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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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87 Myanmar nationals fly back home from European countries on 31 August

Myanmar citizens returned from abroad line up for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR people stranded in France, Spain, Belgium and Germany and some European countries arrived back home by a relief flight of Amelia Airlines yesterday.

A total of 87 Myanmar nationals landed at the Yangon International Airport by the flight of France-based airline in the morning. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for 21-day quarantine.The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries to bring back Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The MoFA organized a relief flight of Amelia Airline to bring back 83 Myanmar sailors from tourist vessels operated by Norwegian Cruise Line Holding Ltd. on 7 June as they were stranded in France, Italy and the Netherlands. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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3 returnee seamen testing positive for COVID-19 receive treatments at Kawthoung District Hospital

THREE Myanmar returnee seamen who tested positive for COVID-19 are now receiving medical treatments at the Isolation Ward at Kawthoung District People's Hospital.

Two of them (case number 747 and 748) arrived back in Myanmar on 19 August via South Africa. They worked on MV Kouyou vessel. The other seaman from MT Steadfast vessel (case number 749) arrived back in Myanmar on 17 August via Indonesia.

They were quarantined at hotels in Kawthoung and got their COVID-19 test results on 30 August morning.

The three seamen are not Kawthoung residents. They are from Yangon and Bago regions.

After they tested positive, ambulances transported them from their hotels to the Kawthoung District People's Hospital yesterday afternoon in accordance with health guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Sports. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Seamen who tested positive for COVID-19 are receiving medical treatment at Kawthoung District People's Hospital in Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

"People are the key"

Cash donated for Eternal Peace pagoda, monastery, religious examination funds

CASH donation ceremony for completing the Eternal Peace Pagoda, renovation of the Maha Thanti Thuka Buddhist Missionary Monastery, and funds for the religious examination winners was held at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhamma Building at Kabar Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received the donations and handed back certificates of honour.

Also present at the ceremony were Director-General U Myint Oo of the Department of Religious Affairs, Deputy Director-General U Tun Nyunt and other officials.

The well-wishers donated K405.5 million for the Eternal Peace Pagoda, K10,008,000 for renovation of monastery and K1 million fund for the religious exam winners. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko accepts K100 million presented by a donor at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhamma Building at Kabar Aye Hill in Yangon 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Yangon govt invests K3 bln for electricity generation in Cocogyun

Yangon Region Government has spent K3 billion to construct a solar diesel hybrid power station in Cocogyun Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Yangon Region government is spending K3 billion to construct a solar-diesel hybrid power station for Cocogyun Township, as part of its plan for 100 per cent electrification in Yangon Region.

Construction will begin in September and is slated to be completed in December. The township is currently relying on a 350kVA diesel generator for electricity from 6 pm to midnight every day but will receive 24-hour electricity once the hybrid generator has been built.

Daw Sandar Min, Chairperson of the Yangon Region Committee on Finance, Planning and Commerce, said the township will be able to use 24 hours of electricity for its education, health, commercial and social sectors. The funding will come out of the Yangon Region government's budget and work will begin as soon as tender processes have been completed.

The regional government is hiring a boat for transportation from Yangon to Cocogyun and has plans to develop recreational centres and a coconut plantation project on the island, to attract foreign investments and create jobs, once 24-hour electricity is achieved.

Electricity plays an important role in the development of Yangon Region and Cocogyun Township is relying on a 24-hour supply for its agriculture, travel industry and construction of recreation centres, in addition to being a strategic position for defence. — Than Hitke ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

107 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 31 August, total figure sharply rises to 882

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **882** after **107** new cases were reported on 31 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **882** confirmed cases, six died, **354** have recovered, **347** have been discharged from hospitals and **61** were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 31 August 2020

Total Cases	New Cases	Total Death Tally
882	107	6

Recovery Update on 31 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
354	3	347

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 31 August 2020

New PUIs
61

Ministry of Health and Sports

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c).
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list.
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020
DAYS
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Union Minister Dr Pe Myint discusses development of English language TV channel

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint presided over the meeting to develop the English language Myanmar International TV channel yesterday.

The meeting was held at the Myanma Radio and Television office on Pyay Road in Yangon.

Director-General of MRTV U Ye Naing explained the history of MITV and the ongoing processes; Acting Deputy Director-General U Zeyar explained the organization of MITV, its experts and staff members, budget requirements and its future plans.

Chairperson of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co,Ltd. discussed ongoing and long-term plans for quality development of MITV channel; Chief Operation Officer U Zaw Min Aung about the programmes of channel and the supplies of company and the proposed sector to join with the government side.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint speaks during the meeting on development of Myanmar International Television (MITV) Channel on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior Executive Director Dr Thein Than Oo presented the broadcast of English-language Myanmar International Radio Channel (MIR Channel) Jointly broadcast by MRTV and Shwe Than Lwin Media Co,Ltd.

In response to the discussions, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint advised to accelerate cooperation in development of programmes, to report the future joint plans, to broadcast preparations for the free and fair multiparty general elections this year and control measures against COVID-19, to produce interesting programmes in line with the primary objectives of MITV, to attract more viewers to the channel and to conduct analysis on the audience measurement.

The state-owned MRTV-3 Myanmar International Channel was launched on 19 August 2001, and it has become a public-private channel MITV between MRTV and Shwe Than Lwin Media Co,Ltd. on 31March 2010 to increase the programmes, the global coverage, 24-hour broadcasting and channel rebranding for new presentations.

The MRTV and Shwe Than Lwin company began broadcasting the MIR FM radio in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay on 1 February 2018, and it can be listened on the mobile application, Facebook and website of the MIR.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar, India ink agreement on library materials

Myanmar Ministry of Education and the Embassy of India signed an agreement for provision of library materials and software in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar, directors-general and deputy permanent secretary from the Ministry of Education, and officials from the Embassy of India attended the signing ceremony between the Indian Ambassador and Director-General of the Basic Education Department U Ko Lay Win.

The materials for libraries and software will be set up with the support of India government at the 15 schools donated by Japan government in Sittway, Manaung, Pauktaw, Maungtaw and Myebon townships of Rakhine State. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar Ministry of Education and the Embassy of India sign an agreement for provision of library materials and software in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

To shape the future with your vote, let's check the voters list.

Community Security

The problems that exist in Rakhine State were many; in 2016 the ARSA terrorist group started their armed conflicts; because of this there were so many challenges in Rakhine State; more challenges had to be confronted because ARSA initiated attacks on 4th January 2019; the people suffered greatly; innocent people were harmed because of these armed conflicts; we had to protect peace and stability to protect our people; community security is related to peace and tranquillity; health is also included in this matter; if we are to have concerns and anxieties with respect to health, we have concerns all the time because there was no security in the community; we have issued health rules and regulations and reminded repeatedly with respect to COVID-19.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with stakeholders for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in Rakhine State on 28 August 2020)

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins Industry 4.0 Myanmar online discussions

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi took part in the online discussion of AHK Myanmar, the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce, yesterday afternoon.

In his discussions, the Union Minister talked about the impacts of modern technologies such as Internet of Things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and robotics on the factories and industries in replacing human workforces, and his appreciation on the research paper titled 'Industry 4.0 in Myanmar leapfrogging across sectors and how to overcome the barriers' jointly conducted by the consulting company Roland Berger and the AHK Myanmar.

He continued to say that although Myanmar has seen more development of digital technology i-mobile communications, financial communications, e-commerce and smart city sectors.

