State Counsellor updates government measures against COVID-19 pandemic

I WANT to report about the COVID situation in Myanmar. As all of you know, the spread of COVID infections is, especially in Yangon. That is why we have issued strict “stay at home” rules and regulations in all townships in the Yangon region except Cocogyun. It is necessary to impose such restrictions. It is known to the majority of the people that the disease is spreading. Please don’t be too afraid because the disease is spreading. However, you all need to be very vigilant. I have said repeatedly about this matter. Why am I reporting to you about this? There is nothing wrong by being over cautious. What we are going to talk about are things you might have already read in the newspapers and seen on television. However, I am reporting to you about these matters because you might not have read the news or missed the TV broadcasts.

Furthermore, I want the people to understand how much importance our Union Government has given to this matter and how much effort is being put in for the health and security of the people to the best of our ability. I want everyone to know what is happening. At present, the spread of COVID infections has not tapered off in Yangon Region; this is not a cause to be disheartened. Why is this? If we make a projection of infection spread from the time of the first outbreak, it is not practical to expect the infection spread to lose momentum. The reason is that after the first person gets infected, the infection spreads to all those who came into contact with this person. Then the infections spread from these contacts to other persons. It has been quite some time when we began to issue strict rules and regulations. We issued these rules and regulations in March.

The people already know whether they followed these rules and regulations strictly or not. It is my understanding that at the moment, rules and regulations are being followed strictly. In Yangon, the movements of people have lessened compared to the previous period. It has come to my attention that the movements of people have decreased and that people are wearing masks. I am very happy to know this.

It would have been better if the people had acted this way in the first instance. However, there is no use to be remorseful about this at this time. That is why I would like to report briefly about the measures that have been undertaken by our Union Government, to the best of our ability, for all the people living in our country to be safe from the COVID disease.

First of all, we feel very grateful; indeed we welcome the fact that all the people in our country have all joined in and participated in our struggle. Among those are the public service personnel from the Ministry of Health and the volunteers helping at the quarantine centres.
Advice to people in Nay Pyi Taw

1. People should not illegally come to Nay Pyi Taw. If a person comes back from other places to Nay Pyi Taw, he/she needs to inform and receive medical examination. The charge for COVID-19 tests has been considerably reduced.

2. It has been learnt that some people get out of the cars on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and some old roads, and then they entered into Nay Pyi Taw via motorcycle roads and inter-village roads. So, authorities are cooperating with the Myanmar Police Force to take strict measures to control these illegal entries.

3. The ward/village administrators have been instructed to report, manage and send individuals who entered or came back to the ward/village to the quarantine centres.

4. To make the flow of goods smooth, truck drivers will be given the slip at the entrance gate. From the entrance gate, the drivers must drive their trucks directly to the exit gate, where the slip must be returned. The truck drivers are not allowed to go to other places between the entrance gate and the exit gate.

5. Face mask rule has been imposed in Nay Pyi Taw townships and COVID-19 awareness has been raised via loudspeakers. A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been in force, and surprise checks have been carried out on restaurants.

UEC Chairman joins online meeting for promotion of child rights

CHAIRMAN of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein took part in a virtual meeting organized by the NGO Child Rights Working Group yesterday.

In his opening remark, the UEC chairman emphasized physical and mental development of Myanmar children who contribute one-third of the country’s population.

He also discussed prevention of discrimination against the children on the grounds of gender, social strata and faith, and they need protection from negligence, violence, hindrances to education, using in armed conflicts and sexual abuses.

He continued to say that as the children are the future generation of the country, their rights must be protected.

The online meeting was attended by the representatives from political parties, civil society organizations and local/international organizations.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Social Welfare Dept, UNICEF discuss work plans for public awareness of Child Rights Law

THE Committee on Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflicts and the UNICEF held a videoconference yesterday on work plans for public awareness of the Child Rights Law under their Multi-Year Work Plan (2020-2021).

The government formed the committee on 7 January 2019 to prevent the six grave violations (1) Killing and maiming of children (2) Recruitment and use of children by armed forces or armed groups (3) Attacks on schools or hospitals (4) Rape or other sexual violence against children (5) Abduction of children (6) Denial of humanitarian access to children, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) and related resolutions.

The online meeting was joined by Director-General U Win Naing Tun, in his capacity as Secretary of working committee, from the Department of Rehabilitation, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the work committee members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union Attorney-General’s Office and Myanmar Red Cross Society, Ms Noriko Izumi, the chief of Child Protection from the UNICEF Myanmar, and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Embassy in Saudi Arabia organizes relief flight for repatriation of 126 citizens

THE Embassy of Myanmar in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, managed to bring 126 Myanmar citizens back home by a relief flight of Myanmar Airways International. Two Myanmar citizens from Qatar, 47 from the United Arab Emirates, 48 from England, two from Blutan, and two from Czech Republic, as well as 24 seamen from Qatar and the UAE, landed at the Yangon International Airport by the relief flight yesterday afternoon.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. Myanmar has organized 9 relief flights from the UAE for repatriation of citizens stranded in foreign countries until now.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
The government has both short term and long term views in relation to COVID-19.

The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

State Counsellor updates government measures against COVID-19 . . .

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.

FROM PAGE-1

As time goes by these public service personnel get weary and tired. The people know already that among these personnel from the Ministry of Health, some of them got infected with the disease. Furthermore, the volunteers also get weary and tired. As these people get weary and tired, the number of people that need healthcare and protection also increases. That is why it comes as no surprise that as the number of people needing care and protection increase, sometimes the healthcare provided may not be as desired by the patients or to their satisfaction. For this, we want our people to be patient. Please have empathy. The reason is that these personnel, those from the Ministry of Health as well as those volunteers are exerting great efforts to the best of their abilities.

