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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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 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)

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

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases remained at **337** after **no** new case was reported on 15 July according to Ministry of Health and Sports. —MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 15 July 2020

Total Cases	New Case	Total Death Tally
337	0	6

Recovery Update on 15 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
266	5	253

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 15 July 2020

New PUIs
29

Ministry of Health and Sports

PYITHU HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw continues 17th regular session on 15 July

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

Development project in Myawady

MP U Sein Bo from Myawady constituency asked about the Chinese investment permitted by the Myanmar Investment Commission in Shwe Kokko area in his constituency.

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh explained the MIC has approved the development project of Myanmar Yatai International Holding Group Co.,Ltd on 25.5 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 Maung Thin from Meiktila constituency asked about the detailed explanations for the proposed budget of K680 million in supplementary grant of 2019-2020 financial year from the Political



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin.



Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh.

Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the hiring legal experts, private judge and legal advisor in the case complained by the Gambia at the ICJ, and about K351.600 million for travel costs and charges for conveying heavy items.

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 meeting of 16th regular session of second 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.



MP U Sein Bo.

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 Tangyan 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.



MP Dr Maung Thin.

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.

MP U Kyaw Aung Lwin from Sedoktara 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 Aung Naing from Thabeikkyin constituency asked about permit application for small-scaled extraction of minerals by the local people; MP U Nay Soe Aung from Wuntho constituency about asked about the release of confiscated land from the management of Wuntho Township administration and MP U Nay Htet Win from Sinbaungwe constituency about release of information about the works of Forest Department to public. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe.

Underground Water Management Bill

U Aye Naing, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw's Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee submitted the Underground Water Management Bill and Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aye explained the bill.

Corporate Social Responsibility

MP Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo from Kyauktan constituency tabled a motion urging the government to issue directives for transparency in adopting explicit policy of implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Thirteen MPs discussed the motion.

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh supported for the approval of the motion, and the Pyithu Hluttaw approved it.

The 4th day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw will convene on 21 July.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

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 5 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.



Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.



MP U Myint Naing.

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. They have also collaborated with ICRC, WFP, UN 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 K88.72 million to construct 4 rows of housing and 16 toilet units for additional people coming into Kyauktaw.

Next, MP U Kyaw Than of Rakhine State constituency 10 asked about the unfinished construction of 3 bridges along Pyinshay-Kalaba inter-village road in Kyaukpyu Township which were not completed in their designated budget year. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn replied that the 30ft bridge along the Pyinshay-Kalaba 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

Need to Distinguish between Politics and Discipline



You are required to distinguish politics from discipline. Nothing will work without discipline. If someone wants to violate a discipline, he must be well convinced of what kind of punishment he deservedly will receive as a consequence. Try your best to have an order changed by keeping discipline. Abide by disciplines before having it changed. This is the difference between politics and discipline.

(Excerpt from BogyokeAung San's speech made at the All Workers' Union and dinner in Natmauk, on 25 March 1947)

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



Vice President U Myint Swe presides over meeting on 15 July to prepare for Waso-robe offering ceremony of the government. **PHOTO: MNA**

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.

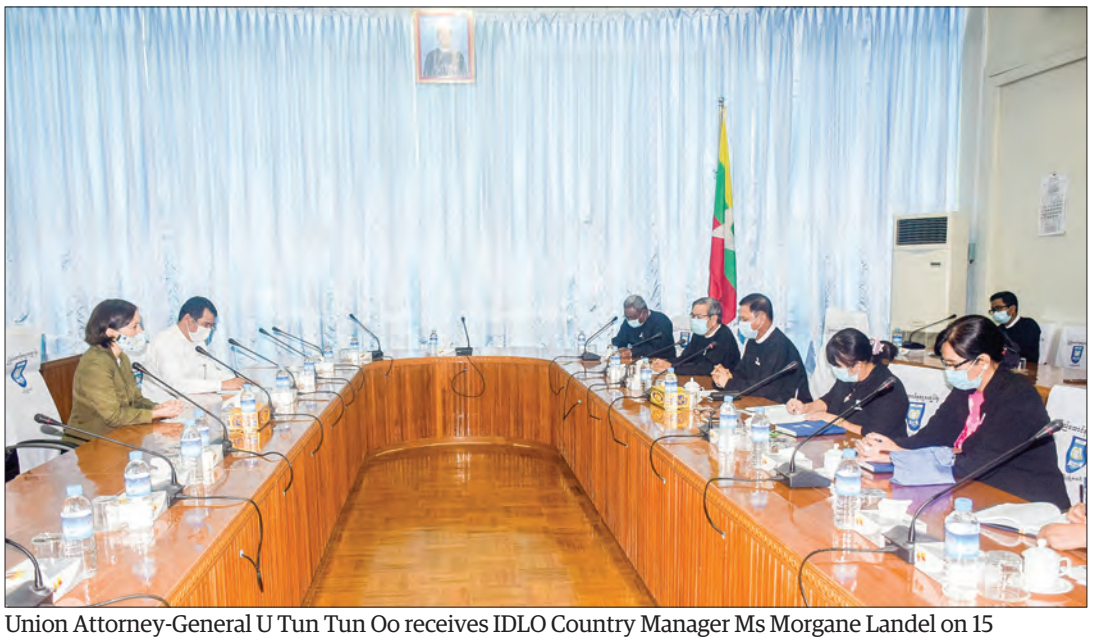
The ceremony is scheduled for 29 July and a total of 36 senior monks will be invited to the donation ceremony.