The Union Minister also remarked on the needs of teaching-learning skills that meet 21st century and 'soft skill' capacity for the students, and both high-tech learning and high-touch learning that are required for competition for employment in Industry 4.0 era.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in 'Industry 4.0 in Myanmar' online discussion on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Ministry of Education has used the Myanmar Digital Education Platform which is an online course for new curriculum of Grade 4, 7 and 10, while providing continuous assistance for online learning, technological, vocational and training education in the first priority in education sector.

The Union Minister finally called for the assistance of private sector, international agencies and all the relevant stakeholders to implement the National Industry 4.0 that corresponds with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan- MSDP (2018-2030) and the National Education Strategic Plan- NESP (2021-2030).

Then, German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thomas Neisinger made a speech before holding a panel discussion. —MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoSWRR provides cash assistance for IDPs, elderly people in Chin State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye yesterday presided over the videoconference marking handing over of cash assistance to the Chin State Chief Minister to use the money for IDPs and elderly people (aged between 80 and 85) in Paletwa Township and Sami, Chin State.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, the Chin State Social Affairs Minister, the directors-general, and the directors from Chin State's Department of Disaster Management and the Department of Social Welfare participated in the videoconference.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (L) joins the virtual ceremony to provide cash assistance for IDPs and elderly in Chin State on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

During the event, under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), Directors from Chin State's Department of Disaster Management and Department of Social Welfare officially handed over K79.28 million for 1,982 IDP households in Paletwa and Sami, and K5.52 million for 184 elderly people (aged between 80 and 85) in Paletwa Township. Similarly, the directors handed over K33,330,900 to buy three-month food supply for 921 IDPs in Tanelakwa Village in Paletwa as a regular food supply programme.

At the videoconference, the Union Minister said that Department of Disaster Management has been providing financial assistance to buy food for households in IDP camps in five states under the CERP. He added that Department of Social Welfare has also been providing special social welfare support to elderly people (aged between 80 and 85) amid COVID-19 crisis, and Department of Rehabilitation has been providing cash assistance to disabled people.

He also highlighted the efforts of Department of Disaster Management to educate IDPs about COVID-19 preventive measures in accordance with necessary guidelines. The department provided memory sticks storing COVID-19 related instructions, masks, face shields, soaps, washbasins, and thermometers, according to the Union Minister.

The Ministry also provided financial support to build "long houses" to accommodate suspected COVID-19 patients, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister warned of COVID-19 outbreak as Chin State shares border with India, where COVID-19 spread widely, and he called for public cooperation in efforts to control COVID-19 pandemic.

Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai said that the relief support will be distributed to IDPs and elderly people, and expressed thanks for the cash assistance.

A total of K183.9 million has already been handed over to relevant officials in the Chin State and the money has been re-distributed to 6,130 persons with disability in the Chin State.—MNA ■

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Myanmar garment sector faces hardship due to demand slump

THE CMP garment sector in Myanmar has been hit hard by the coronavirus impacts amid the global demand slump, said an official of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Supply chain disruptions and cancelling customer orders following the coronavirus outbreak hurt the global textile industry. Similarly, the CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is bracing for downward trend owing to the cancellation of the order from European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the pandemic.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued about US$4 billion around the past eleven months in the current financial year 2019-2020, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

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

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP garment industry has emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries.

Women make clothes at a sewing workplace in Yangon in July 2020. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The majority of Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free-on-board (FoB) system, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

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

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

However, foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses, including garment enterprises. The foreign investors are not bothered by the disputes between employers and employees and the closure of some CMP businesses during the mean times as Myanmar has EU's preferential trade. Of the investment proposals, the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses are prioritized by the commission.

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

The export value of CMP garments was only $850 million in the 2015-2016 budget year, but it has tripled over the last two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about $2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to $4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US. With demand from foreign trade partners growing, imports of CMP raw materials are rising year by year. Since an outbreak like COVID-19 might happen in the future, it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

The MGMA has more than 700 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar.—Ko Htet *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

India delays bean purchase due to COVID crisis

By Nyein Nyein

FOLLOWING the COVID-19 crisis, India has been putting off bean purchase despite its requirements, U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA) pointed out.

"We can guess there are bean requirements in India. They will respond to it sooner or later. The COVID-19 impacts hinder supply chain," he said.

India rapidly changed the import period of 400,000 tonnes of black bean to three months by August-end 2020 from the earlier set deadline of March 2021, as per their official notice on 22 May.

Although Myanmar bean body has asked for deadline extension for import quota of 400,000 tonnes set by India, there is still no response, he added.

"India reportedly held a meeting on 25 August, yet it has not yielded any meeting outcome. Now, the quota period has expired, and there is still no official letter regarding deadline extension. In my view, they are holding up amid the COVID-19 impacts", he stated. Myanmar has delivered nearly 100,000 tonnes of black bean of 400,000 tonnes quota. Around 200,000 tonnes of black beans are also stockpiled in the local market, the association stated. At present, Myanmar beans are demanded by Bangladesh, Dubai and Pakistan, beyond India, the association secretary stressed.

(FILES) A customer wearing face mask is paying purchased bean at a shop in Yangon on 9 May 2019. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The prevailing prices of the black bean are pegged at around K950,000 per tonne, while pigeon peas are priced K815,000 per tonne, as per the market's data.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black bean that India demands. Besides Myanmar, Australia and Africa grow other kinds of peas such as pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas, the association stated.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

UMFCCI strives for fast screening of COVID loan applications

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry is striving to offer the COVID-19 loan at the most initial time.

Over 10,000 businesses put in the loan application in the second batch of the COVID-19 loan, and 75 per cent of them are from the regions and states outside Yangon, which accounts for 25 per cent of the applications.

Over 7,600 businesses from the regions and states other than Yangon manually applied for the loan. The federation received more than 800 online applications. More than 1,500 enterprises were sent loan applications to UMFCCI office in Yangon.

Starting from 11 August, officials from the SMEs Department, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training under the Ministry of Education, Trade Department, Fisheries Department and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and 21 representatives from the affiliated organizations of UMFCCI are assessing the coronavirus loan amount, without a day off, so that the business can take out a loan in time.

If the businesses fail to complete the application requirement, the applications will not be discarded. The businesspersons will be contacted shortly. The priority sectors for the second K100 billion from the second batch of COVID-19 loan are agriculture, fisheries and livestock enterprises, export and import businesses, and vocational schools.

The committee has already granted the loan to the business stricken by the pandemic from the initial COVID-19 Fund. In the first batch, CMP garment business, hotel and tourism service and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were given priority, and SME sector is granted 70 per cent of the loan then. —Aung Thura

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar Online Expo Park attracts foreign traders

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

By Thant Zin Win

TRADERS from foreign countries are interested to buy Myanmar food, fruits and vegetables exhibited in the Myanmar Online Expo Park (Virtual), which was held from 24 to 30 August, according to the Myanmar International Trade Centre.

The online expo focused on business matching with Japan, China and Singapore. Traders from Japan want to buy Myanmar readymade food including tins of sardine, canned beef, instant noodles and instant vermicelli noodles. Traders from Singapore are interested to buy fruits and vegetables including mangoes, tomatoes, pomelos and chillies. Traders from China are keen to buy beans, sesame, rice, fishery products, dried tea leaves and lotus cotton.

