them is such a huge burden for the country. This is a duty we have to undertake without fail so that the people would be free from danger.

Those who come into the country illegally, those who receive them knowingly, and those who cover up will be dealt with strictly and severely according to the law. If you happen to know any occurrence that endangers the public, please inform the ward/village administrative authorities. Giving this type of information does not mean that you are putting someone into trouble. This is just to prevent innocent people from falling into the COVID-19 abyss.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 13 June 2020)

Committee on Preventing Grave Violence Against Children in Armed Conflicts holds coordination meeting

The fifth coordination meeting of Preventing Violence Against Children in Armed Conflicts Committee is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE fifth coordination meeting of Preventing Violence Against Children in Armed Conflicts Committee was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday afternoon.

The committee was formed in January 2019 to carry out for ensuring the rights of children in line with the law.

In his opening remark, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye stressed the need to review implementation of committee as there are some reports on grave violence against children in armed conflicts.

The committee has adopted 10 tasks to prevent violence and recruitment of child soliders.

He added the needs for legal support, as well as support in livelihood, mental and physical rehabilitation and medical treatment to the victims, effective collaboration with UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNDP as well as with CTMR.

Security forces and respective commands were also advised to enforce the set rules and directives to prevent grave violence against children while coordinating with Ministry of Information to publish the committee's works.

Actions would be taken against six grave violations cases on the crime against the children if the investigations of Independent Commission of Enquiry of the President Office approved the cases, he said. He also welcomed the UN Secretary-General's announcement on remaining Myanmar military from list of index in child soldier recruitment report.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye confirmed that children were among the victims in armed clashes in Rakhine State. Regarding accusations of lacking health care measures amdist COVID-19, he said the committee has been carrying out measures against COVID-19 since March there.

The secretary of the committee briefed on the progress and future plans of the committee, awareness programme for danger of landmines and establishment of help lines at the Rehabilitation Department.

The deputy minister discussed implementation of the 10 procedures more effectively, measures not to be enlisted in the index of child soldier recruitment report, preventing children from sexual harassment and protection of children in armed conflicts.

The meeting was attended by the officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports, Union Attorney-General's Office, Adjutant-General's Office, Judge Advocate-General's Office, Chief of Armed Forces Training Office, General Administration Department and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Myanmar hands over 17 Thai nationals

A total of 17 Thai nationals — 16 migrant workers and one prisoner — were sent back to their homeland through the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

Among 16 migrant workers, seven were males and nine were females, and they officially worked in Myanmar.

Local officials arranged their repatriation in coordination with Thai counterparts.

On the same day, a Thai national who finished serving his prison sentences in Kengtung Prison was also handed over to the Thai authorities.—Yar Sae (IPRD) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Officials from Myanmar and Thailand exchange document over handover of Thai nationals on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: YAR SAE (IPRD)**

11 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Concern is warranted and vigilance is required

AS PART of the efforts to enforce COVID-19 safety guidelines in factories and among the public, the Ministry of Health and Sports announced on Thursday that it will conduct surprise inspections at factories, which have reopened after receiving permission from the government, to reduce the risk from the spread of COVID-19, and will enforce quarantine measures against migrant workers returning from neighbouring countries.

We are confident that these enforcement measures would ensure that there is no resurgence of COVID-19 in our country as we can still contain the coronavirus infection in our country, in which only 326 positive cases have been reported yesterday, of them, 256 have recovered from the disease, and six dead.

Why? the total number of COVID-19 cases in our country cannot be considered "high", in comparison with other countries. This means that, so far, we have contained the spread of the coronavirus.

After inspections, appropriate enforcement actions against non-compliant workplaces will be taken. Legal action has also been initiated against those who do not abide by orders and do not comply with mandatory quarantine regulations.

> Hence, authorities from ministries concerned are advised to enforce the anti-COVID-19 measures on all returnees coming home on flights or via land borders.

Myanmar migrant workers, whose numbers may be 1,200 on average, are returning home daily through crossing borders during the COVID-19 outbreak.

At present, about 23,780 people are quarantined at 6,114 facilities nationwide.

According to the Health and Sport's Ministry, about 50 per cent of COVID-19 cases in Myanmar are imported ones.

Hence, authorities from ministries concerned are advised to enforce the anti-COVID-19 measures on all returnees coming home on flights or via land borders.

According to the health guidelines, they need to go though temperature checks upon entry. If they have no fever, and are not persons under investigation or persons under surveillance, they would still need a medical check-up.

Those with medical problems would be referred to a hospital, while those free of infection would be sent to designated places for quarantine.

If those entering the country have fevers, they will be taken directly to a hospital.

In this time of crisis, all returnees are responsible to abide by the directives and health guidelines on COVID-19 issued by the authorities.

Amidst the spread of coronavirus, granting permission to reopen factories after inspections for complying with health guidelines, along with accepting migrant workers returning from neighbouring countries through border checkpoints are great challenges for the county.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization confirmed that coronavirus can be airborne indoors.

