CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF LAW IS BENEFICIAL TO LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves two intergovernmental agreements for railways, dry ports

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives donations for national COVID-19 committee

PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 98, 4th Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Thursday, 23 July 2020

For the country to develop, this is the time for students, teachers, parents and the Government to all pull together; our children need to continue their journey for knowledge, never faltering as they march on; please build up your strength: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that for the country to develop, this was the time for students, teachers, parents and the Government to all pull together. Myanmar children need to continue their journey for knowledge, never faltering as they march on. She urged them to build up their strength. This was what she wrote:

The high schools reopened the other day. In the whole country, there were 7,173 Basic Education High Schools; out of this health inspections were done and 3,999 schools have been permitted to reopen. Over one million boys and girls got enrolled. Since we have spaced out the school attendance by a week, 0.554 million students attended class this week.

Schools which were not allowed to reopen were because disinfectant spraying processes have not been completed; and because necessary requirements with respect to washbasins, toilets and trash bins with pedals had not been fulfilled. Speedy action would be taken to fulfil these requirements and permission would be given for these schools to reopen.

> Over one million boys and girls got enrolled. Since we have spaced out the school attendance by a week, 0.554 million students attended class this week.

When the children started their first school day, I heard that there were difficulties because of the new way of learning. Having to wear masks and face shields for a long time, and having to stay away from their friends, must have been rather difficult for these youngsters. I also learnt that teachers suffered more physical and mental stress than before.

My father used to encourage young soldiers undertaking strenuous military training with these words: "pursue knowledge like a beggar". The lessons they had to learn for the nation's independence. Now, for the country to develop, this is the time for students, teachers, parents and the Government to all pull together; our children need to continue their journey for knowledge, never faltering as they march on. Please build up your strength.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
MoI deputy minister chairs meeting for centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry



PAGE-4

NATIONAL
Civilian representatives of JMC hold 9th roundtable talks after delay of some months



PAGE-5

BUSINESS
Maritime export of rice accounts for over 85pc in current FY

PAGE-7

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 343 after two new cases reported on 22 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 343 after two new cases were reported on 22 July, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 342 and No. 343 returned from the Philippines. Out of the **343** confirmed cases, **six** died, **280** have recovered, **269** have been discharged from hospitals and **29** were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 22 July 2020

Total Cases	New Cases	Total Death Tally
343	2	6

Recovery Update on 22 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
280	0	269

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 22 July 2020

New PUIs
29

SEE PAGE-3

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves two intergovernmental agreements for railways, dry ports

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW listened to Union-level officials explain a proposal to acquire a loan from Asian Development Bank for the COVID-19 response and expenditure support programme and another proposal to acquire a loan from JICA to implement phase 3 of the MSMEs development project at the 4th-day meeting of its 17th regular session yesterday.



Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe



Deputy Minister U Sett Aung



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win



Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe

Two bills, CERP & ADB loan

Firstly, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt read the committee's report on the second bill amending the Public Debt Management Law and Speaker U T Khun Myat called for MPs interested in debating the bill to register their names.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Sett Aung then explained the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) and the Speaker announced the assembly will put on record the Union-level official's explanation and the discussions of the Hluttaw representatives.

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win explained the proposal to acquire US$ 250 million from ADB to fund the COVID-19 response and expenditure support programme. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the date for discussing the proposal will be on 27 July and called for MPs interested in debating it to register their name.

This was followed by Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe reading the National Library Bill to the assembly and the Speaker seeking the opinion for each paragraph of the bill before approving it. The bill has received differing views from the Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaws. The Speaker said the sections agreed upon by both Hluttaws will be kept as they are while the sections contested upon will be changed according to the decision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

JICA loan for MSMEs

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained the proposal to acquire JPY15 billion from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to implement phase 3 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development project. He explained that MoPFI will act as the borrower and Myanma Economic Bank will act as the representative while the loan will be given out MSMEs through Participating Financial Institutions (PFI). Certain private banks are also joining as PFIs.

The Phase 3 primarily aims at giving loans to MSMEs suffering economic repercussions caused by COVID-19 and will levy 5.5 per cent as the annual interest rate. The interest to be paid for the loan during the deferment period is estimated at JPY1.5 million per year and JPY493.329 million per year in interest and principal during the repayment period.

Repayment to JICA will only be made with repayments from MSMEs that took out loans, while keeping it within the budget of Myanmar Economic Bank, and will not be repaid using the union budget. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the proposal is set to be debated on 31 July and called for MPs interested in debating it to register their names.

Union Ministries explain budget expenses

Union-level officials responded to reports from the Joint Public Accounts Committee and discussions from Hluttaw representatives regarding the annual reports of the 2018-2019FY National Plan and Union Budget expenses.

Ministry of Defence

Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe explained that his ministry returned K53.878 billion in general surplus funds for 2018-2019 FY. The surplus was made of K43.996 billion from revenue expenditure, K8.613 billion from capital expenditure, K0.386 billion from interest payment expenditure, and K0.883 billion from debt payment expenditure, making up 1.5 per cent of the ministry's allocated budget.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win explained hydropower production reached 3,255 MW in 2016-2017FY, 3,263 MW in 2019-2020FY and is expected to produce 3,263 MW as well for 2020-2021FY.

Natural gas energy production reached 1,901 MW in 2016-2017FY, 3,611 MW in 2019-2020 FY and is expected to produce 4,253 MW for 2020-2021FY. The combined energy production from Ti Kyit Coal Power Station, diesel and solar power reached 5,364 MW in 2016-2017FY, 7,151 MW in 2019-2020FY and is expected to produce 8,767 MW for 2020-2021FY.

The ministry succeeded in supplying electricity to 50 per cent of the nation in December 2019 and expects to supply 55 per cent of the nation in 2022, 75 per cent in 2025, and 100 per cent by 2030.

The ministry was allocated K7,075.925 billion for 2018-2019 FY, a 0.86 per cent increase from its proposed budget, and managed to return K352.755 billion in general surplus funds. The surplus was made of K22.151 billion from revenue expenditure, K329.179 from capital expenditure, and K1.425 billion from debt payment expenditure.

The matter was further discussed by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein, and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

Joint Public Accounts Committee Secretary U Khin Maung Than then tabled for the Hluttaw to approve of reports (4/2020) and (5/2020). The Speaker gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw, received no opposition, and announced the reports have been approved by the assembly. The annual reports of the 2018-2019FY National Plan and Union Budget expenses were put on record.

Approving Trans-Asian Railway agreement

MPs then debated a proposal from the President to sign an intergovernmental agreement for the Trans-Asian Railway.

Dr Mya Thaung of Bago Region constituency 7 approved the proposal by stating 22 countries have already signed the agreement and Myanmar will receive international trade and business development if it signs as well. He said other benefits include networking railways, receiving technical and financial assistance, and improving trade with landlocked countries.

The proposal was further debated by U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency 9, U Kyaw Tote of Mandalay Region constituency 7, U Sai Thant Zin of Hsipaw constituency, U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region constituency 9, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Win, and U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung motioned for the Hluttaw to accept the proposal as he sees that all the Hluttaw representatives support the decision to sign the agreement and send it to the UN Secretary-General. Speaker U T Khun Myat then gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw, received no opposition, and announced the motion has been approved by the assembly.

Approving Dry Ports agreement

Next, U Sai Thant Zin of Hsipaw constituency and U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5 debated the proposal sent by the President of Myanmar to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports. Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung also explained the proposal. Speaker U T Khun Myat then gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw, received no opposition, and announced the proposal has been approved by the assembly.

Debating ADB loan for Yangon water supply

Hluttaw representatives then debated a proposal from the President to acquire a loan of USD 180 million from ADB to fund the Yangon City Water Resilience Project.

Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Win Min Tun suggested reviewing whether the project will be actually beneficial as the loan repayment will likely carry over to the next generation. It was further debated by Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3, U Thein Tan of Hlegu constituency, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Kyaw Min Tun, and U Aung Min of Zalun constituency.

The fifth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 17th regular session will convene on 24 July. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Demand should be in accordance with rules and disciplines



Now is a time when political consciousness is emerging, with some wavering. Our government complies with demands as much as possible. Like the parents who acquiesce to their children and take action against them if they reach beyond disciplines, our government will take action against those who are undisciplined and take more opportunities than they should. Demand your needs in accordance with rules and disciplines. We will comply with them in accordance with the rules.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San in Natmauk on 25 March 1947)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives donations for national COVID-19 committee



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives cash donation on 22 July for measures against COVID-19. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as the Secretary (2) of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), received the donations for the committee yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw. On behalf of the donors, the Kholon Lishaw National Culture Organization Chairperson Sihasudhammamanijotadhara U Kyaw Myint explained the reasons of the donation.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe expressed thanks to the donors for their cooperative efforts and donations during the COVID-19 crisis. He added that the supplies and donations will be useful not only for fighting COVID-19 but also for addressing other health challenges for the long-term.

During the donation ceremony, Chairperson U Kyaw Myint and wife donated a disinfection vehicle worth K136 million, a motorcycle, disinfectant spray and sets of personal protective equipment; Telenor Myanmar telecom company donated K64,268,572.66 and the contribution of its users K5,731,427.24 under fund-raising programmes from short message; Connell Bros.Co. (Singapore) Pte Ltd.(Myanmar Branch) donated hand sanitizers worth US$8,000; DOW Chemical (Myanmar) Ltd donated hand sanitizer worth $8,000; Maung Shine Htet Aung donated K10 million to mark his 22nd birthday; and graduates from the University of Pharmacy donated K4.31 million. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and Permenant Secretary Dr Thet Khaing Win received the donations and gave the certificates of honour in return.

Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association Chairman U Khin Soe and the members donated cooking oil worth K34,514,200 to the committee yesterday afternoon. The Union Minister returned certificates of honour to them. *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 343 after two new cases reported on 22 July

FROM PAGE-1

Two new cases of COVID-19 on 22 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Oversea travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
342	25	Male	Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, The Philippines	Weibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Insein Township)
343	22	Male	Htantabin Township, Bago Region	No	Yes, The Philippines	Weibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Insein Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports



"People are the key"

MoI deputy minister chairs meeting for centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun holds discussions about centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry on 22 July. **PHOTO : MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun presided over the work committee meeting to organize centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry yesterday.

Together with the deputy minister, as the chairman of committee, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region government U Zaw Aye Maung, as the vice-chairman of committee, and its members attended the meeting held at the studio of Film Promotion Division under the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township, Yangon.

The deputy minister said that discussions for centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry are being made since last year, and the event must be organized in line with rules and directives for containment measures against the COVID-19.

He continued to say that the work committee also needs to support its 16 sub-committees in preparing for the celebrations, and seek approvals for the work plans from the leading committee.

Vice-Chairman U Zaw Aye Maung, as the Chairman of Fund-raising Sub-Committee, also made discussions, and Acting Director-General of IPRD U Aye Kywe asked for decisions of the work committee on the issues presented by sub-committees, followed by discussions of work committee members.

Organized on 27 March 2020, the work committee was tasked with four main duties including forming sub-committees and supervising their works, coordination among the sub-committees and scrutinizing their budgets.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoHT holds videoconference with US-ASEAN business body



Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt and officials join virtual US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC) meeting on 22 July. **PHOTO : MNA**

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism held a videoconference with US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC) on 22 July to exchange the good attitude and manners for tours and to promote the co-operation in the processes for keeping the tourism sector alive in the post-COVID-19 pandemic.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt and the ministry officials joined the meeting.

At the meeting, the deputy minister discussed the situation of COVID-19 in Myanmar, procedures to analyze the tourism impacts, COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), Stimulus Package and loans in accordance with the Ministry's COVID-19 Myanmar Tourism Strategic Road Map, activities for the development of human resources, procedures to be able to reopen the local tours in line with the instructions of WHO,UNWTO and the Ministry of Health and Sports, coordination to implement Travel Bubble/ Travel Corridor with the regional countries with better COVID-19 control and protection activities, and the performance of Ministry.

The officials of US-ABC attended the meeting together with the representatives of their partner companies like Agoda, Expedia Group, Google Marriott International and Visa, and also discussed the good experience while conducting measures for COVID-19, cooperation works in tourism industry according to the developing potential of Myanmar's tourism sector, and reopening of tourism sector.

The meeting also discussed promoting human resources based on digital technology, to promote market, digital payment and cooperation works on granting licences for online travel agencies.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MPRL E&P to organize nurse assistant training course for locals in Mann oilfield

THE MPRL E&P Pte Ltd., a joint-venture foreign registered oil and gas exploration and production company with the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, has invited applications for nurse-aid training course under the Corporate Social Responsibilities programme for 2020-2021 fiscal year.

A total of 15 valid candidates applied for the course which is aimed to develop the livelihood of the community in Mann oilfield and 14 nearby villages in central Myanmar.

Three candidates were selected out of them for the two-month nurse assistant course at the training school and private teaching hospitals in Yangon and Minbu Township.

After completing the course, the company will also help them to secure jobs in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



MPRL E&P Pte Ltd., is helping locals with nurse-aid training courses in Mann oilfield. **PHOTO : MNA**

They have to take preventive measures now to prevent possible setbacks

She added that they have to take preventive measures now to prevent possible setbacks when attempting to resolve the safety and needs of the public. She said preventing issues from arising is better than resolving them later. She said the Union Government and businesses should consider how to prevent the loss of regular income than only providing assistance when a person no longer has it.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussion with stakeholders of construction sector on 3 July 2020)



Civilian representatives of JMC hold 9th roundtable talks after delay of some months

CIVILIAN representatives from different levels of Joint Monitoring Committees held their 9th roundtable discussions on ceasefire yesterday.

The meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon was opened with the speech of Rev Saw Mathew Aye, the JMC-U Vice-Chairman (2).

He said that the JMC-U resumed its meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in early July after two years of suspension; civilian representatives from different levels of JMC made 12 negotiation visits to ethnic armed organizations; they held 54 public meetings during this period, as well as the five discussions which were attended by 361 representatives from 148 civil society organizations; they explained JMC to the EAOs three times and held two panel discussions on JMC, while conducting 15 JMC courses, two sport competition events and 13 exhibitions to promote JMC.

The 19th JMC-U meeting also approved 12 points out of 21 suggested by the civilian representatives of JMC from different levels.

Rev Saw Mathew also encouraged the civil representatives for having self-confidence in future peace-making efforts as they are working among armed organizations, and they need to promote their capacity and the technical support centre could provide assistance to them.

A total of 35 civilian representatives from local and regional levels of JMC attended the meeting.

The State/Regional-level JMC representatives from Shan, Taninthayi, Kayin, Mon and Bago and the local-level JMC representatives from Langkho and Papun reported their works, the TSC explained implementation of decisions in the 8th roundtable discussion and the 19th JMC-U meeting.

The meeting will continue on 23 July.

U Ko Ko Gyi, the member of JMC-U explained the formation of LCM and JMC-L.

He said the local ceasefire monitoring groups are expected to form after more bilateral talks, while the JMC-L has been formed in Papun and Langkho.