Dr Thet Lwin Oo, Deputy Director of the Myanmar International Trade Centre, said, "Singapore wants to work in contract farming in Myanmar. The country also wants Myanmar rice. Singapore wants to make further discussions with Good Brothers of Myanmar. It wants a Myanmar company that can do the business effectively."

"The online expo was broadcast live in China. There were more than one million viewers from China. Sixty Chinese companies and more than 40 Myanmar companies took part in it. There were more than 100,000 viewers in Myanmar. People from several European and Asian countries also viewed the online expo," said Dr Thet Lwin Oo, who added that traders also discussed possible buying of dried elephant foot yam, locally known as Wa-u.

"We can say that the expo was successful because people across the world viewed it," said Dr Thet Lwin Oo. "I would like to urge companies to exhibit their products in the expos like this because they can sell food directly at higher prices. Seize the opportunity created by the government." There were more than 50 exhibition booths in the online expo (24-30 August) organized by the Myanmar International Trade Centre under the Ministry of Commerce. South Korean companies also participated in the expo by displaying their cosmetics. Official website of the expo is Myanmarexpopark.com. ■

(Translated by Maung² Swe)

Singapore remains top source of FDI in Myanmar in 2019-2020FY

SINGAPORE is likely to remain the top source of foreign direct investments into Myanmar in the current financial year 2019-2020, according to the data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The 18 Singapore-listed enterprises brought in US$1.6 billion into Myanmar in the past ten months (October-July). Singapore companies put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Hong Kong stood as the second-largest investors this FY with an estimated capital of $1.37 billion from 46 enterprises, followed by Japan investing $710 million in Myanmar. Myanmar attracted foreign direct investment of more than $5 billion between 1 October and July-end in the 2019-2020 financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises and assets of $116.557 million in the special economic zones, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar set an FDI target of $5.8 billion in the current financial year.

The FDIs flow into oil and gas, power, transport and communications, real estate, hotels and tourism, mining, livestock and fisheries, industrial estate, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, trading, logistics and other service sectors.

Both the foreign and domestic investment sectors are not affected by the COVID-19 negative impacts, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

"Infrastructure projects such as industrial parks and urban development projects are bringing large investments into the country," he said.

"Myanmar is trying to attract foreign investment by providing tax relief, tax incentives, investment opportunities, and fast processing of proposals. However, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting only responsible businesses to the country," he added.

Agri First Fertilizer Plant in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar since 2012, pulling in the FDI of $2.4 billion in the last financial year 2018-2019, $724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), $2.16 billion in the 2017-2018FY, $3.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY, $4.25 billion in the2015-2016FY, $4.29 billion in the 2014-2015FY, $2.3 billion in the 2013-2014FY and $418 million in the 2012-2013FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second-largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after top investor Japan. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

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- To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
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1 SEPTEMBER 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Amidst COVID-19, illegal returnees to face legal action

THROUGHOUT the country, concerned authorities have been dipping into the COVID-19 control management toolbox to demonstrate the country's decisive action, in the face of the global pandemic.

The authorities have been tracing those who had travelled to Rakhine State after 10 August, and have implemented travel restrictions to Rakhine State to fight the spread of the coronavirus infection within the state.

To quickly control the fast-spreading coronavirus in Rakhine State, our response to the outbreak should take place in a timely manner.

It is found that the ministries concerned, joining hands with each other, are taking steps to try to prevent further illegal returnees from coming back to Myanmar and to prevent the spread of the virus from Rakhine State to other parts of the country.

> To quickly control the fast-spreading coronavirus in Rakhine State, our response to the outbreak should take place in a timely manner.

The most important thing is that the participation of the people in Rakhine State is key to overcoming the current challenges in the state.

Considering that further illegal returnees from the neighbouring country sharing a border with Rakhine State is an important factor in our efforts to contain the current outbreak in the state, the authorities have also beefed up surveillance at the border and enforced stricter COVID-19 preventive rules and measures.

As displaced people are staying in crowded conditions at the camps, if one of them is infected with the virus, an outbreak is very likely and can become uncontrollable.

Anyone who has illegally entered the country and anyone aiding them will face legal action.

Those who come into the country illegally, those who receive them knowingly, and those who cover up will be dealt with strictly and severely according to the law.

We would like to urge people to participate in preventing innocent people from falling into the COVID-19 abyss by informing ward or village administrative authorities if anyone knows about any incidents that could endanger public health.

Authorities are highly advised to play a recording of the Ministry of Health and Sports' COVID-19 prevention guidelines daily over loudspeakers – guidelines to remind the people to follow the rules and guidelines. This is not meant to cause panic, but to prepare citizens for what lies ahead.

We all should understand that things may get worse before they get better. Our people must stay united during these trying times.

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Circulation order is in easier way.

Epidemics, Economics, And Externalities

By Koichi Hamada

Koichi Hamada.

COVID-19 and its collateral damage continue to leave a trail of devastation around the world. Millions of businesses have closed, with many having no realistic prospect of reopening. Millions of people have lost their jobs. Millions are without health care. Some families are suffering from food insecurity for the first time. While the well-to-do can manage by using their savings, those who live from pay check to pay check, or hand to mouth, are suffering unfathomable hardships.

The pandemic also poses an almost impossible problem for traditional economic thinking. Most economists believe that the price mechanism will allocate resources efficiently, if not equitably, and that competition will maximise national income. But this assumes, crucially, that the activities of individuals or firms do not directly affect those of other agents, except through price signals in the market that indicate the scarcity of a product.

Economists refer to these effects as "externalities," and divide them into external economies and diseconomies, depending on whether they are positive or negative. Such externalities prevent resources from being allocated efficiently.

Consider the decision whether or not to wear a face mask. In the absence of a pandemic, the demand for and supply of masks reflect the benefit and cost of producing them. Mask wearers will be protected from harmful substances in the air, but will incur costs: inconvenience, some discomfort, a possible loss of physical attractiveness, and of course the price of the mask. The market will equate the benefit and the cost, and scarce resources will be used in adequate amounts.

But this is not the case when externalities exist, as with COVID-19. Today, wearing a mask will deliver many benefits beyond those to the individual mask wearer. If the wearer is infected, the mask will prevent transmission of the coronavirus to friends, and further to friends of friends.

Here, the market fails, because the benefit of wearing a mask is far higher than what a single individual would estimate for themselves. National or municipal governments must therefore intervene and make it mandatory for all residents to wear one.

By requiring everyone to wear a mask, rather than leaving the decision to personal choice, a community can better protect itself from the substantial ravages and suffering caused by COVID-19. I live in Connecticut, where the state's governor and his pandemic task force have responded appropriately and done a good job of containing the virus.

The state has so far been one of the most successful in the United States (US) in terms of infection and mortality rates. By contrast, governors of other, mostly southern states refused to listen to scientists and health experts, and thus did not mandate mask wearing or enforce shelter-in-place orders and social distancing guidelines.

Similar externalities, or technological diseconomies, exist with respect to the environment. If a firm freely disposes of a large amount of sewage or air pollutants, then it is not paying the cost of the harm that its discharges or emissions will cause. The company is thus producing the substances in far greater quantities than a comparison of social cost and social benefit would deem adequate.

Yet, US President Donald Trump's neglect and dismantling of environmental regulations encourages such behaviour, because it enables many firms to avoid the cost of external diseconomies and impose additional hazards on society. Environmental deregulation assumes away the externalities the regulations were intended to address.

