Let’s not relax till we reach our victory over COVID: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday “Let's not relax till we reach our victory over COVID”. This was what she wrote:

The three big cities of Myanmar are Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay with Mandalay and Yangon having their own histories and unique qualities; Nay Pyi Taw is the late arrival new city (or rather the new big city).

During this COVID period, we had to pay special attention to Yangon because its population is the largest and the domestic spread of infection rate is the highest. Taking into consideration the situation of the disease we relaxed some restrictions where possible. Although the situation in Mandalay is not as bad as Yangon, the regional government imposed rules and regulations with care. Because the population density and the population figure of Nay Pyi Taw are not that high, we can say that the danger of the disease was not as serious as Yangon or Mandalay; however, we had to pay very special attention because it is the seat of the Union Government. Because there is the travel to and fro of diplomats and visitors, we had to impose rules and regulations so that this would not impact on the running of the government machinery. In the early stages, all three cities followed the rules and regulations fearing the danger of the disease; later they became more and more careless. If I said Nay Pyi Taw is the least careless, would I be showing it favour? With good competitive spirit, may you all be able to show that your city is the best in following the rules and regulations? "Let’s not relax till we reach our victory over COVID.”

(Translated by: Kyaw Myaing)

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar remains at 337 after no new case reported on 15 July

Update 337

New Cases 0

Total Recovery 266

Recovery Update on 15 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Cases 337

New PUIs 29

Ministry of Health and Sports
Pyithu Hluttaw continues 17th regular session on 15 July

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw held its third-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh explained the MIC has approved the development project of Myanmar Yatal International Holding Group Co., Ltd on 22.5 acres of land plot, out of 62 acres permitted for the company, in Pulwepu Village in Shwe Kokko area with the permit No. 099/2018 on 30 July 2018 for construction of standard housing projects after the company has secured permissions from the Kayin State government on 18 February 2018 and approvals of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The Deputy Minister added that the company, however, is responsible for following the responsibilities of investors under the Article 65 of Myanmar Investment Law and relevant rules and regulations for the project.

ICJ costs

MP Dr Naing Sai Tun Aye from Kayin State constituency asked about the ICJ costs and charges for conveying heavy items, the Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin replied that the costs should be spent from the state budget as the case is concerned with the national interest and the image of the country; moreover, the budget is included in the revenue expenditure of the ministry and was scrutinized by the Joint Public Accounts Committee of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after it has been examined and checked by the Vice President, the Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry, the three committees under this ministry and the Director-General of Budget Department. The Union Minister continued to say the budget proposal has been explained during the 5th day of the 16th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 27 May 2020. The ministry will open to audits for this revenue expenditure from the department and the Office of Auditor-General of the Union. Regarding K351.600 million for travel costs and charges for conveying heavy items, the Union Minister said that the OAGU would report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw if the expenditure was not in line with financial procedures and rules. Moreover, it is an ethic to keep the costs for international lawyer confidential, and the detailed explanations will not be reported to the Pyithu Hluttaw as the total costs for the ICJ case can be checked by the relevant audit teams in line with financial rules.

Land confiscation

MP U Sai Maung Pwint from Tanay constituency asked about the confiscated land plots of local farmers. Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied the land plots were vacant at the time of confiscation, and the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued permits for the utilization. The Deputy Minister also said the locals just complained without any legal document to get the plots and that the ministry will not release the confiscated lands.

U Kyaw Aung Lwin from Sededtara constituency asked about the land confiscations from local Chin people in Kan Village of his constituency, and Deputy Minister Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied it. MP Dr Naing Aung from the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued permits for the utilization.

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses aid to IDP camps, approves debate on Defence Services Act

THE third-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the Q&A session, MP U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency asked whether there were plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Kyauktaw Township and provide basic necessities to people fleeing from conflict. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that the Disaster Management Department has provided bars of soap, surgical masks and cloth masks, thermal sensors, hand gel, hand speakers, memory sticks, wash basins, limestone powder and vinyls with information on the disease to 2,824 families, equal to about 11,000 people in Kyauktaw Township within the months of May and June and will continue providing assistance in the future as well.

They have also collaborated with ICRC, WFP and other INGOs and NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance.

The Deputy Minister said the department has also been allotted K2.1 billion by the National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 to purchase the necessary hand sanitizers, infrared thermometers and other items to combat the disease and for constructing temporary shelters in IDP camps. The Rakhine State government is also planning to use K887.2 million to construct 4 rows of housing and 16 toilet units for additional people coming into Kyauktaw.

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

As of 11 June 2020, the department has provided financial assistance of over K271 million for food and medical treatment of displaced persons in Kyauktaw Township since December 2018.

Next, MP U Kyaw Than of Rakhine State constituency 10 asked about the unfinished construction of 3 bridges along Pyinshyu-Kala-ba inter-village road in Kyauktaw Township which were not completed in their designated budget year. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn replied that the 30ft bridge along the Pyinshyu-Kala-ba inter-village road has been completed while the other two bridges remained incomplete because they did not receive the full allotted funds. However, they have now received supplementary funds that will allow construction of both bridges to be complete by September this year.

 SEE PAGE-4
VP U Myint Swe presides over meeting of Waso-robe donation organizing committee

PREPARATIONS for the government’s Waso-robe offering ceremony were discussed in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the patron of the leading committee for holding this ceremony, presided over the meeting which was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, members of the leading committee Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, U Maung Maung Win, U Kyi Min, U Kyaw Myo and U Khin Maung Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Col Soe Nyunt, members of the working committee, the 10 sub-committees and departmental officials.

