President, State Counsellor attend 73rd Martyrs’ Day ceremony in Yangon

AT the 73rd Martyrs’ Day ceremony held yesterday at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon, President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi laid the wreaths at the monument of Bogyoke Aung San.

President U Win Myint, Vice President U Myint Swe, Patron of the 73rd Anniversary Martyrs’ Day Holding Central Committee, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Thet Khun Myat, Aung San Oo, son of Bogyoke Aung San, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung and Union Ministers laid the wreaths at the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs, paid tribute and observed a two-minute silence.

At the moment, the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was lowered to half-mast, the guard of honour presented arms and a military bugle sounded the Last Post.

Next, U Yee Aung Than, on behalf of U Aung San Oo, son of Bogyoke Aung San, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, and families of the martyrs laid wreaths in front of the monuments.

Afterwards, U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister and Chairman of the working committee for Holding the 73rd Anniversary Martyrs’ Day, regional ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and MPs of Yangon Region Hluttaw and representatives from political parties, paid tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs.

The organizations and associations that laid wreaths and paid tributes include Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone, Myanmar Music Asiayone, Myanmar Thabin Asiayone, Myanmar Artists and Sculptures Asiayone (Central), Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association, Myanmar Writers Asiayone, Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. Finally, the public paid their respect to the Martyrs.

Afterwards, heads and charge d’affaires a.i. of embassies, representatives from the European Union and UN agencies laid the wreaths at the mausoleum.

The 73rd Anniversary Martyrs’ Day ceremony was held in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines and directives issued by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Containment and Treatment on Coronavirus.

SEE PAGE-3
"People are the key"

State Counsellor offers ‘soon’ to monks in memory of martyrs

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in memory of her father Bogyoke Aung San and other martyred leaders, offered ‘soon’ (day meal) to Members of Sangha at her residence at No 54, University Avenue Road in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.

She received the Five Precepts from Taungzun Sayadaw Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri), made offertories to the Members of Sangha and shared merits of the good deeds at the event.

She also accepted the letters of good wishes presented by Deputy Chairman of Myanmar Council of Churches Rev. Saw Shwe Lin on behalf of religious organizations in Myanmar Thantanna Dhamma Palaka (Hindu Association), Islam Dhamma Beikman, Myanmar Jewish Community, National Baha’i Centre, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yangon, Myanmar Christian Association (Inglacian), and Myanmar Council of Churches sent the letters of good wishes to the State Counsellor for the 73rd Anniversary of Martyrs’ Day. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Alms food donated at Nay Pyi Taw Council Office to commemorate 73rd anniversary of Martyrs’ Day

Senior government officers pay homage to the Members of Sangha at the ‘soon’ offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 July 2020 to commemorate 73rd Anniversary of Martyrs’ Day. — MNA

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19 spread

PEOPLE can face anxiety during COVID-19 and remember not to resolve things with anger, not act out of impulse, avoid alcohol and drug abuse, search for solutions together with family members and close friends, perform physical activities according to weather and health situation, eat nutritional foods, get enough sleep to resolve mental pressure.

Everyone can put these suggestions into practice to prevent their mental health from become fatigued and boost willpower.

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

Alms food offered at Yangon City Hall to commemorate 73rd anniversary of Martyrs’ Day

ALMS food were donated to senior Buddhist monks as a commemoration service to the martyrs of national independence at the meeting room of the city hall of Yangon City Development Committee at 10:40 am yesterday.

The commemoration ceremony was attended by the Martyrs’ Day Organizing Central Committee chairman and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, the Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, the Martyrs’ Day Organizing Central Committee Vice Chairman and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Regional ministers, Yangon City Development Committee chairman (the Mayor of Yangon City), the committee members and invited guests.

First, Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the patron of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maharashtri Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhamo delivered sermon of the Five Precepts for the congregation.

After members of Sangha recited Paritta verses, the audience donated robes and offertories to the monks.