This reflects a broader mindset shared by Trump and leading Republicans such as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. It is reflected in a lack of compassion or empathy for others, particularly non-white people and other marginalized groups – many of them US citizens – who are suffering from poverty or illness. One can only assume that Trump and those like him are unable to regard others as entitled to comparable concern and respect as those in their wealthy, rarefied circles.

But we can turn for inspiration to Guido Calabresi, the US Circuit Court Judge and Professor Emeritus at Yale Law School who, along with the late Nobel laureate economist Ronald Coase, laid the foundations of the interdisciplinary "law and economics" approach. Calabresi highlighted the importance of social justice and the serious impact of sudden income fluctuations on people involved in accidents – very similar to what many are experiencing during the current pandemic.

In his book The Future of Law and Economics, Calabresi explores a new approach that incorporates externalities into consumption. In particular, he argues that a legal system which reflects people's compassion toward one another may help to create a more equitable society.

Calabresi's idea is especially welcome and enlightening at a time when too many leaders are neglecting the struggles and pain of their fellow citizens. Perhaps close study of Calabresi's argument and propagation of his ideas among policymakers would contribute to fostering a much-needed sense of social solidarity in a world where the self-absorption of some is a threat to all.

Koichi Hamada is Professor Emeritus at Yale University and a special adviser to former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

■ ■ ■

Coronavirus: latest global developments

PARIS (France)— Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

More than 847,000 dead

The pandemic has killed at least 847,071 people worldwide since surfacing in China late last year, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT Monday.

More than 25.2 million cases have been registered.

The United States has recorded the highest number of deaths with 183,068, followed by Brazil on 120,828, India 64,469, Mexico 64,158 and Britain 41,499 fatalities.

Australian cases drop

Australia reports fewer than 100 new coronavirus cases, the lowest number in two months as authorities appear to bring an outbreak in second city Melbourne under control.

Victoria state, which has been battling a second wave of infections in the city, recorded just 73 cases after peaking above 700 in late July, providing hope for a way out of a strict city-wide lockdown.

New Zealand lifts Auckland lockdown

Schools across New Zealand's biggest city Auckland reopen as it emerges from lockdown, with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern expressing confidence a second-wave outbreak is under control.

Aucklanders are allowed out of their homes, but the government limits non-school social gatherings in the city to 10 people and makes masks compulsory on public transport nationwide.

Protesters 'shameful': Merkel

German Chancellor Angela Merkel condemns as "shameful" an attempt by protesters angry at coronavirus restrictions to storm parliament, saying they had abused the right to demonstrate peacefully.

A woman undergoes a PCR test for the novel coronavirus at a control post in the municipality of Renca, Santiago on 26 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Several hundred people tried to get into the Reichstag building during a rally against coronavirus rules in Berlin on Saturday.

US demonstrations against flu jabs

Hundreds of people demonstrate Sunday in the US city of Boston against a new state rule mandating flu shots for students, a measure intended to ease the impact of the pandemic.

The northeastern state of Massachusetts became on August 19 the first in the United States to add seasonal flu shots to a list of mandatory vaccines for students, though exemptions are granted for religious or health reasons.

- Economic damage -

Italy posts a record economic contraction of 12.8 percent in the second quarter after household spending and investment crashed during lockdown, driving the eurozone's third-largest economy deep into recession.

And state-controlled Russian energy giant Gazprom announces that net profit fell 25-fold in the first half of 2020 due to the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic and low oil and gas prices.— AFP

■ ■ ■

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

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 32 /2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 29 August.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 29 August.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 2 September issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

Appointment of EU ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Ranieri Sabatucci as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in succession to Mr Kristian Schmidt.

Mr Ranieri Sabatucci was born in Rome in June 1960. He earned M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Perugia, Italy in 1986. From 1986 to 1989, he worked at the Italian Volunteer Service. From 1989 to 2008, he served at the European Commission; from 2008 to 2016, at the Division for the Pacific and at the Division for South East Asia and ASEAN at the EU External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, Belgium.

Since 2016, he has been serving as the Ambassador of the European Union to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish.

He is married and has two daughters.—MNA

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 31-8-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (2) feet above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level about (1½) feet during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level about (½) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level about (½) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung has exceeded by about (3) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (3) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada Township, Zalun Township and Seiktha to take precaution measure.

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

446 Myanmar migrant workers return from Thailand via Myawady border on 31 August

A total of 446 Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand through the border friendship bridge No.2 yesterday.

Kayin State Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung, and officials helped 260 males and 186 females in their medical tests and other supplies.

A total of 71,613 returnees have come back home until now through the border since 1 May.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand (L) are seen at Myawady border on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

8 Myanmar returnees from China arrive in Chinshwehaw border crossing

Myanmar citizens returned from China have temperature checked at Chinshwehaw border on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)**

EIGHT Myanmar nationals who returned from China came back home through Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw on 30 and 31 August.

The group included 4 males and 4 females — 2 from Yangon, 3 from Magway, and 3 from Shan State.

The Work Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 in Chinshwehaw sent the returnees to their respective regions and states by arranging vehicles.

A total of 14,761 returnees have been sent back to their respective places via this route to date.—Zin Zin (IPRD)
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Border security tightened along Pachan River in Kawthoung district

AUTHORITIES made a field visit to Seikphu Village border checkpoint yesterday as greater emphasis is placed on border security in the Khamaukkyi area of Kawthoung District along the Pachan River that divides Myanmar and Thailand.

U Khaing Ko Oo, Khamaukkyi Town Administrator, led other department officials on the inspection. With just the river acting as a barrier between the both nations, there could be oversight and illegal travelling that might spread COVID-19 further. Village administrators and border guard posts have to work together to prevent that, said U Khaing Ko Oo.

Attending a discussion on border crossing security there with him were the head of Maran police station and officers, the administrators of the 6 Shan villages along the Pachan River, local elders and officials from the sub-rural health centre. —Nant Lay Lay (Khamaukkyi IPRD)
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Local authorities raise public awareness to tighten border security along the Pachan River between Myanmar and Thailand on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: NANT LAY LAY (KHAMAUKKYI IPRD)**

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

Baltic states ban Belarus leader over election fraud, violence

VILNIUS (Lithuania) — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on Monday blacklisted embattled Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and 29 other high-ranking officials over alleged election fraud and a crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.

The Baltic EU members announced their sanctions in a coordinated effort to support the protests in Belarus, which are now entering a fourth week since the country's disputed presidential election on 9 August.

"We are sending the message that we need to do more than just issue statements, we must also take concrete action," Lithuania's Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius told AFP.

Lukashenko aside, the national blacklists also feature 29 officials including from the election commission, ministries and law-enforcement bodies. Linkevicius said the lists may be expanded in the near future.

His Estonian counterpart UrmasReinsalu said the Balticstates were "demonstrating that we are addressing the human rights violations in Belarus with utmost seriousness".

Demonstrators protest against the results of Belarusian presidential election outside the Belarusian embassy in Moscow on 12 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

The European Union is also mulling travel bans and asset freezes on around 20 Belarus officials but the list requires the approval of all 27 EU states.

Some Western EU members say sanctioning Lukashenko could hamper efforts to broker dialogue between the authorities and the opposition and push him into Russia's arms.

Formerly occupied by the Soviet Union, the Balticstates are all now in the eurozone. Latvia and Lithuania have borders with Belarus.

Lithuania, which has taken a lead in European diplomacy on Belarus, is giving refuge to Belarusian opposition challenger Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. —AFP ■

Safe school reopening 'top priority' for Italy's Conte

ROME (Italy) — Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte vowed Monday that making schools safe from the coronavirus was Italy's "top priority", as millions of pupils get ready to return to class in two week's time.