However, when they are confronted with a great number of patients, please be patient if there are shortcomings sometimes. Furthermore, with regard to these matters, I would like to seek your help to make the big problems smaller, and the small problems disappear; please try to placate the dissatisfactions and try to boost the morale. I want to make a request to all of you not to fan the flames or to make the small problems become bigger and to make the big problems unmanageable. This may be because of deep concern. However, even if a person speaks out of concern, such a person needs to speak with discretion. Something you say with concern; is it really beneficial? I have spoken repeatedly about this matter. According to the Buddhist teachings, what you speak with responsibility. As I have mentioned before that I appreciate inclusive efforts, the government has formed a technical supporting team. It will be led by former health minister Professor Dr Kyaw Myint. The participation of such veterans and retired experts is well recognized. No one wants to take retirement when the country required their efforts. They considered how to take part in solving the problem immediately with their voluntary efforts, although they could live safely in their home as they are senior citizens. We are encouraged by their efforts. They are providing us with both physical and moral inspiration. We are helping people with practical assistance such as the establishment of hospitals by the Ministry of Health and Sports, quarantine centers jointly set up by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the local governments, supplying these centers with volunteers, staff members and equipment, sufficient medicines and medical supplies to the hospitals. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry is working to make sure that we have sufficient financial resources.

The government has both short term and long term views in relation to COVID-19. We could face difficulties in our economy in the post the pandemic period. People might have noticed the spread of pandemic across the world. Even the countries with most economic progress and the nations with the most developed economies have suffered the impacts of COVID-19. However, we have made preparations so that our people will suffer the least impact.

For example, in the general surplus fund, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry has set over 1,000 billion kyats for aiding in disaster management. The fund is related to the COVID-19. However, the fund was planned just for measures against COVID-19, not for other natural disasters. There is a separate fund for natural disasters. Over 1,000 billion kyats was allocated to tackle the impact of COVID and the needs in this issue.

This message is just to inform the public about the preparations of our Union Government and not to have serious worry. However, it doesn’t mean not to treat it with seriousness. Due to the magnitude of our carelessness, we have to exert more efforts in this problem. We will have to try our best to overcome the consequences.

The directives of our Union Government are basically not much in this issue, even for individuals. The guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports include wearing face masks, washing hands at least 20 seconds, social distancing, avoiding gatherings, staying apart from others in unavoidable gatherings and staying at least 6-ft from each other. Adherence to these rules and practising healthcare guidelines would help in the control of COVID-19.

I have no doubt to overcome it immediately or gradually. However, it should be contained immediately for the relief of our country and people in hoping for a return to normality. There might be some questions of how long the pandemic would spread and what we need to prepare for it.

These are the questions of our government, as well as myself, all the time. Some countries are making strenuous efforts to produce medicines for COVID, while some countries are working for producing its vaccine. Some countries are focusing on the production of both medicines and vaccines.

Although our country has no capacity to produce the vaccine, we have prepared for getting it as soon as it has been produced. The Ministry of International Cooperation and the Ministry of Health and Sports are discussing with the diplomats from the countries which are trying to produce the medicines and vaccines to get these medical supplies. The government will also use vaccines or medicines for the people with the approval of the World Health Organization. Therefore, we all need to focus on containment of COVID-19 pandemic spread in Yangon.

Every person in Yangon needs to take care of health and not to be infected with the COVID. If someone is not infected, it will not transmit to others. Health-care practice of someone means protecting others from the pandemic. Yangon people don’t need to feel depressed about the disease. It is widely known that Yangon people are brave. Courage must be used in the right situation. I want to request people in Yangon to overcome COVID bravely. On behalf of the government and the people, I am also grateful to the Yangon government, staff members, volunteers, civil society organizations and other supporters. It is not just the words. We will provide the possible assistance to the staff members with sufficient protective gears and comfortable accommodations.

The breakout of COVID has been for over six months or half a year. Our people have become tired during this period. But we would be satisfied with our tiredness in the future when we have gained success after our strenuous struggle. I would like to conclude by saying that our understanding that victory was achieved through our collaborative efforts would turn into a great strength for us.

May all people be healthy and comply with the rules and regulations.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)
Union Minister U Soe Win holds virtual meeting on foreign assistance

ADB, IMF and JICA officials explained their assistance for implementation of CERP and future plans based on CERP Monitoring Framework and indicators.

At low interest rates, ADB provided loan to Myanmar on Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) programmes, and JICA provided loans to Myanmar on COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan programme. Those loans are for the CERP, so implementation of the CERP will be monitored and assessed.

The virtual meeting was also participated by Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win, U Sett Aung, and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing and other officials, IMF’s Representative Mr Neil Saker and JICA’s Chief Representative Mr Noriji Sakakura.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds discussions with Australian foreign & women minister via videoconference

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win participated in a teleconference meeting yesterday morning with Mr Newin Sinsiri, the Country Director for Myanmar from the Asian Development Bank, and the officials from International Monetary Fund, and Japan International Cooperation Agency about financial and technical assistance for Myanmar’s COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan.

They discussed COVID-19 related situations in Myanmar, implementation of the CERP, the Myanmar Recovery and Reform Plan, efforts to minimize COVID-19 impacts on businesses by using state budgets and international financial assistance, cooperations between ADB, IMF and JICA and future plans.