The civilian representatives from different levels of Joint Monitoring Committees held its 8th meeting in Dawei Township in the second week of December 2019, and it decided to hold the meetings every four months. Although the 9th meeting was scheduled for 2 to 4 April in Kalaw Township of southern Shan State, it was postponed due to the threats of COVID-19.—Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)



JMC-U Vice-Chairman (2) Rev Saw Mathew Aye makes an opening remark at 9th roundtable discussions of JMC civilian representatives on 22 July. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

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

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

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

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

Union Government announces public holiday for Eid ul-Adha

THE Union Government has issued Order 65/2020 for public holiday of Eid ul-Adha under the Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Acts.

The Eid ul-Adha will fall on 13th Waxing of Second Waso in 1382 ME (1 August 2020), and the date will be coincided with Saturday which is the regular no-working day of government offices.

And that, the 31st July (Friday) will be substituted as a holiday, and that 31st July and 1 August will be proclaimed as the public holidays.

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CHIEF EDITOR
Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITORS
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aung Htein
Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR TRANSLATOR
Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORS
Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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.

About 6,000 factories, workplaces reopen in Yangon as stability regains



Factories, mills and workplaces in Myanmar were suspended for months due to COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

AS stability regained after the threat of coronavirus, about 6,000 factories and workplaces are resuming their operations in Yangon Region. However, about 160 factories and workplaces are still closed, according to the Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department.

Although about 6,000 factories and workplaces reopened, about 160 factories and workplaces suspended or terminated with reduction of labour, said an official from the Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department.

The number of unemployed labour is increasing and they are being faced with difficulty because of the closure of the factories and work establishments.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has urged the reopened factories and workplaces to follow the mandatory health guidelines to contain the spread of coronavirus infection.

The first coronavirus patient was found in Myanmar on 23 March. Then, the rate of pandemic transmission increased in April and May. Therefore, nearly all of the factories, mills and work establishments are suspended. Some of the factories and work establishments were terminated because of the negative impact of the coronavirus infection.

At present, the number of coronavirus positive patients has been declining these days. —Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

CRIME NEWS

High seizure of teak, hardwood recorded in Kayah State, Sagaing Region

THE illegal teak and hardwood weighing over 12,370 tonnes were seized in the first four months of 2019-2020 fiscal year, according to the Forest Department.

From 1 October to January in this FY, the Sagaing Region highly seized the illegal timber accounting for over 2,681 tonnes, according to the Forest Department.

The department has also confiscated 10,770 tonnes of teak and hardwood in the same period of last FY with a record high seizure in Kayah State and Sagaing Region, according to the Forest Department.

The department seized a total of 44,672 tonnes from 1 October to August in 2018-2019FY, including 19,109 tonnes of teaks, 8,573 tonnes of hardwood and 16,990 tonnes of other wood.

Among them, Kayah State seized a record high 11,257 tonnes followed by Sagaing Region with over 9,165 tonnes.

In four months of 2019-2020FY, the department seized 547.8197 tonnes in Kachin State, 423.8406 tonnes in Kayah State, 1,370.2720 tonnes in Kayin State, 61.8200 tonnes in Chin State, 2,681.64 tonnes in Sagaing Region, 483.122 tonnes in Taninthayi Region, 2,467.220 tonnes in Bago Region, 516.755 tonnes in Magway Region, 956.558 tonnes in Mandalay Region, 180.199 tonnes in Nay Pyi Taw, 185.649 tonnes in Mon State, 952.072 tonnes in Rakhine State, 218.939 tonnes in Yangon Region, 634.559 tonnes in Shan State (South), 177.446 tonnes in Shan State (North), 95.535 tonnes in Shan State (East) and 416.589 tonnes in Ayeyawady Region, it is learnt.

The department also arrested 1,332 illegal teak producers and confiscated 829 vehicles and 220 chain saws used in illegal teak production, according to the Forest Department. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 650 road accidents kill 170 in Ayeyawady in 2020 first-half

A total of 170 people were killed with over 1,100 others injured in connection with 661 road accidents in Ayeyawady Region in the first six months of 2020, according to the figures released by the Traffic Police from Ayeyawady Region.

"From January to June 2020, a total of 170 were killed while 1,116 others injured in 661 road accidents. In 2019, a total of 1,629 traffic accidents were reported in Ayeyawady, which left 455 persons dead and 2,943 others injured. The number of death rate was a bit higher in 2019 compared to that of the previous years. The year of 2019 saw a slight increase in the number of road accident cases of 2,092 registered in 2018, the number of deaths cases has also increased by nine, compared to the same period of 2018 while there were 446 death cases, said an official from the Ayeyawady Region Traffic Police Force.

From January to June, the road accidents are reported highly in Maubin and Pathein Districts of Ayeyawady Region.

Reckless driving, over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather were identified as the main causes of accidents on the country's roads and expressways.

Meanwhile, the highway authorities have deployed more road safety police and have been providing 24-hour service for the travellers since 2012 to improve traffic safety on the highway. —Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Maritime export of rice accounts for over 85pc in current FY

MYANMAR'S maritime trade constituted 85.74 per cent of rice exports and generated an estimated income of US$560.8 million as of 3 July in the current fiscal year, as per data from Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 14.26 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the borders have generated an estimated $87.186 million in the current financial year.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the borders. However, trade in agricultural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade and China's precautionary measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

With the growing demand from the foreign countries, the export price of rice is up by $10-15 per tonne in recent day. However, it is difficult to ship rice in rainy season, said traders from Bayintnaung market.



Farmers harvesting rice in their paddies in Kangyidaunk, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 3 July in the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been estimated at over 2.16 million metric tons, worth over $647.98 million, according to an announcement from the MRF.

In the current financial year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 66 foreign markets.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and Madagascar. Philippines is the fourth-largest buyer and Cote D'Ivoire the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 20 per cent of rice exports, while 31.27 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Senegal, China, Indonesia and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 57 foreign markets.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million tonnes, worth $691 million, in the 2018-2019FY. – GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CMP garment exports worth $2.73 bln in Oct-May

EXPORTS of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued US$2.73 billion in the period between 1 October and May-end in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in CMP garments and textiles, which contribute to the country's GDP to some extent.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP garment industry has emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries. The majority of Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free-on-board (FoB) system, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

The labour-intensive enterprises are badly battered by the coronavirus impacts, said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

However, foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses including the garment enterprises. The foreign investors are not bothered by the disputes between employers and employees and the closure of some CMP businesses during the mean times.

Of the investment proposals, the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses are prioritized by the commission.

Myanmar Investment Commission is planning to accept investment projects in manufacturing masks, pharmaceuticals and others which can contribute to the fight against the coronavirus in the country at the soonest.

The CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the order cancellation from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the pandemic. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out.

The export value of CMP garments was only $850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it has tripled over the last two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about $2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to $4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US. With demand from foreign trade partners growing, imports of CMP raw materials are rising year by year.

Since an outbreak like coronavirus infection might happen in the future it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic gold price rises to K1.3 mln tracking global cues

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic gold prices rose to K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) on the back of a-record rise in international global market, according to Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

On 1 July, a yellow metal was priced around K1,220,000 per tical. It gradually went higher and reached a high of K1,300,000 per tical on 22 July.

Meanwhile, gold price was pegged at US$1,780 per ounce on 1 July and hit an all-time high of above $1,850 per ounce on 22 July.

Additionally, local forex market sees a slight gain of US dollar against Kyat. This is another cause of gold price hike.

A dollar to Kyat exchange rate on 1 July was at K1,372, whereas a dollar value rose to K1,410 at the opening price on 22 July.

The foreign demand on gold from neighbouring markets of China and India raised the domestic gold price.

Nevertheless, despite the global hikes, the domestic gold price does not rise at the same rate. It is lower than global rate.

In early September last year, the price of pure gold reached a record of above K1,300,000 per tical in the domestic market, while the price of gold was pegged at just US$1,550 per ounce in the global market.

At present, the domestic market sees more sellers more than buyers, the YGEA stated.