Some eight million youngsters are due back on September 14 after a six-month absence following Italy's severe two-month lockdown which started in March.

"Once again Italy is in the front row to develop useful strategies to fight the coronavirus," Conte said in a tweet.

The safe reopening of schools "today is our top priority", he said.

One of the first countries in Europe to be struck by coronavirus, Italy shuttered schools on March 5 and since then learning has been very limited.

Ten days ago the government published new protocols to deal with renewed outbreaks of coronavirus which has killed almost 35,500 people so far, according to official statistics.

The protocols include the immediate quarantine of those who were in "close contact" with a pupil or teacher who tests positive for Covid-19.

Face masks are mandatory for all children over the age of six when they move around the schools except for gym class, eating in canteens and answering a teacher.

Italy has also dropped off 2.4 million individual desks and will daily hand out millions of face masks and as well as 170,000 litres of disinfectant gel every week.

But uncertainty remains ahead of school's reopening.

Several regions including Puglia and Calabria in the south have postponed reopening until September 24 and others are considering doing the same.

President Sergio Mattarella on Monday urged Italy to "effectively face its responsibilities in this difficult time, saying schools were a "decisive resource". —AFP ■

Parents and children from Rome's public primary and secondary school "IC Largo Oriani" take part in a flashmob entitled "Open School" (ApritiScuola) at the Gianicolo Belvedere overlooking Rome on June 8, 2020, to mark the end of their "unusual school year" as the country eases its lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 infection, caused by the novel coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rwanda arrests hotelier from 'Hotel Rwanda' on 'terrorism'

KIGALI (Rwanda) – Rwandan investigators announced Monday they had arrested Paul Rusesabagina, whose heroic actions during the 1994 genocide were depicted in the Oscar-nominated movie "Hotel Rwanda", accusing the high-profile government critic of terrorism.

The Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) said Rusesabagina, who lives in Belgium, had been detained "through international cooperation" and was being held at a police station in the capital on serious charges.—AFP ■

UN honours Ugandan troops for serving in volatile Somalia

KAMPALA – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has honoured 600 Ugandan troops guarding UN facilities and personnel in volatile Somalia, a Ugandan official said on Monday.

Lt. Col. DeoAkiiki, deputy Ugandan military spokesman, tweeted that the troops, serving under the sixth United Nations Guard Unit in Somalia, received medals from Guterres.– Xinhua ■

Putin thanks Abe for contribution to Russia-Japan ties

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin made a phone call on Monday to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to thank him for his contribution to the development of bilateral cooperation.

Abe, for his part, highly appreciated the many years of constructive interaction with Putin, a Kremlin statement said.

Putin and Abe stressed the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen good-neighbourliness between Russia and Japan in the interests of the two peoples, as well as security and stability of the entire Asia-Pacific region, the statement said. – Xinhua ■

Tens of thousands march in Belarus capital despite crackdown

MINSK (Belarus) — Tens of thousands of opposition supporters marched through Minsk Sunday, calling for an end to strongman Alexander Lukashenko's rule amid a heavy security presence and despite dozens of arrests.

Belarus protests have entered a third week since the disputed presidential election on August 9 in which Lukashenko claimed victory.

Opposition rival Svetlana Tikhanovskaya says she was the true winner, meanwhile.

An AFP journalist and local media estimated that more than 100,000 people attended Sunday's protest, equalling the scale of rallies on previous weekends, the largest in the country since independence from the former USSR.

A crowd gathered outside Lukashenko's official residence, the Palace of Independence, which was guarded by riot police and special forces personnel backed up by rooftop snipers.

Sunday's rally came on Lukashenko's 66th birthday and protesters carried quirky handmade "gifts" including a cardboard toilet with a sign urging the strongman to flush himself away, a coffin marked "Political corpse" and a picture of a cockroach, the opposition's nickname for the president.

Belarusian servicemen stand behind a barbed wire fence during an opposition supporters rally protesting against disputed presidential elections results in Minsk on 30 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Some laid flowers and symbolic gifts on the ground in front of a tall barrier manned by riot police equipped with helmets and shields.

This was the "boldest show of civil disobedience in three weeks of protests," opposition newspaper Nasha Niva reported.

Lukashenko refuses to negotiate

Activist Maria Kolesnikova, Tikhanovskaya's campaign partner, asked in vain to enter the residence for talks. Presidential aide Nikolai Latyshenok came out to speak to protesters, but insisted Lukashenko would not negotiate with the opposition.

A Telegram messenger channel linked to Lukashenko's press service posted a picture of him in a bullet-proof vest holding a gun, and said it was taken at the palace as protesters were outside.

The protests began breaking up towards evening as heavy rain fell and people began leaving. Riot police also began to push protesters away from the palace.

Thousands of people attended similar rallies in other Belarusian cities, local media reported.

The Minsk Peace March started at 2:00 pm local time (1100 GMT) and police began to detain protesters almost immediately as people attempted to reach the central Independence Square.

Columns of protesters walked through the centre, carrying placards and the country's historic red-and-white flag as drivers honked car horns in support.

Some linked arms to march down a main street, while women took black-clad riot police to task or lay on the street in front of them. One demonstrator, 33-year-old Nikolai, said he had already been detained after one demonstration and was still recovering from the beating he had received.

"Everything hurts," he said. "But I came out again for our Belarus to be free."

"We need to gather strength and come out like this every week until Lukashenko leaves," said another demonstrator, 70-year-old Maria. The Belarusian interior ministry said police detained 125 people within the first two hours, Belta state news agency reported, most accused of taking part in illegal mass protests. Three were detained for damaging a police car, the ministry said.

Protesters faced off against armed interior troops and riot police using their shields to block them. Other protesters tried to bypass the police blockades. —AFP ■

Trump presses law and order message as protest turns deadly

PORTLAND (United States)— President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden traded pre-election barbs Sunday as violent clashes continued to roil the US city of Portland following the fatal shooting of a protestor.

While the US leader tried to characterize Biden as weak on crime, his opponent accused Trump of fanning the flames of violence in a polarized and tense nation. Saturday's shooting during a pro-Trump rally in the Oregon city followed a week of country-wide protests -- including the cancellation of numerous sporting events -- over the police shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin of African American Jacob Blake. The violence in Portland erupted during a rally involving hundreds of vehicles "caravaning throughout downtown Portland," police said. OregonLive reported "clashes" and "tense moments" between demonstrators and counter-protestors.

Photographs from the scene showed the victim wearing a hat with a logo for "Patriot Prayer," described by local media as a far-right group at the centre of multiple Portland demonstrations that have ended in violence.

By 10 pm Sunday, about 100 to 150 anti-racism protestors had gathered outside a police building to the east of the city centre, waving signs and occasionally throwing projectiles.

Police declared the gathering an illegal assembly and in a tweet ordered people to leave the scene, warning of arrests and the use of tear gas.

Videos posted online showed about 20 officers rushing from the building to clear the area, and arresting a handful or protestors.—AFP ■

Boat carrying nearly 370 migrants reaches Italy's Lampedusa

ROME (Italy) — A fishing boat carrying nearly 370 migrants landed overnight on the Italian island of Lampedusa, where the main holding centre is already overcrowded, prompting the local mayor to call for a general strike to push the government take action.

