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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 103, 9th Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Tuesday, 28 July 2020

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses loans from Unicredit Bank, ADB, Public Debt Management Bill

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat (right) speaks during the sixth-day meeting of 17th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 July 2020.
PHOTO: MNA

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw continued its 17th regular session with 6th meeting yesterday.

K-500 banknote

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Min explained the circulation of new 500-kyat banknote.

He also quoted the Section 66 of the Central Bank of Myanmar, which defines that the CBM needs to report the closest Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session about circulation of new currency notes with approval of the government. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the parliamentary approval on the discussions.

Loan from Unicredit Bank

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win reported Euro0.861 million grant and Euro4.876 million zero-interest loan from the Unicredit Bank, proposed by the President, for implementing infrastructural project of electronic mailing and e-IDs for the country's population registry.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker invited the list of MPs who want to debate the issue, and set the date on 5 August.

SEE PAGE-3

No more case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 27 July, total figure remains at 350

Updated at 8 pm, 27 July 2020

Total Cases	New Case	Total Death Tally
350	0	6

Recovery Update on 27 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
292	2	275

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 27 July 2020

New PUIs
25

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47-member Sangha committee concludes 5th meeting

The 47-member leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee concludes the fifth meeting at the Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE fifth meeting of the 47-member leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was successfully concluded at the Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The second-day meeting was attended by the members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Director-General from the Department of Religious Affairs U Myint Oo, Deputy Director-General U Tun Nyunt, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University (ITBMU) Pro-Rector U Soe Min Tun and other relevant officials.

Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Panditta Agga Maha Sadhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Silacara Bhivumsa acted as the master of ceremony.

At the final day of meeting, members of the committee discussed the religious issues and activities conducted during the first period of the duty of the third branch of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and made resolutions.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee approved the report on activities conducted during the first period of the duty of the third branch of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The fifth meeting was successfully concluded on 27 July afternoon.—MNA ■

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Announcement of loan from COVID-19 Fund to businesses

1. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry has released Announcement 2/2020 on 3 July 2020, saying that the Committee for Remedying Economic Effects of COVID-19 made a decision at meeting 6/2020 to put in an additional K100 billion into the COVID-19 Fund. This decision was made in order to continue providing financial assistance to businesses negatively affected by COVID-19.
2. The fund will go to the businesses that manufacture agricultural, livestock and fisheries products, export commodities, import substituted products, supply chain of domestic products in the whole processes for export sector, food supplies, overseas employment agencies and vocational training schools.
3. The loan will be given to the businesses included in the categories under paragraph 2, with 1 per cent interest rate for one-year period.
4. The above-mentioned businesses, which meet the following norms, shall apply for the loan.
   (a) National-owned businesses which were actually affected by the COVID-19.
   (b) Ongoing-businesses or those were suspended in the past five months from this announcement and could be resumed immediately when the loan is received.
   (c) Businesses that have been approved/licenced by the relevant departments before 31 March 2018.
   (d) Businesses with annual income in the past two years.
   (e) Businesses with concrete situation to pay back the loan.
   (f) Companies that will use the loan for employment salaries and wages, and for operating its businesses
   (g) Excluding companies suspended for registration from the Company Registration Office (CRO), or revoked from registration list, and other businesses suspended for registration by the relevant government department/organization or revoked from the registration list.
   (h) Companies which have paid for income tax, commercial tax and special commodity tax.
   (i) Companies for which the board of directors, and other businesses for which the owner can be guaranteed to pay back the loan.
   (j) Businesses that failed to settle the loan of a bank, or that have been sued by a bank for default.
   (k) Businesses that have never received COVID-19 Fund.
   (l) Businesses of agriculture, livestock and fisheries products must be aligned with the following norms:
      (1) Commercial businesses more than manageable and household capacities
      (2) Loan has not been taken from the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank
      (3) Approval from township officer of General Administration Department for the existing business.
5. Failure for repayment of loan shall face legal action, and the loan-taken business will be announced in the negative list of credit bureau, in addition to prohibiting loan rights from non-bank financial institutions and microfinance firms.
6. Specific application form must be used in applying for loans, together with relevant documents for the loan. Application forms without required standards and norms will be considered invalid.
7. The application can be taken out from the following offices and departments
   (a) The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Yangon
   (b) State/Region CCI offices
   (c) Headquarters and local offices of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
   (d) Headquarters and local offices of Industrial Supervision and Inspection
8. The applications can be downloaded from the following links
   (a) www.mifer.gov.mm
   (b) www.msme.gov.mm
   (c) www.dica.gov.mm
   (d) www.umfcci.com.mm
9. The applications will be accepted at the following offices from 9:30 am to 4:40 pm from 29 July to 10 August 2020
   (a) Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Yangon
   (b) State/Region CCI offices
10. Online application is available at https://umfccicovid-19loan.mitcloud.com
11. The applications after the valid date 10 August 2020 will not be processed.
12. Detailed information about the loan can be received at the following phone numbers of relevant offices.
   (a) The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Yangon
   01-231 4343
   09 450 2001 70
   (b) Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
   01 658121
   01 6581 31
   (c) Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection
   09 5153946
13. The loan will be given to the businesses included in the categories of paragraph 2.

Committee for Remedying Economic Effects of COVID-19

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

(Excerpt from a speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on February 11, 1947)

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives International IDEA Myanmar Head of Mission

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development U Tun Tun Hein received International IDEA Myanmar Head of Mission Mr Mark McDowell and his entourage at his office of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to organizing workshops on capacity-building and Hluttaw development, negotiation between the JCC and the IDEA Myanmar for signing an MoU, and possible training for Hluttaw processes for new MPs who will enter the Hluttaw in 2021.

The meeting was also attended by the Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice-Chairman (1) U Aung Min, Secretary U Khin Maung Than and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein(R) holds talks with International IDEA Myanmar Head of Mission Mr Mark McDowell at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses loans from Unicredit Bank, ADB, …

FROM PAGE-1

ADB Loan for rural electrification

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win also reported US$171.27 million loan from the Asian Development Bank, proposed by the President for implementation of rural electrification project.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win said the loan could benefit 400,300 households, out of 10,884,695 across the country, and help to increase nationwide power consumption for each household up to 84.62 per cent.

The loan will be used only for constructions of 66 kV and 33 kV substations and instalment of 11kV power lines and construction of 11/0.4 kV transformers will be constructed with Union budget, Region/State budgets, and loans from World Bank, JICA, ADB and KfW. Meanwhile, 400 volt power lines will be installed with the funds of respective villages.

The annual power generation would increase from 160 to 290 million units. Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win reported that if the Hluttaw has approved this proposal, then the MoPFI will take part in the loan process for negotiation in signing contract, activation of loan agreement and facilitating in loan procedures.

The proposal was unanimously agreed by the Hluttaw.

Public Debt Management Bill

Secretary of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe reported the second amending bill on Public Debt Management Law.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win sought the parliamentary approval for the whole bill, and it was passed by the Hluttaw.

ADB loan for Bago-Kyaikto Highway

Members of Parliament discussed the $483.8 million loan from ADB, proposed by the President, for implementation of Bago-Kyaikto Highway.

Major Zwe Nay Zaw discussed the project ensures the national interest; MP U Sai Aung Kyaw from Kehsi constituency supported the project with its benefits. The other 8 MPs also discussed the proposal.

JICA Loan for Bago-Kyaikto Highway

The MPs also discussed Japanese Yen 27.779 billion loan from the JICA, proposed by the President, for Bago-Kyaikto Highway. The 5 MPs debated the proposal.

ADB loan for COVID-19 response plan

The five MPs then discussed $250 million loan from the ADB, proposed by the President, for the COVID-19 impact response and expenditures.

The 7th day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 29 July.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win.

Secretary of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Min.