The Vice President delivered his opening remarks at the meeting, with a wide range of advice on preventive measures against COVID-19 in accordance with the guidelines, public announcements, orders and directives of the National-level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Vice President then elaborated on the background of the Waso-robe offering ceremony during the lifetime of the Buddha.

The ceremony is scheduled for 29 July and a total of 36 senior monks will be invited to the donation ceremony.

The Vice President also advised on transportation and accommodations for these monks, as well as coordination among the leading committee, the working committee and the sub-committees.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Deputy Minister U Kyi Min explained the formation of committees, and officials briefed on the works of their respective committees.

The ceremony is being prepared by the 12-member leading committee, 18-member working committee and the 12 sub-committees.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Attorney-General receives IDLO Country Manager

ATTORNEY-GENERAL of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received International Development Law Organization (IDLO) Country Manager Ms Morgane Landel at the meeting hall of his office yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters related to ongoing activities on the rule of law conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Office of Attorney-General of the Union and IDLO in 2016, IDLO’s plans to provide training in law officers Grade-4 (Probation) in six regions and states, activities of the Rule of Law Centres tactically backed by the IDLO, and IDLO’s online activities to promote legal awareness during the COVID-19 crisis.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates medical supplies, books for locals in Danu Self-Administered Zone

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Sinnat Chaung Village, Ywangan Township in Danu Self-Administered Zone, and met local ethnic people to donate COVID-19 medical supplies on 14 July.

After hearing report on the brief history of the village and the performance of the village development and implementation of the agriculture and livestock, the Senior General shared a report about reputation of Sinnat Chaung Village for its pleasant scenarios and free of narcotic drug.

The Senior General and party made an unplanned visit to the village during the trip of southern Shan State.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and their close families donated a SkyNet setup box and a television set for the village library.

The Senior General also presented educational books and journals for the library, and 5,000 surgical masks and 100 hand gels bottles, 100 bottles of sanitizers and foods for the village.

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses aid to IDP camps, approves debate on Defence Services Act

FROM PAGE-2

Next, MP U Larl Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 asked whether road expansion for the remaining 16.3 mile of Mindat-Matapai district highway in Chin State will be completed in 2020-2021 financial year. Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn replied that it will depend on when and how much of their proposed budget of K4,646 million will be allotted.

Next, MP U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked whether Monywa-Ayadaw-Shwebo highway from Ma Gyi Sauk village to Sindale village in Monywa District will be upgraded within 2020-2021 financial year. Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn replied that it will depend on when and how much of their proposed budget of K4,646 million will be allotted.

Next, MP U Ye Myint Soe of Yangon Region constituency 7 asked whether private businesses will be allowed to set up incinerators in order to solve the issue of limited land for dumping garbage in heavily populated cities like Yangon and Mandalay. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun replied that Yangon has a 20-tonne incinerator in Hein Bin landfill, Hlinethaya Township, but there is currently no policy to outfit individual incinerators at all the hospitals and factories. Additionally, there is no similar policy in process in Nay Pyi Taw and its daily waste will continue to be sorted and disposed of in landfills.

U Nyi Tun said they have acquired a loan of US$ 8.6 million from the Asian Development Bank to upgrade the waste disposal system in Hpa-an, Kayin State, and a loan of US$7.6 million for Myawaddy and will begin constructing incinerators in 2020-2021 financial year. They are also working together with Mitsubishi Research Institute and Fujita Corporation to construct a factory for incineration waste in Myawaddy.

He said Yangon-based Shwe Pyi company and England-based Organic Asia Co. Ltd have signed an agreement to construct an incinerator that produces energy from the waste it burns. He said there are currently no plans to work with private companies to set up incinerators but will be willing to cooperate if private companies contacted with proposals.

Announcement for voters ahead of 2020 General Election

1. The Union Election Commission has compiled draft lists of eligible voters in 2019 in order to get complete and accurate lists of eligible voters for the General Election to be held on 8 November 2020. The relevant sub-commission monthly updated the lists of eligible voters.

2. Those lists of eligible voters will be announced on notice boards at the relevant ward/village-tract sub-commission offices and villages for 14 days, from 25-7-2020 to 7-8-2020 for the first time. The voters need to check the lists, and if necessary, they can do the following three things.

(a) Voters can request the relevant officials to add their names using Form -3 in the lists of eligible voters if they do not find their names in it.

(b) They can make complaints to those who are not eligible in the list using Form -4.

(c) Voters can submit a data-correction form using Form (4-c) if their data are wrong.

3. All the required forms are available free of charge at ward/village-tract sub-commission offices. After such additions, corrections or amendments to the lists, the updated lists of eligible voters will again be announced on notice boards in October 2020 (as the last time) for 14 days. Then, voters will be able to request the relevant officials to amend the lists again.

4. A person will be able to vote only if his or her name is included in the relevant list of eligible voters. In order to get complete and accurate lists of eligible voters, the people are requested to cooperate with election officials by sending at least one person from each household to the relevant election offices to check the list.
THE Union Election Commission held a coordination meeting at its headquarters with relevant Union ministries regarding the 2020 General Election in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Present at the meeting were UEC Chairman U Hla Thein and commission members, deputy ministers and officials of invited ministries, and officials from the commission’s office.

Speaking at the meeting, U Hla Thein said the General Elections for 2020 will be held on 8 November and since it is a nationwide election, the cooperation of all relevant ministries is paramount. He said that Ministry of Office of Union Government and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued a joint action plan implemented since 2019 to ensure the electoral roll has the correct number of eligible voters and to make sure those voters can exercise their right to vote.

UEC Chair said that there are 37 million eligible voters nationwide and the election sub-commissions make monthly reviews, additions and amendments to the electoral roll. He said they will announce the list of voters twice in accordance with existing laws but the people need to check whether their names are in the list or not themselves.