Hence, in this situation, enforcing health guidelines including social distancing, face masks, extreme cleaning practices and 14-day quarantine is a right step to combat the spread of COVID-19. Concern is warranted and vigilance is required.

In commemoration of 73rd Martyrs' Day

19th July, 1947 - 19th July, 2020

Thakhin Mya
(7 October 1897 -- 19 July 1947)

HE SERVED as the Minister of Home Affairs in General Aung San's Cabinet. He was born on Thursday, 7 October 1897 in Hton Bo, Pyay District. His parents were U Boe Chone and Daw Thet Lea. His childhood name was Maung Mya Shwe and had only younger sister Ma Mya Ngwe, who became a nun called Daw Khaemarwaddy.

He attended primary school in Thayarwady Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) School then moved to Yangon Baptist High School to finish his matriculation. In 1916, he took admission at I.Sc. in Rangoon College. He finished his study of I.Sc. in Rangoon College and Calcutta University with distinction in Chemistry.

He led the students' strike of Rangoon College in 1920-21. He was a deputy president of the strike committee and also was a member of National Education Council.

1922-23 — He was a headmaster of Kyee Myin Taing National School. However, he quitted his membership in the National Education Council.

1924 — He graduated B.Sc. with Chemistry distinction.

1926 — He married Daw Khin Nyunt. When he finished LL.B. in 1926, he became a lawyer.

1936 — He joined 'Dobama Asiayone' and became Thakhin Mya, later on, he was elected Member of Parliament. He quitted his job as an MP on 20 December 1938.

He was elected as president of All-Burma Farmers Organization in 1939 and the same time he led People's Revolutionary Party (PRP) that was for independence from the British Emperor. He served as Minister and Deputy Prime Minister during WWII.

1944 — He led the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) to revolutionize Japan.

In October 1946, he became a minister in General Aung San's cabinet. He and other cabinet ministers including Prime Minister General Aung San were assassinated on 19 July 1947 in Yangon.

He was survived by his wife Daw Khin Nyunt alone.

Thakhin Mya
(7 October 1897 -- 19 July 1947)

OP-ED: Pregnancy doesn't stop during a pandemic. Neither do human rights

By UNFPA

Maternal Health Knowledge Awareness Session provided by Midwife in Yangon. **PHOTO © YANGON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT /UNFPA MYANMAR**

COVID-19 has taken an enormous toll on women and girls around the world as a direct consequence of national lockdowns and the sidelining of sexual and reproductive health services by health systems struggling to respond to the pandemic. As the crisis rages on, the number of women unable to access family planning, facing unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence and other harmful practices could skyrocket in the months ahead.

A recent study commissioned by UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, highlighted that if mobility restrictions continue for at least 6 months with major disruptions to health services, 47 million women in low- and middle-income countries may be deprived of modern contraceptives, resulting in 7 million unintended pregnancies. The disruption of UNFPA's programmes on the ground could result in 2 million cases of female genital mutilation and 13 million child marriages that could have been averted by 2030.

We can also expect up to 31 million additional cases of gender-based violence for every 6 months of movement restriction measures. Many women are trapped with abusers at a time of heightened household tensions and reduced prevention and protection efforts, social services and care. In Myanmar, there is an urgent need to collect data on the impact of COVID-19 on gender-based violence to generate evidence for a proper response.

This is just the current snapshot; the future of what we call the "shadow pandemic" could be much worse. UNFPA projects that COVID-19 will slash by at least one third global progress towards ending preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls in this decade.

While the spread of the coronavirus has slowed down in some developed countries, it is rapidly increasing in parts of the developing world – including in countries where national health systems were already overstretched before the pandemic and those experiencing protracted humanitarian crises.

UNFPA staff around the world are working around the clock to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services and to protect essential workers such as midwives. We are also doing our part to protect women and girls at risk of gender-based violence, to lobby for inclusion of essential services to address gender-based violence in preparedness and response plans for COVID-19, and to make modern contraceptives widely available to avoid unintended pregnancies.

We cannot do this alone. UNFPA calls on governments and partners to prioritize the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls and respond urgently to their needs, especially in humanitarian situations.

In the first year of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we must not allow the coronavirus to further worsen inequalities, including gender inequality. Assisting people affected by humanitarian crises is not only the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do. Failure to respond may result in countless lives lost and lead to a future resurgence of COVID-19 in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

Pregnancy doesn't stop during a pandemic. Neither does childbirth. And neither do human rights. On World Population Day, it's time to reaffirm and act on our collective resolve to secure sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. ■

Avigan study fails to demonstrate benefit in COVID-19 treatment

A JAPANESE medical university said Friday a clinical study of the antiviral drug Avigan has failed to demonstrate a clear efficacy in treating coronavirus patients at an early stage of the disease.

Fujita Health University said that the difference seen between the patients who took the drug immediately and those who took it later was not statistically relevant in assessing the effectiveness of the drug, developed by a subsidiary of Fujifilm Holdings Corp.

