Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses ADB loan, Executive Order for Union Tax Law, CERP

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its second-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday.

Officials from Union-level organizations presented the proposed US$180 million loan plan from the Asia Development Bank for implementation of Yangon city water supply project and $171.27 million for electrification programme in rural areas. Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung explained the President’s proposed plan to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network. And the motion will be discussed on 22 July.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin reported to the Hluttaw on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. And the issue will be discussed on 24 July.

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 339 after two new cases reported on 16 July

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 339 after two new cases were reported on 16 July according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 338 returned from Thailand and No. 339 had neither contact with any positive patients nor travel history abroad. Out of the 339 confirmed cases, six died, 270 have recovered, 253 have been discharged from hospitals and 26 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 16 July 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Cases</th>
<th>Total Death</th>
<th>New PUIs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recovery Update on 16 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Cases</th>
<th>Total Death</th>
<th>New PUIs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 16 July 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Cases</th>
<th>Total Death</th>
<th>New PUIs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing Norwegian Ambassador

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received outgoing Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes, who completed her tour of duty in Myanmar, at the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, at 4 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the promotion of the relationship and cooperation between Myanmar and Norway, the reform process on peace and democratic affairs, fishing and farming industry, natural resources, energy, environmental management, investment and legislative affairs.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Joint Bill Committee discusses amending bill on Public Debt Management Law

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting yesterday to discuss the second amending bill on the Public Debt Management Law sent by the Union Government.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee and the Joint Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win, deputy chairs, secretaries, joint secretaries and members of Joint Bill Committee, secretary and members of Joint Public Accounts Committee and officials from the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Union Attorney-General’s Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

ASEAN-China Transport Ministers’ Special Meeting on COVID-19

ASEAN-China Transport Ministers’ Special Meeting on COVID-19 was held through video conferencing yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the transport ministers from China and 10 ASEAN member countries, the ASEAN General Secretary and officials from the member countries, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, the Permanent Secretary, and officials from Department of Civil Aviation, Department of Marine Administration, Road Transport Administration Department and Myanmar Railways.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung discussed the COVID-19 situation in Myanmar and leading role of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, the compliance with the prevention of the disease in aviation, marine and road transportation, suspension of regular flights, and arrangement of the chartered flights and relief flights and the implementation of the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) to ease the economic impact.

Moreover, the Union Minister said that cross-border transport played a vital role during the crisis to transport medicines, commodities, and all our nations needed to make agreement between the nations in order to implement effective border transport.

He also explained the change of cargo trailers in the cross-border transport, installation of sufficient equipment at the border checkpoints, better use of ICT technology to enforce disease control guidelines.

The ministers from the ASEAN countries and China exchanged their opinions. They also discussed possible assistance in the crew-change of the Myanmar seamen working on the foreign ships.

The meeting released the ‘Joint Statement of ASEAN-China Transport Ministers on Ensuring Smooth Transport and Logistics to Combat COVID-19 and Reactivate the Economy’ to be carried out among ASEAN member countries and China.—MNA

(Translated Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses ADB loan, Executive Order ...

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung reported to the Hluttaw about the President's proposed plan to sign Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports. And the motion will be discussed on 22 July.

Loan for development project in Hlegu Township

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win explained the President's proposed loan US$180 million from the ADB for development project in Hlegu Township to be implemented in 5 years, and agreements have been made with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation for water supply, with the Ministry of Construction for installation of water pipelines and with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy for electrification in the project area.

The loan will be 8-years grace period and 24 years of settlement, with 1.0 per cent for the grace period and 1.5 per cent for the settlement period, and that the grant element of the loan would be 48 per cent.

The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw invited the list of names of MPs who want to discuss the motion scheduled for 22 July.