Afterwards, Pyinmana Min-galar Zeyone Pali Takkkatho Monastery Padana Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandaitha Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaza Bhaddanta Vimala Bhuddi preached Buddhist sermons and shared merits for the fallen leaders, followed by the donation of alms food for day-meal to the members of Sangha. — MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Sue)
President, State Counsellor attend 73rd Martyrs’ Day ceremony in Yangon

The 73rd Anniversary of Martyrs’ Day was commemorated at the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers’ Office) where the martyrs were assassinated with a ceremony in Yangon yesterday. Present at the ceremony were Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, committee members, department officials and the Guard of Honour. They saluted the martyrs and observed 2 minutes of silence. Due to COVID-19, this year’s flag-raising ceremony was conducted with only 67 people while about 780 people including students and members of humanitarian organizations participated in previous years.

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A flag-raising ceremony to mark 73rd Martyrs’ Day is in progress at the Secretariat in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

State Flag flies at half-staff at Secretariat for 73rd Martyrs’ Day

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Only working in unison can benefit all

If you wish for the country to be developed and prosperous, all of the country’s resources — financial, natural and human — have to be used together for the equal development of all races.

If the Bamar does what it wants, if the Kachin does what it wants, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin do not all cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on February 11, 1947)
Nay Pyi Taw commemorates 73rd Martyrs’ Day at Bogyoke Statue

A total of 140 Myanmar nationals who were working for Rich Pine, Century Miracle, and Camel and Vega companies in Jordan returned home yesterday.

Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s relief flight had carried the first batch of Myanmar citizens from Jordan and landed at the Yangon International Airport at 4:45 am.

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

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

The ministry is also planning to bring back Myanmar workers who are still stranded in Jordan in the second batch of repatriation in the fourth week of July.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
To prevent the spread of the COVID disease we have to review the situation every two weeks and make a decision on whether to keep into effect certain rules, whether certain rules need to be relaxed or if some rules need to be strengthened. During this month, we have been able to relax the “stay at home” arrangements in all townships.

Prohibition of mass gatherings of people is still in effect. If we can take effective measures to prevent the spread of the disease, I hope we would be able to push back the second COVID wave during the next one or two months. As there are lots of people who have become infected with COVID disease without showing any symptoms of infection, we need to be extra careful. It is very important to wear masks in places like markets where there is close contact with others for long periods of time. Don’t forget to wash your hands frequently. Don’t be careless.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s Facebook post on 29 June 2020)

Special flight arrives in Yangon with WHO’s medical supplies, experts for fight against COVID-19

A special relief flight carrying laboratory equipment provided by the World Health Organization and experts for humanitarian work to provide support to the fight against the COVID-19 in Myanmar landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

On board of the flight which departed from Malaysia were about 60 passengers including Myanmar nationals, coming from the United Nations agencies, from the International Red Cross, from the UK DIFD, from German GIZ, and experts from different organizations, according to the World Food Programme which arranged the relief flight.

“Today we are here at the Yangon International Airport and we receive the 11th WFP special flight bringing humanitarian cargo and passengers,” said WFP Myanmar’s Country Director Mr Stephen Anderson.

“We are also very proud to facilitate cargo for the World Health Organization who is in the lead on the COVID-19 response on the UN side both here in Myanmar and globally,” he added.

Regarding the aid flight, Dr Stephen Paul Jost, WHO Myanmar’s Resident Representative, also pledged that WHO would continue its support to Myanmar as the country’s fight against the COVID-19 is at the best situation.

WFP’s 11th flight departed from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, landed yesterday under the WFP’s Global Logistics Service Provision Plan that aims at connecting logistics hubs around the world in order to provide an essential link with countries that needs to bring in cargo. The programme started on 10 May.