Anyone can apply for inclusion with a Form-3 if their name is not in the list, object to the inclusion of a person with valid reasons with Form-4, and amend incorrect information in the electoral roll with Form-4(c). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will arrange advance voting procedures for citizens abroad. He said they will form election security management committees and electoral coordination committees and if there are requirements from past experiences, then the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence are asked to provide suggestions. He asked the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to assist in their respective sectors, the Office of the Union Attorney-General to assist in legal matters, and the Office of the Union Auditor-General to ensure election costs and expenditures are valid.

UEC Chair also asked the Ministry of Education for the arrangement of polling stations and appointment of station officers and staff. He asked the Ministry of Information to continue conducting voter awareness and voting education and to ensure the ballots for voting are printed systematically. He said they are cooperating with the Ministry of Health and Sports to conduct all necessary procedures in line with their regulations concerning COVID-19. He said the 2020 General Election will be held in line with 5 norms and asked for feedback and suggestions from officials present at the meeting.

The director-general of the UEC’s office explained the preparations for the 2020 General Election and officials provided their feedback and suggestions. UEC officials responded to the discussions before the concluding remark of UEC Chair.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEC organizes coordination meeting with ministries for 2020 General Election

Public notice for visiting Martyrs’ Mausoleum on 73rd Martyrs’ Day

Members of the public are requested to abide by the following rules when visiting the Martyrs’ Mausoleum on the 73rd anniversary of Martyrs’ Day on 19 July 2020.

1. Any kind of mobile phones, flags, handbags, cameras, lighters, flower wreaths/flower bouquets/flower baskets, vinyls, bottles and boxes, and sticks or plastic/steel pipes for carrying flags will not be allowed to be brought into the compound of Martyrs’ Mausoleum.
2. All visitors must wear face masks without fail.
3. All visitors must wash hands at designated places and make use of the hand sanitizers readily available before entering.
4. Visitors will also be required to provide their name, national verification card number, address and telephone number in addition to complying with temperature checks and health examinations at the junction of Link Road and West Shwegondine Road, Bahan Township.
5. Twelve visitors will be allowed to pay their respects at a time and must be apart from each other, in line with social/physical distancing measures imposed by the Ministry of Health and Sports, and to cooperate with placements arranged by authorities.
6. Visitors are requested to cooperate with official guidance if they are found to have a body temperature higher than 38°C/100.4°F, coughing, difficult breathing, suffering from fatigue or other symptoms.
7. Visitors must cooperate with arrangements made by officials at Martyrs’ Mausoleum.
8. All visitors must wash hands at designated places and make use of the hand sanitizers readily available before entering.
9. Visitors will also be required to provide their name, national verification card number, address and telephone number in addition to complaining with temperature checks and health examinations at the junction of Link Road and West Shwegondine Road, Bahan Township.
10. The elderly and those with chronic illnesses are respectfully requested to refrain from visiting.
11. People with fever, coughing, laboured breathing and experiencing fatigue are respectfully requested to refrain from visiting.
12. Saluting in groups should not exceed 15 minutes.
A SPECIAL exhibition to mark the 73rd Martyrs’ Day will not be organized this year at Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) as a move to control COVID-19 although the museum was open to public in the previous years from 19 to 21 July.

However, people can view the displays of museum via online exhibition on the website https://www.nationalmuseumyangon.gov.mm and https://www.facebook.com/nationalmuseumyangon. The following notes are the brief depictions to exhibitions at the museum.

The Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) is being conserved by the supervision of Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Yangon) and the National Museum (Yangon).

The building is surrounded by green lawn, and a car used by Bogyoke Aung San until his last day before his assassination and garage can be seen at the side of museum. At the ground floor of the museum, a sophisticated statue of General Aung San can be seen. Before Myanmar gained Independence, on his way to London to sign Aung San – Attlee Agreement, General Aung San also visited India to discuss politics with Indian Leader Jawaharlal Nehru, and on 5-1-1947, during his visit to India, Nehru gave him a coat, and visitors can see the coat on that floor. In the lounge room of General Aung San, the statue of him in a sitting posture reading a book can be seen. Rare historic photos of General Aung San’s family, rare photos reflecting his student-life and his political life, his private room of Bogyoke Aung San, half bust sculpture of Bogyoke Aung San, cated statue of General Aung San, and the dining room of his family are also exhibited in the museum.

On the upper floor, there is the bedroom of General Aung San and his wife. Photos of Buddha image, photos of General Aung San and his wife, the closet of General Aung San are displayed in the room. In his reading room, you can see his chair, books and journals. In the next room, there are beds for his children.

In his guest room, there are chairs. The room is placarded with his quotes. A photo of him and ethnic Jane Phaw women is also displayed in the guest room.

You will also see a pool where his son Aung San Lin drowned. Roses are grown besides the pool. At the back of the museum, there is a piece of land on which General Aung San grew plants.
Singaporean joint-venture firm donates $100,000 to COVID-19 central committee

THE Global New Light of Myanmar
16 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

I hope our country would become more united and stronger

If we can overcome this challenge, it would be a success not only for the present but also for generations to come. An authoress once said that moments of honour in the history of a country can become sources of strength to overcome difficult periods for ages to come. It is the strong belief which tells us that we have overcome big difficulties before, this time around also we can overcome.

With the strength of the people, I hope our country would become more united and stronger in the post-COVID period.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s Facebook post on 1 June 2020)

'Stay at home means get online': Union Minister U Thaung Tun participates in WEF dialogue on Strengthening ASEAN’s Digital Economy for an Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery

Union Minister U Thaung Tun participates in the World Economic Forum facilitated virtual dialogue on strengthening ASEAN’s digital economy in support of a more inclusive and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery.