"There has been a tendency to bring down fever or eradicate the virus" in those administered with the drug, Yohei Doi, a professor at the university who led the study, said during an online press conference.

But he also said the enrollment of 89 patients in the study was too small to yield a statistically meaningful difference.

Avigan, also known as favipiravir, has been seen as a possible treatment for COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

Fujifilm Toyama Chemical Co., the developer of the drug, is separately conducting its own clinical tests of Avigan, with results yet to be released. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had expressed hope to see the homegrown drug approved by the end of May but gave up the target after the university's interim report, released in mid-May, did not indicate clear efficacy in treating the disease.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference, "There's no change in our policy to approve the drug if its efficacy (against the coronavirus) and its safety are confirmed."

In the study at the university, 89 infected patients with mild or no symptoms at 47 facilities across Japan took part.

Excluding one patient who decided to pull out in the middle of the study, 88 were divided into two groups -- one given Avigan from the first day of the study and another starting to take the drug from the sixth day. The two groups were compared for the percentage of those who saw the coronavirus disappear from their bodies as well as for the period of time it took for their fevers to alleviate.

Of those who had Avigan administered from the first day, 66.7 per cent saw the virus disappear by the morning of the sixth day, while 56.1 per cent of those with delayed doses showed similar signs of recovery by the same morning.

It took an average 2.1 days and 3.2 days for the first and second groups to have their fevers lower, respectively, the university said.

As Avigan can inhibit the replication of the virus in cells, experts say it may bring about improvements in patients but it cannot be administered to expectant mothers or women who are likely to become pregnant as it may cause birth defects. ■

SOURCE: Kyodo

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 10th July, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 11thJuly, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay PyiTaw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan(South and East), Kayah and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers.Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Naypyitaw and Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

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Myanmar earns $635 mln from 2.1-mln-tonnes rice export in Q3

MYANMAR has earned over US$635 million from the export of 2.1 million tonnes of rice and broken rice between 1 October and 26 June in this fiscal year, according to the figures released by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar has earned over $430 million from the export of over 1.35 million tonnes of rice to 66 countries and over $204 million from the export of over 770,021 tonnes of broken rice to 57 countries.

Myanmar exported 299,839 tonnes of rice and broken rice via border trade routes, generating an income of $84.4 million while Myanmar shipped 1.83 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in this FY, earning $550 million.

EU and African countries are the major markets for Myanmar rice. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar is exporting rice to EU and African markets via maritime trade and to China through Muse border trade mainly.

Myanmar exported 444,359 tonnes of rice and 116,851 tonnes of broken rice to China, which is 26.35 per cent of total rice and broken rice export.

Myanmar has set a target to export 2.5 million tonnes of rice in the present fiscal year which will end on 30 September 2020. The 2018-2019FY saw the country exported over 2.35 million tonnes of rice and broken rice with revenue amounting to over $709.6 million.

"Myanmar exported 3.58 million tonnes of rice which is all-time highest record of rice in the 2017-2018FY. However, the export amount of rice to foreign countries declined after China suspended the import of rice from Myanmar. I think it would be difficult to surpass the old record of rice export to foreign countries," MRF Deputy Chief Executive Officer U Myint Lwin stated.—Aye Cho *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

MSMEs receive largest share of COVID Fund amounting to over K70 bln

By Nyein Nyein

OUT of K100 billions of COVID Fund, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) received the largest amount of the fund totalling over K70 million, according to the committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

The Committee for Remedial Works on Economic Impacts of COVID-19 has set up the coronavirus fund in order to provide necessary monetary assistance to the businesses hit by the pandemic. That is why the committee has granted the loans to CMP garment businesses, hotels, and tourism-related businesses and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are badly impacted by the pandemic.

Regarding the loans, the committee has granted the loans seven times to a total of 3,393 businesses which are in accord with the loan terms and conditions.

Among them, a total of 2,550 MSME businesses including restaurants, personal goods, goods manufacturing and service businesses received the largest amount of loan totalling K70,081.10 million.

Moreover, 340 hotel businesses were granted K15,720.74 million loans, 45 CMP factories were granted K6,312 million, 220 restaurants were granted K5,182 million, 236 tourism sectors were granted K3,757.46 million and other two CMP were granted K75 million, according to the committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

COVID Fund loans were provided starting from 9 April. As of 1 July, the committee has provided K101,128.30 billion loans to 3,393 businesses.

The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry have announced on 3 July that the K100-billion fund will be set up to provide for the second time the immediate loans to the enterprises battered by the global viral infection. The fund will be provided three times – K35 billion for the first time, K35 billion for the second time and K30 billion for the third time.

The committee will issue an announcement concerning the terms and conditions regarding granting of the fund.

The committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the pandemic was formed on 13 March with U Thaung Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, as the chairman.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Exporters need to apply for licence for over 1,200 items: MoC

By Nyein Nyein

OUT of more than 10,000 goods, only over 1,200 goods are necessary to apply for an export licence, according to an announcement of the Ministry of Commerce released on 8 July.