Similarly, India, China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Japan provided Myanmar with the medical supplies in support of fighting against the COVID-19. —Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 341 after one new case reported on 19 July

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 341 after one new case was reported on 19 July according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 341 returned from India. Out of the 341 confirmed cases, six died, 276 have recovered, 262 have been discharged from hospitals and 29 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 19 July 2020

<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>
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<tbody>
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<td>341</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Tonzang Township, Chin State</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, India</td>
<td>Tiddim People’s Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Held under quarantine (Tiddim Township)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated at 8 pm, 19 July 2020

Updated at 8 pm, 19 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

One new case of COVID-19 on 19 July 2020: updated at 8 pm
Families of Martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders

U Ye Aung Than, nephew of Bogyoke Aung San’s son U Aung San Oo, pays tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, lays the wreaths paying tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Family members of Thakhin Mya pay tribute to Thakhin Mya and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Family members of Deedok U Ba Cho pay tribute at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020 to pay tribute to Deedok U Ba Cho and martyrs. PHOTO: MNA

Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

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Families of Martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders

Family members of U Ba Win pay tribute to U Ba Win and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Family members of Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun pay tribute to Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Family members of U Razak lay the wreaths paying tribute to U Razak and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Family members of U Ohn Maung pay tribute to U Ohn Maung and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Family members of Yebaw Ko Htwe pay tribute to Yebaw Ko Htwe and martyrs at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Diplomats lay the wreaths paying tribute to fallen leaders at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA
in a country, laws and rules are not created in a fixed and rigid manner, but should be changed to be more suitable to the needs of the country. If we seek to make changes, all points of view need to be considered.

In this situation, nations need plans and projects to be implemented to ensure future success in the sector. Or, the aquaculture sector could face longer dissipation if farmers are unable to restock in this COVID-19 situation.

When it comes to responding to the COVID-19 and businesses, we also need to consider how to minimize the impact of COVID on the fisheries and protein breeding and how to make these enterprises grow in the long term.

In a country, laws and rules are not created in a fixed and rigid manner, but should be changed to be more suitable to the needs of the country. If we seek to make changes, all points of view need to be considered.

The fishery sector occupies an important place in our country’s economy and culture.

The European Union and North America account for about 45 percent of Myanmar’s aquaculture and fisheries exports, which were forecast to be worth $750 million in 2019-2020 when China and Thailand accounted for the remaining 35 percent. Myanmar earned $723 million from the export of aquatic products, while China and Thailand exported $1.44 billion in the first six months of the FY, compared to $1.52 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year, and that the country has a lot of potentials to earn billions of dollars from fisheries export.

To put our fishery sector on the right path to recovery in a short period, we need to attract foreign investment, which can also offer modern technology for foreign investments to come in, we need to show first that we have the potential to develop further.

Everyone is obliged to cooperate to gain business confidence and to create a good environment for business.
Mango export via Muse drops by 832.5 tonnes as of July 7

A woman chooses mangoes at a supermarket in Yangon on 16 May 2020.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAK

Over 270 companies get one-year licence suspension for non-compliance with law

A total of 272 export/import companies have been temporarily suspended their licences for one year (from 3 July 2020 to 2 July 2021) as they failed to deposit the foreign currency earned from exports in the local bank accounts, the Commerce Ministry notified on 16 July 2020.

According to the Foreign Exchange Management Law, all the export earnings in foreign currency must be deposited back into local account within six months after the goods are loaded.

The Ministry of Commerce identified 453 companies which failed to deposit all the export earnings or some portion back into accounts in 2017. So, the companies were asked to deposit back into accounts within 60 days after notification was issued and they will get their licence revoked if they fail to comply with the existing law, the MOC warned.

Only some companies have deposited the export earnings, and 272 companies have been identified by name for non-compliance with the law.

The MOC found 110 trading companies which failed to deposit export incomes in 2016. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MoHT conducting tourism relief plans for post-coronavirus era

MYANMAR’S tourism industry is implementing relief plans for recovery of the sector during the post-coronavirus era — new normal, said U Myint Sein, head of Magway Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

“The State allowed the hotel and motel businesses to apply for the loan in order to remedy those businesses hardly stricken by the pandemic impacts. Of 50 hotels and motels in the region, 17 applied for it and 11 were granted loans,” he added.

The regional directorate submitted reports of the frequency of hotels, capitals and tax payment conditions and business operation plans during the coronavirus period. The Union of Myanmar Federations of Chamber of Commerce and Industry granted K15 to 60 million loans depending on the situations.