Describing how Myanmar’s young people have expressed resilience and adaptability to Myanmar’s ‘new normal’, the Minister noted:

"...our young people have interpreted ‘stay-at-home’ to mean ‘get-online’, with at least one service provider reporting a 27-per-cent increase in data traffic amidst lockdowns and movement restrictions."

Myanmar’s participation in the WEF Regional Action Platform for the Asia Pacific provides the country with a valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives and share insights designed to strengthen regional resilience and coordinated responses in the leadup to the WEF Annual Meeting scheduled to be held in Davos, Switzerland in early 2021. —MNA

Singaporan joint-venture firm donates $100,000 to COVID-19 central committee

The National Energy Puma Aviation Services Co., Ltd (Joint Venture of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise and Puma Energy Group Pte., Ltd) donated US$100,000 to the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 yesterday.

PhoTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe who expressed words of thanks in return for the donation. Similarly, the other joint ventured firms with Ministry of Electricity and Energy such as POSCO International Cooperation, HYUNDA, Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Company Ltd and PTTEP Company Limited and PTTEP Company have donated 15,000 UTM tubes, 5 ventilators and 1 test kit, totally worth about $102,500 to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The total donation amounted to $462,500 to date. —MNA
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Minister U Win Khaing hands over US$100,000 donated by National Energy Puma Aviation Services Co., Ltd to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe on 15 July. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Win Khaing, Union Minister of Electricity and Energy (CSR) budget. The NEPAS is a joint venture in 51 per cent share with Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, which was under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and 49 per cent of Singapore based Puma Energy Group Pte. Ltd and started distributing aviation fuel in Myanmar since 2015. Currently, the NEPAS contributed about $1.2 million for the CSR programmes to date.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Win Khaing handed over the $100,000 of the NEPAS to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe who expressed words of thanks in return for the donation. Similarly, the other joint ventured firms with Ministry of Electricity and Energy such as POSCO International Cooperation, HYUNDA, Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Company Limited and PTTEP Company have donated 15,000 UTM tubes, 5 ventilators and 1 test kit, totally worth about $102,500 to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The total donation amounted to $462,500 to date. —MNA
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
**Up-to-date voters list can ensure electoral integrity in 2020**

By Loketbar

IN World Environment Day we were reminded of our responsibility to environment and to take care not to degrade it. The Earth’s natural environment is composed of living things, mobile and immobile. It is also made up of geological formations such as snow-capped mountains, polar ice caps, mountains, volcanoes, forests, glaciers, rivers, soil and even the air surrounding it. Various commissions are urged to be competent and qualified in order to find them in the list. The list of eligible voters will be published at ward/village election offices nationwide on August 1, 2020, and in October again.

The process of maintaining an accurate voters list is to ensure that eligible voters are able to cast a ballot, to keep track of who has voted in order to prevent anyone from voting twice and, by reducing inaccuracies, and speeding up the voter registration process at polling places.

Voter registration lists are the foundation of everything else in election administration. If people are advised to check to see if they are on the voting rolls. Besides, they are advised to verify a new voter registration applicant’s information and updated information on the voter lists. If they find flaws or mistakes on their information, they have rights to submit a complaint against the electoral officials in accordance with the law and to request them to make the information correct.

They also have rights to report directly to officials to remove no-longer eligible voters from the list when they find them in the list.

A national voter registration list can prevent or mitigate voter fraud in an effort to protect the right to vote for eligible voters and increase electoral integrity. The time has now come to implement public and consistent awareness programs for the 2020 general elections and disseminate election news and information in a uniform and effectively to the public.

Therefore persons who are in charge at different levels of various commissions are urged to be competent and qualified in their work.

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**Conserving the Environment as well as Extending Due Care to the Affected Communities and Societies**

France will require face masks indoors as virus picks up

French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that face masks will soon be required in public indoor spaces to combat the coronavirus outbreak, acknowledging that infections were spreading in the rise.

His comments, in a television interview marking Bastille Day, came after he oversaw the traditional military ceremony that was held in more sparsely attended conditions.

He later posted on Twitter that “Wearing a mask in enclosed public spaces will be mandatory in the coming weeks.”

The virus reproduction rate, the “R” ratio, has again risen above one in France, he said in the interview, meaning that a person infected with COVID-19 is likely spreading the disease to at least one other person.

Macron’s comments come as doctors have warned of a potential second wave of infections that could again overwhelm hospitals and require new lockdowns that could further hammer the economy. Asked whether France had enough masks in case of a new spike in cases, following massive shortages as the outbreak worsened in March, Macron said: “We will be ready.”

“We have secured both the stocks and the supply sources, and we are organized on the ground, to allow us to deal with an upsurge, if it comes,” he said.

He also said the government’s “massive” recovery plan would reach 166 billion euros ($193 billion), on top of more than 460 billion euros approved so far to support businesses and economic devastation from the two-month lockdown imposed in mid-March.—AFP

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**U.S. CDC urges all Americans to wear masks**

**U.S. CDC urges all Americans to wear masks**

By C. Beret

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday urged all Americans to wear masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus as fears of a second wave of the virus grow. The agency also released a new website that provides guidance to states and communities to plan for the return to work.

The CDC’s “Prevent the Spread of COVID-19” website provides guidance for businesses and community leaders to make decisions about when and how to reopen.

The CDC’s advice comes as more states begin to lift restrictions on businesses and gatherings, but many fear a second wave of virus cases. The CDC’s new website provides guidance to states and communities to plan for the return to work.

For months, Trump and some administration officials have been criticized for being reluctant to advise the public to wear masks. The United States has one of the world’s highest rates of coronavirus cases, and deaths are expected to continue rising.