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 U Tun Tun Oo receives IDLO Country Manager Ms Morgane Landel on 15 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 sceneries 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.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with locals in Sinnat Chaung Village of Ywangan Township in Danu Self-Administered Zone on 14 July.
PHOTO: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

The Senior General and party visited the construction site of a pagoda.

In the morning, the Senior General and party visited the Nan Thidar Multi-Purpose Farming Centre in the Eastern Command, according to the Office of the Commander-In-Chief of Defence Services.

(Translated by E'i Phyu Phyu Aung)

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, subtractions 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.

Union Election Commission
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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

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Next, MP U Larl Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 asked whether road expansion for the remaining 16/3 mile of Mindat-Matupi 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 K4,648 million will be allotted.

Next, MP U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked whether the 9.4 mile section of the 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 further action will be decided on when the Sagaing Region government's budget proposal 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 Htein 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 Hpaan, Kayin State, and a loan of US$7.6 million for Myawady 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 incinerating waste in Monywa.

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.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt submitted to the assembly the bill amending the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens, sent back with amendments from the Pyithu Hluttaw. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than gathered the agreement of the Hluttaw before approving it.

Next, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Aung Tun Lin tabled a motion for the Amyotha Hluttaw to debate a bill amending the 1959 Defence Services Act. MP U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency 9 seconded the motion.

The Speaker gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw, received no opposition, and announced the assembly will debate the bill and handed the matter over to the bill committee.

The fourth-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will convene 21 July.—Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEC organizes coordination meeting with ministries for 2020 General Election



UEC Chair U Hla Thein presides over the meeting on 15 July to prepare for 2020 General Election. **PHOTO: MNA**

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)

Union Information Minister holds meeting for 8th Media Development Conference



Union Information Minister Dr Pe Myint discusses with media partner organizations for the holding of 8th Myanmar Media Development Conference. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint held a meeting with the representatives from media partner organizations at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to discuss the organizing the 8th Myanmar Media Development Conference.

The meting was attended by Joint-Secretary (1) of Myanmar Press Council U Myint Kyaw, Ms Min Jeong Kim from head office of UNESCO and its National Project Director Daw Naing Naing Aye, Country Programme Manager from IMS/FOJO Mr Finn Rasmussen and Project Officer U Ye Wint Hlaing Bwar, Local Office Manager from DW Akademie U David Lian, Country Programme Manager from BBC Media Action Ms Rachael Mc Guin, Advisor U Thiha Saw from Internews, Project officer from JICA U Aung Kyaw Swar and Advisor Daw Thin Thin Aung from MyPOL.

The meeting discussed the holding of 8th Myanmar Media Development Conference which was postponed from the early scheduled dates of 30 and 31 March due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

They also exchanged views on the dates, venue, organizing pattern and topics for the upcoming conference, as well as prevailing challenges and changing scenarios of media.—MNA *(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

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. Visitors are requested to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet 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. Twelve visitors will be allowed to pay their respects at a time and must leave with the same group, all the while maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart from each other.
9. Visitors must adhere to updated health notifications and announcements regarding COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.
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.

Exhibitions in Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon)

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*/national museumyangon. 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, historical documents, 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.


Private room of Bogyoke Aung San



Half bust sculpture of Bogyoke Aung San



Chairs and document photos in dining room of Bogyoke Aung San family


Personal belongings of Bogyoke Aung San


A document photo in dining room of Bogyoke Aung San



Document photos in dining room of Bogyoke Aung San


Front view of Bogyoke Aung San Museum.



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 authouress 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. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, yesterday participated in a World Economic Forum (WEF)facilitated virtual dialogue on strengthening ASEAN's digital economy in support of a more inclusive and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery.

Joining Ministers and prominent business leaders throughout the region, Union Minister U Thaung Tun noted that, despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Myanmar remains committed to facilitating the country's transition into the digital age guided by Myanmar's COVID-19 Economic Relief Planand the country's Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

Connecting on this year's ASEAN Youth Survey, the Union Minister concurred with the report affirming that:

"…accessible, affordable and reliable connectivity will play a crucial role in enabling [Myanmar's] transformation – spurring innovation, improving services, and enhancing living standards."