FROM PAGE-1

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 339 after two new cases reported on 16 July

Two new cases of COVID-19 on 16 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case No</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact with positive patient</th>
<th>Oversea travel history</th>
<th>Hospital for medical treatment</th>
<th>Lab result</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>338</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, Thailand</td>
<td>Kandawadi Hospital (Mandalay)</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Held under quarantine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>339</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Peoples’ Hospital Sittway</td>
<td>Held under quarantine</td>
<td>(Translated by Aung Khin)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
K500 banknote featuring Bogoyke Aung San to be officially rolled out on 19 July

THE Central Bank of Myanmar has announced 500-kyat banknote will be circulated on 19 July. The obverse side of the banknote depicts National Leader Bogoyke Aung San as the main portrait, and its reverse is printed with the building of Central Bank of Myanmar. The size of the new banknote will have 150 mm in length and 70 mm in width. Its prominent colour is red brown.

The embossing method is used in printing of the new 500-kyat note, and that the denomination number and the text of Central Bank of Myanmar are highly visible and have a rough texture. The serial number lies horizontally in Myanmar numbers, and vertically in English digits.

On the left and right corners of obverse side have the embossed nine short stripes, especially for the persons with visual impairment.

The watermarks of 500-kyat denomination and Bogoyke Aung San are visible on the left of Bogoyke Aung San at the obverse side when the note is viewed against the light.

The security thread lies vertically and its half-length is partially visible. If the red brown area adjacent to Myanmar text 500-kyat on the right part of obverse side is viewed from 45 degrees, then the English alphabet CBMs can be seen.

The 500-kyat banknotes will be circulated from the banks to public on 21 July. The existing 500-kyat note which is in circulation will continue to be legal tender currency.

MoSWrRr Union Minister participates in virtual meeting for relief assistance to Chin, Rakhine IDPs

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a coordination meeting online yesterday to provide relief assistance to the internally displaced persons from Paletwa, and Rakhine State.

In the meeting, the Union Minister said that there were migrants because of natural disasters and conflicts; that the ministry regarded them as an important issue and had been helping people affected by ongoing armed conflicts as well as providing resettlement by cooperating and implementing the strategies and plans, and regarding with the eight requirements submitted by the Relief and Rehabilitation Committee for Chin IDPs.

Then, Relief and Rehabilitation Committee for Chin IDPs chairman U Salai Issac Khin discussed that the committee was coordinating with Chin State government and respective officials for the displaced Chin people in Paletwa Township and Rakhine State; that the money donated to the committee was used in food provision, temporary building construction, health care and in other administrations; that there were not only displaced people but also local villagers locked in their own villages; that there were displaced Chin people in Ann Township in Rakhine State and because of poor road communications and security, they were in need of food, healthcare, education and shelter.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discussed the coordination from the national level with the partner organizations in carrying out projects to transport foods through Kyauktaw-Paletwa waterway and the repair of the Sami-Paletwa Road as well as the long term and current plans for COVID-19 crisis.

Then, relevant ministers from Chin State government and Rakhine State government, the MPs, the officials and the attendees discussed the cooperation in solving difficulties and the processes to be continued.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Chin State government, Rakhine State government and officials from respective ministries and representatives from the Relief and Rehabilitation Committee for Chin IDPs (RRC-CD).

(Translated by El Phyu Phyu Aung)
Work committees hold coordination meeting for organizing 4th Union Peace Conference

The coordination meeting on organizing the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference in progress on 16 July.

The coordination meeting on organizing the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong – held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of the State Counsellor in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm yesterday.

U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the State Counsellor and also Secretary of the Central Committee on Organizing the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference, permanent secretaries, directors-general, delegates from Ethnic Armed Organizations as well as political parties, and other relevant officials attended the coordination meeting.

At the meeting, the Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, in his capacity as Secretary of the Central Committee, said that the objective of the meeting is to effectively implement the decisions made in the Central Committee’s meeting led by the Central Committee Vice-Chairman and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, and to make detailed discussions at the working level.

The deputy minister reiterated that the 4th edition of UPC will have to be held amid the COVID-19 crisis because it is very important for politics and peace process.

The deputy minister also requested all the Work Committees to make detailed discussions on matters related to invitation, transportation, accommodation, security, healthcare, finance, coordination among the committee.

Regarding the delegates from the EAOs and political parties, the deputy minister said that the numbers of delegates from respective groups and the list of their names would have to be discussed. He also stressed that the Ministry of Health and Sports needs to provide COVID-19-related arrangements.