The CDC’s new website provides guidance to states and communities to plan for the return to work. It includes guidance for businesses and community leaders to make decisions about when and how to reopen.

The website provides guidance to states and communities to plan for the return to work. It includes guidance for businesses and community leaders to make decisions about when and how to reopen.

In Commemoration of 73rd Martyrs’ Day

U Razak (20 January 1898 – 19 July 1947)

He served as the Minister of Education and National Planning in General Aung San’s Cabinet. U Razak was born on Thursday 29 January 1898 in Moultrie. His parents were Mr. Rahman, a Indian police inspector, and a Burmese Buddhist Dade Minn. He matriculated at Mandalay Wesley School in 1912. Mandalay National High School was established in 1921. He was a headmaster of Mandalay National High School from 1922 to 1941. He married Daw Khin Khin in 1921, and they had three children (Maung Tin Mya, Ma Khin Khin Soe and Maung Hla Kyi). After WWII, the national school reopened, and U Razak was a member engaged in preparing the draft of the Burma National Constitution in 1945. He and other cabinet ministers, including Prime Minister General Aung San, were assassinated on 19 July 1947 in Yangoon.
MPE opens gas stations for household consumption in Yangon

**MYANMAR Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE)** under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has opened four gas stations in towns of Yangon Region in cooperation with Yadana Su Company limited in efforts to reduce household electricity consumption and to mitigate environmental impact. “Around 30,000 households are using the gas in Yangon Region. Our ministry will open four gas stations as a joint venture for the business for the people to save power consumption. Then, we will sell the gas at an affordable price,” said U Aung Lwin Oo, the officer in charge of the South Okkalapa Township gas station, MPE. In Yangon Region, MPE have applied to receive 40 per cent of social security benefits for the work-related injuries. The Ministry has already provided a total of 64 factories including five factories for the first time, two factories for the second time, 22 factories for the third time, 13 factories for the fourth time and 22 factories for the fifth time. The remaining factories are also set to be provided with social security benefits. The ceremony was attended by U Tun Tun Oo, Regional Minister for Immigration and Human Resource Development, U Nyunt Soe, Regional Labour Department, Daw Zin Min, regional official from the Labour Department, Daw Min Kay Thwe, regional official from Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department, Kay Thwe, regional official from the Regional Social Security Board, U Aung Kyaw Min, regional labour official from the Social Security Board, U Aung Kyaw Min, regional official from Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department, and But Hla Kyaw Pupada Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00629 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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**THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

(Translated by Hay Mar)
Myanmar FDI fetches $4.6 bln in 10 months, closer to its target $5.8 bln

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR is expected to meet its foreign direct investment (FDI) target of US$5.8 billion in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, and over US$4.6 billion flowed into the country around the ten months, said U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"We intend to reach FDI target of US$5.8 billion in the current fiscal year," he highlighted. Only over a billion dollar is required to meet the target.

As per the meeting of Myanmar Investment Commission held on 10 July, 19 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the MIC and endorsements from the respective investment committees of Yangon, Rangoon, Ayeyawady and Magway regions, and Shan State. Those projects brought in the capital of over $170.275 million and are to create more than 11,300 jobs for the local residents. They will execute in manufacturing, livestock and fisheries, hotel, electricity, agriculture and another service sector. In the current fiscal, 208 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the MIC and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal and brought in the capital of over $3.2 billion.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investment of more than US$4.6 billion between 1 October and 10 July in the current financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The total figure includes investments of $116.557 million in the Special Economic Zones, under the Special Economic Zone Law. At the present time, the foreign investments, as well as domestic investments, are growing, despite the COVID-19 impacts on Myanmar's economy. The existing businesses are also seen the expansion of capitals and an increase in the labour force, the MIC stated. (Translated by El Myat Mon)

Regional products to be imported through Myawady Friendship Bridge-1

PLAN is underway to import the regional products which are worth not more than K1 million on a manageable scale through Myawady Friendship Bridge-1, it is learnt.

Authorities from Myawady district have already submitted a proposal to import a total of 146 products with the three-per-cent tax imposed and imported items have to be worth not more than K1 million. It is highly likely to get permission. Regarding the manageable-scale import through Myawady Friendship Bridge-1, the officials from both sides will make discussions in detail. If they get permission, only one driver and trader are allowed on board the truck to cross the border.

"Currently, regular trade and border trade are being carried out through Bridge-2. The traders have to pay the full tax. Tachileik is importing the local products with the only three-per-cent tax imposed. We have already requested the authorities concerned to grant us the permission," said the official from Myawady district administration department.

This manageable trading is carried out only via Myawady-Mae Sot bilateral trade with an aim for the local residents to consume the local products at affordable prices in the coronavirus pandemic period, he added.

Although the Myawady Friendship Bridge-1 and Bridge-2 are still officially closed, the bridge-2 has now allowed the border trading and returned Myanmar citizens and Thai citizens by negotiation arrangement, said the official. "We are making an effort for the citizens who are living in the border areas to cross Myawady and Mae Sot freely. It is related to both countries. Currently, the airports and the borders are closed till the end of July," he added. —Zin Zaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)
Under the Paris Principles relating to National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), to take up any situation of violation of human rights is among the responsibilities conferred on national human rights institutions. According to the MNHRC Law, the Commission with the powers to verify and conduct inquiries and to visit the scene of human rights violations in respect of complaints and allegations of human rights violations. These duties constitute the core functions of the Commission in its protection activities. While other important functions such as prison inspection visits, human rights lectures at training courses organized by the Government had to be withheld for the moment due to COVID-19 restrictions, receipt of complaints of human rights has not abated. In March 2020, the Commission received 254 complaints, and, together with 371 complaints remaining from February, 625 complaints were examined. A total of 73 cases, including a visit to a scene of human rights violations, were referred to relevant departments and organizations for verification and necessary measures, with 20 cases referred back to the complainants, with recommendation. Those complaints under trial before a court or under appeal or revision on the decision of any court and those that have been finally determined the court or that did not meet criteria for admission or that have been resolved by the Commission before, totalling 193 cases were systematically recorded.