The Union Minister expressed Australia’s understanding of the complexity of challenges faced by Myanmar including the Rakhine issue and reaffirmed its willingness to provide constructive support and assistance to Myanmar’s efforts in overcoming the challenges in its democratic transition.—MNA

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.
The fruitful results would come out within one or two weeks

The spread of COVID-19 began in late August. People have noticed the transmission of this disease in early September, and have developed more awareness of the disease. Now it is the third week of September. If we could take control measures systematically, the fruitful results would come out within one or two weeks. No one likes to stay under the restrictions for a long time. However, systematic and careful cooperation from all of you is needed for us to be able to get out of these stressful restrictions.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s Report on status of COVID-19 infection spread in the country, on 16 September 2020)

Govt officials discuss financial support for staff of suspended factories in Yangon Region

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held a videoconference with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to discuss the financial support and salary affairs of staff of factories in Yangon Region temporarily closing down due to COVID-19.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Myint Maung Swe, the permanent secretary, directors-general and department officials, the president of UMFCCI and business representatives.

The Union Minister said they are implementing COVID-19 preventive measures by the Ministry of Health and Sports but the recent rapid spread of COVID-19 has prompted all townships in Yangon Region, excluding Coocogyun Township, to have their citizens stay at home with the exception of emergency or necessary trips outside.

The Union Minister said business owners should ensure family members interacting with their employees should follow the proper health guidelines. Because of COVID-19, factories and workshops in Yangon Region will be closed for 2 weeks starting from 24 September 2020.

The Union Minister urged the UMFCCI president and officials to discuss the intricacies of wages and salary of the staff for the closed days and to suggest good ideas concerning it.

The stay at home period is set for 2 weeks and if the public closely follows this regulation, it will effectively slow the spread of COVID-19, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Union Minister urged the UMFCCI president and officials to discuss the intricacies of wages and salary of the staff for the closed days and to suggest good ideas concerning it.

Next, the UMFCCI president and attending business representatives explained the challenges they are facing, the parts of the MoHS regulations that required more clarity, suggestions and other queries to which the Union Minister replied. The UMFCCI president then said they will discuss with the different organizations to support the workers who will be staying at home during the temporary closure.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in online workshop on university charters

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi participated in an online workshop on university charters and university council, jointly organized by the ministry and Germany’s DAAD yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, German Ambassador to Myanmar Thomas Neisinger; officials from DAAD and Central European University (CEU), education officials of Myanmar; the National Education Policy Commission Chairperson, the commission members, and rectors.

During the workshop, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that Myanmar is carrying out educational reform, and the country needs to draft and approve university charters, and form university councils in accordance with the charters. He invited the participants, including officials from universities in Germany and Viet Nam, to share their experiences in university development, promotion of quality in teaching and learning, capacity building for teachers and staff, promotion of collaboration with the private sector, undertaking research, human resources development and creating infrastructure.

In the workshop, Dr Stefan Hase-Bergen, Head of the DAAD regional office Hanoi; DAAD Secretary General Dr Dorothea Rüland; Dr Christoph Strutz, Vice President of University of Hannover; and Vietnamese-German University President Professor Tomas Benz discussed their experiences on university charters, university councils and independent university management.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)
Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds virtual meeting with volunteers to discuss COVID-19 response efforts

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Secretary of the National Volunteers Steering Unit, held a virtual meeting with members of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee (Yangon Region), charity organizations and volunteers yesterday afternoon to discuss efforts for prevention and control of COVID-19 in Yangon Region.

The Union Minister said that the meeting is intended to help provide assistance to volunteers in making efforts for prevention and control of COVID-19 in Yangon Region, and invited suggestions from the participants.

Volunteers and charity organizations in Yangon Region and members of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee (Yangon Region) discussed various matters related to medical accessories, management, increasing motivation to volunteers and suspected patients in quarantine centres, necessary training, the differences between the first wave and the second wave of COVID-19, and other related matters. The Union Minister, the Deputy Minister and other participants also made discussions.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to the participants and pledged that the Ministry will cooperate with other departments to help volunteers and charity organizations in their efforts to control COVID-19 in Yangon Region.

Ayeyarwady Foundation building COVID-19 Critical Care Unit for emergency patients

Ayeyarwady Foundation (Yangon Region) discussed COVID-19 response efforts during the virtual meeting with Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee and volunteers on 21 September 2020.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation has also already built a COVID-19 Care Unit (Thuwunna) – Ayeyarwady Centre at National Football Academy (Yangon), and it has capacity of 425 beds and rooms for 150 health workers and volunteers.

The COVID-19 Critical Care Unit – Ayeyarwady Centre at Thuwunna Stadium will become a 500-bedded care centre, and 250 health workers and volunteers will be appointed.

UNDER the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports and supervision of Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Vice-Chairperson of Yangon Region’s Coordination Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, the Ayeyarwady Foundation is constructing COVID-19 Critical Care Unit – Ayeyarwady Centre, which will house COVID-19 emergency patients at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The COVID-19 Critical Care Unit – Ayeyarwady Centre will consist of a 20-bedded Intensive Care Unit and a 55-bedded High Dependency Unit.

Ayeyarwady Foundation has also provided food for patients, volunteers and health workers at the COVID-19 Care Unit (Thuwunna) – Ayeyarwady Centre at National Football Academy (Yangon), and it has capacity of 425 beds and rooms for 150 health workers and volunteers.

Relief assistance provided to flood victims

Relief assistance provided to flood victims

THE Tropical Storm Noul turned into low depression as it passed through Myanmar. It caused strong winds, heavy rains and tides, resulting in damages of property in some areas of the country.

A total of 3,700 people from over 900 households were affected by floods in Kawthoung, Myeik, Pulaw, Bokpyin, Kyun-su, Launglon, Thayetchaung and Yebyu townships of Tanintharyi Region from 17 to 20 September.