Describing how Myanmar's young people have expressed resilience and adaptabilityto 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 providesthe 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

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



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**

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

Union Minister of Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister of Health and Sports Dr MyintHtwe who is also the secretary (2) of central committee, Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary U Tin MaungOo, Permanent Secretary of Health and Sports Professor Dr ThetKhaing Win, departmental officials and invited guests attended thecerемony.

Union Minister U Win Khaing said that the National Energy Puma Aviation Services Co., Ltd, which distributes aviation fuel in Myanmar, donated $100,000from its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget. The NEPAS is a joint venture in51 per centshare withMyanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, which was under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and 49 per centof Singapore based Puma Energy Group Pte. Ltd and started distributing aviation fuel in Myanmar since 2015.

Currently, the NEPAS contributed about $1.2million for the CSR programmes to date.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Win Khaing handed over the $100,000of the NEPAS to Union Minister Dr MyintHtwe who expressed words of thanks in return for the donation. Similarly, the other joint ventured firmswith 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$362,500 to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The total donation amounted $462,500 to date.—MNA

(Translated by KhineThazin Han)

16 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Up-to-date voters list can ensure electoral integrity in 2020

THE Union Election Commission is making preparations to ensure the 2020 general elections meet five standards: they are free, fair, transparent, reliable, and harmonious with the people's desire.

Cooperation from ministries concerned and the people are sine qua non for making the 2020 general elections, which will be held on 8th November, successful.

The UEC has compiled a voters list and a constituency list nationwide as part of its efforts for ensuring that eligible citizens do not lose their votes.

The sub-commissions in regions and states of the UEC have taken steps to keep their voter registration lists accurate and up-to-date since 2019.

The commission announced yesterday that the voters list will be published at ward/village election offices nationwide from 25 July 2020 to 7 August 2020, and in October again.

> The commission announced yesterday that the voters list will be published at ward/village election offices nationwide from 25 July 2020 to 7 August 2020, and in October again.

The goal 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 to prevent anyone from voting twice and, by reducing inaccuracies, and speeding up the voter check-in process at polling places.

Voter registration lists are the foundation of everything else in election administration. Hence, 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 list. 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 request directly to the 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 constituent awareness programs for the 2020 general elections and disseminate election news and information speedily 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.

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

By Lokethar

ON World Environment Day we were reminded of our 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 the snow capped poles, mountains, volcanoes, forests, glaciers, rivers, soil and swamps above ground and other formations beneath the surface of the seas and within the depth of the oceans.

There is much awareness creation about conserving the environment so as to minimize happenings such as emission of green house gases, destruction of the Ozone layer, rise in Global temperature, melting of polar ice-caps leading to rising sea levels, climate change inducing raging storms, flooding, land slides, and other catastrophic events. There is much discussion about conserving the eco-system which is defined as being a "community of living organisms in conjunction with the non-living components of their environment, interacting as a system". As such, it can be said that human beings are as much a part of the eco-system (even if others think otherwise) as are all other living entities. Human beings live in countries, communities and societies and are usually most affected by both natural and man-made environmental changes.

As for the communities that are "displaced" and "resettled" in some other place due to, say for example a "Mega Project" with a potential to more or less "change" the entire Environment, the lives of the inhabitants will be affected to a greater or lesser extent. The Environmental Impact Study of the Project probably looked more at the changes on the physical environment which could result, and had to be conserved; but they probably did not fully take into account the long term impact to the disruption to life, community and society which the human habitants would suffer. Due care needs to be exercised to tackle the "human" aspect of environmental change made by "humans". What is most regrettable is the suffering of the people who were inhabitants of the place and who earned their living from the natural environment before the "behemoths" moved in to change the landscape and their lives.



A collective tree-planting ceremony was held in the compound of No.1, Basic Education High School in Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region on 19 June.2019. **PHOTO: MDN**

Perhaps we should give more importance to the human factor while conserving the Environment, to avoid to the extent possible, disruptions to communities and societies and the suffering to the "people" involved. After all the people are the key. If they have to be moved, they should be provided with alternate places in which they can earn a good living and live safely.

The recent landslides in the Phakant jade mining area, involving rain soaked jade mining waste rubble piles built high over the years of mining operation by private companies, which caused the death of over 160 people was an extremely tragic event. Most of the local mining people displaced as the result of the mining permits that were granted to private companies, somehow returned to live in the vicinity to make a living as "prospectors" as before, out of searching (now the rubble) for jade stones. This is not the first time that such landslides have caused death and destruction of the jade "prospectors". It seems that the surface mining operations of private companies using heavy machines in the process of extracting the jade stones, without effective measures for safe disposal of the rubble they generate was the cause of the "major accident" – the term is as defined in the Occupational Safety and Health Law (2019), of Myanmar.