In April, the Commission could completely examine 367 cases, out of 417 complaints, including 78 new complaints and 339 complaints left from March. As such, 106 cases were referred to relevant departments and organizations, while 19 complaints were referred back to the complainants, with recommendations. The remaining 242 cases were, for reasons mentioned above, systematically put on record.

In May, the Commission examined 290 complaints which include 150 new complaints and 50 complaints left from April. Out of them, 33 cases were referred to relevant departments and organizations, while 16 complaints were referred back to the complainants, with recommendation. The remaining 131 complaints were systematically put on record.

From January to May 2020, the Commission examined a total of 1,177 complaints, including 316 complaints, left from the previous Commission. A statement has already been issued by the Commission concerning the complaints received up to end of February 2020. On examination of the complaints received over the last 5 months, it was found out that most cases were received from Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions. The complaints received from the remaining States and Regions are relatively small in number. No complaints have been received from Kayah State. The majority of the cases concern land issues, followed by those against law enforcement personnel.

The complaints, after examination, were referred to relevant departments and organizations for verification and necessary measures and responses to the complaints referred are to be provided by relevant departments and organizations within 30 days. However, cooperation in this regard is less than satisfactory.

The Commission wishes to state that to reduce human rights violations and to improve the human rights situation for the people, cooperation from relevant departments and organization is essential.

**Myanmar National Human Rights Commission**

**Date: 15 July 2020**

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**Myanmar foreign trade value tops $28 bln in Q3**


During the corresponding period of last FY, export valued US$12.648 billion, and the import was US$13.646 billion. and thus total foreign trade reached to US$26.294 billion, exceeding by US$480 million in export sector and US$1.258 billion in import sector, with a total of increase by US$1.738 billion in comparing with the previous FY.

Comparisons of export items in the corresponding financial years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Names of the Products (temporary)</th>
<th>2019-2020 (until June)</th>
<th>2018-2019 (until June)</th>
<th>Comparison (surplus or deficit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agricultural products</td>
<td>3871.598</td>
<td>2566.890</td>
<td>1304.708</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Animal products</td>
<td>62.720</td>
<td>311.011</td>
<td>(-) 248.291</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fishery products</td>
<td>707.148</td>
<td>604.631</td>
<td>102.517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mining products</td>
<td>1341.728</td>
<td>1201.274</td>
<td>140.454</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Forest products</td>
<td>113.910</td>
<td>128.586</td>
<td>(-) 14.676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Finished industrial products</td>
<td>6994.368</td>
<td>7176.610</td>
<td>(-) 182.242</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Other products</td>
<td>836.691</td>
<td>659.375</td>
<td>177.316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>13128.163</td>
<td>12648.377</td>
<td>479.786</td>
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</table>

Comparisons of import items in the corresponding financial years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Names of the products (temporary)</th>
<th>2019-2020 (until June)</th>
<th>2018-2019 (until June)</th>
<th>Comparison (Surplus or deficit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Investment products</td>
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<td>1399.078</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Raw materials</td>
<td>5429.641</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Household goods</td>
<td>3715.604</td>
<td>3628.666</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>14984.422</td>
<td>13645.992</td>
<td>1258.430</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Women community donate reusable masks to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Bawa Pann Daing, the women-led social business, donated 1,000 reusable face masks to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Bawa Pann Daing is the project under Green Lotus Myanmar, and is producing cotton-made reusable and washable face masks with the support of the French Development Agency, Green Lotus and Action Aid Myanmar.

They have made 6,000 masks already in one month and offered 800 masks to Yangon Region Government, Yangon City Development Committee and the General Administration Department of Yangon, Ms Tharion, Country Director of the French Development Agency and the representative from Green Lotus presented the donations through MP U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Sekkam) constituency.—Ei Phyu Phyu Aung

306 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 15 July

A total of 306 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, yesterday.

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 47,552 until now.

The last group of returnees included 179 males and 127 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

50 returnees from S Korea test negative for COVID-19

FIFTY Myanmar nationals who returned from the Republic of Korea on 23 June and were quarantined at the Hotel S.Y.H (Gaba Aye) in Mayangon Township in Yangon tested negative for COVID-19, and returned to their homes 14 July morning.

Ko Hein Lynn Phyo, a Myanmar seaman who returned from ROK, said, “I felt worried because COVID-19 had been spread across the world when I came back to Myanmar. But the authorities welcomed us and arranged COVID-19 tests for us. After we tested negative, we could return to our homes, so my family members felt happy.”

He also expressed thanks to Myanmar authorities for strict and disciplined measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar. He urged Myanmar nationals who will return to the home country to follow the directives related to COVID-19 containment.

Another Myanmar seaman, Ko Kywe Htay, said, “Since the beginning, we knew that we would be quarantined when we arrived back in Myanmar. We chose to have hotel quarantine. Everything was Ok during the quarantine.”

Ko Myo Khang Chit, another Myanmar seaman, pointed out that the COVID-19 preventive measures at the Yangon International Airport are more intensive. He added that their tests for COVID-19 were carried out twice, so the results were more reliable.

Dr. Aung Tun, who returned from the United States via the Republic of Korea, said that he would “stay at home” for a week as a preventive measure. He is a medical doctor; so he knows the COVID-19 related duty that he must fulfill, he said.