"People are the key"

Relief flight arrangement for Myanmar citizens travelling abroad for urgent matters

1. The Union Government has been organizing relief flights for Myanmar citizens to return from overseas amid the suspension of international flights due to COVID-19 and prevention and containment measures against the disease implemented by the host country. However, Myanmar citizens who need to travel abroad for urgent matters are also facing difficulties.
2. Thus, the Union Government will be organizing relief flights and special flights abroad for the following purposes: citizens with emergency medical treatment or surgical appointments abroad, citizens and seamen required to return to overseas workplaces on time, scholars and students going abroad for studies either on government or personal programmes, and other urgent matters.
3. The following arrangements have been made for Myanmar citizens travelling abroad for urgent matters:
   a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport and Communications will coordinate and announce the flight schedules for relief flights, special flights and cargo flights departing from Myanmar.
   b) Myanmar citizens wishing to travel abroad have to procure the necessary documents for travel into their respective nation in advance and apply for an entry visa at the relevant embassy in Yangon by their own arrangement.
   c) Myanmar citizens travelling abroad have to submit the necessary documents to the airline arranged for their relief flight and register in advance. The airlines will compile a list of travelling citizens who have fulfilled all entry requirements and submit the list to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (As an exception, the ministry will negotiate with the Embassy of Thailand for Myanmar citizens seeking medical treatment in Thailand and their careers. Citizens need to submit the necessary documents to MoFA at the same time they register with the airline.)
   d) MoFA will review the travelling citizen lists in order of priority and seek approval from the national-level central committee. The ministry will coordinate with relevant ministries and embassies the arrangements to board the relief flights and special flights.
   e) MoFA will send a list of approved citizens for travelling to the airlines in return. Approved citizens will then need to contact their respective airline for purchasing the plane tickets.
   f) Citizens wishing to travel abroad can apply for COVID-19 tests at the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) or Public Health Laboratory (Mandalay). (Due to limited capacity, the Ministry of Health and Sports will only conduct the lab tests for citizens who have been approved to fly in the scheduled relief/special flights.)
   g) Citizens who will be on connecting flights (especially in Incheon International Airport, South Korea) need to prepare their plane tickets for the next flight, within the 24-hour transit period, and submit it to their respective airline in advance.
4. The majority of foreign nations are still restricting entry on the basis of COVID-19 protection and containment. Myanmar citizens wishing to travel abroad are advised to carefully read the COVID-19 measures and immigration requirements of the respective countries they are travelling to and to closely adhere to them as well.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
27 July 2020

557 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 27 July

A total of 557 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 27 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 54,353 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 302 males and 255 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 20/2020

8th Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME
(27 July 2020)

Reassigned to perform original military duties

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Major-General Than Htut has been reassigned to perform his original military duties.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 21/2020

8th Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME
(27 July 2020)

Appointment of Deputy Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 17 of the Union Government Law, Major-General Phone Myat, the Office of the Commander-in- Chief (Army), has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Border Affairs.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 22/2020

8th Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME
(27 July 2020)

Appointment of Judge for Mandalay Region High Court

In accord with the provisions stated in article 308 section (b), sub-section (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and article 82 section (d) of the Union Government Law, article 50 of the Union Judiciary Law and article 18 section (d) of Region or State Government Law, Daw Khin San Myint has been appointed as Judge for Mandalay Region High Court.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Supreme Court sits on appeal cases

THE Union Supreme Court passed judgements on one special civil appeal case and heard six special civil appeal cases yesterday.

Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Union Supreme Court Judges U Thar Htay and U Myo Win led the judgement at Union Supreme Court room number 1. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Only you can create your own happiness

In the lifetime of a person, one cannot say that five or six months is a long time. The reason she had to keep reminding frequently was that Myanmar was not a rich country and therefore had to exist based on spiritual strength. Existing based on spiritual energy means to exist based on discipline. That is why duty needs to be respected and discipline should be maintained. Each person needs to know how to live happily with contentment. Only you can create your own happiness.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)

ASEAN to continue supporting Myanmar repatriation programme for displaced persons from Rakhine

The 3rd High-Level Coordination Meeting is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR and ASEAN discussed measures and progresses on repatriation programme for the displaced persons from Rakhine State during the 3rd High-Level Coordination Meeting yesterday.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Secretary-General of ASEAN Dato Lim Jock Hoi delivered opening remarks at the meeting.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, the joint-chair of the meeting, said that Myanmar is making the united efforts to repatriate the displaced persons and to develop socioeconomic situations in Rakhine State despite some challenges amid the outbreak of COVID-19.

After the 2nd edition of this meeting, technical work groups held discussions; the ASEAN Ad-Hoc Support Team was formed; prioritized projects were identified. With the coordination of ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre, Myanmar officials made two visits to the displaced persons in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh to explain repatriation processes and findings from Preliminary Needs Assessment.

Myanmar is also implementing the MoU signed with UNHCR and UNDP, and meeting with the locals for resettlement of displaced persons and closures of IDPs. The government is working with the Singapore-based Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC) with the assistance of UEHRD to conduct the vocational trainings for young people in Rakhine State.

Relief supplies are being given to IDPs and temporary displaced persons in cooperation with WFP and ICRC.

At the 36th ASEAN Summit, the leaders of member countries supported Myanmar's efforts on harmony of social communities and sustainable development programmes in Rakhine State.

The Secretary-General of ASEAN remarked conducting Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA) is a crucial step for both ASEAN and Myanmar, and the bloc will continue support in implementing recommendations in the PNA.

He also suggested other important projects should be identified for Rakhine State, in addition to the existing 7 prioritized sectors, and he pledged to provide more assistance through humanitarian assistance programmes.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin highlighted importance of cooperation between ASEAN and Myanmar.

The MoUs with UNDP and UNHCR have been extended one more year; field surveys have been conducted and plans for effective results have been drawn.

He added that houses will be constructed in the villages where pilot projects will be conducted; Myanmar government will make more discussions with Bangladeshi ambassador for repatriation process of displaced persons, and it is believed the two countries could make positive discussions for peace, social harmony and development in Rakhine State. The ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre, Ad HoC Support Team and the Department of Disaster Management discussed the prioritized projects, progress of cooperation, collected funds, plan for the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, progress in implementation of project, works of UEHRD, new areas for cooperation with ASEAN and the prioritized plans.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Over 200 Myanmar citizens return on relief flight

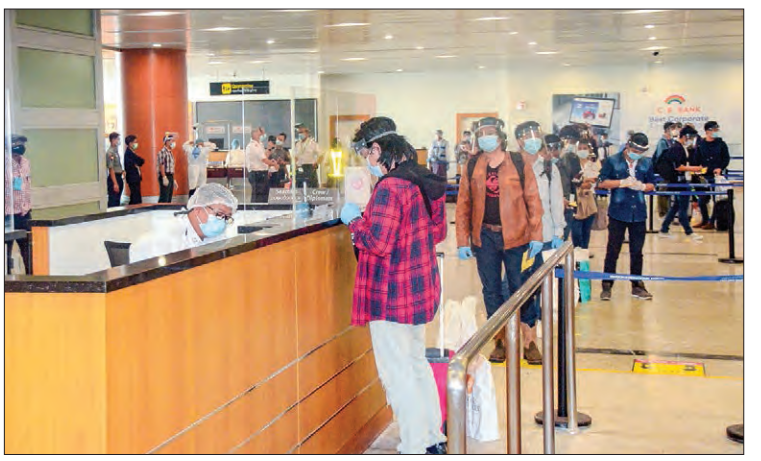
A relief flight of Qatar Airways carrying 205 Myanmar citizens landed in Yangon International Airport yesterday. The passengers included seamen, students, civil servants on training, and workers who had been facing difficulties in the UK, European countries, the USA, the Middle East and Africa due to COVID-19.

The Myanmar Embassy in London coordinated with 11 other Myanmar embassies in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and the local ministries to bring the Myanmar citizens back home.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped the returnees in the immigration process, medical examinations and 21-day quarantine preparations for the returnees.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with directives from the National Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 to bring back Myanmar citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international flights. The MoFA coordinates with Myanmar embassies/consulate offices and relevant ministries in this regard and has so far managed to bring 8,991 citizens back to Myanmar. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Myanmar citizens returned from foreign countries queue for immigration services at the Yangon International Airport on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe meets Defeat-NCD Partnership delegates

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe hosted the delegates of The Defeat-NCD Partnership, who visited his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, to explain the project on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in Myanmar.