“In addition to this, plans for training courses for those employees related to the tourism industry, paying an allowance of K4,800 per day, have been undertaken. The plans are slated to start in July-end or August”, he continued.

“The move is aimed to support those stakeholders including three-wheel riders, horse-cart riders, motorboat operators and vendors and to share the basic tourism awareness,” he explained.

The hotels and tourism industry braced a 40 per cent drop in March, 70 per cent in April, and a complete halt in May and June. Some hotels and motels were allowed for reopening in June-end. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been conducting tourism relief plans to restart the industry, the directorate stated.—Zayatu (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

GACC grants rice export licences to 43 Myanmar companies

THE authorized companies for rice export to China have increased from 11 to 43 this year, after inspecting 43 Myanmar rice companies and 79 rice mills in line with SPS Protocol (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol).

The General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) granted licences to 43 Myanmar companies on 10 July 2020 to export the rice to China through a legitimate trade channel.

In order to have legal rice export channel to China, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar (MoAL) and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People’s Republic of China (AQSIQ) signed an agreement on 24 September 2014 regarding SPS protocol. Only 11 companies were given green light for rice export then.

According to Article 3 of the SPS Protocol (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol), an inspection of rice exporters and rice mills is mandatory which is in keeping with the criteria set by the GACC.

The Ministry of Commerce, the Union of Myanmar (MoAL) and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People’s Republic of China (AQSIQ) signed an agreement on 24 September 2014 regarding SPS protocol.

After a series of negotiations between Myanmar and China, MoAL and GACC officials signed an agreement on broken rice export on 17 January 2020 during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to Myanmar.

Following the agreement, Ministry of Commerce, the MoALMyanmar Rice Federation and Myanmar’s embassy to China in Beijing made concerted efforts for 43 Myanmar rice export companies and 79 mills to meet SPS protocol requirements.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 7 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 crossed over 2.16 million tons to the external markets. The export volume of rice is down by 40,000 tonnes, whereas the broken rice export volume is up by 460,000 tonnes compared to a year ago period, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar’s MoC is trying to boost exports of rice, broken rice, agro-products, fruits and fisheries to China through diplomatic negotiations.—Khant (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

organic farming. In the 2017-2018 financial year, Myanmar exported 55,000 tonnes of Seintalone mangoes. The country aims to raise the export volume of Seintalone to 100,000 tonnes in 2020, according to the online news released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Of about 200 mango varieties originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngaama, Yinlwe, Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers Seintalone variety. Myanmar’s mangoes are primarily shipped to China, and also, the small volume goes to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan.

The Magway Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, said U Myint Sein, head of the union. “The plans are slated to restart the industry, paying an allowance of training courses for those employees around 30 per cent amid the coronavirus period. The Union of Myanmar Tourism and Hotels Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) identified 453 companies which were asked to deposit back into local account within 60 days after notification was issued and they will get their licence revoked if they fail to comply with the existing law, the MOC warned. The Ministry of Commerce found 110 trading companies which failed to deposit export incomes in 2016. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Syrians vote for new assembly amid war, economic turmoil

DAMASCUS — Syrians voted Sunday for a new parliament as the Damascus government grapples with international sanctions and a crumbling economy after retaking large parts of the war-torn country.

More than 7,000 polling stations opened across government-held parts of Syria, including for the first time in former opposition strongholds, in the third such polls since the war started nine years ago.

Several lists were allowed to run across the country but, without any real opposition, President Bashar al-Assad’s Baath party and its allies were expected to take most of parliament’s 250 seats.

Assad and his wife Asma cast their votes in the capital, the presidency said, posting photos of the couple wearing white face masks as part of measures to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Volunteers stood outside polling stations holding flyers promoting their favourite candidates, and tried to woo passers-by to come in and vote.

Among the first to cast his ballot in Damascus was 50-year-old government employee Khaled al-Shaleh.

The election is taking place as President Bashar al-Assad, seen here casting his vote alongside his wife Asma, marks a second decade in power this month.