Hotel S.Y.H (Gaba Aye) owner U Ye Htut said, “Both the Hotel S.Y.H (Gaba Aye) and the Hotel S.Y.H (Kandawgyi) owned by our Shin Ye Htut Group have been registered at the Ministry of Health and Sports to receive returnees for hotel quarantine. We are glad to collaborate with the government.”

He added that the hotel quarantine is a “win-win situation” for both of the country, the returnees and the hotel staff.

The Hotel S.Y.H (Gaba Aye) received 15 Myanmar nationals who returned from Singapore on 26 June and 30 people who returned from Japan on 28 June for hotel quarantine. The hotel has been preparing to receive the people who will come back to Myanmar via All Nippon Airways in August.—Ko Htwe MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Su)
Minister promises Maldives tourism’s safety as airport reopens

MALÉ—Economic Development Minister Fayyaz Ismail of the Maldives has assured Wednesday that it is safe for tourists to visit the country as its airport is reopened to international tourists after four months.

At a special ceremony held on Wednesday at the Velana International Airport, a A350 flight operated by the Qatar Airways landed at 8:26 am and received a water salute.

The flight carried 127 passengers which included 103 tourists, all from European countries.

Talking to journalists after the welcoming ceremony, Fayyaz, also the acting head of the Tourism Ministry said that the Maldives had put up a strong fight against the COVID-19 and now the country had good testing facilities and back-up facilities, local media reported.

The reopening of the Maldives to tourists comes as the number of coronavirus cases continues to rise.

Tokyo on top virus alert level after new cases

Tokyo, the epicentre of the fresh outbreak, was seeing a spike in younger people infected with the virus, with cases in nightlife areas but also workplaces and in families.

The government was working to bring in more tourists through discussions with top tourism markets in consideration with the threat of COVID-19 and their precautions, he added.—AFP

Foreign visitors to Japan drop 99.9% in June for 3rd straight month

TOKYO—Japan received an estimated 2,600 foreign travellers in June, down 99.9 per cent from a year earlier for the third consecutive month, amid the coronavirus pandemic, government data showed Wednesday.

The total number of foreign visitors fell 76.3 per cent to about 3.95 million in the first half of 2020 from a year earlier, with inbound visitors totalling 1.700 in May, marking the lowest figure since 1964 when the government began compiling such statistics, according to the Japan Tourism Agency.

The figure fell in June for the ninth consecutive month since February, when there was a significant drop in visitors from South Korea.—Kyodo

China’s Chang’e-4 probe resumes work for 20th lunar day

BEIJING—The lander and rover of the Chang’e-4 probe have resumed work for the 20th lunar day on the far side of the moon.

The lander woke up at 5:48 am Wednesday (Beijing Time), and the rover awoke at 12:53 pm Tuesday. Both are in normal working order, according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Programme Centre of the China National Space Administration.


A lunar day is equal to 14 days on Earth, and a lunar night is the same length. The Chang’e-4 probe, switching to dormant mode during the lunar night due to the lack of solar power, has survived about 559 Earth days on the moon.—Xinhua
Virus-hit North Macedonia votes as EU talks loom

SKOPJE—North Macedonia went to the polls on Wednesday in a tight parliamentary election whose winners will face a surging coronavirus outbreak and the start of talks to join the European Union.

It is the first parliamentary election since the Balkan country added “North” to its name early last year, ending a decades-old dispute with Greece.

The accord ushered the country into NATO and opened the door to the EU.

But critics are still bitter about conceding a part of their national identity to appease Greece, which claims exclusive rights to the name Macedonia for its own neighbouring region.

Thousands in Bolivia anti-government protest

LA PAZ—Thousands of demonstrators defied quarantine restrictions and marched on the Bolivian capital La Paz on Tuesday to protest against the government of interim President Jeanine Anez.

A recent wave of demostrations, held over worker grievances about health and education policies and massive layoffs, was the biggest since the coronavirus pandemic reached the South American country in March.

“There are many layoffs,” said Huarachi, “because of the fall in the economy.”

Marchers also called for the resignation of Education Minister Victor Hugo Cardenas, as thousands of pupils in rural areas have no access to the internet for virtual classes while schools remain closed.

“We are asking for free internet, because there are children who do not have mobile phones with internet and cannot study,” said Felicia Quezucal, 46, an indigenous Aymara woman from El Alto.

US rescinds order denying visas for foreign students

WASHINGTON—The United States government rescinded its controversial decision to revoke foreign student visas whose courses move online due to coronavirus, a federal judge said Tuesday.

The universities of Harvard and MIT — with the support of a number of other institutions, teachers’ unions and at least 18 US states — had taken legal action against the move that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced on July 6.

“The government has agreed to rescind” the decision as well as any implementation of the directive, Judge Allison Burroughs said in a brief hearing.

Harvard and MIT earlier this month had asked the court to block the order announced by ICE that students must leave the country if their classes are only online, or transfer to a school offering in-person tuition.

The measure was seen as a move by President Donald Trump’s administration to put pressure on educational institutions that are adopting a cautious approach to reopening amid the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The universities say in their lawsuit that the order would harm students “immensely,” both personally and financially.

It describes the order as “arbitrary and capricious” and says it would result in serious educational disruption.

There were more than one million international students in the US for the 2018-19 academic year, according to the Institute of International Education (IIE).

The court gave no reason for the Trump administration’s flip, and the president did not immediately react Tuesday.

“We are thrilled that the government backed down,” said the University of Southern California in a statement.