According to gold traders, during the past four months, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,148,000 (31 March) and the highest level of K1,218,600 (4 March). In April, the coronavirus risks shut down the gold market, and the market was reopened on 18 May, with the minimum rate of K1,214,100 (27 May) and the maximum rate of K1,236,000 (18 May). The price moved in the range of, K1,209,600 on 6 June and K1,219,500 on 1 June, according to gold traders.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

23 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Clear understanding of law is beneficial to land management system

THE Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Committee held its 28th meeting on Tuesday and decided to revoke 16,450 acres of farmland which have not been untilized since they were permitted four years ago.

The action is taken in accordance with Section 22 of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law-2012.

Therefore, the number of farmlands which have been confiscated by the committee for non-compliance with the terms and stipulations of the law has reached 1.567,619 acres nationwide so far.

The decision comes after the Joint Public Account Committee and special inspection teams looked into 2,342,600 acres of land permitted by the committee previously.

> ... all citizens are obliged to abide by the law as the authorities on their part are committed to managing the land effectively for the country's economy.

The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law says, "A person who is granted the right to use the vacant, fallow and virgin lands shall comply with the following conditions: The enterprise shall carry out to be completed within four years from the date of grant according to the purpose granted. The prescribed period may be revised by the Central Committee for losing time due to natural disasters and unstable security conditions."

Meanwhile, every citizen has rights to apply for land use and they need to use the land efficiently in accordance with the law to be granted with land use permissions.

The purpose of the land use policy is to help those who want to use land in accordance with the law to ensure the development of the country's economy and for the livelihood of individuals.

Section 39 of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management bylaw has designated land tax exemption periods for various businesses on different types of land. The committee has instructed the authorities to impose fines for late payments or evasion, and asked those who haven't paid yet to do so urgently.

Statistics compiled in 2018 shows that there are over 47 million acres of vacant, fallow, and virgin lands in Myanmar. It is necessary to ensure that agriculture, livestock breeding, minerals production, and other lawful businesses utilize the land effectively, in accordance with the bylaw of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law, for the economic development of the State and to create job opportunities for locals and landless citizens.

Hence, all citizens are obliged to abide by the law as the authorities on their part are committed to managing the land effectively for the country's economy.

■ ■ ■

COVID-19: IN-DEPTH STORIES

EU'S VIRUS RECOVERY PLAN: FIVE KEY POINTS

UNION'S 27 member states emerged from an intense four-day and four-night summit on Tuesday branding a huge virus recovery plan and a trillion-euro long-term budget.

Here are five key points about what German Chancellor Angela Merkel called an impressive response to a historic recession and the worst crisis in the European Union's history.



Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin, Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen during a bilateral meeting at the EU summit on a coronavirus recovery package at the European Council building in Brussels on July 19, 2020. **FRANÇOIS WALSCHAERTS / POOL / AFP**

Joint debt

The 750-billion-euro coronavirus rescue is a package of loans and -- more controversially -- grants, to help hard-hit countries through the recession triggered by the epidemic.

The sum will be borrowed on the markets by the EU executive, the European Commission, and is thus based on the biggest ever issuance of joint European debt.

This was once taboo for Germany, and was resisted this time by an even more "frugal" coalition of the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and Finland.

But, despite Dutch leader Mark Rutte and Austria's Sebastian Kurz warning this would amount to forming the dreaded "transfer union" of well-run countries subsidising big spenders, it was approved.

Leaders like France's President Emmanuel Macron who were pressing for more joint debt hailed the move as a historic step forward for the union and for its single currency.

"At base what we are building is a common solidarity, and that's unprecedented as the budgetary function that Europe needs to become a geo-political power," he said.

Rutte, however, stressed the temporary nature of the arrangement, insisting it was a "one off" to respond to the virus crisis.

Loans vs grants

The original Brussels plan for the rescue package would have seen 500 billion euros distributed as non-repayable grants, subsidies from the EU to its poorer members.

Resistance from the "frugals" saw this bargained down to 390 billion, with a further 360 billion issued as loans.

Of the grants, 312.5 billion will go to investment plans drawn up by national governments, and the rest to EU-led programmes, such as rural development, research and the green transition.

The amount each country will be eligible to receive will be determined by a weighted formula: 70 per cent of the total to be determined by a "resilience" rating taking into account population and long-term unemployment, and 30 per cent based on how much GDP has been lost because of the virus crisis.

EU oversight

The national programmes submitted by member states will be studied by the EU executive, the European Commission, and afterwards approved by a qualified majority of member states -- a minimum of 55 per cent of capitals representing 65 per cent of the population.

Because the "frugals" remain reluctant to allow their more indebted southern neighbours to spend joint funds without labour market reform, there will also be an "emergency brake".

If a group member states it is unhappy with a national plan, they can thus call it in for discussion at a European Council summit -- but it is not clear whether this amounts to a full veto.

Rescue up, budget down

The European Union's seven-year budget -- or Multiannual Financial Framework -- that begins on January 1 is now set at 1,074 billion euros, 20 billion less than planned before the epidemic.

The European Parliament will still have to approve the sum.

It now includes a special five billion euro "reserve" to help the countries and sectors most affected by Brexit.

And it will be more flexible in allowing money to be moved to traditional regional support programmes and agricultural subsidies, and away from more recent areas of EU interest.

Nevertheless, EU spending must be in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change and the effort to build a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

Rebates up

Key to persuading the "frugals" to put aside their concerns about southern overspending was a decision to boost the rebates that some net contributors receive on their EU dues.

Denmark's annual refund climbs to 377 million euros, up 91 per cent on the figure planned before the summit. The Netherlands climbs 22 percent to 1.92 billion, Austria is up 138 per cent to 565 million and Sweden 34 per cent to 1.07 billion.

Germany did not need persuading to accept the deal, and its annual rebate remains at 3.67 billion.

SOURCE: AFP

■ ■ ■

Scientists report that airborne coronavirus is probably infectious

SCIENTISTS have known for several months the new coronavirus can become suspended in microdroplets expelled by patients when they speak and breathe, but until now there was no proof that these tiny particles are infectious.

A new study by scientists at the University of Nebraska that was uploaded to a medical preprint site this week has shown for the first time that SARS-CoV-2 taken from microdroplets, defined as under five microns, can replicate in lab conditions.

This boosts the hypothesis that normal speaking and breathing, not just coughing and sneezing, are responsible for spreading Covid-19 -- and that infectious doses of the virus can travel distances far greater than the six feet (two metres) urged by social distancing guidelines.

The results are still considered preliminary and have not yet appeared in a peer-reviewed journal, which would lend more credibility to the methods devised by the scientists.

The paper was posted to the medrxiv.org website, where most cutting-edge research during the pandemic has first been made public.

SOURCE: AFP



Hospital employees in Wuhan, to prevent possible airborne transmission of the new coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 19/2020
3rd Waxing of Second Waso, 1382 ME
(22 July 2020)
Appointment of Security and Border Affairs Ministers

IN accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) Sub-section (2) (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Sagaing Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Than Tun Aung, and Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Aung Soe Moe have been returned to unit to perform their original military duties and the following senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in- Chief (Army) have been appointed as Region Security and Border Affairs Ministers shown against each of their names.

1. Colonel Win Tin Soe	Sagaing Region Government
2. Colonel Win Tint	Yangon Region Government

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at: 13:00 hrs M.S.T on 22-7-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded about (2) cm above its danger level. It may continute to rise above the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Phaungpyin Township to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning
(Issued at 15:00 hrs M.S.T on 22-7-2020)

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Seiktha is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

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



284 religious edifices documented for renovation in central Myanmar





Renovation work is planned for religious edifices bearing late Konbaung-era architecture in Yesagyo Township. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum in Magway Region has listed a total of 284 religious edifices in Yesagyo Township of Pakokku district for renovation.