World Bank chief urges G20 to extend debt suspension through 2021

WASHINGTON — World Bank Group President David Malpass on Saturday urged the Group of 20 (G20) countries to extend the time frame of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative through end 2021 and commit to give the initiative as broad a scope as possible,

“Malpass made the remarks at the virtual G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, according to a statement. “We’ve made a great deal of progress with DSSI in a short period of time, but more needs to be done, said the World Bank chief. Malpass said that the pandemic has triggered the “deepest global recession in decades,” and what may turn out to be “one of the most unequal” in terms of impact. “For the poorest countries, poverty is rising rapidly, median incomes are falling, and growth is deeply negative,” he said. “Debt burdens – already unsustainable for many countries – are rising to crisis levels.”

700 Jordanians to enter Israel to work in hotels: official

JERUSALEM — Hundreds of Jordanian workers entered Israel on Sunday to work in the hotel industry in the country’s southern resort city of Elat, the Israeli Population and Immigration Authority said. A statement issued by the Immigration Authority said that about 300 Jordanian nationals entered on Sunday and 400 more would arrive by Tuesday. The move followed a government decision, the Immigration Authority said.

To meet the requirements of the “Purple Badge,” a standard set by the Israeli government for businesses that wish to stay open during the coronavirus outbreak, the workers would enter a two-week self-quarantine.

UK ‘confident’ Moscow helped hackers target virus vaccine

LONDON — British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said on Sunday he was “absolutely confident” in allegations by the UK and its allies that Russia targeted labs conducting coronavirus research, branding the behaviour “outrageous and reprehensible”.

Britain, the United States and Canada on Thursday accused a hacking group called APT29 of spearheading the online attacks on various organisations involved in COVID-19 vaccine development. They said the collective is “almost certainly” linked to Russian intelligence, and intended to steal information and intellectual property.

Moscow quickly rejected the accusations as “groundless”, and its ambassador to London said in a British television interview Sunday the claims made “no sense”. However, Raab reiterated that the trio’s conclusions were based on assessments by Britain’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and its counterparts in the US and Canada.

“We’re absolutely confident that the Russian intelligence agencies were engaged in a cyber attack on research and development efforts in organisations in this country and internationally with a view either to sabotage or to profit,” he told Sky News.

Dozens detained as German ‘corona party’ escalates

FRANKFURT — Thirty-nine people were detained after police were attacked with “a hail of bottles” at an open-air party in central Frankfurt attended by thousands of youngsters, police in the German city said Sunday.

Five officers were injured in the riot that began at around 3:00 am (0100 GMT) when police intervened to stop a brawl involving around 30 people in Frankfurt’s historic Opera square.

The square has become a popular gathering place for what local media have dubbed “corona parties” as Germany’s bars and clubs remain closed to contain the spread of the virus.

Some 3,000 mainly young people filled the square again on Saturday evening but only around 500 to 800 were still there when the unrest started. Frankfurt police chief Gerhard Bereswill told a press conference.

A small group of officers moved in to help a bleeding man and end the brawl, but the crowd turned on them.

“What I find especially abhorrent is that bystanders cheered and clapped when bottles hit my colleagues,” Bereswill said.

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AFP PHOTO/NICHOLAS KAMM/FILE

World Bank President David Malpass is calling on rich countries to hold off on debt repayments from poor countries.
China’s cargo transport back to normal growth

BEIJING — China’s cargo transport industry reported faster growth in June with business activities recovering to normal levels, industry data showed.

The China Transportation Services Index (CTSI) stood at 153.9 points last month, down 11.3 percent year on year, according to the China Academy of Transportation Sciences (CATS).

The subindex for cargo transport jumped 5 percent year on year to 185.2 points last month, with the growth faster when compared with the 0.8 percent rise in May and keeping almost the same level as that of last year.

Meanwhile, shrinkage in passenger transport further narrowed, with the subindex of passenger transport down 43.1 percent, narrowing by 6.1 per centage points from May.