The Ministry of Commerce requires a total of 1,224 items to apply for export licences under HS Code 2017 version, which contains alive animals, rare fish species and animal products, medicinal plants, forest products, mining products, raw materials and restricted chemical products, explosive devices, fertilizers and antiques. HS code 2017 requires applying for the export licence but the government has relaxed this licence requirement rule step by step. Previously, it was necessary to apply for the export licence for over 10,000 items. Thanks to relaxation, only 1,224 HS lines are necessary to apply for the export licence. The Ministry of Commerce has exercised the power vested in it by Article 13 Sub Article (b) of Import Export Law in relaxation of the rule to apply for the export licence with the objective to streamline the trading process.

In doing so, assessment is made annually as to which commodity lines should be exempted from the application process.

This relaxation notification will come into effect beginning from 1 August and this notification will overrule Notification 9/2018 issued on 8 February 2018 by the Ministry of Commerce.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

90pc of businesspersons receive coronavirus loans in Mandalay

NEARLY 90 per cent of the businesspersons who have applied for loans from the Emergency Coronavirus Fund has been granted the loans, said an official from the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

The government has been providing loans to entrepreneurs from across the country to remedy the economic impacts caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

A total of 27 businesspersons in Mandalay region have applied for the loans via MRCCI in the first week of July, and they have now been granted the loans. This is the seventh time the loans are granted.

A total of 417 entrepreneurs have applied for the loans via MRCCI in Mandalay region and about 357 of them have already been granted the loans so far.

"We are not aware of how much they will receive because the loan permits are all sealed. The government is providing loans depending upon the business condition. We heard that some received a loan amounting to K300 million. For those who have not been granted the loans yet, they are highly likely to get the same amount of loan, said the office.

Some businesspersons from Mandalay region applied for the loans via MRCCI while some applied through the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The government is providing the loans to the businesses which are holding the business licences, earning the annual income during the past two years and paying incoming tax, commercial tax and special excise tax.

More than 4,200 coronavirus-hit businesses from Mandalay Region have applied for Emergency COVID Fund from across the country. And, the government will provide K100 billion loans to them.—Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

YRIC clears over $23 mln worth 8 foreign projects including CMP businesses

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC), at a video-conference held on 8 July, has approved eight foreign projects from China, Viet Nam, Samoa and Hong Kong (SAR), with an estimated capital of US$23.784 million. The projects will create over 5,900 jobs. They will invest in manufacturing of sportswear, bags, garments, hats and fabric on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis and hotel business, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

The investments in the regions also flowing into the hotel services, and other services sectors as well. To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands, Samoa and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

Yangon Region tops foreign investments among the regions and states, attracting more than 600 enterprises over the four years of the incumbent government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA indicated that Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar, Mandalay attracts 30 per cent, while the other regions and states receive only a small share of investments. The Myanmar Investment Commission and the respective investment committees have granted permits and endorsements to 905 foreign enterprises between 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and as of May-end in the 2019-2020FY, with estimated capitals of US$22.39 billion.

Manufacturing sector has attracted largest investment value into Myanmar. **FILE PHOTO**

Of 51 foreign countries, Singapore put the largest investments, followed by China and Thailand. MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 500,000 residents, according to the DICA.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sale of manageable-scale handicrafts declines in Coronavirus period

THE outbreak of coronavirus disease has caused the sale of handicrafts such as tobacco pipes and other personal goods on a manageable scale to decline in Ywalut village in Chaungzon township, Mon state, according to the local handicrafts makers.

Although the handicrafts sold well for K50,000 daily previously, most of the shops had to be closed in viral infection period and there are no buyers at the handicrafts shops.

The handicrafts are sold for between K500 and K81,000, said U Than Zaw, a tobacco pipe and other personal goods maker.

Although the handicrafts particularly tobacco pipes and other personal goods are purchased not only by the local visitors from other regions but also by foreign visitors, there are only a few buyers in the handicraft shops because of the pandemic.

In the past, the handicrafts were sent to Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Bago as the export products. Now, the handicrafts are sold only in the handicraft shops. Since the outbreak of global infectious disease, there have been very few or almost no travellers in Mon state and the sale of handicrafts has been cool in the market, he added.

Previously, there were many tobacco pipe makers in the village. Now, only a few people are engaging in tobacco pipe businesses. The village is manufacturing over 25 personal goods such as tobacco pipes, crutches, pens, combs, trays, spoons, forks, mortars and tea sets.—Htoo Eain (Chaung Sone)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar handicraft market has declined due to fewer travellers amid COVID-19 restrictions.
PHOTO: HTOO EAIN (CHAUNG SONE)

Kyat gaining against US dollar in local forex

THE US dollar has been sliding against the Kyat in the local currency market, with the exchange rate touching a low of around K1,369.7 per dollar on 10 July, which is a slump of K51 from K1,420 registered on 1 May, money exchangers said.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) purchased over 30 million dollars from private banks in June to govern the market. It has purchased $19 million within a week.