The repeated occurrence of such landslides resulting in death and destruction points to weakness in exercising "due care" by the mining companies concerned in conducting their operations. They should come forward now, as we hope they will, to render necessary help and assistance to the victims' families. At the same time they should take "due care" to prevent such "major accidents" happening in the future.

With Charity to all and Malice to none.

REQUIRING PEOPLE TO WEAR MASKS IN PUBLIC INDOOR SPACES

France will require face masks indoors as virus picks up



French President Emmanuel Macron said: "I would like to make masks mandatory in all enclosed public spaces". **PHOTO: AFP**

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that face masks will soon be required in public indoor spaces to curtail the coronavirus outbreak, acknowledging that infections were again on the rise.

His comments, in a television interview marking Bastille Day, came after he oversaw the traditional military ceremony that was drastically downsized because of the pandemic.

"I would like to make masks mandatory in all enclosed public spaces," Macron said in the interview, a Bastille Day tradition he had shunned since taking office three years ago.

"We have indications that (the outbreak) is accelerating a bit," he added, suggesting that his government would require masks in shops and public buildings from August 1.

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 100 billion euros ($114 billion), on top of more than 460 billion euros spent so far to limit the social and economic devastation from the two-month lockdown imposed in mid-March.—AFP

U.S. CDC urges all Americans to wear masks

U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday urged all Americans to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "Cloth face coverings are one of the most powerful weapons we have to slow and stop the spread of the virus, particularly when used universally within a community setting. All Americans have a responsibility to protect themselves, their families, and their communities," CDC Director Robert Redfield said in a statement.

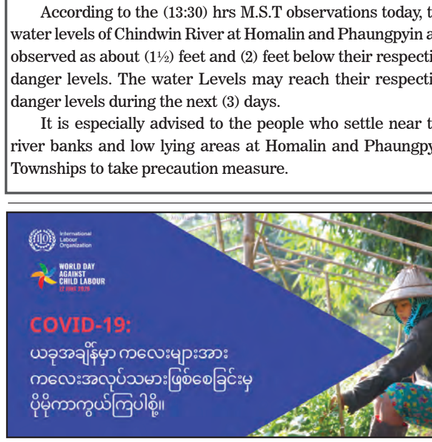
CDC's appeal came days after U.S. President Donald Trump wore a mask publicly for the first time when visiting a hospital in Maryland. For months, Trump and some senior administration officials have been criticized for being reluctant to advise the public to wear masks. According to a new Hill-HarrisX poll, 44 per cent of voters said people were less likely to wear masks when Trump did not set an example in wearing a mask to lower the spread of COVID-19.*SOURCE: Xinhua*

In Commemoration of 73rd Martyrs' Day

19th July, 1947-19th July, 2020

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 20 January 1898 in Meiktila.

His parents were Mr Rahman, an Indian police inspector, and a Burmese Buddhist Daw Nyein Hla.

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 1938, and they had three children (Maung Tin Myint, Ma Khin Khin Sein and Maung Hla Kyi). After WWII, the national school reopened, and U Razak was a member engaged in preparing the draft of the Burmese National Constitution in 1945.

He and other cabinet ministers, including Prime Minister General Aung San, were assassinated on 19 July 1947 in Yangon.

Flood Warning

(Issued at: 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 15-7-2020)

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observations today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Homalin and Phaungpyin are observed as about (1½) feet and (2) feet below their respective danger levels. The water Levels may reach their respective danger levels during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Homalin and Phaungpyin Townships to take precaution measure.

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

MPE opens gas stations for household consumption in Yangon



New four gas stations in four townships of Yangon are aimed for reduction of household electricity consumption. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

MYANMAR Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has opened four gas stations in townships of Yangon Region in cooperation with Yadanar 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 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 opened the gas stations as a joint venture in South Okkalapa, Insein, North Dagon and Hmawbi townships. These four gas stations are distributing the gas across the Yangon Region. The gas is carried from the Nyaungdon gas field by boxer trucks and distributed to the public via these four gas stations.

To save the money during coronavirus prevention and control period, the MPE is selling the gas for K800 per kg. There are two types of the gas cylinder such as 48kg and 15kg. The gas is distributed to households by car.

There are three types of LPG such as Propane gas, Butane gas and mixed propane and butane gas. Among them, butane gas is more suitable for use in household kitchens.