With production and living orders restored amid waning COVID-19 impact, China’s cargo transport growth is basically back on track, said the CATS report. — Xinhua

Japan brewery sells craft beer made with “koji” mold, not malt

WAKAYAMA — A brewery in the western Japan prefecture of Wakayama has launched the sale of what is believed to be the first-ever craft beer made with “koji” mold, used to produce traditional Japanese soy sauce, miso and sake.

Beer is usually made with malt, but Oryzaya Brewing & ferment works has replaced it with koji, following its representative Nobuyuki Kinoshita’s desire to venture into creating new types of the drink.

The brewery seems to be doing well, with Oryzaya Pale Ale winning the bronze prize in the 2019 International Beer Cup, competing against breweries from 24 countries and regions. It features fruity and mellow tastes.

Oryzaya Pale Ale, which was put on sale in July last year, is made by first mixing self-made wheat koji, steamed wheat, and hot water, resulting in sweet sake.

The liquid is then filtered and hops are added. After cooling and adding yeast, the beer is ferment ed for about a week, then matured for two or three more weeks.

The flagship product is shipped to Wakayama Prefecture and the Tokyo area, with restaurants saying it matches well with traditional Japanese dishes.

Kinoshita, 41, decided to use his knowledge of the mold having worked amid waning COVID-19 impact, China’s cargo transport growth is basically back on track, said the CATS report.

In Sweden, a ‘second-hand’ mall draws big crowds

ESKILSTUNA — Not content with the average neighbourhood thrift store, a city in Sweden has opened a whole shopping mall dedicated to giving pre-owned items new life.

The mall, located an hour’s train ride west of Stockholm in the city of Eskilstuna, consists of 13 stores and covers 5,000 square metres (54,000 square feet), employing between 50 and 65 people.

It has been named ReTuna, a play on Eskilstuna, which began an effort to reinvent itself as an ecological city in the 1990s.

“We are traditionally an industrial town, we have had our difficulties and we thought we have to find some things that can build confidence and where we can take responsibility,” the city’s mayor Jimmy Jansson told AFP, adding that city leaders were now trying to develop it “into a modern industrial town”.

ReTuna, inaugurated in 2015, was named “the world’s first shopping mall designated for repaired, recycled and restored items” by the Guinness Book of World Records in 2020.

Some way from the giant shopping malls of major cities, the complex still attracts some 250,000 to 300,000 visitors a year, according to Anna Bergstrom, who was in charge of ReTuna until early 2020.

Spread across two floors the boutique sells used tech gadgets, books, children’s toys and home goods, as well as a slew of other products.

“You can basically do all kinds of shopping here that you do in regular stores: furniture, clothes, flowers, sports articles, building materials, almost everything,” Bergstrom said.

The mall, where a slight hint of the signature smell of second-hand clothing reigns, also offers a one-year course in the design of recycled products. —AFP

Over 7,000 income tax cases disposed of through faceless assessment system

NEW DELHI — The Income Tax department has disposed of as many as 7,000 cases under the first phase of the faceless assessment system, a highly placed source in the Finance Ministry said on Sunday.

“The faceless assessment system of Income Tax Department has been a game-changer in the arena of direct taxation. It has empowered the taxpayers and has, as a foremost mechanism, altered the facets and perception of overall tax administration in India. Over 7,000 income tax cases disposed of through faceless assessment system”, the source said.

Since its launch on October 7 last year and implementation of the first phase, the system has provided an income tax officer the option of being a tax professional or visit an IT office and need not run pillar-to-post on receiving income tax scrutiny assessment notice or rush to a tax professional or accountant; and yet, s/he can e-file assessment’s reply on the income tax portal from the comforts of her/his home without the hassle of visiting any tax officer. Yes, time is changing for direct tax administration in India with automated and random allocation of income tax assessment cases without human interface at any stage”, added the source. —ANI
G-20 warns of sharp global growth contraction due to pandemic

European Union (EU) recovery summit could end with no deal, says Merkel

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday evening performed the groundbreaking of the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park as a smart, business-friendly country with maximum ease of doing business.—Xinhua

According to the statement from the government of the country’s eastern Punjab province, the prime minister broke the ground on the business park as a smart, special economic zone lens park as a smart, business-friendly country with maximum ease of doing business.—Xinhua

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar performed the groundbreaking ceremony of Quaid-e-Azam Business Park on July 18. PHOTOS: AFP

EU recovery summit could end with no deal, says Merkel

BRUSSELS — Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel said the 27 leaders had “many positions” on the size of the fund, on rules for accessing it and on tying it to respect for the rule of law. “I still can’t say whether a solution will be found,” she said. “There is a lot of goodwill... but it may also be that no result will be achieved today.”