The tides in Ye, Paung and Kyakto townships of Mon State on 19 September has caused 3 deaths and damages to 90 houses.

In some villages of Kawa Township of Bago Region, torrential rains and tides from Sittoung River on 18 and 19 September caused evacuation of over 7,000 residents from 1,500 houses.

Tidal waves destroyed over 70 houses in Pyapon and Dadeye townships of Ayeyarwady Region, and 300 locals from 70 household were taken to the safe shelters.

Officials from the Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided relief assistance to the victims of these disasters.

People in the disaster-prone areas have been advised to follow weather warnings and to contact the hot-line numbers 067-3404666 and 067-3404777 for helps.
By Nyein Nyein

DOMESTIC investments by Myanmar citizens approved by the region and state investment committees have reached K184.9 billion and US$32.195 million over the past 11 months of the 2019-2020 financial year since October, according to the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October and 4 September in the current FY, the relevant region and state investment committees gave the green light to 67 local enterprises to invest in various sectors. As of 4 September, Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee cleared 13 businesses, allowing an estimated capital of US$3.428 million and Ky14.26 billion, while Yangon Region Investment Committee gave the go-ahead to 12 enterprises with $5.806 million and Ky26 billion, Taninthayi to 10 projects with $10.5 million and Ky40.48 billion, Sagaing to eight enterprises with $2.344 million and Ky12 billion, Mon to five businesses with $4.328 million and Ky13.6 billion, Mandalay to three enterprises with Ky9.57 million and Ky12.14 billion, Nay Pyi Taw Council to two businesses with $1.634 million and Ky14.7 billion, Chin to two enterprises with $9.17 million and Ky5.353 billion, Bago to two enterprises with Ky2.65 billion, Shan to two projects with Ky6.7 billion, Kayin to one enterprise with $0.7 million and Ky2.6 billion, Magway Region to one with Ky0.42 million and Ky2.5 billion, Rakhine to one with Ky9.192 million and Ky2.49 billion, Kachin to one with Ky96.5 million respectively.

The domestic investments are flowing into the executing manufacturing, hotels and tourism, other services, electricity, agriculture, real estate development and mining sectors. Of them, manufacturing sector pulls the most massive investments, followed by hotel and tourism and other service sectors.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million.

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the government require the permit from the commission. Besides, those businesses that have large capital investments exceeding $5 million and that may have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be approved by the DICAs proposal assessment team and the relevant ministries.

With a fast-track way to set up a business in Myanmar having been introduced, investors can apply to the MIC or the state and regional Investment Committees to get their investment proposals endorsed, depending on the business type.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar-Thailand trade reaches $18.86 bln in past 4 years

THE value of Myanmar’s bilateral trade with neighbouring country Thailand in the past four years was estimated at US$18.865 billion.

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand over the past four years was estimated at US$18.865 billion. Between 1 October and 4 September in the current FY, the relevant region and state investment committees gave the green light to 67 local enterprises to invest in various sectors. As of 4 September, Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee cleared 13 businesses, allowing an estimated capital of US$3.428 million and Ky14.26 billion, while Yangon Region Investment Committee gave the go-ahead to 12 enterprises with $5.806 million and Ky26 billion, Taninthayi to 10 projects with $10.5 million and Ky40.48 billion, Sagaing to eight enterprises with $2.344 million and Ky12 billion, Mon to five businesses with $4.328 million and Ky13.6 billion, Mandalay to three enterprises with Ky9.57 million and Ky12.14 billion, Nay Pyi Taw Council to two businesses with $1.634 million and Ky14.7 billion, Chin to two enterprises with $9.17 million and Ky5.353 billion, Bago to two enterprises with Ky2.65 billion, Shan to two projects with Ky6.7 billion, Kayin to one enterprise with $0.7 million and Ky2.6 billion, Magway Region to one with $0.42 million and Ky2.5 billion, Rakhine to one with Ky9.192 million and Ky2.49 billion, Kachin to one with Ky96.5 million respectively.

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(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
People should not assume coronavirus will behave like other viruses: UK expert

SINCE the outset of COVID-19 in Britain, experts have raised concerns over how the coronavirus will impact life for people in winter.

According to Professor Andrew Easton at the University of Warwick, it is still unknown how exactly the coronavirus will behave, and what that may look like in the UK.

One thing is said is known, however, is that other common winter viruses around colds and flu will be confused with the coronavirus.

That will make assessment difficult. If somebody presents with a flu, you wouldn’t normally tell them to go and isolate for 14 days. There’s going to be an increase in a number of people with those other respiratory diseases who have other symptoms of COVID-19 difficult,” he said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

But is a recent rise in confirmed coronavirus cases, the British government has taken strengthened infection prevention by implementing a number of restrictive measures in some areas.

On Monday, the ‘rule of six’ replaced the previous guidance on social gathering in England. The move came at a time when countries like Britain, China, Russia and the United States are racing against time to defeat coronavirus vaccines.

HARDEST THING

Asking people to change their behaviour is ‘the hardest thing to do’, he said. ‘My concern here is understanding fully exactly why those numbers – the “rule of six” – have been chosen and the way that has been done because it’s slightly different in different parts of the country. It’s a worry that it may not be adequate,” said Easton.

The rise in coronavirus cases has concerned Easton, but with a relaxation in restrictions and people allowed once again to interact, it comes as no surprise to him.

‘Now we’re in what would be, for someone who studies transmission of virus, a very obvious situation where, when you then release the population and allow them to start to intermingle – that’s ideal for a virus’, he said.