Firstly, Programme Coordinator for Myanmar Mr Bhupinder Tomar discussed the objective of the National Costed Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2021-2022), the strategies, the relevant activities, as well as costs for diagnosis and treatments. The National Costed Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2021-2022) will be jointly carried out by the Ministry of Health and Sports and The Defeat-NCD Partnership.

Mr Bhupinder Tomar and the HelpAge International's project manager Dr Kay Khaing Lin presented a project proposal, jointly carried out by The Defeat-NCD Partnership and the HelpAge International, to be submitted to the World Diabetes Foundation.

During the meeting, the Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe pointed out that if Myanmar fails to exert efforts to prevent and control the diseases, non-communicable diseases can be a major public health problem in five years in the country.

Currently, 16 station hospitals, 144 local healthcare centres, 278 Maternal and Child Healthcare centres, 1,715 rural health centres, 7,317 sub-centres, and 16 border clinics are providing free diagnosis and treatment services for diabetes and hypertension.

The Union Minister said that his office will open more clinics that will provide free healthcare services for non-communicable diseases.

Unhealthy lifestyle factors are at the root of the non-communicable disease crisis, so the Ministry is providing health education services, said the Union Minister. He also highlighted that the joint project of the Ministry and The Defeat-NCD Partnership will include health education services.

The project will have 49 tasks. Important tasks need to be given higher priority, said the Union Minister, emphasizing that a committee need to be formed to monitor and review the project.

Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Khaing Win, Director General Dr Thar Tun Kyaw, Deputy Director General Kyaw Kan Kaung (Non-Communicable Diseases Department) and other attendees made discussions and suggestions. — MNA ■

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe holds talks with delegates from The Defeat-NCD Partnership at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

A MoSWRR official provides relief items to a local woman on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Supplies reach IDP camps for measures against COVID-19

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing medical and relief items to the IDP camps in Kachin and Rakhine states for prevention of COVID-19 transmission.

Moreover, the ministry is conducting awareness campaigns and motivation works in Nay Pyi Taw council area and other Regions/States.—MNA

The table shows supplied items and IDP camps in respective areas on 26 and 27 July 2020.

Items	Kachin	Rakhine	
	Lwejel	Sittway	MraukU
	6 camps	34 camps	11 camps
	27 July	27 July	26 July
Soap Bar	2,559	14,881	5,580
Lime Powder bags	60	330	110

MNA

Chinshwehaw sends back 127 returnees home on 27 July

A vehicle carrying returnees is seen in Chinshwehaw on 27 July 2020. Chinshwehaw's COVID-19 Containment Working Committee sent back a total of 127 returnees to thier natives on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Chinshwehaw's COVID-19 Containment Working Committee handed over a total of 127 Myanmar nationals who returned from China to their natives yesterday.

The returnees included 85 males and 42 females. Of them, 10 from Yangon, 14 from Mandalay, 6 from Sagaing, 4 from Bago, 10 from Magway, 10 from Ayeyawady, 7 from Kachin, 40 from Shan, 23 from Rakhine and 3 from Nay Pyi Taw.

The Chinshwehaw's COVID Committee handed over a total of 13,884 returnees—7,679 males and 6,165 females, to the townships concerned since 30 April.—Zin Zin (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

3-day Myanmar-Korea business meeting kicks off online at SME Centre Yangon

THE first 2020 Myanmar-Korea Technology Exchange Online B2B Meeting started on 27 July at SME Centre Yangon of the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, in coordination with Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME), in order to keep running the businesses amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The virtual meeting will keep running until 29 July. The 18 Myanmar companies and 3 companies from Korea participate the first day of "2020 Myanmar- Korea Technology Exchange Online B2B Meeting" on 27 July 2020, the KOSME stated.

The 2020 Myanmar- Korea Technology Exchange Online B2B Meeting is in progress at the SME Centre of Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection in Yangon on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

Director-General of the directorate asked the KOSME to link Myanmar's buyers with the enterprises of the Republic of Korea. The directorate will support the translators, interpreters, law consultants and things needed in order to facilitate the coordination of the businesses.

The Korea SMEs & Startups Agency (KOSME) is a non-profit, government-funded organization established to implement government policies and programmes for the sound growth and development of Korean SMEs.

With advisory programmes including consulting, training, marketing and global cooperation programmes, KOSME supports SMEs to enhance their global competitiveness. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sellers outnumber buyers in domestic gold market

AS the gold price is fast to spike yet slow to fall in the domestic market, the sellers exceed the buyers, traders said.

"When the global gold prices jumped in recent days, domestic gold price was fetched K1,278,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) in the fourth week of July. The market sees sellers outnumber buyers, according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

"Some people purchase gold at around K1.2 million per tical and they sell it when the price is up to around K1.299 million per tical on 22 July. This means buying low and selling high. When there is an increase in the number of sellers, the price slips. When the sellers surpass buyers, the gold price cannot remain high above K1.3 million per tical. The domestic gold price does not rise at the same rate despite the global hike. It is K85,000-90,000 lower than the global rate. The price is not likely to keep lower than the prevailing rate in the mid-monsoon season. The price is expected to remain around K1,278,000 per tical this week," said YGEA General Secretary U Win Myint.

The foreign demand for gold from neighbouring markets of China and India raised the domestic gold price last week. Additionally, the local forex market saw a slight gain of US dollar against Kyat then.

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.

(FILES) Saleswomen wait for customers at a gold jewellery shop in Yangon on 25 February 2015. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

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.

Following the record-high of $1,939 per ounce in the global market, the domestic gold fetched around K1,296,500 on 27 July, as per the YGEA's market data.

It is a week that the global gold prices keep rising $15 per ounce every day, the YGEA stated.

We cannot predict the gold price as it is fluctuating up and down by K10,000 per day, said a gold trader Ko Cho Gyi from Yangon gold market.

In early September last year, the price of pure gold reached an all-time 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.

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. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

No corporate insolvency yet reported under Insolvency Law

By Nyein Nyein

NO corporate or personal insolvency has been reported yet under the Insolvency Law of Myanmar, said Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Insolvency Law came into effects on 25 March 2020. The DICA is responsible for the insolvency register.

"We are trying to update online registry system MyCO for insolvency register, he said.

At present, there is no corporate insolvency or personal bankruptcy registered on DICA. However, the dissolution or deregistration of the company is reported to the directorate, he continued.

"The DICA receives the report for dissolution of corporate enterprises.

However, they use the term dissolution only. It is regarded under Myanmar Companies Law. Otherwise, there are rules for Insolvency Law. After the Law came into force on 25 March 2020, an effective liquidation or winding-up process for non-viable businesses is provided under the Insolvency Law. The government is scaling up its capacity in full momentum. The Union Attorney General's office, the office of the Auditor-General and the relevant entities from the private sector engage in this, he noted.

The provisions under the Insolvency Law and Myanmar Companies Law differ. The DICA is still observing the regulations of the Insolvency Law.

The Insolvency Practitioners' Disciplinary Committee and Insolvency Practitioners' Regulatory Council are jointly making efforts to appoint qualified insolvency practitioner, said U Thant Sin Lwin.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Voting is the right for all eligible citizens

Equality is the basic principle of a democratic society, and participating in elections and voting are the rights of all eligible citizens of a democratic country. All citizens above the age of 18 are eligible to vote.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has a responsibility to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to every eligible citizen, because proof of citizenship is required to determine whether a citizen is eligible to vote in general elections.

In this regard, to ensure voting rights to Myanmar nationals at home, as well as our citizens in foreign countries, the ministry is working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries.

Our people, for their part, are also obliged to check their personal data to determine whether their cards are filled with correct data. Only then can officials re-issue the cards again before election day with the correct data.

> ... to ensure voting rights to Myanmar nationals at home, as well as our citizens in foreign countries, the ministry is working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries.

It is worth noting that the ministry issued the citizenship scrutiny cards to over 350,00 people aged 10 years old and 18 years old and above in 2020.

Issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards is still a top priority for the ministry and also a national duty for it. Hence, a work plan should be drawn up systematically to ensure the mission is completed in a timely manner.

Besides, issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards is a test of perseverance of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, especially in this period as the 2020 general elections is slated to be held on 8th November.

To make the electoral process smooth, the members of the sub-commissions and the UEC need to ensure they provide information and documents to the people from all sectors and to raise awareness about the voters' list.