Although Myanmar is one of the natural gas producer countries, only a few people are using gas. So, we are providing awareness talks for the people to use the gas widely.—Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Social security benefits provided to 8,859 workers from 22 factories in Bago

THE regional ministry of Immigration and Human Resource Development has provided social security benefits to a total of 8,859 workers from 22 factories for the fifth time. The ceremony was held at the social security board office located in Oaktha Myothit Ward-6 on Thameinbayan Road in Bago at 10 am on 14 July. At the ceremony, U Tun Tun Oo, the Regional Minister for Immigration and Human Resource Development gave the opening remarks while Daw Kay Thi Khaing, the assistant director from Bago regional Social Security Board Office explained the providing process of the social security benefits of 40 per cent.

Then, U Tun Tun Oo, the Regional Minister for Immigration and Human Resource Development, handed over more than K198 million to the officials from the related factories for a total of 8,859 workers who will receive 40 per cent of social security benefits, 60 per cent of pregnancy health medication benefit and 25 per cent of permanent disability benefits for the work-related injuries from 22 factories in Bago Township. About 67 factories have applied to receive 40 per cent of social security benefits in Bago Township. 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 Shwe and U Kyaw Min San, regional Hluttaw representatives, Daw Kay Thi Khaing, assistant director from Bago Region Social Security Board, U Aung Kyaw Min, regional official from the Labour Department, Daw Zin Kay Thwe, regional official from Labor Relations Department, Daw Khin Mar Thet, regional official from Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department, Daw San San Nwe and staff from Bago township branch office, officials from other related factories and workplaces.—Tin Soe (Bago)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Bagan-NyaungU Bu Phaya river port revived with motorboat riders

WITH the pilgrims visiting Bu Phaya in the Bagan-NyaungU archaeological heritage site, the Bu pagoda port fallen silent for over three months is now revived with the motorboat riders, said U Maung Soe, a motorboat owner in Bu Phaya river port.

The pilgrims from across the country are now visiting the pagodas starting from the first week of July with the permission to visit the significant pagodas in the Bagan-NyaungU archaeological heritage site. The famous pagodas are now allowed to say prayers from 9 am to 4 pm, according to Shwezigon pagoda board of trustees.

The Bu Phaya is one of the significant pagodas in the Bagan-NyaungU archaeological heritage site. People are coming to Bu Phaya, and thus the river port is crowded with the visitors. Then, the pilgrims are observing the ancient buildings and pagodas riding in the motorboats.

Also, some pilgrims are riding in the motorboats from Bu Phaya port to pay homage to Tantkyitaung pagoda in Pakokku Township. There are more than 200 motorboats in Bu Phaya port. Motorboats suspended for more than three months are going to resume their operations, said U Ye Win, a motorboat rider. — Ko Htein (KPD)



Motorboat ferries have resummed their services from Bu Phaya of Bagan-NyaungU to Tantkyitaung pagoda in Pakokku Township. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (KPD)**

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar FDI fetches $4.6 bln in 10 months, closer to its target $5.8bln



Myanmar Investment Commission issues permits to 208 foreign enterprises in this financial year.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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 $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, Bago, 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 $3.39 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 Ei Myat Mon)

DICA plans recommendation for online visa extension of expatriate businesspersons

By Nyein Nyein

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is planning to launch online platform regarding the recommendation for a visa extension of the expatriates in Myanmar, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

This move aims to reduce opportunities for dishonesty in applying for visa extension, check the lists of the recommended company for visa, get easy access to the data of expatriates and stay period, reduce paperwork, ensure social distancing and facilitate the processing, he continued.

"The DICA, on behalf of MIC, is planning to launch online system for the recommendation for a visa extension of the foreign director and foreign employee of the companies, and their family members in order to ensure smooth processing at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population," he added.

At present, the online application form is posted on the DICA's official website. The users can submit a suggestion to the system.

Last 7 July, the director-general and deputy director-general of the DICA met with U Nyein Min Oo, CEO of Myanmar Digital IT Solution Co., Ltd regarding drawing software, and the work matters were suggested and explained.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports top $13 bln as of 3 July

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 October and 3 July in the 2019-2020 financial year shot up to US$13.28 billion from $12.9 billion registered in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. The figure reflects an increase of $351 million compared with the year-ago period.

Of the seven export groups, agriculture, fisheries, minerals and other goods showed an increase in exports. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products and finished industrial goods declined. Export values were registered at $3 billion for agro products, $62.7 million for livestock, $712.7 million for fishery products, $1.35 billion for minerals, $115.7 million for forest products, $7.09 billion for manufactured goods, and $838.4 million for other goods.

Myanmar's top 10 export countries are China, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, the US, India, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the UK, the Commerce Ministry stated. The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lowering. The CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling owing to cancel of order from some countries and suspension of trade caused by the COVID-19 negative impacts. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out. At present, exports of rice, corns and pulses are rising, while CMP garment export is dropping. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion in order to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment.—Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Myanmar has earned $1.35 billion from mineral export. **PHOTO: THAN ZIN WIN**

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. Tachilek 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 Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

The Statement of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) on the status of its handling of complaints

Statement No. (10/2020)

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. Accordingly, the MNHRC Law vested 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 200 complaints which include 150 new complaints and 50 complaints left from April. Out of them, 53 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

Myanmar foreign trade value tops $28 bln in Q3

EXPORT value of Myanmar reached US$13.128 billion and its import was $14.904 billion, totalling $28.032 billion from both sectors from October to June in 2019-2020 financial year.