‘We’re seeing this upswing and when that happens, you hope it to contain it in localized communities – that’s been attempted’, he also said.

TAKING TIME

But Easton noted that it will take time to bring down the rising cases again.

‘I’m afraid I can’t see this upswing coming to an end rapidly. It’s going to take a bit of time before it is brought down and only the way it’s going to be brought down is that a large fraction doesn’t behave like for Britain.

‘This principle of a second wave has come because people are making assumptions,’ Easton said, adding that people are too focused on using data from the 1918 flu pandemic and other virus infections to predict the trajectory of the COVID-19.

‘In the case of the 1918 pandemic, the incidence of disease declined very rapidly and went very low. And then there really was another second wave. The situation we’re in now is slightly different’, he noted. — Xinhua

More action needed to prevent children being harmed in armed conflicts, pandemic

Ensuring the protection of children is of utmost importance as the Union Government is providing health care and food aid to the people including children in conflict areas as part of efforts for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is worth noting that the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry of Myanmar is providing health care and food aid to the people including children in conflict areas as part of efforts for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Hellenic Republic

The President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Union of Myanmar to the Italian Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Union of Myanmar to the Hellenic Republic — MNA

PHOTO: WHO

THE Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 formed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Asia Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and the African Union Commission for Social Affairs has endorsed a protocol for phase III clinical trials of herbal medicines for COVID-19 as well as a charter and terms of reference for the establishment of a data and safety monitoring board for herbal medicine clinical trials.

‘Like other areas of medicine, sound science is the sole basis for safe and effective traditional medicine therapies,’ said Dr Prosper Tumashimire, Director of Universal Health Coverage and Life Course Cluster at WHO Regional Office for Africa.

‘The onset of COVID-19, like the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, has highlighted the need for strengthened health systems and accelerated research and development programmes, including on traditional medicines,’ said Dr Tumashimire.

The endorsed technical documents are aimed at empowering and developing, a critical mass of technical capacity in Africa to conduct proper clinical trials to ensure quality and safety and efficacy of traditional medicines in line with international standards. Phase III clinical trials are pivotal in fully assessing the safety and efficacy of a new medical product.

The data safety and monitoring board will ensure that the accumulated studies are reviewed periodically against participants’ safety. It will also make recommendations on the continuation, modification or termination of a trial based on evaluation of data at predetermined periods during the study. A traditional medicine product is found to be safe, efficacious and quality-assured, WHO will recommend for a fast-tracked, large-scale local manufacturing, Dr Tumashimire explained, noting that through the African Vaccines Regulatory Forum, there is now a benchmark upon which clinical trials of vaccines and medicines in the region can be assessed and approved in less than 40 days.

‘The adoption of the technical documents will ensure that universally acceptable clinical evidence of the efficacy of herbal medicines for the treatment of COVID-19 are generated without compromising the safety of participants,’ said Professor Matlhebela Gilbert Mahlathini, the Expert Committee Chairman. He voiced hope that the generic clinical trial protocol will be immediately used by countries in the region to ensure that people can benefit from the potential of traditional medicine in dealing with the ongoing pandemic.

The 25 members of the Regional Expert Advisory Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 are tasked with supporting countries to enhance research and development of traditional medicine-based therapies against the virus and provide guidance on the implementation of the approved protocols to generate scientific evidence on the safety, quality and efficacy of herbal medicines for COVID-19.

The Committee members are from research institutions, national regulatory authorities, traditional medicine programmes, public health departments, academia and pharmacy professions and civil society organisations of Member States — WHO

Thir Office of the President has issued Press Release 34 dated 20 September 2020, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs’ arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking in 1996.

The ministry has made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 19 September. The full list of the press release will be reported in the 25 September issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.

PHOTO: AUNG LIN

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF are part of efforts for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of efforts for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement continues its aid to the people in conflict areas under the CERP plan to ensure that they can get good food and health care during the pandemic.

This commitment to provide aid to the civilians during the pandemic and conflicts is a positive step for the protection of children. Children were among the victims of armed clashes in our country. There is no excuse for violence against children.

Myanmar has formed a committee in 2018 to prevent six grave violations against children in conflict areas. The committee is tasked with taking immediate measures to respond to information on actions which deviates from the international law and military law and order and to take action for violations against children during armed conflicts.

The National-level project (2020-2021) on preventing six grave violations against children in conflicts was approved by the President on 18 August. A strong mobilization of regional governments, donors, civil society and private sector is needed to ensure that the project keeps children safe in any situation.

Hence, the authorities concerned are to scale up efforts to pull children out of conflict-ridden circumstances and to prevent children being harmed in armed conflicts, pandemic.
UK public warned to get serious as Covid alarm bells ring

LONDON (United Kingdom) — England is on track for about 50,000 coronavirus cases a day by mid-October and a surging death toll unless the public gets serious about preventive action, top UK advisers warned on Monday.

Rates of infection in England are replicating the strong resurgence of Covid-19 seen in France and Spain, roughly doubling every seven days, government chief medical officer Chris Whitty said.

“We are seeing a rate of increase across the great majority of the country,” he told a media briefing, urging the public to respect stricter guidelines on social distancing after widely shared pictures of young revelers out in British cities.

“This is not someone else’s problem. It’s all of our problem.”

The briefing previewed an expected announcement by Prime Minister Boris Johnson this week detailing government action to flatten the exponential coronavirus curve heading in to winter, when regular respiratory diseases typically spike.

Almost 42,000 people who have tested positive for Covid-19 have died in Britain, the worst death toll from the pandemic in Europe.