Officials recorded 33 Buddhist temples in Kyat Su Kyin village, 117 in Auk Nan village, 74 in Ma Au Ah Lal village and 60 in Ma Au Auk Village respectively.

"All of these temples are the art works of late Konbaung era. According to the procedures, we will submit the estimated cost and seek permission of Region Government to conduct inventory in the first stage of renovation. After receiving the permission, we will start renovation works," said U Myint Thein, Deputy Director of Archaeology and National Museum (Magway).

The department is currently conducting ground survey and conservation works to promote the local tourism industry and not to lose ancient heritages. — Zayyatu (Magway) *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

737 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 22 July



A Myanmar national passes the security check at No. 2 border bridge in Myawady, Kayin State. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

A total of 737 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 22 July.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrative Office U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 51,792 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 449 males and 288 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar-India border trade drops this FY

BORDER TRADE between Myanmar and India hit US$83.1 million as of 10 July in 2019-2020 fiscal year, a decline of $79.95 million from $161.25 million in the same period of last FY, according to the statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was shared by Myanmar's export of $80.163 million and an import of $2.937 million.

The two countries carry out border trade mainly through Tamu, Reed and Thantlang cross-border trade while a major part of bilateral trade is delivered through ships.

In this FY, the total trade volume via Tamu broder trading post stood at $38.51 million with exports value at $37.59 million and import at $0.92 million while the trade volume via Reed post recorded at $44.19 million with export value at $42.16 million and import of $2.01 million.

Myanmar mainly exports fruits and vegetables, fishery and forestry products to India while importing from India medicines, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials. —Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

59 Myanmar returnees from China arrive in Chinshwehaw border crossing

A total of 59 Myanmar nationals who returned from China came back home through Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw on 22 July.

The group included 39 males and 20 females -- one from Singaing, two from Thabeikkyin, one from Kalay, five from Nay Pyi Taw, one from Falam and 49 from northern Shan State.

The Work Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 in Chinshwehaw sent the returnees to their respective regions and states by arranging vehicles. A total of 13,592 returnees have been sent back to their respective places via this route to date.—Zin Zin (IPRD)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals are also returning through the Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw. **PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)**

Romanian doctors fight surge in virus cases and conspiracy theories

AFTER almost four months of treating coronavirus patients in the western Romanian city of Timisoara, doctor Virgil Musta is not only facing a surge in new daily cases, but also a string of conspiracy theories.

"People are not respecting the rules any more," the 62-year-old told AFP. "Three weeks ago we had one new case a day, now we have about 40."

In a country where doctors rarely speak out, Musta has become a constant presence on social media and the local press, talking about his work at Victor Babes hospital.

"I have to act on two fronts — the professional one where I treat patients and the informational one where I try to explain the facts to people," said Musta, who is also head of Timisoara's infectious disease department.

The east European nation had stemmed the spread of COVID-19 under a strict two-month lockdown, but cases have jumped since it was lifted in mid-May — with a peak of 889 new infections on Saturday.

This has led to at least a dozen European countries re-imposing travel restrictions on people arriving from one of the EU's poorest member states.

Romania, with a population of almost 20 million, has to date reported more than 38,000 coronavirus infections and over 2,000 deaths.



Coronavirus sceptics in Romania protest against the newly adopted 'law of quarantine'. **(AFP PHOTO/ DANIEL MIHAILESCU)**

Discharged by demand

The caseload spike comes against a backdrop of multiplying conspiracy theories peddled online and in the streets in a country known for its poor healthcare system.

In Bucharest, a few hundred coronasceptics — holding religious icons, the national flag and signs that read "I believe in GOD, not in COVID" — frequently protest against what they call a "sanitary dictatorship".

"The figures are inflated for the benefit of the producers of protective masks," says one protester, Ionut Moraru, while Marcela, a pensioner, fears being "forcibly interned just for a sneeze in a public place".

"I must have the right to choose whether I want to be hospitalized or not," says Costin Tanasescu, a 49-year-old entrepreneur in the construction industry. In early July, the Constitutional Court ruled that mandatory hospitalization — imposed under the two-month state of emergency — violated "fundamental rights" and was illegal.

Since then, almost a thousand COVID-19 patients have discharged themselves from hospitals, according to official figures. One of those who didn't want to be hospitalised, Cristian Focsan, said on Facebook that he believed he could fight the virus on his own and didn't want to occupy a bed, possibly needed by a seriously ill person.

SOURCE: AFP

COVID-19 cases spike in L.A. as 15 kids sick with rare virus-related syndrome

THE number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Los Angeles County was at their highest level at the weekend since the pandemic began, as 15 children were diagnosed with a rare and potentially deadly virus-related inflammatory syndrome.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on Sunday listed 2,216 people in hospital, topping the previous record of 2,193 on July 15.

Of those currently hospitalized, 26 per cent are in intensive care and 19 per cent are on ventilators, officials said.

"We continue to reach concerning milestones and today we are seeing the highest number of COVID-19 hospitalizations," Barbara Ferrer, the county's public health director, said in a statement.

"Right now, young adults are being hospitalized at a rate not seen before," she added. "No matter how young you are, you are vulnerable to this virus."

Officials said that more than half of the 2,848 new cases of COVID-19 reported on Sunday concerned people less than 41 years old.

The spike in the number of cases comes as 15 children were identified last week with an inflammatory syndrome -- MIS-C -- linked to the virus.

The majority of the children -- 73 per cent -- are Latino, the public health department said.

MIS-C is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. There have so far been six deaths related to the syndome nationwide, according to health officials.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti reiterated on Sunday that the city was "on the brink" of reissuing a stay-at-home order because of the surge in the number of COVID-19 cases and implored the public to heed safety precautions such as wearing a mask and social distancing.

SOURCE: AFP



Women wearing facemasks exit the Westfield Santa Anita shopping mall where a sign is posted at an entrance reminding people of the mask requirement on June 12, 2020. **(FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP)**

Novartis profits climb despite virus sales swings

SWISS pharma giant Novartis reported Tuesday higher profits in the first half of the year despite the coronavirus pandemic causing swings in sales.

During the first six months of the year net profit came in at $4 billion (3.5 billion euros), a 9 per cent increase when currency fluctuations are stripped out.

Sales rose by 6 per cent from the same period last year to $23.6 billion.

But the half-year figures obscure considerable swings in sales and profits due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

If sales rose by 11 per cent in the first quarter as clients stocked up on medicines when the virus began to spread around the world, sales dipped by 1 per cent in the second quarter.

"During the second quarter, COVID-19 had an impact on our business with forward purchasing from the first quarter largely reversing," the company said in a statement.

Lockdowns and the focus of medical systems on treating coronavirus and urgent patients also had an impact on the sales of certain treatments.

"Sales were mostly affected by lower new patient starts and significant reduction in patient visits to physicians," said Novartis.

There was also a similar evolution in quarterly earnings, with a 16 per cent gain in net profit during the first three months turning into a 4 per cent drop in the second quarter.

Novartis said it expects mid single digit sales growth for the year, with a low double digit gain in its measure of core operating income. Over the first half of the year, core operating income rose by 19 per cent.

SOURCE: AFP

Guangdong has over 78,000 5G base stations

GUANGZHOU—South China's Guangdong Province has built over 78,000 5G base stations as of the end of June, local authorities said on Tuesday.

In the first half of the year, the province completed the construction of 41,401 stations with the number of 5G users exceeding 14.34 million, said Dong Jin with the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Guangdong Province. The province will continue to beef up the construction of 5G infrastructure, and more efforts will be made to improve indoor 5G networks at places such as commercial buildings, residential areas and industrial parks, said Dong.