The domestic forex market witnessed the maximum rate of K1,410 in June. Despite the CBM's dollar purchase, the dollar is currently pegged at around $1,360-1,370 in the domestic market.

At present, the global forex market sees the weak sentiment amid the coronavirus outbreak, with the US dollar index of around 96.29.

At present, exports of rice, corns and pulses are increasing, whereas the local forex market is facing low demand. The exporters are unhappy with the strengthening Kyat as the weakening dollar might harm export income and the stability of internal forex market, said a market observer.

Additionally, people are reducing luxury import items and giving priority to food commodity due to the adversity of pandemic.

In October last year, the dollar exchange rate had hit a high of K1,600. Thereafter, the dollar has been falling in the local currency market. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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560 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 10 July

Myanmar nationals returned from Thailand queue for immigration process at the Myawady border on 10 July 2020. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

A total of 560 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No.2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 10 July.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrative Office U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies. The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 45,092 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 336 males and 224 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■

(Traslated by Aung Khin)

Inclusive businesses to play a role in responding to the economic challenges of COVID-19

AS part of their ongoing response to COVID-19, the UK aid-funded DaNa Facility and the BoP Innovation Centre are extending their online inclusive business training course free of charge until 20 September. Initially offered to the public at the end of April, so far more than 800 representatives from the public and private sectors have participated in the course.

The 'bootcamp' course has been updated to include a fourth COVID-19-oriented module on 'last mile distribution'. Most of the Myanmar population can be described as 'last mile'; consumers that are under-served by the mainstream private sector because they are on low incomes or live in remote areas. Inclusive businesses engage with people from under-served communities to ensure they get the support they need to participate in, and benefit from, economic growth.

By employing inclusive business strategies, enterprises can involve people from under-served areas to work within their own communities. Last mile distribution enables businesses, development organisations, and government agencies to set up local sales forces that can help create brand recognition in new markets and bring additional value through distribution to under-served and remote communities.

"The inclusive business online bootcamp provided invaluable insights on how business participants can apply IB tools and practices to strengthen the social impact of the businesses while contributing to meeting Myanmar's sustainable development goals. I look forward to participating in the next module on last mile distribution where I will learn relevant and interesting topics especially for the retail sector," said TaryarAhntKyi, Sustainability Manager at City Mart Holdings Co., Ltd.

The bootcamp consists of 4 modules: (1) the promise of Inclusive Business in Myanmar; (2) developing an Inclusive Business model; (3) the power of partnerships for Inclusive Business; and (4) last mile distribution for Inclusive Business. Each module incorporates Myanmar examples as well as regional and global best practice cases. The modules, which are available in both Myanmar and English languages, aim at identifying innovative approaches to create jobs and increase incomes.

"DaNa's Inclusive Business online bootcamp has created awareness among public and private participants from all around the country and stimulated our knowledge on the application of IB techniques to support Myanmar's MSME community. In addition, it is becoming clearer that IBs can play an important part of the business response to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in last mile distribution," said U Aung Myo Khaing, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection. —GNLM ■

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

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

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

If these feelings are not resolved in a proper manner they can become mental fatigue and can lead to an inability to resolve challenges. This can lead to socioeconomic challenges and should seek motivational support before this stage is reached.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

Each of us has the responsibility to prevent, contain and respond to COVID-19 and to adhere to directives and regulations issued.

As COVID-19 draws on, there are worries about health, employment, financial issues, separated from family, discrimination, and other mental pressures. As the public works hard to overcome these mental hurdles, adhering to directives and regulations should not be viewed as additional mental pressure but the adherence to them should serve to make the public more resilient. They will aid in solving socioeconomic issues as well.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

International auto expo opens in northeast China

People visit the 17th China Changchun International Automobile Expo in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, July 10, 2020. The 10-day China Changchun International Automobile Expo kicked off at Changchun International Conference & Exhibition Centre on Friday. More than 1,400 vehicles of about 150 brands from home and abroad are exhibited during the expo this year. **PHOTO: (XINHUA/XU CHANG)**

CHANGCHUN — The 17th China (Changchun) International Automobile Expo opened Friday in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, with a record number of over 1,400 vehicles on display.

The 10-day event is being held both offline and online, with stringent epidemic prevention and control measures in place.

The exhibition is spread over an area of 150,000 square metres at the main venue.

Short videos and livestreaming shows will be launched on video-sharing platforms such as Kuaishou and Douyin, also known as TikTok. Popular internet anchors will join the activities, which focus on new energy vehicles and luxury cars.

Advanced technologies including autonomous driving, 5G, artificial intelligence and virtual reality are highlights of the auto show.

"The auto expo will help spur sales of new car models and reduce excess inventory by displaying new technologies and products, thus stimulating consumption in the entire automobile industrial chain, boosting employment and enhancing economic vitality," said Xu Huaiwu, president of Changchun Committee of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

During the first half of the year, China's auto production and sales stood at 10.11 million units and 10.26 million units, down 16.8 per cent and 16.9 per cent year on year, respectively. —Xinhua ■

Outages in smartphone apps appear linked to Facebook bug

NEW YORK — Popular smartphone apps including Spotify and Pinterest suffered outages Friday due to an apparent bug in Facebook's systems.