After a summer lull — when the government urged the public to frequent pubs and restaurants — cases have been rising rapidly to reach some 6,000 daily, according to one survey by government statisticians.

Second wave

Johnson last week said Britain was already seeing a second wave of Covid-19 — in line with parts of Europe — and the government introduced new restrictions for millions across northwest, northern and central England.

Partial virus lockdown in Madrid as US deaths near 200,000

MADRID (Spain) — A million people and around the Spanish capital on Monday were under a new lockdown to contain another coronavirus surge, as the US death toll near 200,000.

Top British advisors meanwhile warned that England was on course for about 50,000 coronavirus cases a day by mid-October and a rising death toll unless the public got serious about preventive action.

The global death toll stood at 961,531 at 1100 GMT on Monday, according to an AFP tally based on official statistics, with more than 31 million infections.

The restrictions in Madrid will last for two weeks, affecting people living mainly in densely populated, low-income neighbourhoods who will be allowed to use public transport for essential journeys such as work, medical care or taking children to school.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson this week detailing government action to flatten the exponential coronavirus curve heading in to winter, when regular respiratory diseases typically spike.

Using the rate of cultivating an acre of farmland and breeding a pig, the person rearing a pig can calculate their profit in 3 to 4 months. Rural people know best that the farmer has to worry about whether his crop will be useful, sell or be in debt.

We urge rural people to pair farming with livestock breeding instead of one alone. Our party pledges to support them for rearing livestock and urban people need to give their support too. Please don’t view this as irrelevant. Effects in agriculture and livestock in rural areas will affect the price of meat, fish and vegetables in urban areas directly.

If we look at Myanmar’s education sector, there are an unfortunately high number of children and youths who are illiterate. A third of the nation is weak in education, and it will be hard to become a modern and developed industrial nation if that continues to be true. That is why we need to establish bigger agriculture, livestock and education sectors instead of just factories and workshops.

Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party doesn’t have any pure politicians but was formed to support farmers. You earn what you work hard for so we wish to send representatives for farmers and the working class to have their voice heard in the Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw has lawfully placed seats. The seats are available for those who wish to discuss politics or defence but also legal matters, judicial matters, labour matters, education and healthcare and there are seats for farmers as well. Thus, we urge farmers to support their representatives as they bravely take their seat in the Hluttaw.

We want to tell the farmer representatives that they don’t need to be skilled in politics; they need to discuss the issues of their townships, regions and people bravely in the Hluttaw. You don’t need to be afraid of other people and be receptive of your constituents.

In the rope to freedom out of poverty and into the Hluttaw and the government to make significant changes.

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In the rope to freedom out of poverty and into the Hluttaw and the government to make significant changes.
I am Vice-Chairman (1) U Htoon Win of the United National Congress Party. While every eligible voter right now is unsure of for whom to give their precious vote, we dare not ask them to put it in for our party representatives. We merely request you to support us when you understand our party’s political-activities.

Citizens, workers, farmers, labourers, students, and people of all ages — esteemed greetings to all of you. May you possess peace and auspiciousness.

I will briefly explain our party’s progress. The current United National Congress Party (UNC) was registered on 28-2-2012. We contested in the 1990 election with the same name. Before that, Bogyoke had urged U Razak to form the Burma Muslim Congress (BMC) to unite scattered Muslims across the nation as a political strength for independence and then became a part of the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League (AFFFL).

We were able to build unity with no discrimination between the highland and flat plains and sign the Panglong Agreement. We achieved independence. Even after independence, BMC continued to be a prominent ally of AFFFL on the political stage up till 30 September 1956 in internal peace, rehabilitation and increasing industrial production. We were successful to a point neighbouring countries looked up to us. But we were taken apart like scaffolding afterwards.

The party was disbanded, and BMC (New) was formed on 1 October, and BaPaKa was formed in 1961. They allied with PaMaNyTa and became the prominent ally of AFPFL on the political stage up till 30 September 1956 in internal peace, rehabilitation and increasing industrial production. We were successful to a point neighbouring countries looked up to us. But we were taken apart like scaffolding afterwards.

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We organized the national conference in City Hotel, Yangon, on 24 October 2018 to prepare for this election by cooperating with everyone for the nation, implementing methods for mutual understanding, acknowledgement through patience, practising love and compassion, and believing in collaborating.

Esteemed voters and people

Everyone is born equal, and Myanmar citizens need equal rights to have equality. Every ethnic group requires self-determination and to create their own destiny. There needs to be a democratic nation that values human value and integrity, equal human rights for all nationalities, religions and genders.

The market economy system has to be healthy and thriving in a nation. State monopolies and private monopolies must be abolished, and free competition laws must be enacted. The State must support small and medium enterprises.

Labour wages need to consider clothing and living expenses as well. The State must bear the cost for health and education, and up to two-thirds of the highest payments from the State Budget should be used to cover those costs.

Farmers need guarantees to own their farmlands. They should have the choice to select the crops that make the most business sense. Large landlord systems must be prevented legally. The State must bear the cost of agricultural assistance. Confiscated land must be returned to their original owners without delay.

Homeless citizens in rural areas should be given land from public land through a raffle system. The State must provide for those who cannot afford to buy their own land. The government needs to build low-cost housing projects for the homeless in urban areas. Laws must be enacted to have companies do the same for their employees.

We will carry out our duties within and outside the Union, and each movement must deal with political methods; hate speech but with love, without separation but believing in collaborating.

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

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CAMPAIGN speech of Kachin National Congress Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 22 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers—the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 23 September. — MNA
Democracy and Human Rights Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Democracy and Human Rights Party Information In-Charge Daw Khin Nu presented party’s policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 21 September.