A man experiences a 5G Cloud VR rowing machine developed by Huawei in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, April 16, 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Guangdong will also promote the use of 5G technology in more areas and industries.—Xinhua ■

Tokyoites asked to stay home as total coronavirus cases top 10,000

TOKYO—Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike on Wednesday urged residents of the capital to avoid nonessential outings during the upcoming four-day holiday as Tokyo's cumulative coronavirus cases topped the 10,000 mark. The total reached 10,054 as 238 new infections were reported on the day, topping the 200-mark for the second day, Koike told reporters. Also Wednesday, Osaka Prefecture in western Japan confirmed 121 new cases, its highest daily tally. Since a nationwide state of emergency was entirely lifted in late May, there has been a surge in the number of new infections in Tokyo and other urban areas across Japan. On Tuesday, 631 new cases brought the nationwide tally to over 26,400, excluding 712 from the Diamond Princess, the cruise ship quarantined in Yokohama in February.—Kyodo ■

Ryanair to shut Frankfurt hub after pilots refuse pay cuts

DUBLIN—Irish no-frills airline Ryanair plans to close its Frankfurt-Hahn base in Germany -- and other hubs could follow after German pilots voted against pay cuts, it emerged on Wednesday. Ryanair, which is seeking to axe 3,000 jobs due to a coronavirus-induced collapse in travel demand, revealed its plan in a memo sent on Tuesday to Germany-based pilots. The Dublin-based carrier blamed their trade union VC, whose members voted in favour of rejecting its proposed 20-per-cent pay cut over four years. "VC wrote to us... (on Monday) confirming that, following a ballot of members, this emergency agreement on cost savings and job protection was rejected since only 49.4 per cent voted in favour," Ryanair said in the memo obtained by AFP on Wednesday. It added: "The VC (has) voted for job cuts and base closures when they could have preserved all jobs. "We must move on with alternative measures to deliver cost savings, which regrettably will mean base closures and dismissals." Ryanair added that its Frankfurt-Hahn hub, some 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of Germany's financial capital, would close with effect from November 1, but did not specify the number of job losses.—AFP ■

NY Times names Levien CEO as Thompson steps down



The New York Times announced its new president and CEO would be Meredith Kopit Levien, succeeding Mark Thompson. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK—The New York Times on Wednesday named Meredith Kopit Levien as its new president and chief executive, succeeding Mark Thompson, who held the job for eight years and led the daily's digital transformation.

Kopit Levien, 49, has been chief operating officer since June 2017, a role in which she led the digital product efforts, according to the company.

She joined the Times in 2013 as head of advertising and also worked as executive vice president and chief revenue officer, responsible for both the subscription and advertising businesses.

"It's the honour of a lifetime to lead The New York Times," she said in a statement.

"I see a big opportunity to expand journalism's role in the lives of millions more people around the world, and to invest in product and technology innovation that engages our readers and grows our business."

She added that "at a time when the free press remains under pressure, The Times will continue to invest in and defend the high-quality, independent journalism on which our democracy depends."—AFP ■

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Silver Diammine Fluoride in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (23.7.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (5-8-2020),12:00 noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411628, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TAN BINH 127 VOY. NO. (0520)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TAN BINH 127 VOY. NO. (0520)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of "Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 MY-P17". It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for the construction of the project listed below.
2. The Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of the work below.

IFB No	Project ID	Works
DOH-09A	Gangaw - Aika Road (Chin State) (Mile 13/2 to Mile 21/1.24) (Sta. 0+000 – Sta. 12+600)	12.6 km x 5.5 m Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Box Culvert, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-09B	Gangaw - Aika Road (Chin State) (Mile 21/1.24 to Mile 29/0) (Sta. 12+600 – Sta. 24+860)	12.26 km x 5.5 m Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Box Culvert, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures

3. Selling of Bid Documents : (21.7.2020) to (29.7.2020)
4. Deadline for submission of Bids : (12:00) noon on (3.9.2020)
5. Opening of Preliminary Examination check for Bids : (13:30) pm on (3.9.2020)
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidder at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ; Fifty Thousands Myanmar Kyat (ks. 50000/-)
7. Interested eligible Bidder (The eligible country of the bidder is the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, only (i.e. Bidders (Local Contractor) shall be civil engineering firms registered in Myanmar)) may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Project Inspection and Quality Control Department (Construction), Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Building No. (11), Nay Pyi Taw.

Contact Person: Daw Khin San Nyunt Oo
Phone No.: +95 9-5084576 / +95 9-257728844 / +95 445892175
E-mail: dohjica.sector@gmail.com

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

Japan's travel subsidy campaign kicks off amid virus spread concerns

TOKYO—Japan's travel subsidy campaign kicked off Wednesday to help revive a domestic tourism industry stricken by the novel coronavirus, but with Tokyo excluded amid concerns about a resurgence in infections in urban areas. The "Go To Travel" campaign, under which the government covers part of the cost of tourist trips, was launched despite worries the initiative could worsen the virus outbreak. Osaka Prefecture reported 121 new infections, a record daily increase, while Tokyo confirmed 238 cases with its cumulative total eclipsing 10,000. Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike urged residents to "take thorough anti-infection measures and avoid going outside as much as possible," while warning against a "second wave" of infections ahead of the four-day weekend from Thursday. Japan fully lifted a state of emergency in late May. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also called for thoroughly implementing anti-infection measures and said, "We will resume economic activities carefully with the cooperation of people."—Kyodo ■



Passengers wearing face masks are pictured at a departure lobby of Tokyo's Haneda airport on July 22, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Air freight in Germany down 12.1 pct in March-May period

BERLIN—Volumes of incoming and outgoing air freight to and from Germany decreased by 12.1 per cent between March and May compared with the same period last year, the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) announced on Wednesday.

While travel restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic had a "serious impact on air passenger transport," air freight transport continued comparatively unchanged, Destatis noted. According to Destatis, passenger numbers at German airports plummeted by 87.4 per cent in the same period as passenger air traffic in Germany came to an almost complete standstill by April. Freight volumes on dedicated cargo flights grew by 7.9 per cent between March and May and partly compensated the loss of belly-hold capacities on passenger flights, according to Destatis.

The extensive elimination of cargo capacities on passenger flights as well as selective bottlenecks in other transport routes led to rising prices in air freight transport. According to Destatis, air freight prices were already "significantly higher" than in the fourth quarter of 2019.—Xinhua ■



Volumes of incoming and outgoing air freight to and from Germany decreased by 12.1 per cent between March and May compared with the same period last year. **PHOTO: AFP**

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **BEIJING MULTIGRASS FORMULATION CO., LTD** has registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributer name "**BAIGREEN CROP SCIENCE CO., LTD**", to new distributor name "**OUR FARM COMPANY LIMITED**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **BAIGREEN CROP SCIENCE CO., LTD**. Ph- Ph-09969007222

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Multi Ngwe Toe 25WDG	Thiamethoxam 25% WDG	P2018-4316

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Education
Invitation for Bids

Date:	**23 July 2020**
Loan/Grant No. and Title:	**MYA 3472 – Equipping Youth for Employment**
Contract No. and Title:	**MYA3472/EYE/ICB/CW/Schools/02**
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	**03 September 2020**

1. The **Government of Myanmar** has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of **Equipping Youth for Employment Project (EYE) Project**. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Ministry of Education (represented by the Department of Education Research, Planning & Training) ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the **construction and completion of additional classrooms blocks and students' dormitories (male – female segregated) at** ("the Works") as outlined below:
   Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Paduang** in Bago (West), **Ngapudaw** and **Kangyidaunt** in Ayeyarwaddy)
3. International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage One Envelope procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding.

Key Experience Requirement

Participation in at least (2) two contracts (in case of a Joint Venture, either one JV partner must meet requirement or any two JV partners must each demonstrate at least one (1) contract) that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last 5 years and that are similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds **MMK 981 Million**.