Merkel was due to join French President Emmanuel Macron and the president of the European Council, summit host Charles Michel, to prepare a new offer to break the logjam after Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his “Frugal Five” allies blocked a deal. Michel had proposed a 750-billion-euro package of EU loans and grants to help member states recover from an historic coronavirus recession, but Austria sees the package as big and the Netherlands wants member states to be able to veto national spending plans. The rest of the 27 EU leaders were due to meet again in the full summit format from noon (1000 GMT) and talks could yet go late into the night.—AFP

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Towards the town Kalay which means market town (1)

By Thiha, the Traveller

When I was on duty to pay a visit to this town, I underestimated it would be an area with least travel sites. But I regretted for my thoughts every town was famous based on their histories as well as travel sites. I experienced second trips to Kalay where everybody might visit Kalay by car but aviation transport would be the best. I visited Kalay in my childhood when I was in the fourth standard. On the second trip, all the scenes I had seen were very different from that of my childhood.

Tarhan Ward in Kalay was native land of my grandfather, grandmother and relatives. My grandmother and my mother were natives of Tarhan. But I am mixed blood with Mizo.

From Karlay to Kalay

Kalay is in Shan language, called marketable town or market town. It was called Karlay in the past. The town was established by King Kyaw Taungnyo, 56th king of Nwepat dynasty, on 2 February 967. The existing Kalay was built by Counsellor Seik Thint Yan of King Bayintnaung in 1581. It was ruled by Saophas. Now, the town is over 1,000 years old. Brick walls and brick layers can be seen in local residences till today. Some people remarked it was an old city of Yazagyo. It was located at crossing road junction where the Chin public relations office of Chin Rifle Battalion was opened in BIA era. So, the area was called Kang Lei in Chin language. Then, the town became developed due to visits of travellers.

Various national races especially Chin ethnics reside in Kalay. Many kinds of Chin ethnics including Mizo Chin ethnics are residing in Tarhan Ward. Chin ethnics from hilly regions wishing to move their residences to plains firstly think to reside in Kalay. So, various kinds of Chin ethnics can be seen there. But, Kalay is home not only to Chin ethnics but also to Shan, Yaw and Bamar ethnics.

I have heard Kalay is the third prosperous town in Sagaing Region. Rain trees planted on both sides of the roads in British era are significant beauties of Kalay.

Climate

Climatic conditions are severe as the town is located in the large pit. Even in monsoon, temperature is high. But, December and January are very cold for all.

How to pay visit

2+1 VIP express buses are running to Kalay from Yangon taking many hours. Aviation transport is better by taking about two hours to Kalay. Air tickets would be set at various prices ranging from K80,000 to K120,000.

Travel sites in Kalay

Actually, Kalay is full of interesting things. Taking a position at Chin and Sagaing border, the town can be seen with various cultures in addition to Chin traditional costumes and sari of India. Travellers can easily hire tuk-tuk on their trips, motorcycles and private cars.

King Solomon Pond

Travellers can walk to the pond by taking 40 minutes, near Kyar-in Village, as a recreation area for youths. Entrance fee is K200 per visitor. It is surround-
ed by paddy fields with mountain ranges in background. It is a significant site among local youths for taking photos and relaxation and for fishing.

**Lamp market**

It is one of the famous markets in Kalay. Lamp market, hustle and bustle with people starting from 4 am daily, takes a position in the east of Kalay junction. Travellers pay visits to the market in early morning.