Esteemed voters and people
I wish you all physical and mental wellbeing.

I am Daw Khin Nu, Information In-Charge for the Democracy and Human Rights Party, and it’s a pleasure for me to present the policy, stance and work programmes of the party to the people.

First, I would like to introduce our party. We set up the party under registration No. 63 on 13 March 2013, and its organization campaign covers the whole country. The headquarters of the party is at No. 24, first floor 101st Street, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

The following points are the vision of our party:
1. To ensure human rights fair and square in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to establish genuine democracy, and to provide more excellent protection for people who are void of human rights;
2. To take part with might and main in observing Our Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
3. To foster friendship with all the national brethren, apart from the aim of maintaining the unity and friendship among all the ethnic peoples of the Union;
4. To establish a “Political Culture” that acknowledges all the nationalities as a single citizen and guarantees equal rights for all the national races;
5. To seek a political solution that ensures long-term unity and equality between the minorities and the people;
6. To actively partner with political parties that share the political, economic and social outlooks with us.

The following points are the stance of our party:
1. In turning the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a genuinely democratic state, the entire citizens must have equal rights in political, economic and social sectors;
2. A modern and developed state will emerge soon only if the rule of law can materialize the genuine democracy in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
3. A peaceful and tranquil state will come into being only if the issues of the ethnic races and human rights are solved employing the inclusive negotiations and discussions with the involvement of all the stakeholders;
4. Regardless of race, religion and locality and without any colour discrimination, Myanmar citizens must be governed under unified norms and laws. The administrative system where superior orders are above the law must be changed;
5. Myanmar citizens migrated to other countries for various reasons should have the right to reenter the country and to take part in building a new democratic nation as a reliable force.

I will now present some of the work programmes laid down by the party as follows:
1. Education sector-
   (a) To introduce the compulsory primary and middle school education and free high school education in the entire country;
   (b) To enable students who pass matriculation examination to pursue higher education at a reasonable cost;
   (c) To strive to increase government allotment for education funds required for multiple progress of vocational education;
   (d) To systematically implement all necessary programmes to uplift the country to reach the level of providing globally recognized education services.
2. Health sector-
   (a) To ensure low-cost quality healthcare services for the entire people;
   (b) To strive to attain the capability to lead the whole people in preventing infectious diseases and in providing medical treatment for all the infected patients;
   (c) To lay down and implement necessary development programmes for the country’s medical knowledge, therapies, pharmaceutical production and indigenous medicine to reach the international level.
3. Economic sector-
   (a) The emergence of the market economy and generation of job opportunities through the encouragement of factories and workplaces, poverty alleviation, and equal job opportunities for every region and every race;
   (b) Establishment of environmentally friendly micro and macro businesses that may bring long term benefits;
4. Peasant sector-
   (a) Farmers shall have the legal right to own, transfer and inherit farmland;
   (b) Gradual transition of traditional farming into modern mechanized farming;
   (c) Granting tenancy permits for the landless through land reclamation programme;
   (d) Efforts to transfer ownership of land, confiscated for various reasons, back to the original owners;
   (e) To carry out agricultural research, pedigree seed production and quality farm machinery production for the benefit of farmers;
   (f) Formation of a farmer association that can independently look into the sufferings and losses of farmers, ensure their rights and settle their problems in their interest.
5. Workers sector-
   (a) Guarantee rightful salary for every worker and to provide workers with unemployment protection;
   (b) To ensure equal pay for every worker regardless of race, religion, locality and gender;
   (c) Guarantee protection against forced labour and occupational mistreatment;
   (d) Ensure the right of association for workers to protect their interest.
6. Student/youth sector-
   (a) Prioritize youth efficiency promotion as youth members are the future of the State and the invaluable force of the nation;
   (b) Encourage the formation of student union within the legal framework as an acknowledgement of the role of students;
7. Judicial sector-
   (a) Ensure the independence of the judicial pillar within the framework of democratic norms;
   (b) Judges shall have the independent power to pass judgments relatively under the laws;
   (c) No administrative body shall be entrusted with the judicial authority or the ability to interfere in the judicial affairs;
   (d) Judicial procedures and judgments of the courts at different levels must be transparent;
   (e) The accused shall have the full rights to defend in the court and to appeal, and any criminal law shall not be construed to be retrospective;
   (f) A defendant shall be innocent until proven guilty;
   (g) No legal examination, punishment or sentence amounting to tarnishing human dignity shall be made;
   (h) There shall be no direct or indirect effect against a defendant’s family, race or religion in meting out punishment to him/her after he/she is proven guilty.
8. Administrative sector-
   (a) To strive for the emergence of democratic administrative machinery that ensures the rule of law, transparency, responsibility and justice, and which is free from racism/religious extremities;
   (b) To prevent the emergence of administrative machinery that is against democracy and human rights norms, and that may confuse the legal matters.
9. Foreign affairs sector-
   (a) We will practice the independent and active non-aligned foreign policy in international relations;
   (b) We will especially prioritize the role of the community-based organizations in international relations;
10. Ethnic affairs sector-
   (a) We will strive to restore national solidarity through the recognition of the equal rights of all the nationalities, as well as friendship, bilateral respect for culture and customs between ethnic races, and respect for fundamental human rights;
   (b) We will strive for the development of literature, culture and traditions of all the ethnic peoples;
   (c) We will foster mutual trust and friendship among the ethnic races through the exchange of views between them and the inclusive cooperation in the political affairs;
   (d) We will serve the interest of the ethnic races by building economic infrastructures, allowing independent development undertakings, alleviating poverty and promoting the human resources;
   (e) We will make cooperative efforts for ensuring the inherent rights of the ethnic races entirely and self-determination for them;
   (f) We will establish a severe political solution to realize the missions of the ethnic peoples;
   (g) We will protect the history of ethnic races from being damaged and preserve their cultural heritage;
   (h) We will cover every ethnic race from being denied their fundamental rights based on the differences in religion, culture and customs.
11. Defence and Security sector-
   (a) We will support the Tatmadaw to become efficient, technically developed and capable, as it is an essential force of the nation;
   (b) We will help the Tatmadaw to win the love and trust of the people;
   (c) We will support the police force to become reliable for the people in enforcing the rule of law within the legal framework and serve their duties well.