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

Comparisons of export items in the corresponding financial years

(Values are in mln US$)

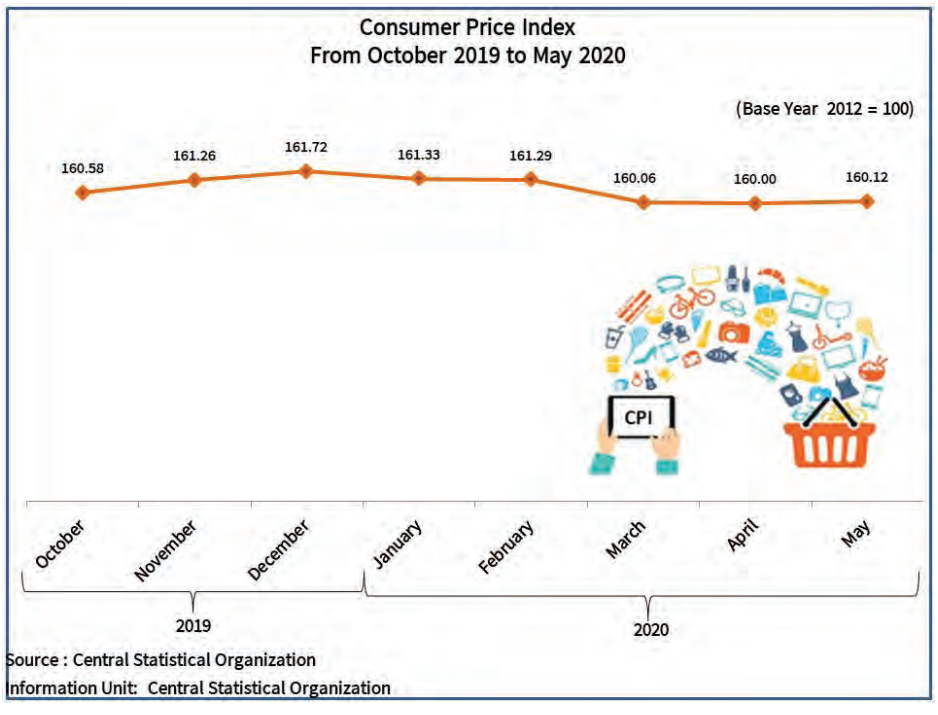
Sr	Names of the Products	2019-2020 (until June) (temporary)	2018-2019 (until June)	Comparison (surplus or deficit)
1	Agricultural products	3071.598	2566.890	504.708
2	Animal products	62.720	311.011	(-) 248.291
3	Fishery products	707.148	604.631	102.517
4	Mining products	1341.728	1201.274	140.454
5	Forest products	113.910	128.586	(-) 14.676
6	Finished industrial products	6994.368	7176.610	(-) 182.242
7	Other products	836.691	659.375	177.316
Total		**13128.163**	**12648.377**	**479.786**

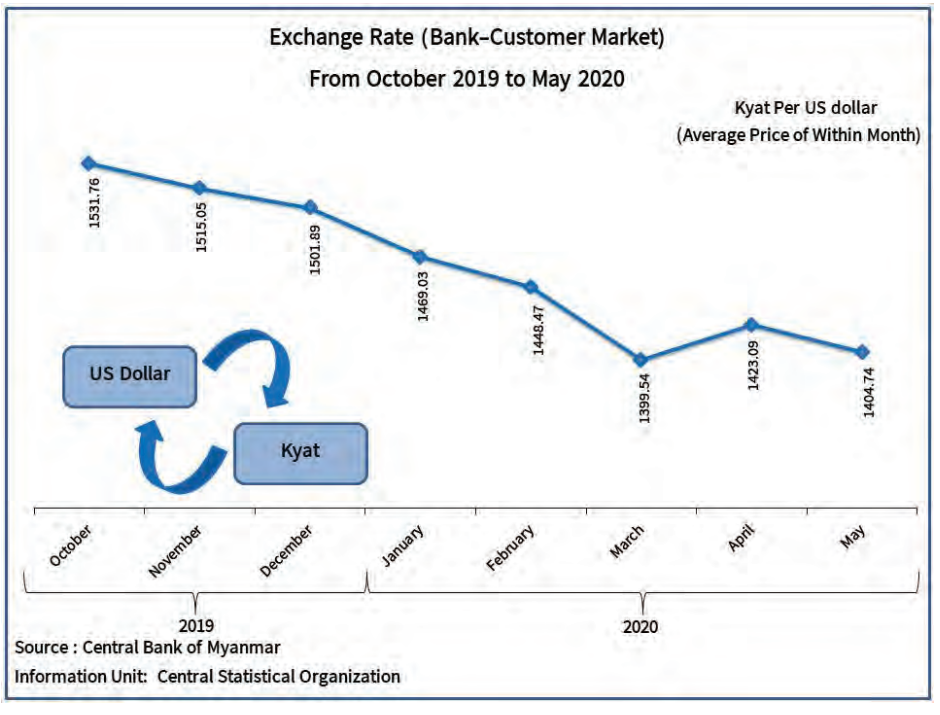
Comparisons of import items in the corresponding financial years