It is the duty of relevant sub-commissions to ensure the list is kept up to date.

To get accurate voters' list, the people also need to cooperate with relevant sub-commissions and local authorities by checking the voter's list when they are put up to correct any errors, file complaints or make requests.

Meanwhile, political parties are also obliged to make sure their constituents fully understand that they are only capable of voting if their name is on the voter's list and to assist them in reviewing the list.

We want every eligible citizen to be able to vote, and we want registration to be easy but accurate.

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Hepatitis C: We must support people who inject drugs in Myanmar

By Nu Nu Lwin (MdM)

ON WORLD Hepatitis Day, Médecins du Monde (MdM) and its partner organizations, Drug Policy Advocacy Group, Metta Development Foundation, National Drug User Network-Myanmar and Alliance –Myanmar urge expansion of hepatitis C prevention and treatment services for people who inject drugs (PWID) and other people at high risk of infection.

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), an estimated 95,000 people in Myanmar inject drugs. More than half of them (56%) are living with hepatitis C virus (HCV), a deadly blood-borne infection. Despite the efforts of MoHS and partners, access to live-saving treatment remains extremely limited in Myanmar, particularly for PWID.

Heptitis C treatment provision in Myitkyina.

The new direct-acting antiretroviral (DAA) treatments can cure hepatitis C within 3 months, have less side effects and have become more affordable, but many barriers to prevention and treatment services for PWID remain. These include limited health literacy, low coverage of PWID-friendly health care services in remote areas and costs for required lab tests. Although the cost of treatment has decreased to around 1,500,000 MMK, this is not affordable for most of the people who used drugs.

Stigma towards drug use is also a big challenge. PWID are often arrested and harassed, driving them into self- stigmatization. They may exclude themselves from their families and society, limiting even more their access to health care and treatment. PWID take the worst of Myanmar's Hepatitis C infections, yet they have very limited opportunities to access treatment.

Comprehensive harm reduction services are also essential in line with hepatitis C care and treatment in order to prevent re-infection. There are risk factors like sharing needles or injecting equipment in the daily drug use which can cause a new infection even if people got cured. Thus, self-support groups can be the necessary bridge between PWID and medical professional to get relevant information with regard to hepatitis.

In collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland (MSF –CH), MdM has started offering hepatitis C prevention and treatment in Kachin in 2019. Through this programme, MdM and MSF-CH could help improving access to treatment for Myanmar's most vulnerable populations. Total number of 791 patients were enrolled from July 2019 until now in the programme: 530 started treatment, 373 completed the treatment period and 113 were cured. Community engagement in the programme is a strong support to improve the dissemination of preventive education including treatment adherence. This effort is made possible thanks to generous support from INGO private funds and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Ko Kyaw Kyaw (not real name), injecting drug user who is taking hepatitis C treatment from MdM shared: "It has been 10 years since I have known I was positive for hepatitis C. Even though I wanted to get the treatment in the first place, there were no clinic or hospital providing the treatment free of charge at that time. Besides, I would have been stigmatized by the local community for several times. Even my own family members didn't treat me well due to the fear of disease. As my health also deteriorated in 2019, I came to know that MdM was offering treatment for hepatitis C, which I think I was lucky and very blessed. The doctors (of MdM) put me in 6-months treatment plan. I took the blood testing again after 3 months when the treatment was completed. I was so excited to know the result: "What should I do if it's not cured?" When the doctors said it's been totally cured, I was so glad. After the treatment, my health becomes better and I faced less discrimination within the community as people get to know more about this disease. Now I can work really well without worrying about my health. And I am accessing harm reduction services from MdM to prevent reinfection"

Sun Ra Li (hepatitis C counsellor) who is working in Mogaung's Key Population Service Centre (KPSC): "Motivate yourself and take the pills regularly as per our advices. Hepatitis C is a curable disease and you can be cured completely."

"There are so many HCV infected patients among drug user community. They know that hepatitis C is a life- threatening disease. They were asking if MdM has any plan to treat hepatitis C monoinfected individuals. We still have limitations in the provision of hepatitis C treatment. Now we are only treating HIV/HCV coinfected individuals. Patients who only have hepatitis C also want the treatment" stated by Dr. Zaw Zaw Aung (HCV Program Manager)

Myanmar has made important progress expanding access to hepatitis C prevention and treatment services. However, if we want to meet the global health strategy goals to reduce new infections by 90%, and to cure 80% of people living with hepatitis C by 2030, we must improve availability and accessibility of hepatitis C prevention and treatment services, especially for PWID. We urge donors, local stakeholders, civil society, and the Ministry of Health and Sports to redouble efforts to provide hepatitis C treatment and care services for all vulnerable people in Myanmar.

■ ■ ■

Hepatitis C treatment provision in Hopin.

Coronavirus: latest global developments

HERE are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

Nearly 650,000 dead

The pandemic has killed nearly 650,000 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year, with more than 16.29 million people infected, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT on Monday based on official sources.

The United States has the most deaths with 146,935, followed by Brazil with 87,004, Britain with 45,752, Mexico with 43,680 and Italy with 35,107.

Chinese surge

China, where the coronavirus first emerged late last year, records its highest daily tally of new virus cases since April 14.

The 61 new cases are propelled by clusters in three separate regions that have sparked fears of a fresh wave. However, there has been no death from the virus in China since mid-May

Hong Kong: masks mandatory

Authorities in Hong Kong unveil the toughest social distancing measures yet to combat a new wave of coronavirus infections, with everybody forced to wear masks in public from this week.

Measures to deal with what Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung describes as a "remarkably severe" outbreak also include a ban on more than two people gathering in public and restaurants only being allowed to serve takeaway meals.

Record cases in Australia

Australia posts its highest number of new cases, 549, since the pandemic began, almost entirely driven by an outbreak in the southeastern state of Victoria.

Authorities admit a second wave of clusters in Australia's second city Melbourne is taking longer to suppress than hoped.

Gold hits record high

Gold prices rocket to a record high of more than $1,930.48 per ounce in Asian trade with spooked investors rushed into the safe-haven as the coronavirus spreads across the globe, while the weaker dollar also provides strong support.

Scaled down Hajj to start

Saudi Arabia begins hosting the annual hajj pilgrimage, dramatically downscaled due to the pandemic. Up to 10,000 people residing in the kingdom will participate in the Muslim ritual, a tiny fraction of the 2.5 million that attended last year.

PNG capital in lockdown

Papua New Guinea's prime minister orders a swift lockdown of the capital and warns the number of cases will likely explode in coming days, as the country records its first confirmed COVID-19 death.

Belgium: 'worrying' rise

Belgium is seeing a "worrying" rapid rise in cases, health authorities warn, with almost half of the new infections recorded around the port city of Antwerp.

There have been 1,952 new cases around Belgium over the past week, up more than 70 per cent on the previous week, officials announce, as the country's national security committee meets to consider tougher measures to slow the spread of the virus.

Bavaria to step up tests

Bavaria will set up test sites at its two biggest railway stations as well as key points on motorways, the leader of the southern German state says, as fears grow that summer travel could spark a new wave of infections. —AFP

■ ■ ■

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release No 28/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 25 July.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 25 July.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 29 July issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed U Khaing Tun Oo, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs, as Permanent Secretary of the same ministry.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Monday 27th July, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 28th July, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 13:00 hrs M.S.T on 27-7-2020)

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 (1½) feet above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

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.

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.

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

Yangon water pipeline replacement project completed 80 pc

YANGON City Development Committee (YCDC) is endeavouring to ensure the adequate water supply year over year in the six downtown townships and other townships, and water pipeline replacement project from Hlawga to Pyay Road under the 2019-2020 budget is 80 per cent completed.

The project has reached Sawbwargyigone area in Insein Township. It is a five-year project. This year, the project is expected to cover near Khayaypin Road in Mingalardon Township, said an official of YCDC.

The 66-inch-diameter reinforced concrete pipes are being replaced by 1,600-mm ductile iron water pipe for laying pipe network to Yangon city from Hlawga Booster Pump Station.

The replacement works are underway in the respective wards of each township.