The detailed plans for the opening ceremony of the upcoming conference, relevant signing ceremonies, information matters, required medical tests, and security preparation should be discussed, said the deputy minister.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director-General U Thet Tun, the Ministry of Border Affairs Director-General U Thein Htay Oo, Ministry of Transport and Communications Deputy Director-General U Thant Myat Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw, Myanmar Police Force Deputy Chief Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu, Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Ministry of Health and Sports Director-General Dr Soe Oo, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry Director General U Zaw Naing, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor Director-General U Zaw Htay, UPDJC Secretary Yebaw Myo Win (from the group of EAOs), and UPDJC Secretary U Myint Soe (from the group of political parties) explained their preparations for the conference and made sector-wise discussions. In response to their discussions, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin made necessary suggestions followed by the discussions of attendees.

In his concluding remark, the deputy minister advised the EAOs and political parties for their discussions for ensuring all-inclusive meetings although they did not hold talks in the three previous meetings.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Announcement of Bar Council

The Bar Council has announced the final lists of candidates in Form 8 on 16 July 2020 for its election as per section 14 of the Council’s election procedures. The following advocates will contest the Bar Council Election.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Name of Advocate</th>
<th>Advocate Licence Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>U Mya Thein</td>
<td>973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>U Nyan Win</td>
<td>1203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>U Win Hlaing</td>
<td>1484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>U Soe Tin Yi</td>
<td>1487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>U Kyi Win</td>
<td>1506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Daw Myint Myint Than</td>
<td>1670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>U Aung Tun</td>
<td>1690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>U Bone Myint</td>
<td>1736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>U Sai Myint Maung</td>
<td>1760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>U Scin Myint</td>
<td>1763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>U Khin Maung Than</td>
<td>1784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>U Theim Chan</td>
<td>1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>U Kyaw Hoe</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>U Tot Win Myine</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>U Hling Tun</td>
<td>2031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>U Nay La</td>
<td>2062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>U Min Aung</td>
<td>2143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Daw Mi Mi Khin</td>
<td>2145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(TO BE CONTINUED)
BOGYOKE Aung San and other national leaders were assassinated at 10:37 am on Saturday of 19 July 1947 at the former Secretariat (former Ministers’ Office) while holding a meeting. In addition to Bogyoke Aung San, Thakhin Mya, Deedoke U Ba Cho, U Ba Win, Mongpawn Sawbwa (Chief-tain) Sao San Tun, Mahn Ba Khaing, U Razak, U Ohn Maung and Yebaw Ko Htwe were murdered and that day was officially recognized as Martyrs’ Day.

All the Myanmar people suffered the most grievous loss for it. The former Secretariat was open to public on Martyrs’ Day from 19 to 21 July since 2015 but during this COVID-19 crisis, the parliament building and cabinet meeting room where the Martyrs were assassinated will not be opened.

SEE PAGE-7
The former Secretariat was renovated by the Anawmar Art Group and it looks now glorious. The Union Jack flag was replaced with Myanmar national flag just inside the entrance of the former Secretariat on 4 January 1948 when the country gained independence. The memorial monument of the Martyrs can also be seen there. The names of Martyrs and the time of death were inscribed on the monument.

At the parliament building, Union Jack flag and Peacock, five-star flag, Burmese Declaration of Independence, historic documents, Treaty of Yantapo, Kinwun Mingyi and documents, Panglong Agreement, historic badges and documents, brief report of India joint committee regarding with administration affairs of Myanmar and Nettlee Agreement are displayed.

The historic hall of former parliament building can be seen and it has the insignias of former parliament, sculptures and biographies of Martyrs. Next to that room, the newspaper records of former Ministers’ Office, portraits of the first President of Myanmar Sao Shwe Thaik, the second President Dr Ba U, the third President Mahn Win Maung, and the first Prime Minister of Myanmar U Nu are displayed.