"We are aware and investigating an increase in errors on the iOS SDK which is causing some apps to crash," Facebook posted on its developer site. App users began reporting early Friday morning on Twitter that they were unable to open Spotify and other sites. The site Downdetector, which monitors for internet problems in real time, showed a rise in problems for a number of applications, including Spotify, Pinterest, Waze and The New York Times.—AFP ■

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GREENTEC

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREENTEC VOY. NO. (202002)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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

Fair and unlovely: India confronts dark-skin bias

NEW DELHI — When Chandana Hiran was a child, strangers would urge her to lighten her skin. Today the Indian student is leading a campaign against whitening creams as global anti-racism protests highlight the obsession with fair complexions for many in Asia.

The campaign achieved its first victory when cosmetics giant Unilever dropped the word "fair" from its popular Fair & Lovely skin-lightening cream. L'Oreal and Johnson & Johnson announced similar initiatives.

"They have been thriving on selling insecurities to women," 22-year-old Hiran, who launched an online petition against Fair & Lovely, told AFP.

"The narrative is that if you are dark-skinned, you cannot achieve anything in life. So being a dark-skinned girl I've always felt that maybe... I need to be fair. If I'm not, then maybe I don't deserve those things." Multinationals have long profited from sales of whitening creams, facewash and even vaginal bleaching lotions, by advertising the message that beauty, success and love are only for pale-skinned people. Unilever made $500 million from Fair & Lovely sales in India last year, according to Bloomberg. —AFP ■

Unilever reportedly made $500 million from Fair & Lovely sales last year. **PHOTO: AFP**

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **SHANGHAI TOPCHEMS INDUSTRY CO., LTD (China)** has registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributer name "**AGRINAM MYANMAR CO.,LTD**", to new distributor name "**Y AGRO SOLUTION CO.,LTD**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **AGRIMAN MYANMAR CO., LTD**. Ph- Ph-09797915818

Sr.	Trade Name	A.I	Registration No.
1.	Top-Fostar 80 WP	Fosetyl-aluminium 80% WP	P2017-3412

Bulgarian hotels see over 90 pct drop in May occupancy, revenue

SOFIA — Bulgarian hotels and motels have seen a year-on-year decline of over 90 per cent in occupancy and revenue in May amid the coronavirus pandemic, the country's National Statistical Institute (NSI) said Friday.

The total number of nights spent in accommodation establishments in May 2020 was 116,100, or 92 per cent less than the same month of the previous year, the NSI said.

The number of arrivals decreased by 91.7 percent year-on-year to 48,900, the NSI said, adding that a "collapse both for foreign citizens by 97.9 per cent and for Bulgarian citizens by 86.1 per cent was registered."

Meanwhile, the total revenue from nights spent in May 2020 reached 5.4 million Bulgarian leva (3.1 million U.S. dollars), or 92.9 per cent less year-on-year.

"A drop for both foreigners by 96.6 percent and Bulgarians by 85.8 per cent was registered," the NSI added.—Xinhua ■

Hsipaw Saopha, who gave favour to Myanmar artistes

By Hsipaw Ko Latt

HSIPAW, the town in Shan State is famous in preserving, revitalizing and honouring the Myanmar culture. Saophas from Hsipaw respectfully honoured and favoured literature, culture and theatrical drama and artistes. Among them, Sao Khe called Sir Sao Hke, the 86th Saopha of Hsipaw, was the most famous.

It was the time when King Thibaw had been taken away. So, it was time of the whole Myanmar under British colonial rule.

Sao Hkun Saing (aka) Sao Kya Khaing, the 85th Saopha of Hsipaw, passed away. Son Monglong governor Sao Khe succeeded to his father, as the 86th Saopha of Hsipaw on 29 April 1906. Afterwards, he was famous as Kambawzarathta Mahawuntha Maharaza Saopha Sir Sao Khe.

Saopha Sir Sao Khe made utmost efforts for sectoral development of Hsipaw region. As part of supporting the Buddhism, he organized the Buddha Sasana Pujaniya festival once 10 years on a grand scale. He invited 18 eminent Sayadaws from Mandalay, Pyay and Kani and hermit U Khanti from Mandalay Hill to attend the ceremony so as to join hands with the venerable Buddhist monks in propagating religious affairs.

Sao Hkun Saing (aka) Sao Kya Khaing

Celebration of a Buddha Sasana Pujaniya festival in Hsipaw region of ancient time. **PHOTO: KO LATT**

After King Thibaw had been taken away, experts of Myanmar theatrical performing arts were gathered by the Saopha and looked after in Hsipaw. Especially, he gave favour to Myanmar theatical drama performers similar to Shan ethnic theatrical drama troupes in order to continuously flourish the Myanmar theatrical drama performances.