"The project implemented under the current fiscal year budget is nearly finished," said U Sein Ohn, an official with YCDC when he inspected the laying work along Myintawthar Road, Thakayta Township on 27 July.

At present, the Gyophyu, Phoo Gyi, and Nga Moe Yeik reservoirs are the main sources of water supply in Yangon, providing over 205 million gallons of water every day.

YCDC staff and officials inspect the replacement of water pipelines in Yangon on 26 July 2020. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

To expand the water distribution network, projects are underway at Lagunpyin and Kokkowa, which aim to cover 90 per cent of the region's population by 2025, according to the YCDC.

In addition, the YCDC is creating water supply resources to provide adequate drinking water to Yangonites and is taking measures to reduce wastage in urban water distribution, with the assistance of international development donors.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe has urged Yangonites to systematically use water as half the water supply is getting wasted amid an increase in Yangon's population.

At present, the Yangon authorities are raising awareness about systematic water meter installation, dealing with water pipe leakages, unsystematic water consumption, management of water loss in urban water distribution, and curbing illegal connections to the water pipe network, he added.

To fulfil the requirements of water in the region, creating new water resource, laying water pipe, replacement and repair works are carried out as per the annual budget. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

21 Myanmar seamen spend hotel quarantine in Kawthoung

Twenty-one Myanmar seamen had signed off from the MTM-Vancouver ship and arrived in Kawthoung on 26 July 2020. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

TWENTY-ONE Myanmar seamen who signed off from the MTM-Vancouver ship anchored in the Andaman Sea arrived in Kawthoung on 26 July evening and are currently held under hotel quarantine.

The seamen who signed off the ship had swapped duties with 21 seafarers including Captain U Aung Tun Win.

The cargo vessel entered the Myanmar water near Kawthoung through Malaysia on 26 July evening.

They will be put under hotel quarantine for 21 days and their lab samples have been sent to the National Health Laboratory. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UK announces obesity plan as PM admits weight 'struggle'

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Restaurants will have to display calories on menus under plans announced by the British government on Monday to tackle the country's obesity problem, made more urgent by the coronavirus crisis.

Other measures outlined include bans on "buy one get one free" deals on unhealthy items, junk food television adverts being aired before 9 pm and a "consultation" on placing calorie labels on alcohol.

It is not the first time a British government has attempted to do something about the country's bulging waistlines, but this latest attempt has been prompted by the pandemic. Analyses show that nearly eight per cent of critically-ill patients in intensive care units with the virus were categorized as morbidly obese, compared with less than three per cent of the general population.

People take their daily exercise along the Leeds to Liverpool canal in Leeds, northern England on 2 May 2020, during the nationwide lockdown to curb the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Two-thirds of UK adults are above a healthy weight, with 36 per cent overweight and 28 per cent obese, according to government data. "Losing weight is hard but with some small changes we can all feel fitter and healthier," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said. Johnson required intensive care treatment in April after catching the virus.

To accompany the launch of the "Better Health Strategy", Downing Street posted a video of Johnson on Twitter on Monday, walking a dog and talking about his own "struggle" with weight.

The British premier has previously criticized government attempts to spur weight control but said the latest initiative would not be enforced "in an excessively bossy or nannying way".

The move to include calories on menus would be placed on restaurants, cafes and takeaways with more than 250 employees.

Another potential measure announced on Monday was a proposal to ban the placing of sweets and chocolate bars at supermarket checkouts. A Public Health England study published on Saturday found that obesity increased the risk of death from coronavirus by 40 per cent. Michelle Mitchell, Cancer Research UK's chief executive, said it was "a landmark day for the nation's health". However, the main opposition Labour party's health spokesman Alex Norris criticized the new initiative, saying the policies amounted to little more than "big promises". —AFP ■

Aussie researchers to investigate how diabetes impacts COVID-19 response

SYDNEY — As diabetes emerged as an important factor affecting the severity of COVID-19, Australian researchers hoped recovered COVID-19 patients would provide vital clues about how diabetes impacts COVID-19 response.

The University of Queensland began on Monday to recruit people with or without diabetes and recently recovered from COVID-19 to take part in a study. The research team will collect blood and urine samples from these volunteers and analyse their antibodies against COVID-19.

"This will help us compare how diabetes affect COVID-19 response - we want to know if the disease alters the duration and severity of COVID-19," said lead researcher, DrKirsty Short from the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences. — Xinhua ■

WHO announces landmark achievement in elimination of hepatitis B

GENEVA — World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Monday that the global prevalence of hepatitis B infections in children under five years of age has been reduced to less than 1 per cent.

"New research led by WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine shows that together we have achieved the global target set in 2000 to reduce the prevalence of hepatitis B infections in children under five years of age to less than 1 per cent by 2020," Tedros said at a virtual press conference on Monday. "This landmark achievement means we will dramatically reduce the number of cases of liver cancer and cirrhosis in future generations," he said.— Xinhua ■

Keeping borders closed not a 'sustainable strategy' against COVID-19: WHO

GENEVA (Switzerland) — Keeping borders closed to halt the spread of COVID-19 is unsustainable, the World Health Organization said Monday, urging countries to adopt comprehensive strategies based on local knowledge of where the virus is spreading.

Border closures and travel restrictions remain an important part of many countries' strategy to combat the novel coronavirus. At the same time, rising cases in a range of countries in Europe and elsewhere that had loosened measures after appearing to get their outbreaks under control have spurred discussions of possible fresh border closures.

But the UN health body warned that such measures can not be kept up indefinitely, and are also only useful when combined with a wide range of other measures to detect and break chains of transmission.

"Continuing to keep international borders sealed is not necessarily a sustainable strategy for the world's economy, for the world's poor, or for anybody else," Michael Ryan, WHO emergencies director, told journalists in a virtual briefing.

"It is going to be almost impossible for individual countries to keep their borders shut for the foreseeable future," he said, pointing out that "economies have to open up, people have to work, trade has to resume."

He acknowledged that when it comes to COVID-19, it is impossible to have a "global one size fits all policy" because outbreaks are developing differently in different countries.

While countries with rampant community transmission may need to use the blunt instrument of lockdowns to gain control of the situation, others should be burrowing down to get a clear overview of where and how the virus is spreading at a local level.

Don't 'release pressure'

They should be prepared to tighten or loosen measures accordingly, he said, warning against "releasing pressure" on the virus, which has killed some 650,000 people and infected 16.3 million worldwide.

"Release pressure on the virus and the numbers can creep back up." —AFP ■

This picture taken on April 15, 2020 shows a sign of the World Health Organization (WHO) at the entrance of their headquarters in Geneva amid the COVID-19 outbreak, caused by the novel coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gold forges record high as investors seek safety

Gold bars are displayed at the Exhibition "Gold, Treasures at the Deutsche Bundesbank" at the German Money Museum of the Deutsche Bundesbank in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on 10 April 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Gold soared to a record high on Monday as investors rushed into the safe-haven commodity on concerns about heightened China-US tensions, spiking virus infections and a lack of progress on a new stimulus bill in Washington.

"Always a sign of trouble, gold continued its red hot streak on Monday, the safe haven commodity looking mighty attractive after another troubling weekend of COVID-19 and US-China headlines," said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell. Dollar weakness helped send gold flying, after vast monetary easing measures put in place by the US Federal Reserve undermined confidence in the greenback.

The gold price hit an all-time high of $1,944.71 per ounce, well above its previous record of $1,921.18 in 2011. It later pulled back somewhat.

Relations between the world's two superpowers took another negative turn when a US mission in Chengdu was ordered to shut in retaliation for the forced shutdown of the Chinese consulate in Houston, Texas.

'Worried what comes next'

"Technically, the superpowers are all-square in this specific tete-a-tete – but investors are worried about what comes next," said Campbell.

After months of strong gains across equity markets -- fuelled by trillions of dollars in government and central bank support -- traders had already begun to step back, weighing the long-term economic impact of the coronavirus.—AFP ■

Japan's 1st integrated stock, commodity futures bourse opens in Osaka

TOKYO — Japan Exchange Group Inc. on Monday began futures trading in commodities including gold at its Osaka Exchange unit, offering the first one-stop trading platform in Japan for financial and commodities futures.