—Ko Ko Zaw
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Place of flagpole where Union Jack flag was replaced with Myanmar national flag and building parliamentary session was held. PHOTO: MNA

The room where Bogyoke Aung San and national leaders were assassinated on 19 July 1947. PHOTO: MNA

Half-bust sculptures of assassinated martyrs. PHOTO: MNA

Portraits of the first, second and third Myanmar presidents and first prime minister. PHOTO: MNA
We experience rain-induced disasters like floods and landslides every year, especially in July and August. Floods are one of the most common disasters in our country, capable of striking almost any river and creek nationwide.

Overflying rivers are behind most floods in Myanmar while torrential and isolated heavy rainfalls are the top cause of flash floods and landslides in hilly areas.

Meteorologists have warned that changing rainfall patterns with isolated heavy rainfall this rainy season could trigger flash floods and landslides in our country.

People must be alerted to the risks of floods and landslides. People settling in risk areas of flash floods and landslides should take these warnings seriously and make necessary preparations.

We would like to urge people to take note of the weather reports issued by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, and contact the hotline numbers 067-3404666 and 067-3404777. The onus is on local authorities and the people to heed the warnings and ward off the risk of disaster.

Disasters are expected to happen regularly and can impact all people, without discrimination, and the public is still obliged to respond to disasters. It is the people who are paying the heaviest price when it comes to weather-related disasters, which are becoming more extreme, unpredictable, and erratic.

The forecast of torrential and isolated rainfall will require the evacuation of people from flooded areas at the onset of rains and the provision of temporary camps for those who have no alternative place to reside.

Whenever we respond to disasters caused by the rain, we should remember that we are already dealing with one pandemic; COVID-19. In addition, other diseases like dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever, as well as various diarrheal diseases, are ongoing threats.

But even if we succeed in controlling COVID-19, we will still have to deal with other infectious diseases that are on the rise, such as influenza, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The provision of temporary camps for those who have no alternative place to reside must be developed.

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COVID prevention items donated to disaster management department in Yangon

Child Fund Myanmar donates items for preventive measures against COVID-19.

PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

Child Fund Myanmar has donated materials towards Yangon Region Disaster Management Department in Mayangon township for use of the coronavirus prevention at a ceremony held at the Disaster Management Department office on 16 July.

Country Director Dr Win May Htay and the officials with Child Fund Myanmar handed over the coronavirus prevention materials to the regional head U Win Shwe from Regional Disaster Management Department. Then, the department presented the donor a certificate of honour in return, saying thankful words.

Donation items consist of 500 boxes of the surgical mask, 300 hand sanitizers, 20 PPE suits, 50 face shields, 50 boxes of the surgical glove.

Child Fund Myanmar will continuously donate coronavirus prevention materials to seven departments under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Health and Sports during the pandemic period. It will be contributing in-kind donation worth K27.8 million.

Child Fund Myanmar will donate to Public Health and Treatment Department in Yangon region, Disaster Management Department in Mandalay region and Mon state and Social Welfare Department and Disaster Management Department in Taninthayi region. The Child Fund Association from Korea provided these donations.

Child Fund Myanmar, based in Myanmar of the Australia Child Fund Association, is helping address the problems of the children to promote the education and development of the youth. Also, it is one of the collaborative organizations in helping reduce disaster impacts.—Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Hotel zone to be established near Shwesettaw

PHOTO: ZA YY ATU (MAGWAY)

Over 5.4 million fingerlings to be released into rivers, dams, lakes in Magway Region

THE plan is underway to implement a hotel zone project. The plot of land is 60 acres wide. The project is a part of ecotourism development and the hotel zone will be near Shwesettaw pagoda’s precinct in Minbu district, said U Myint Sein, the regional head of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Magway.

The environment of forests, mountains and land near Shwesettaw remains intact. The 60-acre land is located beyond Hletin Bridge, near Shwesettaw. Authorities have already granted permission to implement the hotel zone with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

“The relevant departments are coordinating to draw the map. After drawing the map, they will design the structure of the hotel zone as to where the forest will be, where the lake will be and the hotel will be built on how many acres of land etc. After that, we will submit the proposal. We will get the guidelines from the regional government and invite the investment companies and private entrepreneurs,” he stated.

The ecotourism project will be based in nature, elephant camps, Shwesettaw wildlife sanctuary, the high standard hotels and motels and bamboo houses.