The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements) in the Bidding Document. These are Building Construction Works

Key Financial Requirement

Minimum average annual construction turnover of **MMK 1,963,799,000** calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

The Bidder must demonstrate that it has the financial resources to meet the requirements for the Subject Contract in the minimum amounts of **MMK 655 Million.**

5. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:
   EYE Project Management Unit (PMU)
   Department of Education Research, Planning & Training,
   Ministry of Education, Bldg No 13,
   Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
   Telephone: +95 67 3407273
   E-mail address: projectmanager.EYEPMU@gmail.com
   With copy to: procurement.EYEPMU@gmail.com
6. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should
   - write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for MYA3472/EYE/ICB/CW/Schools/02 for which bidding document is requested.
   - pay a nonrefundable Bidding Document Fee of MMK 15,000 (Equivalent in 11 USD) either by cash payment or through bank transfer to:

   Bank A/C No: MD-012898
   Bank Name: Myanmar Economic Bank
   Bank Address: Thiri Kyaw Swa Street, Near Bank Zone, Zabu Thiri Township, NayPyiTaw
   Account Name: Department of Education Research, Planning & Training, Ministry of Education
7. Deliver your bid to the address above
   - on or before the deadline: **03 September 2020 (13.00 Hours MST)**
   - together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document

   Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected. Electronic Bid submission is not permitted.
8. When comparing Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.

ASEAN Regional Forum tipped to be held in Sept., not virtually



Leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations "attend" their annual summit held virtually at Indonesia's Merdeka (Freedom) Presidential Palacedue to the novel coronavirus pandemic. **(PHOTO COURTESY OF INDONESIA'S PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT)**

HANOI—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is considering to hold the ASEAN Regional Forum in September, bringing its foreign ministers together with their counterparts from countries such as Japan, the United States, China, the two Koreas, Russia and India, diplomatic sources revealed on Tuesday.

Postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic

The annual meeting was originally scheduled to be held as part of a series of ASEAN-hosted meetings held between July 31 and Aug. 5 in Hanoi, the capital of the ASEAN chair country Vietnam, but it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sources said Vietnam is aiming for a face-to-face meeting where foreign ministers show up physically, not virtually as in the case of the ASEAN Summit held on June 26.

ARF comprises the 10 ASEAN states, China, Japan, the United States, Russia, North and South Korea, India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the European Union, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, East Timor, Mongolia and Sri Lanka.

ARF members

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.—Kyodo ■

New Zealand's Ardern sacks minister over office affair

WELLINGTON—New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern sacked a senior cabinet minister Wednesday over an affair with an ex-staffer, amid heightened scrutiny on lawmakers' behaviour ahead of a general election in September.

Ardern dismissed Immigration Minister Iain Lees-Galloway after discovering he had an affair with a former colleague who was working at a government organization that reported to him. The centre-left leader said Lees-Galloway's role as minister for workplace relations, which regulates employment conduct, made his position untenable.



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's party maintains a healthy lead in opinion polls ahead of New Zealand's election in September. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The minister has shown a lack of judgement over a period of 12 months -- in undertaking this relationship he has opened himself up to accusations of improperly using his office," she told reporters.

Ardern said she was not passing moral judgement on Lees-Galloway but added: "He has not modelled the behaviour I expect as a minister that is in charge of setting a standard and culture in work places".—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEFS

China ordered by U.S. to close consulate in Houston

BEIJING—China said Wednesday that it has been ordered by the United States to close its consulate-general in Houston, in a move that could inflame already strained tensions between the world's two major powers that have been in conflict over economic and security matters. "On July 21, the U.S. abruptly demanded that China's consulate-general in Houston cease all operations and events," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters, criticizing Washington for "seriously" violating international law. "The unilateral closure of China's consulate-general in Houston within a short period of time is an unprecedented escalation of its recent actions against China," the spokesman said. "We urge the U.S. to immediately revoke this erroneous decision. Should it insist on going down this wrong path, China will react with firm countermeasures," Wang added. Citing a source, Reuters reported later Wednesday that the Communist-led Chinese government has been considering ordering the United States to shut its consulate-general in the central city of Wuhan as a retaliation.—Kyodo ■

Pakistanis risk unproven plasma treatment in virus fight

ISLAMABAD – Pakistanis with COVID-19 are risking their lives and navigating a shady black market to get blood plasma transfusions, despite scant medical proof about the remedy's effectiveness. Convalescent plasma treatment, where the antibody-rich part of the blood from a recovered patient is transfused to a coronavirus sufferer, is growing in popularity across Pakistan amid widely circulating claims of success on social media. Like some other nations, Pakistan is conducting medical trials on the treatment, which has shown promising signs but is far from proven.—AFP ■

Duterte-critic journalist pleads not guilty in Philippine tax case



Maria Ressa and her news site Rappler have been the target of criminal charges after publishing stories critical of President Rodrigo Duterte's policies, including his drug war that has killed thousands. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANILA—Embattled Philippine journalist Maria Ressa pleaded not guilty Wednesday to tax evasion, as President Rodrigo Duterte's government faced growing calls to drop all charges against the veteran reporter.

Ressa, 56, and her news site Rappler, have been the target of a series of criminal charges and probes after publishing stories critical of Duterte's policies -- including his drug war that has killed thousands.

The award-winning former CNN journalist is on bail pending an appeal against a cyber libel conviction last month for which she faces up to six years in jail. Ex-Rappler journalist Reynaldo Santos was also found guilty in that case.

In a video on Twitter after the hearing, Ressa said she pleaded not guilty to tax evasion -- one of five tax-related charges she faces -- in the capital Manila.

Her application to quash the charge was rejected by the judge and Rappler was added to the charge sheet, she said.—AFP ■

Ukraine president defends movie post to end hostage crisis

KIEV—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday defended his decision to agree to a hostage-taker's bizarre demand that he post a movie recommendation to end a 12-hour stand-off. Zelensky described how he negotiated personally on Tuesday evening with a gunman who was holding 13 hostages on a bus in the western city of Lutsk. "We have a result - everyone is alive. We are not fighting for (approval) ratings - we are fighting for life," Zelensky said in a statement of his decision, as some criticized him for giving in to the gunman's demands.

The SBU security service said all 13 hostages were released unharmed after a police stand-off with the man, who had threatened to detonate an explosive device.

The tense hostage situation ended after the president agreed to post a recommendation of a 2005 US documentary narrated by actor Joaquin Phoenix called "Earthlings," which condemns humans' mistreatment of animals. Zelensky said he agreed with the hostage-taker, identified as 44-year-old Maksym Kryvosh, that "he would release three people, and after that I would record a video."



The SBU security service said all 13 hostages were released unharmed after a police stand-off with the man. **PHOTO: AFP**

'This is a mistake'

The armed man complied and freed three hostages: a man, a pregnant woman and a child. In response, the president posted a video message on Facebook and Kryvosh agreed to release all his captives half an hour later, Zelensky said. The gunman is currently being held in a temporary detention centre, police reported.—AFP ■

France's new police minister under fire

PARIS—Gerald Darmanin has had a tumultuous first two weeks as France's interior minister as the country questions whether someone under investigation for rape allegations can and should be its "top cop."

The 37-year-old's appointment on July 6 drew immediate outrage that has showed no signs of abating -- women's rights campaigners have picketed every one of Darmanin's public appearances to date.

He is accused by Sophie Patterson-Spatz of raping her in 2009 after she sought his help to have a criminal record expunged while he was a legal affairs adviser with the UMP, the ancestor of France's main right-wing party, the Republicans.

Darmanin maintains they had consensual sex.

The case has been thrown out multiple times, but appeals judges in Paris last month ordered a new investigation after Patterson-Spatz approached France's highest court.