He established a performer troupe quarter near Hsipaw Haw. Moreover, he ordered to issue allowance to those performers wishing to tour elsewhere for performing entertainments. Building the Thabin

Daw Saw Mya Aye Kyi.

hall at the original Hsipaw Haw, he allowed performers to rehearse their entertainments.

He requested the performers to stage the royal drama performances and gave rewards to them. As such, outstanding Shan and Bamar theatrical drama performers emerged from Hsipaw Haw.

As an act of honouring experts, the Saopha allotted the plots for resettling goldsmiths in the goldsmith ward and established a ward for Bamar ethnics.

Without discrimination, the Saopha urged them to participate in the development tasks of respective areas. He encouraged not only religious affairs but also literature, music, theatrical drama performance and social tasks. The Saopha himself especially preferred to music. When he had lunch or dinner, he could have three dishes of rice if he heard fine melodies from the Thabin Hall.

In his tenure, Saopha Sir Sao Khe built a summer palace in Nawngkawgyi in 1920. Moreover, the Sakhantha Haw was built on the hill near Pyaunggoung Village in 1922. Such residential palace took a position near Kyaukme.

As the Saopha created positions for qualified persons regardless of races, he appointed well-versed U Thant Sin as his counsellor. So, his son Sao On Kyar also continuously gave favour to U Thant Sin in his tenure. Saopha Sir Sao Khe honoured Ma Sein Kyi for her wonderful music and singing skills and took her as Thakhinma Saw Mya Aye Kyi. He conferred Thiri Ukkakwati title on her for excellent performance in composing and singing the song with the title of Moe Deva. Later, she became great prominent Alinka Kyawswa title winner Gita mother Daw Saw Mya Aye Kyi. The Saopha also appointed well-versed Bamar ethnic U Tha Myat as governor of Monglong town.

Sir Sao Khe together with his brother Sao Lu and Sao Oh had resided in Mandalay Yadanabon Royal Palace for having experiences of the royal palace and learning education. So he won the trust of Bamar ethnics in establishment of good relations. An occurrance of danger for life fell on him before King Thibaw was taken away but he escaped from danger because the governor of Shwehlan town called Shwe Hlan Bo safeguarded his life. Hence, he paid gratitude back when he became Hsipaw Saopha. He gave a helping hand to Bamar ethnics and looked after them. Not only father Saopha Sao Hkun Saing but also son Sir Sao Khe much encouraged fine arts of ethnics as well as classical songs of Bamar ethnics. Even some songs were composed by the Saopha.

As a result, Hsipaw residential palace called Haw was similar to the shape of Mandalay Yadanabon Royal Palace. Myanmar's culture flourished in the Hsipaw Haw thanks to wide scope of knowledge of Saophas. Saopha Sir Sao Khe esteemed the fine arts and performers.

Older persons recounted Yadana Thiha journal was published in Hsipaw thanks to efforts of director Saya Myint and associates. In fact, Hsipaw Haw in the past was the base of fine arts for veteran experts in Myanmar traditional performing arts from Shan State as well as from plain areas.

Translated by
Than Tun Aung

Ahsaykhan fort in Sagaing deserving of visit

AHSAYKHAN Fort in Sagaing has gained a clean and pleasant environment after it has been renovated. It is also a strong evidence that unveils-defence power and structure of naval forces in Yadanabon era.

To defend the country in full swing in Yadanabon era, Crown Kanaung Prince established a modern weapon industry with the aim to develop the country into a modern armed power nation.

The Prince formed naval forces in a systematic way and built forts to protect the country from enemies intruded from the water way. Those forts can still be seen until now. Thapyaedan fort, HsinGyone fort and Ahsaykhan fort were such kind of structures.

The forts were constructed in systematic structures. Thapeadan fort and Sinkyone fort were built on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady river and Ahsaykhan fort in Sagaing is on the notehrn-bank of the river. Moreover, the forts were built in triangular positions in preparation for strategic defence of naval men.

Sagaing Ahsaykhan fort was built by Conmotoperee and MoieNarie, who were French and Italian engineers, together with Myanmar engineers under the guidance of Minister Kin Wun Min in 1237 ME.

The fort lies on the bank of Ayeyawady River, the height of its wall is about nine feet, and two feet thickness. The fort stretches about 320 feet from north to south, 240 feet from east to west.

The southern side of the walls were built with double brick walls in a shape of semicircle (or crescent), filled with the earth in it to position the canons to shoot at the enemies in the river.

At the half of each wall in the east and west, there are embrasures for firing, and the northern side was structured to look like with full of embrasures to fire along the north wall.

The fort carried four hundred openings for firing and ammunition depots.

There were about four hundred holes for firing on the walls and ammunition depots in it.

In addition to the forts, a naval force wassystematically formed to fight against enemies.

Members of naval forces were accommodated in the respective quarters such as PyiloneantHlaydawthar in Pyloneant Ward, LinzinHlaydawthar in Linzin Ward, MoezarHlaydawthar in Moezar Ward and TaunglonHlaydawthar in Taunglon Ward, addition to Udaw Ward for guardian forces at the fortification.