It is aimed to attract not only the local tourists but also the foreign tourists, he added.

The location is above the 3,819 feet of sea level.

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(Translated by Hay Mar)
Domestic investments touch K1,454 bln, $308.39 mln in 2019-2020FY

DOMESTIC investments by Myanmar citizens, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises, have reached K1,454 billion and US$308 million as of 18 June of the 2019-2020 financial year since October, according to a press statement issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Between 1 October and 10 July in the current fiscal, Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective region and state investment committees gave green lights to 87 local enterprises to invest in various sectors, with estimated capitals of over K1,162 billion and $204.5 million.

Domestic investments have flowed into the real estate, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

By Nyein Nyein

ANY scams and frauds by scammers using fake company registration certificate can face legal actions under Myanmar Companies Law, said Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"At present, the online registry system brings the incorporation process easier and the status of company registration can be seen online easily. They take advantage of this and made a fake certificate. Ngwe Marlar Company is a legitimate company which was incorporated under the law. We have notified the people of fake and genuine certificates on the DICA’s official website regarding this scam. The company registration number and certified date of the genuine company have been covered, yet we have unveiled them on the fake certificate, he added.

"People are advised to look up the company name in the search bar on DICA’s website, www.myco.dica.gov.mm, to check whether the company is genuine or fake with registration number and registration date."

Import value of capital goods was estimated at $5.7 billion during half of the current fiscal. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE value of Myanmar’s imports between 1 October and 3 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 stood at US$15.09 billion, an increase of $1.26 billion from $13.8 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. — GNLM

(Translated by El Myat Mon)
165 Myanmar citizens fly back from Malaysia on 16 July

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAD) landed at the Yangon International Airport in the afternoon of 16 July, bringing back a total of 165 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in Malaysia. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for 21-day quarantine.

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

A total of 973 Myanmar citizens from Malaysia have been brought back by the seven relief flights to date.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)
US ‘deeply disappointed’ over EU court scrapping data pact

WASHINGTON — Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Thursday the United States was “deeply disappointed” that an EU court scrapped a crucial online data arrangement between Europe and the US.

The US will continue to work with the European Commission on the matter and is still studying the ruling, Ross said.

The US hopes, he said, “to be able to limit the negative consequences to the $7.1 trillion transatlantic economic relationship that is so vital to our respective citizens, companies, and governments.”

“As our economies continue their post-COV-19 recovery, it is critical that companies — including the 5,300+ current Privacy Shield participants — be able to transfer data without interruption,” Ross said in a statement, using the name of the scheme allowing for data transfers between European and US servers. Reaction from industry was more scathing.

“Today’s decision is nothing short of irresponsible and threatens the operations of over 5,000 European and US companies, said Eline Chivot of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF).—AFP

Japan to launch travel campaign without Tokyo amid virus resurgence

TOKYO — The government plans to begin a contentious travel initiative next week as planned, despite a resurgence in new coronavirus cases, by excluding hardest-hit Tokyo from the campaign, the tourism minister said Thursday.

Trips by residents of Tokyo and journeys to and from the capital will be ineligible for the government’s subsidy programme, which will begin on Wednesday in a bid to spur domestic travel, tourism minister Kazuyoshi Akaba told reporters.

“We will commence the campaign, as we ask both the lodging industry and travellers to take measures to prevent the spread of the virus” in the remaining 46 prefectures, Akaba told reporters. The government planned to subsidize accommodation and transport fees nationwide under the Go To Travel Campaign to help rejuvenate the virus-stricken economy by sparking tourism.

But it has faced increasing calls for a review of the programme, due to growing concerns that the travel promotion campaign could add to a resurgence of virus infections in Japan.

The number of new coronavirus infections in Japan rose by 454, the largest since a state of emergency was lifted in late May, to 22,982 on Wednesday, the day when Tokyo raised its infection alert to the highest level. —Kyodo

UK report into Russian Brexit ‘meddling’ due in days

LONDON — A long-await ed report into alleged Russian interference in the Brexit vote will be published within days, the British parliament’s intelligence and security committee (ISC) said Thursday.