Amid continued sluggish commodity futures trading in the country, the Osaka Exchange enables combined trading using a single account to provide a more user-friendly service.

Akira Kiyota, Japan Exchange Group's chief executive officer, has said the integrated service provides "an opportunity to expand the market through the combined efforts of the industry."

On the first trading day of the merged exchange, gold futures briefly hit an all-time high of 6,594 yen ($62) per gram on the intraday basis, reflecting some investors' appetite for a safe-haven asset amid the novel coronavirus pandemic and growing U.S.-China tensions.The Osaka Exchange had handled financial derivatives such as stock and government bond futures. It took over futures trading operations for precious metals, rubber and farm goods from the Tokyo Commodity Exchange, known as Tocom, after Japan Exchange Group, which also runs the Tokyo bourse, merged the commodity exchange last year.— Kyodo News ■

Osaka Exchange. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Philippines Duterte touts fiscal vigour amid virus in national address

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte emphasized the country's prudent fiscal management and robust banking system amid the coronavirus crisis, during his annual address to the nation on Monday.

In his fifth annual state of the nation address, which lasted nearly an hour and 40 minutes, Duterte praised the Philippines for having a strong fiscal position despite the pandemic.

"Our fiscal position is strong, our economic fiscal management prudent, and our banking system robust. We are in a better position to weather the crisis caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic," Duterte said.

He also rang an optimistic tone that the discovery of a coronavirus vaccine would help ease the strains brought on by the virus.

"No nation was spared, neither rich nor poor were exempt from the onslaught of this deadly disease. But let us not despair. The vaccine is around the corner. Sooner and not later, the virus that gobbled up thousands of lives will itself be laid to rest," he added. — Kyodo News ■

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on **31st (Friday) July 2020** being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (030W/031E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (030W/031E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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.

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Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

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

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Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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Mitsubishi Motors expects biggest loss in 16 years amid pandemic

The logo of Mitsubishi Motors Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO— Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said Monday it is expecting a group net loss of 360 billion yen ($3.4 billion) for the current business year through March, its biggest loss in 16 years, due to slowing global sales following the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Japanese carmaker, an alliance partner of Nissan Motor Co. and Renault SA of France, also said it will close its subsidiary's plant producing Pajero and Outlander sport utility vehicles in central Japan in the first half of 2021 as part of restructuring efforts.

The projected net loss for fiscal 2020 would be bigger than the previous year's 25.78 billion yen and also the largest since fiscal 2004, when it recorded red ink of 474.79 billion yen after incurring massive recall costs.

It expects an operating loss of 140 billion yen, against a profit of 12.79 billion yen in fiscal 2019, on sales of 1.48 trillion yen, down 34.8 per cent.

For the first quarter ended last month, Mitsubishi Motors posted a combined net loss of 176.16 billion yen, compared with a net profit of 9.31 billion yen for the same period a year earlier. Its operating loss stood at 53.34 billion yen, a turnaround from a profit of 3.86 billion yen, on sales of 229.55 billion yen, down 57.2 per cent. — Kyodo News ■

German business climate index continues recovery in July: ifo Institute

BERLIN— The German business climate index rose from 86.3 points in June to 90.5 points in July, which marked the third monthly increase in a row, the Munich-based ifo Institute announced on Monday.

"Sentiment among German companies has improved further," said ifo Institute President Clemens Fuest. "The German economy is recovering step by step."

After plunging to a historic low in April, the ifo business climate index based on the economic sentiment of around 9,000 German company executives had already started recovering in May, according to ifo.

The business climate for Germany's manufacturing sector "once again improved considerably," the ifo Institute noted. The current situation of industrial companies was "no longer quite as poor" as in previous months. Also, German companies now expected business to improve in the coming months.

The business climate in the German service sector "rose strongly and is now in positive territory," the ifo Institute noted. Service providers in Germany were "distinctly more satisfied" with their current situation. —Xinhua ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Project No. P153113
Assignment Title: Township Level Technical Assistance

Ref No.	Region/State	Township	Ref No.	Region/State	Township
C6.03	Chin State	Mindat	C6.09	Bago Region	Oakpho
C6.06	Shan State	Tangyan	C6.11	Mandalay Region	Taungtha
C6.08	Tanintharyi Region	Palaw	C6.12	Yangon Region	Kayan

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank to implement the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDD) Project under the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. DRD in its role as implementing agency intends to apply part of the proceeds of the financing for the hiring of a specialized consulting firm in the area of Township Technical Assistance (TTA) for the **six (6) new townships** above starting in year six of the project, e.g. around OCTOBER 2020.

The key development objective of the NCCD Project is to enable poor rural communities to benefit from improved access to and use of basic infrastructure and services through a people-centered approach and to enhance the Government's capacity to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency. This approach will empower villagers to manage and participate in their own development. The objective will be achieved through: (i) financing community-identified rural infrastructure investments; (ii) strengthening the capacity of communities in partnership with local authorities to effectively identify, plan and implement their development priorities; and (iii) facilitating the participation of the poor and vulnerable, both women and men, throughout the project cycle at the community

The **infrastructure** will include small feeder roads, foot-paths and bridges, small dykes, drinking water systems, rehabilitation of class rooms and health centers, and small-scale rural electrification. Block grants will be allocated through a participatory planning process covering all villages within the village tracts in the selected township and planning and prioritization of sub-projects will be undertaken by villagers and representative, village tract forums.
Technical assistance and institutional support will be provided including the hiring of community facilitators for the purpose of supporting the implementation of community driven activities related to infrastructure and a grievance redress mechanism. In this context, it will support **capacity development** in areas such as participatory processes, project management, gender equality and inclusion, environmental management and social accountability for local committee members as well as government staff at the township, region/state and union levels.
Knowledge and learning beneficial to Government staff, community and civil society representatives through learning from community based approaches implemented within Myanmar, and also to expose government counterparts to successful community driven development approaches in ASEAN countries and other regions will be financed. There will also be annual **multi-stakeholder** reviews to share experiences from the previous cycle and discuss ways to improve the project's design and implementation for the next cycle. Finally, a **CDD gender network** will be established for the project to improve gender equality and women's empowerment.

The TTA consulting services (the "Services") include pro-active and full-time technical assistance to the DRD township office by a dedicated team of specialists from the selected consulting firm in order to achieve successful implementation of the NCDD Project and thereby covering all activities, aspects and disciplines required to achieve the project's objectives. In particular:
• Assisting township DRD offices in planning, implementing and monitoring project activities in the respective townships in line with the procedures contained in the Project Operations Manual and directions received from the DRD union office.
• Assisting villages and village tracts in (i) the preparation and annual revision of development plans; (ii) sub-project technical design, cost estimation, review and approval; (iii) sub-project implementation, including adherence to environmental and social safeguards outlined in the Project Operations Manual, procurement of labor and materials and supervision during implementation; and (iv) organization of annual social audits.
• Assisting village tract project support committees to manage project funds in a transparent and accountable manner.
• Where applicable, providing technical support as needed to existing project townships within the State/Region.
The consultant team/s will be based in the township and include five full time experts: (i) team leader/training specialist, (ii) finance officer, (iii) procurement officer, (iv) monitoring and evaluation officer, (v) communication/social accountability/gender officer. Furthermore, there may be short-term inputs by a national CDD program advisor and by an international CDD expert to support the township team. In addition, the Consultant will also recruit locally community facilitators and technical facilitators to be based in the indicated township.

The Services will be procured in six (6) separate contracts, each covering one of the townships listed above. The TTA Serviced are scheduled to start at the township level in NOVEMBER 2020, and for a duration of three (3) years with a likelihood of continuity and downstream work not limited to the townships listed above. Continuation and downstream work will depend on performance, project needs and the availability of funding as will be assessed as early as at the contract's midterm. Based on the same criteria, the contract may also be increased into additional townships of which the number remains to be determined.