The uproar over Darmanin's promotion to a key cabinet position just weeks after that ruling seems to have taken the government and President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party by surprise. Their defence of Darmanin has focused on the presumption of innocence, even as they appear to have exonerated him despite an ongoing inquiry.

Macron explained on French television that he had a "relationship of trust, man-to-man" with Darmanin, a phrase many criticised for being tone deaf.

'Manhunt'

A member of Macron's team defended the appointment by telling AFP the criminal case was evolving "in the right direction" and "presented no obstacle" to Darmanin's elevation.—AFP ■

US offers $5 mn reward for arrest of Venezuela chief justice



The chief justice of Venezuela's supreme court, Maikal Jose Moreno Perez (C), seen in Caracas in June 2020, has been indicted in the United States on money laundering charges. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON—The United States on Tuesday offered a $5 million reward for information leading to the arrest of the chief justice of Venezuela's supreme court, who faces US money laundering charges. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Maikal Jose Moreno Perez had "personally received money or property bribes to influence the outcome of civil and criminal cases in Venezuela" in recent years. "Moreno Perez received the bribes in exchange for judicial actions" in more than 20 cases, such as ordering lower-court judges to release the accused or dismiss cases, Pompeo said.

Moreno Perez, who has been on the US Treasury's sanctions blacklist since May 2017, was added to the State Department's separate list on Tuesday, along with his wife, for "involvement in significant corruption." That means the couple cannot enter the United States "indefinitely." In a statement, Pompeo said the moves "reaffirm the US commitment to combating corruption and transnational organized crime in Venezuela."—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel's latest spy drama 'Tehran' explores nuclear tensions

JERUSALEM—The plot of Israel's latest spy series to screen internationally, "Tehran" premiering on Apple TV, seems straight from the news headlines and reflects the Jewish state's deep enmity with Iran. A young Mossad agent is sent on her first mission: to disable Iranian air defences so Israel can strike a reactor and deny the Islamic Republic the ability to make an atomic bomb. The conservative press in Iran -- a country which strongly denies that its nuclear programme is for anything other than civilian use -- has slammed the show as Zionist propaganda. Yet, while the notion of Israel and Iran cooperating on anything -- let alone a television series -- is unthinkable now, "Tehran" co-creator Moshe Zonder said he likes to think of it as at least a cultural coproduction.—AFP ■

Shootout at Chicago funeral leaves 14 wounded

CHICAGO—A shootout outside a funeral parlour left 14 people wounded Tuesday in Chicago, as President Donald Trump threatens to send federal agents to a handful of US cities led by Democratic mayors. The incident started when occupants of a vehicle "began firing at attendees of a funeral. At that time the attendees of the funeral exchanged fire," Chicago deputy police superintendent Eric Carter told reporters. Shootings have become breathtakingly normal this summer across the United States. A total of 63 people were shot and 12 killed over the weekend in Chicago in ongoing gun violence, according to local media. Carter said 14 people were wounded in Tuesday's shooting, but did not specify the degree of severity. "Too many guns are on our streets and in the hands of people who should never possess them," Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot tweeted after what she called a "horrific mass shooting."—AFP ■

MFF discuss preparations for football tournaments

MYANMAR Football Federation held an official meeting on 21 July at the MFF headquarters in Yangon to discuss plans and preparations for the upcoming football tourneys, according to the statement with the MFF.

MFF football authorities attended the meeting and it was held by social distancing methods and pandemic precaution measures set by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

During the meeting, football authorities focused on official broadcasting agreements with MySports, arrangements for upcoming World Cup Qualifiers, Suzuki Cup and international friendly matches of Myanmar National Men's Football Team, preparations for printing MFF 15 Years Report, plans to set up MFF application this year, preparation to broadcast selections of players in National Football Academies, and holding of Futsal Knockout Cup and U-14 Futsal League in September.

The MFF authorities also stressed on the importance of international match of Myanmar National Team and concluded the meeting.

The MFF have organized respective football committees and officials also discussed holding of the committee meetings every three months or the emergency meetings. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

'Christmas' for Klopp as Liverpool prepare to lift Premier League trophy



Jurgen Klopp is eagerly anticipating Liverpool's Premier League trophy presentation. **(PHOTO: AFP/PAUL CHILDS)**

LONDON — Jurgen Klopp said he felt like it was Christmas Eve on Tuesday (Jul 21) as Liverpool count down the hours until they lift the Premier League trophy after a 30-year wait.

The Reds will lift the trophy on the Kop stand at Anfield after Wednesday's clash against Chelsea.

"It's like Christmas," said the German manager. "If you know beforehand you have a certain present, there is still excitement. We are very excited about that. I never touched a Premier League trophy ever before, that will be special."

The celebrations will take place without fans in the stadium due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Klopp again urged supporters to stay at home after crowds gathered around Anfield and in Liverpool city centre following their title win last month.

Klopp is relieved his players will get the chance to celebrate inside the stadium because they did not seal the title on the pitch - Manchester City's defeat at Chelsea ended the race.

"Everybody in the club worked so hard for it, so it should be in the stadium," he said.

"From a professional basis (it will be) 100 per cent one of the great days in my life to get our hands on this trophy that everyone was waiting so long for and two or three years ago nobody thought it would be possible for us.

"It's a milestone, it's a very important day but not the last one for us."

Chelsea travel to Anfield in far greater need of the points as one win from their final two matches will secure Champions League football next season.—AFP ■

Golf's PGA Tour Series-China season cancelled because of virus

BEIJING — Golf's PGA Tour Series-China season has been cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic and related travel restrictions, officials said Wednesday.The professional golf tour, which was a launchpad for China's top player Li Haotong, in January held the first of three qualifying tournaments.

But the pandemic struck and began to spread, eventually ending any hopes of getting the 2020 season off the ground, along with sport across the globe. In May the Mackenzie Tour, the PGA Tour-backed developmental circuit in Canada, also cancelled its season.

Both feeder tours attract up-and-coming players from all over the world and provide a pathway to the Korn Ferry Tour, which is one tier below the main US PGA Tour.

"It's a disappointment but I know our players and fans understand... that the health and safety of everyone associated with the series is of the utmost importance," said Greg Carlson, executive director of the series.

"And staging a tour based in China with players from five different continents is just not feasible at this time.—AFP ■

Virus vaccine key for Olympics go-ahead in 2021: Tokyo chief

TOKYO — The development of a coronavirus vaccine or treatment will be key to allowing the postponed Tokyo 2020 games to open in a year's time, organising committee president Yoshiro Mori said Wednesday.

Asked what factors will be crucial for the rescheduled Games to go ahead, Mori said "it would be whether the coronavirus woe is settling down."

"Specifically, the first point will be that a vaccine or drug has been developed," he said in an interview with national broadcaster NHK, published Wednesday.

Asked whether Tokyo could hold the Games if the virus situation remained unchanged, Mori said: "If things continue as they are now, we couldn't."

But he said that scenario was hypothetical. "I can't imagine a situation like this will continue for another year," he said

Tokyo 2020 should have been opening on Friday, but the Games were postponed in March as the coronavirus spread across the globe, marking the worst disruption to an Olympics since two editions were cancelled during World War II. The Games are now set to open on July 23, 2021, but recent polls have shown less public enthusiasm for hosting the event, as virus cases show a resurgence in Japan. Just one in four people in Japan want to see the delayed Tokyo Games held next year, with most backing either further delay or a cancellation, according to a survey published by Kyodo News this week.

Most of those backing a delay or cancellation said they simply didn't believe the pandemic could be contained in time for the Games.—AFP ■



A man wearing a facemask walks in the tunnel of a metro station with the board of the official 2020 Summer Olympics advertisement in Tokyo on March 11. **PHOTO: PHILIP FONG/AFP**