The 50-page report was completed last year but its publication was delayed by the general election in December, which caused all parliamentary committees to be disbanded.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson last week nominated new members to the committee, which oversees the intelligence agencies, and they held their first meeting on Thursday.

“The committee has unanimously agreed this morning that it will publish the report on Russia prepared by its predecessor before the House (of Commons) rises for the summer recess” on the evening of July 22, it said.—AFP

Myanmar Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.31 feet to 20.67 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 21st to 25th, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Project Name : Myanmar Power System Efficiency and Resilience Project

Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IDA Credit No : IDA 6631-MM

Assignment Title : Owner’s Engineer of New 300 MW CCGT power plant at Wamya, Yangon Region, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Reference No. : EPGE-OE-2020

The Ministry of Electric: Electricity and Energy has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Myanmar Power System Energy Efficiency and Resilience Project, intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest. The consulting services (“the Services”) include on the following scopes:

1. Project Management
2. Design Audit and Construction Supervision
3. Testing and Commissioning
4. Training and Capacity Development
5. Environment and Social Management
6. Contract Administration

The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

• General experience in power plant engineering and construction management, testing and commissioning for at least twenty (20) years;

• Consulting services as an Owner’s Engineer (OE) involving design audit and construction supervision and testing and commissioning for at least two CCGT projects with each minimum capacity of 200MW (net) that the firm has successfully completed in the last ten (10) years;

• Working in at least one CCGT project in the Client’s similar country environment with minimum capacity of 200MW (net).

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information and Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained by sending the official request via email at the address below during office hours 09:30 to 16:30 hours. The TOR will be sent by email.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the attention of the Managing Director, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Telephone: +95 9 2225181, +95 9 5133 511
Email: ywamaproject@gmail.com

Tourists view Mt. Fuji from under a torii gate in Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi Prefecture, eastern Japan, on Feb. 17, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

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Key ministers quit in Thailand, clearing way for Cabinet reshuffle

BANGKOK — Key economic ministers resigned from the Thai Cabinet on Thursday, clearing the way for Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to reshuffle his one-year-old Cabinet, likely in August.

The resignations of four Cabinet ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak and Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana, followed a leadership change in the ruling Palang Pracharath Party in June amid intraparty feuding.

The two others who tendered their resignation were Energy Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong and Savit Maesincee, minister of higher education, science, research and innovation.

Somkid oversaw economic policy in the Prayut government. The other ministers were widely known as part of his economic team.

Uttama was forced to step down as party leader in the recent leadership change. He, along with Sontirat and Suwit, resigned from the party’s executive board at the time. They announced last week that they had quit the party.

Uttama told a press conference on Thursday that their departure from the government could help ease the political pressure on Prayut, who is facing calls for a Cabinet reshuffle from within the party, and prevent a political vacuum in the country.

“It is an appropriate time for us to go,” Uttama said. “It will pave the way for a Cabinet reshuffle.”

Uttama added he and the others are ready to help the country under a different umbrella.

Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, a former army chief known in military circles as Prayut’s big brother, has recently replaced Uttama as the new party leader.

Man nabbed for issuing thousands of fake negative Covid-19 test results

DHAKA — A Bangladesh hospital owner accused of issuing thousands of fake negative coronavirus test results to patients at his two clinics was arrested on Wednesday while trying to flee to India in a burqa, police said.

The arrest marked the end of a nine-day manhunt for Mohammad Shahed, 42, who was one of more than a dozen people detained by authorities over the past few days in connection with the scam.

Experts warn the false documents have worsened the already dire virus situation in the country of 168 million people by casting doubt about the veracity of certificates issued by clinics.

“He was arrested from the bank of a border river as he was trying to flee to India. He was wearing a burqa,” Rapid Action Battalion spokesman Colonel Ashique Billah told AFP.

“His hospitals carried out 10,500 coronavirus tests, out of which 4,200 were genuine and the rest, 6,300 test reports, were given without conducting tests.” Shahed is also accused of charging for the certificates and virus treatments even though he had agreed with the government that his hospitals in the capital Dhaka would provide free care.