Interested consulting firms must provide specific information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Short-listing criteria are (1) at least 10 years of experience in the field of township technical assistance in Community Driven Development or similar projects; (2) Having delivered in the last 5 years at least 3 similar projects of similar size, scope and nature; (3) Substantial experience in the development of rural construction documents, township level bidding documents and plans (4) Substantial experience in the management and supervision of multiple township level subprojects and related activities all under implementation at the same time and requiring timely and to the point expert inputs; (5) Substantial experience in terms of development and delivery of capacity building and knowledge transfer programs; (6) Substantial familiarity with the Social and Environmental Safeguards promoted by the Bank; (6) The ability to interact with a multiple stakeholders, ranging from government partners to the state and regional authorities, township committees, suppliers and other stakeholders like the Union level DRD and the International Development Association; and (7) working experience and familiarity with South East Asia and Myanmar.. Interested Consultants are requested to provide specific information and past project references in order to demonstrate they meet each of the short-listing criteria. There is no need, at this stage of the selection process, to provide with individual key expert CV's as they will not be taken into consideration earlier than the technical proposal evaluation phase.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below and clearly indicate for which township(s) (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) **by Monday 10 August 2020**. A Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in the World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants, January 2011. Interested consultants should pay attention to paragraph 1.9 of these Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint-venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. In the case of a joint-venture, all the members thereof will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short-listing. Unclear expressions of interest worded as "in association with …" and/or "in affiliation with …" without indicating the status of the partnership and the designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short-listing.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1600, Monday through Friday, except public holidays, or by simple e-mail request to:

Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, Director for Procurement and Logistics
NCDD Project Secretariat, Department of Rural Development, Office No. (36) , Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone Number: (+95-67) 418637
E-mail: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com

Sudan to deploy troops to Darfur after killings

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Sudan's prime minister said Sunday the country would send security forces to conflict-stricken Darfur to "protect citizens and the farming season".

AbdallaHamdok's announcement came two days after gunmen in the region killed at least 20 civilians, including children, as they returned to their fields for the first time in years, the latest in a string of violent incidents.

The impoverished western region has seen years of conflict since an ethnic minority uprising prompted the government to launch a scorched-earth campaign that left 300,000 people dead and displaced 2.5 million.

"A joint security force will be deployed in the five states of the Darfur region to protect citizens during the farming season," Hamdok's office said in a statement after he met a delegation of women from the region.

The force will include army and police forces, it said.

A demonstrator lights a flare while chanting slogans during a protest outside the Sudanese Professionals Association in the Garden City district of Sudan's capital Khartoum on 4 July 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Violence in Darfur has eased since Bashir's ouster by the army amid mass protests against his rule last year, with a preliminary peace deal signed in January between the government and a coalition of nine rebel groups, including factions from the region.

Farmers displaced in the conflict have since started to return to their land under a government-sponsored deal reached two months ago, in time for the July-November planting season.

But bloodshed has continued, particularly over land rights, according to expert Adam Mohammad.

"The question of land is one cause of the conflict," he said.

"During the war, peasants fled their lands and villages to camps, and nomads replaced them and settled there."

On Friday, armed men drove into a village and killed 20 civilians returning to their fields for the first time in years, an eyewitness and a tribal chief told AFP.

In late June and early July, hundreds of protesters camped for days outside a government building in the Central Darfur town of Nertiti to demand that the government beef up security after multiple killings and looting incidents on farmland and properties.

Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court over charges of genocide and crimes against humanity in the conflict. —AFP ■

US husband of French teacher charged with her murder

PEYRIAC-DE-MER (France) — French prosecutors on Sunday said they had charged a US national with the murder of his French wife, who was found stabbed to death near their holiday home in the southwest.

Officers arrested Billy Kruger on Friday as he was about to fly out of France from the airport in nearby Toulouse.

Hours earlier, police had found his 52-year-old wife's remains in a rainwater drain near the couple's holiday home in the village of Peyriac-de-Mer.

Prosecutor Marie-Agnes Jolie told AFP on Sunday that Kruger had earlier confessed to police to having stabbed his wife twice, and told the investigating magistrate that it was in self-defence.

He was charged with aggravated murder, she said.

The couple, who habitually spent a few weeks in Peyriac-de-Mer each year, were to have left on Friday for their home in Indonesia where Laure Kruger worked as a teacher.

Laure's father raised the alarm after the couple did not turn up at his home to say goodbye.

After the body was found, a manhunt ensued and Billy Kruger was arrested in the departure area of the Toulouse airport.

On Sunday, a bouquet of white roses had been placed at the top of the drain where Laure's body was found.

"We don't know yet what happened, but we never got any alarm signal from Laure regarding violent acts against her by herhusband," Laure's brother Pierre Bardina wrote on Facebook.

"You always think this can only happen to other people, but violence against women can happen all of a sudden."

This latest murder brings the number of suspected femicides in France this year to at least 40, according to an AFP tally.

In 2019, AFP counted at least 126 cases of women killed by their partners or ex-partners, or an average of one woman every three days. —AFP ■

Picasso murals removed from Oslo building damaged by Breivik

OSLO (Norway) — Despite protests, the removal of two murals designed by Pablo Picasso began on Monday from an Oslo government building damaged in right-wing extremist Anders Behring Breivik's 2011 attack, a project manager said.

The "Y Block", a government building complex named for its shape, is scheduled to be demolished due to damage from explosives that Breivik set before going on a shooting rampage, killing a combined 77 people.

On its grey cement walls are two drawings by Picasso that were sandblasted by Norwegian artist Carl Nesjar, who collaborated with the Spanish master painter.

On the facade facing the street, "The Fishermen" depicts three men hauling their oversized catch onto their boat. In the lobby, "The Seagull" shows the bird, its wings spread wide, devouring a fish.

On Monday, the works, weighing 250 and 60 tonnes respectively, were enclosed in massive metal supports to be transported away and stored nearby, according to Statsbygg, the public agency in charge of overseeing the demolition.

"The operation is very slow" and should be completed by Thursday or Friday, site manager Pal Weiby told AFP.

The plan is to integrate the works into a new government building scheduled for completion in 2025.

Opponents of the project, both in Norway and abroad, have been mobilising in recent years to save the building, calling for it to be renovated and preserved as has been planned for its neighbour, "Block H".

"Block H" was home to the prime minister's offices until Breivik blew up a van loaded with 950 kilogrammes (2,100 pounds) of explosives at its base, before he went on to carry out a mass shooting on the island of Utoya.

In addition to hoping to preserve an architectural work typical of the 1960s, opponents of the destruction invoke a symbolic argument: that the government buildings should remain standing even though the right-wing extremist tried to tear them down. —AFP ■

Activists form a human chain during a demonstration in a last-ditch effort to try to save a government-building adorned with Picasso murals on 12 May 2020 in Oslo. **PHOTO: AFP**

China records highest surge in virus cases since April

BEIJING (China) — China recorded 61 new coronavirus cases on Monday -- the highest daily figure sinceApril -- propelled by clusters in three separate regions that have sparked fears of a fresh wave.

The bulk of 57 new domestic cases were found in the far northwestern Xinjiang region, according to the National Health Commission, where a sudden outbreak in the regional capital of Urumqi occurred in mid-July.

Fourteen domestic cases were also recorded in the northeastern province of Liaoning where a fresh cluster broke out in the city of Dalian last week.

Two more local cases were found in the neighbouring province of Jilin near the North Korean border -- the first since late May.

The last four infections confirmed on Monday were imported from overseas.

It is the highest daily tally of new viruscasessinceApril 14, when 89 cases, mostly imported, were recorded.

Chinese authorities have rolled out mass testing for hundreds of thousands of people in the port city of Dalian.

This photo taken on July 25, 2020 shows people lining up to undergo COVID-19 coronavirus tests at a makeshift testing centre in a car park in Dalian, in China's northeast Liaoning province. China recorded 61 new coronavirus cases on 27 July-- the highest daily figure since April -- propelled by clusters in three separate regions that have sparked fears of a fresh wave. **PHOTO: AFP**

A second wave of mass testing was also launched in Xinjiang's Urumqi on Sunday to detect residents who had previously tested false negative, reported the state-run Global Times, following a mass testing effort earlier this month.

More than 2.3 million people in the city of 3.5 million have been tested so far, according to a local press conference Friday.