Italy has been struggling in recent months to deal with daily arrivals of hundreds of migrants to its southern shores, a task complicated by security measures imposed by the ongoing coronavirus crisis.

The boat carrying 367 people, which was in danger of sinking due to high winds, was escorted by the Italian coast guard and police to the island's port, ANSA news agency said.

They were met at the port by a demonstration organized by the far-right, anti-immigrant League party.

The new arrivals, including 33 children and 13 women, were taken to an emergency reception centre on the island which now houses some 1,160 people, 10 times its maximum capacity, Lampedusa's mayor, Toto Martello, told ANSA.

Martello called for a general strike on the island on Monday, to protest the national government's "frightening silence" on the issue.

"Lampedusa can no longer cope with this situation. Either the government takes immediate decisions or the whole island will go on strike. We can't manage the emergency and the situation is now really unsustainable," Martello had earlier told ANSA. —AFP ■

Migrants wait onboard the Sea-Watch 4 civil sea rescue ship, that is waiting for permission to run into a port, on sea between Malta and Italy, on 30 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

European stocks firmer, Asia mixed

PARIS (France) — European stock markets were mostly firmer in quiet trade Monday after the Federal Reserve signalled it would keep interest rates at unprecedented lows for as long as it takes to get through the coronavirus crisis.

London was closed for a public holiday, leaving Paris and Frankfurt to set the tone with gains of 0.8 and 0.6 per cent respectively by late morning.

"Cheap central bank money is going to continue to support the stock markets," said independent analyst Timo Emden in Frankfurt.

The Fed's pledge of trillions of dollars in support has been key to stock market gains since the massive virus-induced sell-off in March.

US Fed chief Jerome Powell on Thursday went even further, saying the US central bank would focus on growth and jobs from now on rather than on inflation, meaning that interest rates and controlling inflation would be a secondary consideration.

"Monetary policy will be highly stimulative for a long, long time. Indeed, (it is) music to the stock market's ears," said Stephen Innes at AxiCorp.

Innes said that during the financial crisis, the US began cutting interest rates in mid-2007 and did not lift them until more than eight years later, and it could take just as long to see them hiked again.

Asian shares were mostly easier on Monday, with Hong Kong down one per cent as Shanghai dipped 0.2 per cent, both having jumped more than one per cent earlier.

Tokyo rose more than one per cent, shrugging off concerns over who would succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe after news that US investment legend Warren Buffett had bought huge holdings in top Japanese companies.

Marubeni Corp and Sumitomo Corp each put on more than nine per cent, Mitsubishi Corp and Mitsui & Co gained more than seven per cent and Itochu Corp also rallied.

Positive service sector data in China helped offset slower manufacturing figures and offered reassurance the world's number two economy is emerging strongly from the coronavirus crisis. —AFP ■

Huawei exits Australia sponsorship deal over 'negative business environment'

SYDNEY (Australia) — Embattled Chinese telco Huawei exited its main sponsorshipdeal with rugby league's Canberra Raiders Monday, citing a "negative business environment" after Australia blocked the company from its 5G wireless networks.

The Raiders were the tech giant's first large-scale sporting sponsorship worldwide and they have backed the club for almost a decade, with their logo and name on the front of the playing kit.

A woman walks past a shop for Chinese telecoms giant Huawei in Beijing on 25 May 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

But Huawei said in a statement that the "continued negative business environment is having a larger than originally forecasted impact on our planned revenue stream", in explaining its decision to terminate the deal a year early. "It is so disappointing that it has ended this way but are very proud of the small role we have played in this great NRL (National Rugby League) club," Huawei Australia's corporate affairs chief Jeremy Mitchell said.

"Our near decade as major sponsor of the Raiders has been one of the most successful in Australian sport and we are very sad that it has come to an end."

Relations between China and Australia have nosedived since the Australian government barred Huawei from its 5G wireless networks in 2018 due to perceived links to the Beijing government, which it denies.

They took another hit when Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison this year joined US calls for an independent inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic, which was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan.—AFP ■

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M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (264W)

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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.

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MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2020-2021)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-001(20-21)	Well Control Equipment (2) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-002(20-21)	A205 Rotary Table Complete Set (2) Nos	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-003(20-21)	T1750 Rotary Table Complete Set (1) Set	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-004(20-21)	1.5 MW Gas Engine Driven Generating Set (Container Type) Attached with Switch Gear Pannel (1) Set	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-005(20-21)	Truck Mounted Single Drum Well Servicing Unit (1) Unit	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-006(20-21)	Well Head & Christmas Tree Equipment with Spares (3) Groups	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-007(20-21)	Engine Gear Box (3) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-008(20-21)	SL-450 Single Purpose Swivel (2) Nos	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-009(20-21)	YG-225 Travelling Block with Hook (1) Set	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-010(20-21)	TQ356 Casing Power Tong (1) Set	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-011(20-21)	Conventional Coring System for 8 ½" Hole Section (1) Set	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-012(20-21)	Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit	Ks
(m)	DMP/L-013(20-21)	Air Compressor Complete Set Single Stage-360 cfm@175 psi Diesel Engine Driven/Skid Mounted (2) Nos	Ks
(n)	DMP/L-014(20-21)	Crude Transfer Pump & Caustic Soda Transfer Pump with Motor (5) Items	Ks
(o)	DMP/L-015(20-21)	Heavy Duty Lathe Machine with Motor Spindle Bore (30-40)CM, Motor Power (13-20)HP (1) No	Ks
(p)	DMP/L-016(20-21)	Steam Boiler Capacity (1-1.5 Ton/HR) (2) Sets	Ks
(q)	DMP/L-017(20-21)	Shale Shaker Unit and Accessories (2) Sets	Ks
(r)	DMP/L-018(20-21)	Single Pump SJS Serva Cementing Unit with Engine and Accessories (2) Sets	Ks
(s)	DMP/L-019(20-21)	Dispenser (2 Products 2 Hose), Square Drive Hydraulic Torque Wrenches, Plasma Cutting Machine (3) Items	Ks
(t)	DMP/L-020(20-21)	Air Compressor with Engine (2) Items	Ks
(u)	DMP/L-021(20-21)	CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor Package & Accessories (2) Sets	Ks
(v)	DMP/L-022(20-21)	CNG Ground Storage Cascade (6) Sets	Ks
(w)	DMP/L-023(20-21)	Cooling System for CNG Station (2) Units	Ks
(x)	DMP/L-024(20-21)	SCADA System for all CNG Station & Head Office Network (1) Lot	Ks
(y)	DMP/L-025(20-21)	Skid Mounted Gas Dryer (2) Units	Ks
(z)	DMP/L-026(20-21)	Cascade Tube Skid, Cascade Trailer & Tractor (3) Items	Ks
(aa)	DMP/L-027(20-21)	Main Motor (China) for CNG Station (2) Items	Ks
(ab)	DMP/L-028(20-21)	Cooling Water Pump Motor & Cooling Fan Motor For CNG Station (2) Items	Ks
(ac)	DMP/L-029(20-21)	510 KW Gas Engine Generating Complete Set (1) No	Ks
(ad)	DMP/L-030(20-21)	Excavator (2) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **1 September 2020** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm** on **1 October 2020**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 1-10-2020, 12:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Sudan government and rebel groups agree peace deal

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Sudan and rebel forces agreed a landmark peacedeal on Monday, almost a year and a half since mass protests ousted its president Omar al-Bashir from power.

Here is a recap of events since the end of Bashir's three decades of iron-fisted rule.