Australian woman freed from jail for Bali police killing

JAKARTA — An Australian woman jailed with her British DJ boyfriend for beating a Bali policeman to death was freed Thursday after nearly four years in prison on the Indonesian holiday island.

Sara Connor, 49, left Kerobokan prison and was placed in the hands of immigration authorities to await deportation, Bali officials said.

Connor and David Taylor were convicted in 2017 of fatally assaulting officer Wayan Sudarsa, whose battered body was found in the popular tourist area of Kuta the previous year.

Sudarsa’s blood-soaked body was covered with dozens of wounds on his neck, chest and head.

Connor was given early release from her five-year term for good behaviour, while Taylor is serving a six-year jail sentence for his role in the attack.

Taylor, whose stage name was DJ Nutzo, had admitted getting into a fight with Sudarsa on the beach after accusing the officer of stealing Connor’s handbag, and admitted hitting him with items including binoculars and a beer bottle.

Death toll in Indonesia’s flash floods rises to 30

JAKARTA — The death toll from Monday’s flash floods and mudslides that hit central Indonesia rose to 30, while 15 others remain missing, the country’s National Search and Rescue Agency said Thursday.

Rescue and recovery personnel are continuing to search for those buried underneath mud that was carried by the flash floods in parts of South Sulawesi Province, agency spokesman Yayan Latif said.

The flash flood hit following heavy rain, which caused three rivers in the province to overflow.
Germany readies tougher lockdowns to ward off second wave

BERLIN — Germany plans to allow for tougher lockdown measures to contain local outbreaks and ward off the threat of a second coronavirus wave, according to a draft agreement between the federal and regional governments.

The new rules would include a ban on travel “in and out of the affected areas” to limit the spread of the virus, the document seen by AFP said.

The plan is set to be finalised later on Thursday and comes as countries across the world are reimposing curbs on public life in response to a surge in new infections.

Chancellor Angela Merkel had on Tuesday voiced support for travel bans on people from coronavirus hotspots imposed by local authorities.

“A proposal we would back,” she said, adding that it was “better for citizens” to have certainty rather than being denied entry to a hotel upon arrival.

The draft document states that the travel ban should be imposed “if the numbers continue to rise and there’s no certainty that the chain of infection has been broken” in the affected area.

Anyone wanting to leave a localized lockdown for another state must be able to show a negative coronavirus test that is less than 48 hours old, the draft agreement said.

—AFP

7 dead in French Alps disasters on Bastille Day

LYON — Seven people, including two paragliders, died in a series of accidents in the French Alps as the country celebrated its Bastille Day holiday, rescue services said Wednesday (July 15).

The bodies of a 40-year-old Dutch man and a 20-year-old French woman were found on Tuesday afternoon near the Chapelle de la Glière, a rocky ridge in the Chamonix valley, not far from the Mont Blanc.

The climbers plunged from the rocky face of the Mont Blanc chain, which forms the border with Italy.

The experienced climbers, aged 66 and 67, had travelled from Genoa to scale the summit from its Italian side, and were descending on the French side when the accident occurred.

“It was quite cloudy along the chain. They fell on the north face for an unknown reason and dropped at least 300 metres,” Lieutenant-Colonel Stephane Bozon, head of the Chamonix mountain police, told AFP. —AFP

BBC job cuts add to UK media gloom as virus fallout bites

LONDON — The BBC said today it will go ahead with hundreds of newsroom staff cuts delayed during the coronavirus crisis, as UK media outlets reel from the pandemic’s economic fallout.

The British broadcaster, which announced in January it planned to axe 450 newsroom jobs to meet changing audience needs and savings targets, said it now intended to implement 520 cuts. The redundancies, which were paused as the Covid-19 crisis hit Britain severely from March, will now be implemented “in stages”, it said.

“If we don’t make changes, we won’t be sustainable,” Director of BBC News and Current Affairs Fran Unsworth, who heads the department’s workforce of around 6,000 people, said in a statement.

The Guardian job cuts

The Guardian newspaper said on Wednesday it plans to axe 180 jobs, the latest British publisher to announce cuts as the coronavirus crisis drives readers online and slashes advertising revenues.