(Values are in mln US$)

Sr	Names of the products	2019-2020 (until June) (temporary)	2018-2019 (until June)	Comparison (Surplus or deficit)
1	Investment products	5759.177	4360.099	1399.078
2	Raw materials	5429.641	5657.227	(-) 227.586
3	Household goods	3715.604	3628.666	86.938
Total		**14904.422**	**13645.992**	**1258.430**

—MNA





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 Thirion, Country Director of the French Development Agency and the representative from Green Lotus presented the donations through MP U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency.—Ei Phyu Phyu Aung



Bawa Pann Daing donates 1,000 reusable facemasks to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 15 July. **PHOTO SUPPLIED.**

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



Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand queuing at Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) on 15 July. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

50 returnees from S Korea test negative for COVID-19



50 Myanmar returnees from ROK come back home after they were tested negative. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 Khaing 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 fulfil, 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 Swe)

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Minister promises Maldives tourism's safety as airport reopens

MALE—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, Fayyaaz, 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. Inviting all tourists to visit and rediscover the sunny side of life, he said that the Maldives had the best system to ensure the safety of the tourists.



The reopening of the Maldives to tourists comes as the number of coronavirus cases continues to rise. **PHOTO: AFP**

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.—Xinhua ■

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.

The Chang'e-4 probe, launched on Dec. 8, 2018, made the first-ever soft landing on the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon on Jan. 3, 2019.

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 ■

NEWS IN BRIEFS

U.S. troops withdrawn from 5 bases in Afghanistan, Pentagon says

WASHINGTON –The United States has withdrawn its troops from five bases in Afghanistan and maintains its force level in the country at mid-8,000s, fulfilling its obligation under the U.S.-Taliban deal signed in late February, the U.S. Department of Defence said Tuesday. "U.S. forces in Afghanistan remain in the mid-8,000s and five bases formerly occupied by U.S. forces have been transferred to our Afghan partners," Chief Pentagon Spokesperson Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement.

Hoffman urged all sides to "reduce violence and embark on intra-Afghan negotiations capable of achieving a negotiated and lasting peace for Afghanistan." According to the agreement signed on Feb. 29 between the United States and the Afghan Taliban, the United States would reduce its forces in Afghanistan to 8,600 within 135 days till July 13.—Xinhua ■

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 monthly decline 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.

Numbers have fallen below 3,000 since April, which saw a total of 2,917 travellers entering the country. The previous low for monthly foreign visitors prior to April was 17,543 recorded in February 1964.

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

Tokyo on top virus alert level after new cases

TOKYO—Tokyo is on its highest coronavirus alert level after a spike in new cases, the city's governor warned Wednesday, as experts said the rising infections were a clear "red flag".

However, the move to a "red" alert does not mean the city will ask businesses to close or events to be postponed. Even during a national state of emergency in April, there was no "lockdown" in Japan of the type seen in Europe.

"The experts just told us that the situation of infections is at the fourth level of the four-level system, which means 'the infections seem to be spreading,'" Governor Yuriko Koike said during a meeting on the virus.

Her comments came after a panel of experts said the city was seeing a spike in younger people infected with the virus, with cases in nightlife areas but also workplaces and in families.

"Our assessment is that can't but say this is the red flag, the highest level, if we simply look at numbers," said Norio Ohmagari, an expert on the panel.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a nationwide state of emergency in late May and appears to have little appetite to reintroduce it, with the economy suffering its first recession since 2015.

But new daily cases have climbed after the state of emergency was removed, reaching a fresh record last week of 243 in Tokyo, the epicentre of the fresh outbreak.

Authorities say many of the new cases come from night-life entertainment districts in the capital and those infected appear to be people in their 20s and 30s, who are less likely to become seriously ill with the coronavirus.—AFP ■



Even during a national state of emergency in April, there was no "lockdown" in Japan of the type seen in Europe. **PHOTO: KYODO**

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.