The outbreaks come as the Chinese Super League football tournament kicked off its much-delayed season on Saturday. Residential communities in both Dalian and Urumqi have been placed under lockdown, with authorities declaring a "wartime mode" to combat the virus. Experts still have not confirmed the origin of the recent Xinjiang cluster, which has infected 178 people to date.

The fresh infections in Jilin were announced just days after President Xi Jinping concluded an inspection tour of the province last week.

The area announced four new asymptomatic cases on Sunday, after screening travellers returning from Dalian.

Another 302 asymptomatic cases in China are under medical observation, health authorities said Monday, and there are currently 331 people ill with COVID-19 across the country, 21 in a severe condition.—AFP ■

OBITUARY

Daw Khin Nyunt (a) A Mar Gyi
Aged 100

We would like to inform friends and families near and far that Daw Khin Nyunt (a) A Mar Gyi, 100, who lives at No.85/86 in Mya Kan Tha Street (10 Mile Gone) in Insein Township, Yangon, daughter of (U Ba Kyi) + (Daw Ma Hinni San), wife of (U Ba Chit), mother of (U Than Khin) + (Daw Khin Than Cho), grandmother of (Daw Wah Wah Khin), Daw Ni Ni Khin, Daw Phyu Phyu Khin (Australia), Daw Nyo Nyo Khin (UK), Daw Htay Htay Khin (Singapore), Daw Thida Khin (USA) and U Zaw Min Khin, great-grandmother of Mg Hein Thant, Mg Hein Htet, Mg Nyan Ye Khin (Australia), Mg Lin Let, Ma Shwe Sin May Snow (USA), and great-great-grandmother of Avalon Khim,passed away at Victoria Hospital at 9:15 am on 27 July 2020 and was cremated at the Yayway Cemetery on the same day as she wished.

Bereaved Family

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Baghdad protesters dead after clashes with police: medics

BAGHDAD (Iraq) — Two demonstrators died in Baghdad early Monday after being shot in confrontations with security forces, the first victims of protest-related violence under a new Iraqi premier who had promised a dialogue with activists. The deaths threaten to reignite an unprecedented movement slamming government graft and incompetence, which erupted across Baghdad and the country's south in October but had waned in recent months. —AFP ■

Pyongyang 'looking to blame Seoul' for virus: analysts

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korea is seizing on the return of a defector from the South to point the finger at Seoul for the arrival of coronavirus in the country after months of denying it had any cases, analysts said Monday.

Pyongyang imposed a lockdown on the border city of Kaesong, saying it had found a suspected COVID-19 infection in a defector who had returned across the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula, state media reported at the weekend.—AFP ■

Renowned Japanese fashion designer Kansai Yamamoto dies at 76

TOKYO — Internationally renowned Japanese fashion designer Kansai Yamamoto, known for dressing the late rock icon David Bowie, died last week of leukemia, his family said Monday. He was 76.

Yamamoto, who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in February and had been hospitalized since, "left this world peacefully" last Tuesday while surrounded by family, his daughter and actress Mirai Yamamoto wrote on Instagram. The native of Yokohama, near Tokyo, became in 1971 the first Japanese designer to hold a fashion show in London after receiving Japan's Soen Award, which identifies up-and-coming fashion designers, in 1967.

His collection in London, inspired by Kabuki and treasuring Japanese aesthetics, brought him international recognition and a long-lasting friendship with some of the world's most high-profile musicians such as Bowie, who wore Yamamoto's bold and futuristic outfits for his alter ego Ziggy Stardust, as well as Elton John and Stevie Wonder. Yamamoto also participated in Tokyo, New York and Paris fashion weeks over the period from 1974 to 1992, according to the website of his company Kansai Yamamoto Inc.

He started off his career assisting Junko Koshino, another highly acclaimed fashion designer in Japan, and later became known as a designer who broke boundaries in fashion with his avant-garde works.

"Aesthetics of Japan... is of world standard, that's what I wanted to prove," Yamamoto wrote on the company website.

Also an event producer, Yamamoto oversaw the "Kansai Super Show Hello! Russia" in Moscow's Red Square in 1993, drawing an audience of some 120,000. He also held the Kansai super shows in Vietnam in 1995, in India in 1997 and in Gifu, central Japan, in 2000, according to the company, while he produced an event at the opening of the world expo in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, in 2005. —Kyodo News ■

File photo shows fashion designer Kansai Yamamoto during an interview in Tokyo in May 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

A Tatmadaw personnel (L) receives the football presented by MFF's officials on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MFF**

Tatmadaw opens football coaching course, basic football training

THE Defence Services Self-Defence and Sports Institute conducted Football Coaching Course (5/2020) and Basic Football Training (4/2020) at the institute in Yemon, Hlegu Township in Yangon Region.

The purpose of the courses is to enhance the football community of Tatmadaw and to assist the football community of Myanmar.

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein and Township Football Federation Adviser U Tin Aung (goal) attended the opening ceremony of the courses, and donated football gear to the institute, according to the MFF. — Kyaw Khin ■

MFF Legal Affairs Committee holds meeting (1/2020)

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Legal Affairs Committee held its meeting (1/2020) at the MFF's meeting hall in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Committee's Chairman U Zaw Min Sein, Vice-Chairman U Than Tun, Member U Khin Maung Myint, MFF Adviser U Bunny Tin Aung and General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein.

The Committee Chairman U Zaw Min Sein first made an opening remark and explained the ongoing procedures of the committee to the meeting.

The meeting also discussed matters related to administrative works, budgets and financial management, legal and statistics affairs, employee contracts with in-charges and staff of departments concerned, professional contracts, sponsor contracts, and bid on the dining hall. The meeting concluded at 3 pm. The next meeting of the committee will be held on 26 August. —Kyaw Khin ■

The meeting of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Legal Affairs Committee is in progress at the MFF's meeting hall in Yangon on 27 July 2020. **PHOTO: MFF**

Cricket one-day Super League launched to determine World Cup spots

Mumbai Indians team players celebrate with the trophy after their victory against Chennai Super Kings in the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 final cricket match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on 13 May 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW DELHI (India)— A new one-day international Super League to determine qualification for the 50-over World Cup in 2023 will launch this week, the International Cricket Council announced Monday.

Thursday's one-day international between world champions England and Ireland in Southampton will be the inaugural match of the 13-nation league, with World Cup hosts India and the next seven highest-placed teams automatically qualifying for the 2023 edition.

The ICC's 12 full members and the Netherlands will take part with each side playing four home and four away three-match series. The coronavirus pandemic has caused havoc with the cricket calendar with the 50-over and T20 World Cups pushed back. The start of the Super League was also delayed due to Covid-19.

The ICC said it was working with national boards to find dates for series in the new Super League to be "safely and practically rescheduled."

"The decision last week to move the (50-over) World Cup back to late 2023 gives us more time to schedule any games lost due to COVID-19 and preserve the integrity of the qualification process, meaning it will be decided on the field of play, which is important," said ICC general manager Geoff Allardice.

Under the previous qualifying system for last year's World Cup in England, the top eight teams in the ICC rankings were joined by the top two sides from a qualifying tournament to make up the 10-team event.

"We're looking forward to playing cricket again and to the ICC men's World Cup Super League," said England's limited-overs captain Eoin Morgan.—AFP ■

Qatar confirms plan to bid for 2032 Olympics

DOHA (Qatar) — Qatar will seek to host the 2032 Olympic Games, it said on Monday, joining a crowded field and raising questions about scorching summer temperatures and underwhelming attendances at past events.

India, Australia's Queensland state, the Chinese city of Shanghai and a potential joint bid between South and North Korea are also being touted for the 2032 summer games.

Under changes put forward in 2014, interested countries submit a request to join the non-committal "continuous dialogue", which Qatar confirmed to AFP it had done via a letter to the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne.

"Today's announcement marks the beginning of a meaningful dialogue with the IOC's Future Host Commission to explore our interest further and identify how the Olympic Games can support Qatar's long-term development goals," Qatar Olympic Committee president Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani told AFP in a statement.

Qatar unsuccessfully bid to host the 2016 and 2020 games, having proposed to host the former in October without first clearing it with the IOC.

It won a waiver to propose hosting the 2020 games, a joint bid with Baku, Azerbaijan, between September 20 and October 20, but failed to make the shortlist. —AFP ■