The left-leaning newspaper said in a staff memo the redundancies would affect around 70 editorial roles, with the remainder in areas such as advertising, marketing and events.

Editor-in-chief Katharine Viner and Guardian Media Group chief executive Annette Thomas added revenues would be down by more than £25 million ($31.6 million, 27.6 million euros) this financial year, and the pandemic had created an “unsustainable financial outlook for the Guardian”.

The move follows an announcement last week by Reach, which publishes national newspapers the Daily Mirror and Daily Express, and a string of local titles, to cut about 550 jobs. It also blamed the fallout from the coronavirus crisis, which had accelerated “structural change in the media sector”, with increases in digital revenue not making up the shortfalls from lost advertising income. Reach’s proposed reduction of 12 per cent of its workforce was part of plans to make annual cost savings of £25 million, it added. —AFP

Mark Rutte, the Dutch PM cycling into EU headwinds

THE HAGUE — Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte famously likes to cycle to work, but in Europe he is increasingly known for slamming on the brakes.

The lanky 53-year-old has been in power for a decade, thanks to a modest image that chimes with traditional values in the bike mad Netherlands.

A bachelor, he lives in the same flat he bought after graduating, drives a second-hand Saab when not cycling, and volunteers as a teacher.

His cheery persona has meanwhile allowed the liberal leader to make friends and build coalitions across the fragmented Dutch political landscape.

But his frugal side will put Rutte on a collision course with EU leaders at a summit on Friday as he leads opposition to a 750 billion euro ($855 billion) coronavirus bailout. As they seek a deal, however, his counterparts in Brussels may find what opponents at home have found — he is harder to read than they think. “He’s able to be a bit of a chameleon,” Pepijn Bergs, a research fellow in the Europe programme at Chatham House in London, told AFP. —AFP

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies and Heartfelt Condolences to the family of Mr. Po Yort

(Medical Director, Myanmar Finance International Ltd.) on the demise of their beloved father (Mr. Vorn Po, age 86 years) who passed away peacefully on 13.07.2020.
Qatar to host Asian Champions League group matches

DOHA—Qatar, host of the next World Cup in 2022, will stage West region matches of this year’s Asian Champions League, officials said on Thursday, following a drastic shake-up caused by the coronavirus.

The tiny, resource-rich country will host the group games through to the semi-finals in a condensed period from March after just a handful of matches kicked in across Asia to contain the pandemic.

Chinese clubs Shanghai SIPG, Shanghai Shenhua and Guangzhou Evergrande are yet to play any group matches after travel restrictions were imposed on teams from China. —AFP

Man Utd striker Rashford to receive honour for charity work

LONDON—Marcus Rashford is to become the youngest person to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Manchester for his work campaigning against child poverty and his sporting achievements.

The 22-year-old Manchester United and England footballer will follow in the footsteps of United and England forward will

The Kop end at Anfield will host Liverpool’s Premier League trophy presentation next week. PHOTO: AFP

Stuttgart join cash-strapped Bundesliga clubs seeking state aid

BERLIN — Newly-promoted VfB Stuttgart are the latest cash-strapped Bundesliga club seeking financial aid because of lost matchday revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Stuttgart finished runners-up in Germany’s second division at the end of June to win promotion back to the Bundesliga a year after being relegated.

However, the 2007 German champions are among established names needing help balancing the books.

“During the lockdown phase, we examined all the possibilities for economic stabilisation and... applied for funding in order to secure our liquidity,” the club’s finance officer Stefan Heim told newspapers the Stuttgarter Zeitung.

“This was one of the measures we took to ensure VfB’s economic survival at a time when nobody could predict when and how things would continue in football.”

Heim said Stuttgart applied for aid through the state-owned KfW Bank, reportedly seeking a loan of around 15 million euros ($17 million).

They are not alone. Germany’s top clubs are counting the cost of lost revenue as the last nine rounds of matches in the top two tiers were played behind closed doors due to the pandemic.

Werder Bremen, who just managed to stay in the Bundesliga after winning the relegation/promotion play-off, have confirmed that they want a loan from the state-owned KfW Bank.

—AFP