**Shwebontha Pagoda**

Travellers can see the pagoda together with Asoka Lake on Phayagyi Road. They were built by King Asoka. Buddha Puja Neiya festival is celebrated yearly. A well sunk by King Asoka can be seen in the precinct of Mahasi meditation centre in the southern part of the pagoda.

**Myochet Aungmye Pagoda**

Taxi driver took me to the victory land. On my way, I saw the archway of Myochet Aungmye Monastery. I grasped the opportunity to pay homage to Myochet Aungmye Pagoda but missed chance to walk on the victory land due to lack of spare time.

**City hall and archway of Kalay**

The archway of Kalay is very beautiful. I fearfully heard the archway in Kalay was inundated at that time when Kalay was flooded. The city hall is located on the way to archway. Bandoola Statue at the junction has been moved to the front wing of city hall.

First Yayhsankyun Pagoda

A large teak log went upstream in the river near Kalay. The first log which went against the current was carved into the Buddha image. The first Yayhsankyun Pagoda is located in the compound of Hindu temple near Myoma market in Kalay. Small Buddha images were carved on the trunk of teak log. Gods of Hinduism can be seen interior. The First Yayhsankyun Pagoda is older than that near Myittha River.

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Cazorla bids farewell to Villarreal

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Cazorla added: “Hopefully, as it was when I left before, it will be more of a see you later.”

Cazorla’s career looked to be over when an achilles tendon injury threatened to prevent him from walking again, let alone returning to football. — AFP

Tiger battles to 71 in third round at Memorial

WASHINGTON — Tiger Woods overcame nagging back issues to fire a one-under-par 71 in Saturday’s (Jul 18) third round of the US PGA Memorial tourna- ment, feeling better after barely making the cut. The 44-year-old reigning Masters champion, playing his first tournament since finishing 68th last February at Riviera, stood on two-over 218 after 54 holes at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio. “Overall I felt I played well, contended the ball well,” Woods said. “I hit one really bad shot at three, but overall it was a good solid day.”

World number 14 Woods, a five-time Memorial champion, plunked his approach at the par-4 third into the water and made bogey, but answered with eight-foot birdie puts at the fifth and sixth.

He fell back with a bogey at the par-4 ninth but rallied again with back-to-back birdies at 14 and 15, the latter on a 17-foot birdie putt, only to bogey the par-3 16th after missing a five-foot par putt.

Woods, level with Sam Snead on a record 82 US PGA titles, said the back that bothered him in shooting 76 on Friday was “a lot better” Saturday. — AFP

AFF lists 3 Myanmar women top goal scorers

THREE Myanmar women footballers – Khin Moe Wai, Win Theingi Tun and Yee Yee Oo – were listed in the top goal scorers of ASEAN Football Federation Women Championship in a dec- ade (2010-2020), according to the official statement with the ASEAN Football Federation.

Myanmar veteran player Khin Moe Wai is currently standing in the fourth place with 22 goals scored while another veteran star Win Theingi Tun is in the fifth place with the same goals scored.

Likewise, another Myanmar women football star Yee Yee Oo is standing in sixth place with the same 22 goals scored.

All to play for as Premier League enters final week of the season

LONDON — As the Premier League enters the final week of the season, there is still plenty to play for at both ends of the table.

With two games remaining for all the clubs preparing to settle the campaign’s remaining issues, AFP Sport takes a closer look at the race for qualification and play-off positions:

Top four fight

Chelsea and Leicester City are in possession of the coveted top four berths alongside champions Liverpool and Manchester City, who are guaranteed to finish second. But both sides’ grip on those spots in next season’s Champions League could easily be broken by in-form Manchester United in a nerve-jangling finale. Third-placed Chelsea are one point ahead of both Leicester and United, who sit fifth and are behind the Foxes on goal difference.

On Sunday, Leicester face a tricky trip to Tottenham, while on Wednesday United host West Ham and Chelsea travel to Liverpool. After those games, the top four may have been shaken up significantly before the final round of matches on July 26.

Chelsea need four points from their last two games to guarantee qualification and play-off games. United are the form team of the season’s Europa League, unless either of the sides in those positions win the Champions League or the Europa League. —AFP

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