Bashir rule ends

On April 11, 2019, four months after mass protests sparked by a hike in bread prices morph into wider demands for reforms, Sudan's military authorities announce they have removed Bashir from power.

He is replaced by a transitional military government.

Defying a curfew, thousands of demonstrators remain camped in front of army headquarters, as the protest movement demands a civilian government.

Negotiations between ruling generals and protest leaders end on May 20 without a deal on a democratic transition.

Bloody crackdown

On June 3, armed men in military fatigues move in on the protest camp outside army headquarters and disperse thousands of protesters.

Dozens are killed in the ensuing days-long crackdown.

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a feared paramilitary group that sprang from the notorious Janjaweed militia accused by rights groups of committing war crimes in Darfur, is blamed for the violence.

Army chiefs announce a probe. The military calls for elections within nine months. Protesters denounce a putsch. After both sides signal they are ready to talk again, Ethiopia and African Union mediators in June present new proposals for a transition.

Power deal

On July 5, the two sides agree in principle on an accord providing for power sharing before transition to civilian rule.

On August 17, the military and protest leaders sign the hard-won "constitutional declaration" and a sovereign council is formed three days later.

Peace talks

In October, the government and rebel groups enter peace talks in Juba, South Sudan.

Sudan on October 16 announces a "permanent ceasefire" in the country's three war zones and green-lights the provision of humanitarian aid.—AFP ■

Israel-UAE flight may start 'historic' Mideast journey: Kushner

US Presidential Adviser Jared Kushner (C-R) and US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien (C-L) pose with members of the Israeli-American delegation in front of the El Al's flight LY971, which will carry the delegation from Tel Aviv to Abu Dhabi, at the Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

TEL AVIV (Israel) — White House advisor Jared Kushner, boarding the first Israel-UAE commercial flight following a US-brokered deal to normalize ties, voiced hope Monday for a more peaceful era in the region.

Flight 971 of Israel's national carrier El Al then took off from Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, bound for Abu Dhabi.

The historicflight was carrying a joint US-Israeli delegation that was led on the American side by Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law.

"While this is a historic flight, we hope that it will start an even more historicjourney in the Middle East and beyond," Kushner said shortly before boarding.

"The future does not have to be predetermined by the past. This is a very hopeful time, and I believe that so much peace and prosperity is possible in this region and around the world."

The Israel-UAE agreement to normalize ties was announced by Trump on August 13, making the UAE the first Gulf country and only the third Arab nation to establish relations with Israel, after Egypt and Jordan.

The word "peace" was painted on the plane's cockpit in Arabic, English and Hebrew. —AFP ■

Lebanon designates new PM as Macron visits

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Lebanon's under-fire political leaders Monday designated a new prime minister, the diplomat Mustapha Adib, to tackle the country's deep political and economic crisis, hours before French President Emmanuel Macron was due to visit.

Mustapha Adib, 48, Lebanon's former envoy to Germany, acknowledged in a televised speech that there is "a need to form a government in record time and to begin implementing reforms immediately".

He vowed to resume talks with the International Monetary Fund for assistance to the country, which is in the throes of its worst economic crisis since the 1975-1990 civil war and was traumatized by Beirut's deadly August 4 explosion.

"I want your trust," an AFP correspondent heard him tell a resident of Beirut's badly-hit Gemmayzeh neighbourhood afterwards, during a tour of the area devastated by the blast that rocked the city and further shook confidence in the political class.

Lebanon's ambassador to Berlin Mustapha Adib (C) arrives at the presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, on 31 August 2020, upon being named as the country's new premier. **PHOTO: AFP**

Macron, who had toured the area two days after the disaster, was due to return Tuesday and was expected to renew his calls for a radical overhaul of the country's complex, sectarian political system.

Macron had demanded "deep change" and warned then he would check on progress when he returned for the September 1 ceremony marking the centenary of Greater Lebanon, expected to be a glum commemoration.

On the eve of the centenary, many citizens were planning to leave the country and asked whether Lebanon would live to be 101.

President Michel Aoun and his political ally, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, both expressed willingness in speeches Sunday to change the way Lebanon is governed.

The 85-year-old Aoun, a hate figure to Lebanon's large protest camp which regards him as deaf to calls for change, even urged the proclamation of a secular state. —AFP ■

Hundreds stranded on French TGV after electrical failure

BORDEAUX (France)— Hundreds of travellers spent the night strandedon a French high speed TGV train after an electrical failure meant it was set to arrive at its destination on Monday, almost a day late.

The train from Hendaye on the Spanish border to Paris, bringing around 1,000 people at the end of the holiday season, had been due to arrive in the French capital on Sunday afternoon after a five-hour journey.

But it halted in the remote Landes region well before reaching Bordeaux due a succession of electrical problems on the line, national operator SNCF said.—AFP ■

Thailand delays $724m China submarine deal after public anger

BANGKOK (Thailand) —Thailand delayed on Monday its $724 million purchase of two submarines from China, following public outrage over the controversial deal as the kingdom's economy flatlines due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under a 2015 deal, Thailand was one of the first countries to buy Chinese naval hardware and finalised its purchase of three submarines in 2017, with the first one expected to be delivered in 2023.

An order for two more for 22.5 billion baht ($723.9 million) was approved earlier this month by a parliamentary sub-committee -- a move which drew public outcry as Thailand struggles with a freefalling economy.

Angry Thais took to social media to criticise the deal, and the hashtag "People don't want submarines" trended on Twitter.

Government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri announced Monday Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha — also defence minister — had "requested the navy to consider a delay" in the purchase of the two additional submarines.

A Great Wall 236 submarine of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, billed by Chinese state media as a new type of conventional submarine, participates in a naval parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of China's PLA Navy in the sea near Qingdao, in eastern China's Shandong province on 23 April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The navy will negotiate with China to delay for another year," Anucha told reporters.

Prayut's military-aligned administration is under fire from near-daily protests demanding his resignation and a complete overhaul of the government -- which the demonstrators consider illegitimate.

Thailand's economy is also undergoing one of its worst periods in more than 20 years, contracting 12.2 percent in the second quarter as its tourism- and exports-led sectors have been hard-hit by the pandemic.

"The prime minister has given priority to the concern of the public who are worried about the economy," Anucha said.

Besides questioning military purchases and the government's handling of the economy, the burgeoning pro-democracy movement is also calling for reforms to the unassailable monarchy — a once-taboo topic in the kingdom.

The increasingly bold requests from the youth-led protesters have drawn ire from arch-royalist camps, who have held counter-demonstrations to demand that protesters "do not touch the monarchy".

More than a thousand mostly older demonstrators dressed in yellow shirts — considered a royal colour — massed at a stadium Sunday, holding portraits of the super-rich King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

On Monday, they submitted a letter to the Japanese embassy in Bangkok to demand the extradition of prominent government critic Pavin Chachavalpongpun, who started a private Facebook group to hold frank discussions of the monarch. —AFP ■

TikTok owner says will abide by new Chinese export rules

(FILES) This file photo taken on 21 November 2019 shows the logo of the social media video sharing app TikTok displayed on a tablet screen in Paris. TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer said on 26 August 2020 he has quit the company as tensions soar between Washington and Beijing over the Chinese-owned video platform. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEIJING (China) — The owner of popular video app TikTok said Sunday it will "strictly abide" by China's new export rules, which could potentially complicate a sale of the business as demanded by US President Donald Trump.