“Our international students are a vital part of the USC community, and they deserve the right to continue their education without risk of deportation.”—AFP

France’s Macron lays out “new path” to meet health, economic challenges

PARIS—In his first Bastille Day interview, President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday promised that France is ready for a second epidemic wave and his team will follow a “new path” based on social dialogue to address the challenges triggered by the coronavirus crisis that has claimed over 30,000 lives and plunged the growth of the euro zone’s second-largest economy.

France is prepared to address an eventual resurgence of the coronavirus epidemic by making face mask mandatory, bolstering testing capacity and stockpiling enough protective gear, said Macron.

He noted “uncertainties” and “signs” suggesting that the virus “restarts a little.”

“Now, we have both stocks and supplies and we have the organization as close to the ground as possible, which would make it possible to face an resurgence,” he said. Adding to that, he said France will make wearing face masks compulsory at all enclosed public places starting from Aug. 1 along with the use of the measures to contain any eventual resurgence of the epidemic.

“We are doing everything to avoid a new wave and to take a differentiated approach,” he said, pledging “to isolate as quickly and as locally as possible.”

Macron also confirmed that France would be among the first countries to get access to a potential vaccine being developed by French drugmaker Sanofi.

As of Monday, 172,377 people had been tested positive for the COVID-19 in France, of whom, 30,029 have succumbed to the respiratory illness since early March.

According to Public Health Agency, 94 clusters were under investigation.—AFP

Photo: AFP

Photo: AFP

The universities of Harvard and MIT — with the support of a number of other institutions, teachers’ unions and at least 18 US states — had taken legal action against the move that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced on July 6. Harvard University. PHOTO: AFP
Guardiola pleased with Man City ban lift, Klopp & Mourinho less sure

LONDON—Manchester City's Spanish coach Pep Guardiola on Tuesday welcomed the decision taken by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to lift the two-year ban on European football that had been imposed on the club by UEFA for alleged breaches of Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations. The decision means that City will be able to play in next season's UEFA Champions League, and will make it easier for the club to maintain its star players and attract new signings - which would have been harder without the offer and the financial impact of European football.

"Yesterday was a good day for football, because we played with the same Financial Fair Play rules as all the clubs in Europe. People said we were cheating and lying, and many times the presumption of innocence was not there," commented Guardiola. "The elite clubs have to understand we deserve to be here. We want to go on the pitch and compete with them. We deserve to get stronger year by year. We have incredible people working in this club to make our fans proud." Guardiola admitted his club were big spenders "like a lot of clubs." "But we did it on the right things - if not, we would have been banned. And we are not banned, because we followed the rules of Financial Fair Play," he concluded. —Xinhua

WORLD Lethwei Championship (WLC) is now aiming to take place a Lethwei event in Tokyo just a few weeks ahead of Tokyo Olympic start, showcasing best Japanese fighters in Lethwei before the audience, according to the WLC.

"Tokyo Olympics is now rescheduled to begin on 23 July, 2021, and end on 8 August, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan after it has postponed from this summer due to coronavirus global pandemic. Chairman of the WLC, U Zay Tha tha has revealed the Myanma Lethwei plans in the couples of the year with pandemic safe condition.

"After the historic success in 2019, World Lethwei Championship has successfully driven the sport of Lethwei to become the fastest growing sport in the world," said WLC Chairman U Zay Tha tha. "This upcoming season will continue our efforts to develop and grow the infrastructure of Lethwei globally.

"We are excited to hold events with our esteemed broadcast and corporate partners in Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, and the United States of America to deliver world-class Lethwei content throughout multiple continents," he stated.

That includes Japan, which will become the centre of the sports world next summer for the Olympics. The opportunity to put Lethwei athletes in front of that grand stage is sure to bring out the best of the best – and the best of the athletes themselves in action, he added. —Lynn Thit (Tg) ■

Tokyo Games can uplift world hit by coronavirus: JOC chief

TOKYO — The postponed Tokyo Games can provide inspiration to a world dragged down by the coronavirus pandemic, Japanese Olympic Committee chairman Yasuhiro Yamashita said Tuesday.

The outlook for the Olympics remains clouded in the absence of a vaccine for the pneumonia-causing coronavirus, but Yamashita told a press conference Tuesday that the new coronavirus has had such a negative effect, so I want to help revitalize society through sport. To that end, I'm focused on a successful Tokyo Olympics,” Yamashita said.

He remained bullish about Japan's prospects, saying the host nation still aimed to win 30 gold medals despite the public health crisis interrupting preparations for many athletes.

But Yamashita, who won judo gold at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, said additional costs resulting from the one-year postponement were among a number of matters that needed to be addressed "urgently.”

Yamashita took the reins as JOC chairman in June last year following the resignation of predecessor Tsunekazu Takeda, who is under investigation by French prosecutors for alleged bribery related to Tokyo’s successful bid for the 2020 Games. —Kyodo ■

Arsenal’s Arteta hits out at ‘crazy minutes’ players are clocking up

LONDON—Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta has bemoaned the fixture scheduling since the Premier League restart, saying on Tuesday his players have amassed "crazy minutes" on the pitch in recent weeks.

The Gunners host newly crowned Premier League champions Liverpool on Wednesday, three days after falling to defeat to Tottenham in the north London derby. In the five games that followed their opening game of Project Restart -- a 3-0 defeat at Manchester City -- Arsenal’s opponents had longer to prepare, with Arteta keen to stress that point. "We have only had an advantage in one -- which was against Spurs," he told his pre-match press conference.

"But look at the boys, they keep going, they go full-gas, it doesn't matter and we will do it again." An FA Cup semi-final against City is next up for Arsenal after the Liverpool clash, with Arteta keen to be able to field his strongest side in both games, despite the demands placed on his players. “Obviously they’ve been hit and a lot of them have played some crazy minutes up until now and again we’re going to have games every two-and-a-half days." —AFP ■