During the third Anglo-Burma War, the military forces were deployed at Thabyaytan Fortress, Myitngal naval forces at Inwa Elephant camp fortress and Taunglone naval forces in Servant Fortification to conduct combined attacks. A total of 2,726 Myanmar forces were deployed at Sagaing Servant Fortification. However, the forces surrendered to British naval forces on 26th November 1885 when the royal order came in to do so. Formation of naval forces and military perspective can be studied from these fortifications which still stand as historical heritage of the country.

The local and foreign travellers can learn more about the forts. Travellers should come to the fort to study about the history and to learn about the Myanmar ancient kings' advance view on war on those days.

Nwe Nadi (Myit Ngal)

Ancient cannons.

Shan United eyes youth defender Thet Paing Htwe

SHAN United, the Myanmar National League defending champions, have eyes on Zwekapin United's youth defender Thet Paing Htwe, according to the MNL statement.

Shan United's head coach U Aung Naing said that the team is currently testing the football skills of the player.

"We are now testing his football skill in our football club. If he fixes with our team we want to recruit him. As for now, all the football matches are freezing and we need to wait and see upcoming conditions of the tourneys," he added.

Thet Paing Htwe was a key player of the Zwekapin United and showed his best skill in the beginning season of the 2020 Myanmar National League.

As Shan United is looking to add more talented players in the squad as the team targets to win the championship trophy, the team is arranging to recruit Myanmar veteran defender Win Min Htut in the near future, according to the football club. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Zwekapin United's youth defender Thet Paing Htwe (No 77) seen in the previous match against Shan United. **PHOTO: MNL**

Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes wins a penalty during the Premier League match against Aston Villa. **PHOTO: AFP/ANDREW BOYERS**

Premier League admits VAR blunders

LONDON — The Premier League has admitted that VAR got penalty decisions wrong in all three matches on Thursday (Jul 9), as frustration mounts over the use of the technology in the English top-flight.

Manchester United were given a controversial helping hand by the video assistant referee in their 3-0 win at Aston Villa, while Tottenham suffered fresh frustration at the hands of the review system in their 0-0 draw at Bournemouth.

United midfielder Bruno Fernandes won a spot kick when he spun into Ezri Konsa before tumbling in the area despite little evidence of a foul by the Villa defender. Jose Mourinho's Spurs were off-key for long periods but could feel hard done by after Josh King's push on Harry Kane in the penalty area went unpunished despite a VAR review.

Southampton's James Ward-Prowse hit the bar after a disputed penalty as the south coast side drew 1-1 with Everton.

The Premier League confirmed to the BBC's Match of the Day programme that United and Southampton should not have been given penalties, but Tottenham should have been awarded one. Former Everton midfielder Tim Cahill, a Match of the Day pundit, said a former player should work alongside VAR officials.

"I think that would really help them, to understand the movements," the former Australia international said.—AFP ■

Van Bronckhorst 'can't imagine' Barcelona without Messi

BARCELONA — Former Barcelona defender Giovanni van Bronckhorst told AFP that he hopes Lionel Messi will finish his career at the Camp Nou, as speculation swirls about the superstar's future.

Speculation is swirling over the future of Barcelona's superstar forward Lionel Messi. **PHOTO: AFP**

Messi is reportedly frustrated with Barcelona's failure to build a top-notch squad, and tired of purported leaks from the Spanish club which paint him in a bad light. Radio station Cadena Ser reported last week that the Argentine had broken off negotiations on extending his contract, which runs until 2021, and was thinking of leaving.

Dutchman van Bronckhorst, 45, who is now coaching Guangzhou R&F in China, told AFP: "I would love to see him be part of Barcelona for his whole career.

"He's one of the (few) players to stay his whole career at the same club. "I admire him as a person and a player and hopefully he will stay there. That's what I'd love to see."— AFP ■

PGA trio compete in a bubble after testing positive for COVID-19

LOS ANGELES — Collin Morikawa shot a seven-under 65 Thursday for a one-shot lead at the Workday Charity Open, which became the first PGA tournament to pack its COVID-19 positive players into the same grouping.

South Africa's Dylan Frittelli and Americans Denny McCarthy and Nick Watney were each playing for the first time since testing positive and were grouped together out of an "abundance of caution," said tournament officials.

Frittelli and McCarthy both shot one-over 73, while Watney is tied for 147th after struggling to a five-over 77 in the opening round at the Muirfield Village Golf Club course in Dublin, Ohio.

"It definitely felt weird," said Frittelli.

The three stay in their own bubble. They have limited access to the clubhouse or training facilities at the Ohio-based tournament.

"We have our own little pocket down underneath the old pro shop. The three of us can go in there and have a meal and just chill together," said Frittelli.

PGA is allowing a return to competition for players and caddies who continue to test positive for coronavirus if at least 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared and 72 hours have passed since fever has disappeared.— AFP ■