TikTok has been at the center of a diplomatic storm between Washington and Beijing, and Trump signed an executive order on August 6 giving Americans 45 days to stop doing business with TikTok's Chinese parent company ByteDance — effectively setting a deadline for a sale of the app to a US company.

But China's commerce ministry published new rules on Friday that added "civilian use" to a list of technologies that are restricted for export.

The new regulations could make it more difficult for Bytedance to sell the wildly popular video app, which features clips of everything from dance routines and hair-dye tutorials to jokes about daily life and politics.

Walmart, which confirmed Thursday that it has joined forces with Microsoft in negotiations to buy TikTok, has not yet commented on the new rules, while Microsoft declined to comment when asked by AFP. Bytedance said in a statement it would "strictly abide" by China's technology law and its list of restrictions "to handle business relating to the import and export of technology."

The move marked the first time China has adjusted its list of technologies subject to export bans or restrictions since 2008, adding 23 new items.

An interview with a professor in official news agency Xinhua on Saturday suggested the change could mean Bytedance has to get approval from the Chinese government to sell its technology to an American company.

Earlier this week, TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer quit the company, days after TikTok filed a lawsuit challenging the crackdown by the US government.

TikTok — which has been downloaded 175 million times in the US and more than a billion times around the world — argued in the suit that Trump's order was a misuse of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act because the platform is not "an unusual and extraordinary threat."— AFP ■

Japan's Kubota opens 1st overseas test farm in Thailand

BANGKOK—Major Japanese agricultural machinery maker Kubota Corp. has opened its first overseas technology-testing farm in Thailand to help promote its products.

Siam Kubota Corp., its subsidiary, opened Kubota Farm on Aug. 6 in Chonburi Province, southeast of Bangkok, to help modernize farming methods for the country's major products such as rice, cassava and sugar cane, Yuto Yamamoto, a Kubota spokesman, told NNA last Friday.

On the 35-hectare farm, the local arm experiments with cultivation and management methods for agricultural produce in collaboration with Kubota Research & Development Asia Co., another Thai subsidiary established in 2016, the Osaka-based company said in a press release last Thursday.

Siam Kubota also intends to invite local dealerships and farmers to experience the performance of farming equipment, using drones and automated farm machinery to practice cutting-edge technologies, according to the release and Yamamoto.

The Japanese group, which has 13 such demonstration farms in Japan, plans to expand the Thai farm in the future, with total investments likely reaching the equivalent of several million dollars, the spokesman said.— Kyodo News ■

Undated photo shows a paddy field in Kubota Farm, an agricultural machinery-testing farm opened by Kubota Corp. in August 2020 in Thailand. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Hantharwady United leads MPT MNL 2020 after Week-12

HANTHARWADY United FC stood first at the standing table of MPT Myanmar National League-MNL 2020 after Week-12, according to the league's social media.

After playing ten matches each, Hantharwady United led the competition with 27 points, followed by Ayeyawady United in second place with 24 points and Yangon United in third place with 20 points.

Shan United is in fourth place with 20 points, followed by Rakhine United in fifth place with 14 points, Yadanarbon FC in sixth place with 10 points, and Sagaing United in seventh place with 10 points.

Magwe FC is in eighth place with seven points, followed by ISPE in ninth place with four points and Southern Myanmar FC in tenth place with three points.

Hantharwady United won ISPE 1-0, Yangon United beat Yadanabon 3-1, Shan United won Sagaing United 5-1, Southern Myanmar and Ayayawady United drew with 1-1, and Magwe and Rakhine United tied with 2-2 in Week-12.

Week-13 matches will be played on 3 and 4 September, and the matches are Southern Myanmar vs Hantharwady United, ISPE FC and Yadanarbon FC, Magwe FC vs Ayayawady United, Sagaing United vs Yangon United, and Rakhine United vs Shan United.—Kyaw Khin

Players from Shan United and Sagaing United vie for the ball during a Week-12 match of MPT MNL 2020 at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

Michel Platini faces Swiss prosecutor in payment probe

BERN (Switzerland) — Former European football chief Michel Platini arrived for a meeting with the Swiss public prosecutor on Monday as part of proceedings investigating a two million Swiss franc ($2.2 million) payment he received in 2011.

Platini was summoned to the Swiss capital Bern by prosecutor Thomas Hildbrand. Sepp Blatter, the former president of the sport's world governing body FIFA, is due to meet the prosecutor on Tuesday as part of the same probe.

Platini, the former head of European football's governing body UEFA, arrived at the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG) complex in a taxi accompanied by his lawyer Dominic Nellen. Wearing a suit and blue shirt without a tie and carrying a blue folder, he said "hello" towards waiting journalists and smiled briefly as he went to the registration office.

He briefly came out again to enter the main premises through a revolving metal gate.

Platini and Blatter each face interrogation from the public prosecutor as part of the proceedings, which were opened in 2015.

In June, Hildbrand formally added Platini to an investigation into the payment he received from FIFA in 2011 for an advisory job completed in 2002, on suspicion of "complicity in unfair management, embezzlement and forgery in securities".

Former head of European football's governing body UEFA, Michel Platini arrives at the building of the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland to a hearing summoned by Swiss prosecutor Thomas Hildbrand on 31 August 2020 in Bern. **PHOTO: AFP**

The 65-year-old former French football great now has the status of "accused" alongside Blatter.

Platini said at the time that the OAG had "confirmed in writing in May 2018" that his case was closed.

'Back pay'

Two other former FIFA executives, Frenchman Jerome Valcke, the former secretary-general, and German Markus Kattner, the former financial director, are being investigated on "suspicion of unfair management", the OAG said. Kattner will be questioned on September 4.

Platini said he was being persecuted by FIFA.

"After five years, it is quite possible that FIFA will continue to harass me through complaints with the sole aim of keeping me out of football and smearing my reputation," he said in June.

Blatter, who is 84, told AFP the payment was above board.

"It was a back pay for work done by Michel Platini. The sum was validated by the finance commission. It cannot be a criminal offence," Blatter said, adding that he was "serene" ahead of the new hearing. FIFA deemed the sum a "disloyal payment" and suspended Blatter and Platini from all football-related activities, which prevented the former UEFA chief from running for the FIFA presidency in 2016.—AFP

Neymar, Nike part ways after 15 years

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil) — Nike has parted ways with Neymar, ending one of its highest-profile sponsorship deals a decade and a half after signing the star striker as a 13-year-old prodigy.

"I can confirm Neymar is no longer a Nike athlete," a spokesman for the US sportswear giant said in an email to AFP on Saturday, without giving details.

Media reports said the 28-year-old Paris Saint-Germain and Brazil talisman was in talks with Nike's German rival Puma.

"We generally do not comment on rumours," a spokesman for Puma in Germany responded. Brazilian news site UOL said Neymar and Nike had failed to reach a deal on how much money he would be paid for renewing his contract.

It said negotiations between the company and the footballer's agents had run into trouble months ago.

Neymar's communications team did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo said Neymar's last deal with Nike was an 11-year contract that was set to expire in 2022, worth a total $105 million. Neymar, who is fresh off the heartbreak of narrowly losing the Champions League final to Bayern Munich, holds the record for the most expensive football transfer in history.

PSG paid 222 million euros to bring him from Barcelona in 2017.—AFP

(FILES) In this file photo taken on 24 August 2020 Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar leaves the team's hotel in Lisbon, a day after being defeated by Bayern Munich during the UEFA Champions League final football match. **PHOTO: AFP**