Zoran Zaev has been trying to sell his success in moving the country closer to the West. **PHOTO: AFP**

The election pits an architect of the accord, Social Democrats leader and former prime minister Zoran Zaev, against the right-wing critics of VMRO-DPMNE.

Neither is forecast to win an outright majority, setting the stage for complex coalition talks after the results, which are not expected until early Thursday.

The coronavirus pandemic has added another layer of uncertainty as authorities try to slow an infection spike without inflicting further damage on an economy already heading into recession.

With more than 380 deaths among a population of around two million, the country has the highest per capita fatality rate in the Western Balkans, according to official data.

In the capital Skopje, voters wore mandatory masks as they lined up at polling stations, which opened at 0500 GMT and will close at 1900 GMT.—AFP ■

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.

"The people are expressing their needs, they are expressing their voice in protest," said Juan Carlos Huarachi, leader of the country's biggest trade union, Central Obrera Boliviana.

The demonstration, 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 Hugh 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 Feliciana Quesucala, 46, an indigenous Aymara woman from El Alto.—AFP ■

US rescinds order denying visas for foreign students

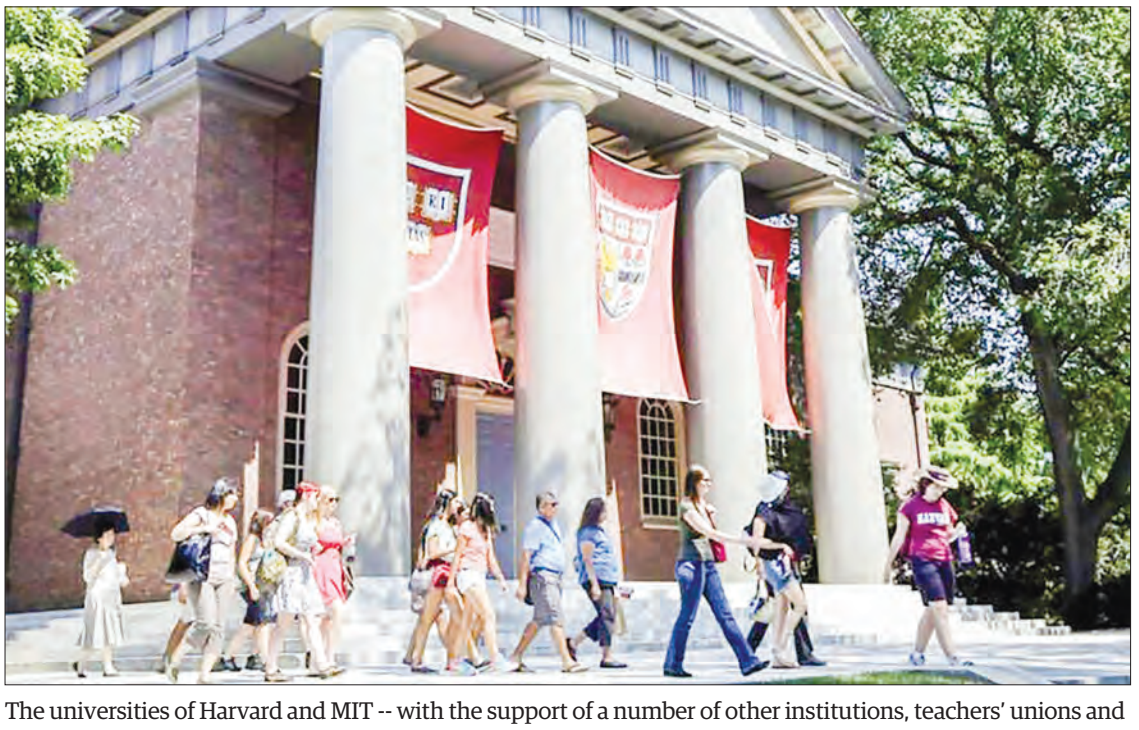
WASHINGTON—The United States government rescinded its controversial decision to revoke foreign student visas whose courses move online due to coronavirus, a federal judge said Tuesday.

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 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**

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 threw US higher education "into chaos."

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.

READY TO FACE SECOND COVID-19 WAVE

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." But, he reassured that the country was getting ready if the virus hits again.

"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 as one 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 ■

Guardiola pleased with Man City ban lift, Klopp & Mourinho less sure



In this Nov 25, 2019 photo Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola attends a press conference at City Football Academy in Manchester, north west England, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League football Group C match against Shakhtar Donetsk. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON—Manchester City 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 ■

WLC plan to participate in Tokyo Olympic event

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 Thiha 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 Thiha. "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 (Tgi) ■

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 confidence he was confident of successfully hosting the games from next July.

"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 Lost 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 ■



Japanese Olympic Committee President Yasuhiro Yamashita speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on July 14, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

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



Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. **PHOTO: AFP**

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 ■