Esteemed voters and people

The logo of the Democracy and Human Rights Party is a scale symbolizing the equality among all the citizens, I wish people of Myanmar free from all kinds of pandemics and health and happiness. Thank you.
Suga, Trump vow to boost Japan-U.S. security alliance

TOKYO — Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. security alliance and work together to tackle the coronavirus pandemic on Sunday night in their first phone call since Suga took office.

Suga, elected by parliament as Japan’s first new leader in nearly eight years, told reporters after the conversation that he told Trump the alliance is the “cornerstone of peace and stability in the region.”

Trump was quoted by Suga as saying the alliance should be strengthened even further and that Suga is welcome to call him “24 hours a day.”

The two also discussed the situation surrounding North Korea and the response to the COV-ID-19 pandemic during the 25-minute conversation.

Suga asked Trump for continued U.S. support in pushing for the return of Japanese nationals who were abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s, according to a Japanese government official.

The leaders agreed the two allies will cooperate on the development and distribution of a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19, the official said.

They also discussed the importance of pursu- ing their shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific and agreed to work together to strengthen the global economy, according to the White House.

Earlier in the day, Suga had a phone conversation with Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, the first head of government he spoke to since his inauguration.

Suga’s predecessor, Shinzo Abe, is known to have formed one of the closest relationships with Trump among world leaders.

The two played golf together on multiple occasions and the U.S. president invited Abe, Japan’s longest-serving prime minister, to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida twice, in 2017 and 2018.

Suga, Abe’s right-hand man as chief Cabinet secretary during that time, is seen as a savvy politician on the domestic front but considered inexperienced in diplomatic affairs. “Congratulations Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. You have a great life story! I know you will do a tremendous job for Japan and for the world. Look forward to talking soon!” Trump had tweeted on Thursday.

After talking with Morrison and Trump, Suga told reporters outside his official residence that he was eager to hold phone calls with other world leaders, without naming any names.— Kyodo News

Ten dead, up to 25 feared trapped in India building collapse

BHIMAWANDI (India) — Ten people were killed and up to 25 are feared trapped after a three-storey residential building collapsed before dawn on Monday in western India, officials said.

The accident in the city of Bhiwandi, which neighbours India’s financial capital Mumbai, happened around 3:40 am (2210 GMT Sunday), according to local authorities.

Emergency workers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) pulled 19 people from the rubble — including two boys aged four and seven — to loud cheers from residents. “Total number of deaths is 10... Rescue operations are ongoing”, NDRF commandant Ithape Pandit told AFP.

An official at the Thane city authority, which oversees Bhiwandi, said that 40 emergency workers were helping search for survivors.

In respect of Class 6: Iron and steel; metal materials for building or construction; prefabricated building components; metal articles; non-electric prime movers (not for land vehicles); machine elements; valves (not metal, not machine elements); metal joints for pipes; metal flanges; keys (mechanical element); cotter pins; railway points; road signs of metal (not luminous or mechanically); beacons of metal (non-luminous); reservoirs of metal; anchors; mooring bits of metal; mooring bollards of metal; containers of metal for transport; anvils; swage blocks; metal hardware; wire ropes; wire nets and gauzes; industrial packaging containers of metal; metal nameplates and door nameplates; chains for dogs; metal stepladders and ladders; letter boxes of metal; hat-hanging hooks of metal; money boxes of metal; water tanks of metal for household purposes; tool boxes of metal (empty); towel dispensers of metal; metal joinery fittings; safes; upright signboards of metal; transportable greenhouses of metal for household use; metal tankers, semi-trailers and metal tomb plaques; ferules of metal for canes and walking- sticks; sculptures of metal.

In respect of Class 7: Metalworking machines and tools; mining machines and apparatus; construction machines and apparatus; loading-unloading machines and apparatus; fishing machines and instruments; chemical processing machines and apparatus; textile machines and apparatus; food or beverage processing machines and apparatus; lumbering, woodworking, or veneer or plywood making machines and apparatus; pulp makin, papermaking or paper-working machines and apparatus; printing or bookbinding machines and apparatus; sewing machines; agricultural machines; agricultural implements other than hand-operated; machines for use in shoe production; leather tanning machines; tobacco processing machines; glassware manufacturing machines and apparatus; painting machines and apparatus; packaging or wrapping machines and apparatus; power-operated potters’ wheels; plastic processing machines and apparatus; semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems; machines and apparatus for manufacturing rubber goods; stone working machines and apparatus; non-electric prime movers (not for land vehicles); pneumatic or hydraulic machines and instruments; adhesive tape dispensing machines; automatic stamping machines; dish washing machines for household purposes; electric wax-polishing machines (for household purposes); washing machines for household purposes; vacuum cleaners for household purposes; electric food blenders (for household purposes); machines and apparatus for repairing other machinery; mechanical parking systems; vehicle washing installations; power sprayers for disinfecting, insecticidal and for agricultural purposes; machine elements (not for land vehicles); lawnmowers; curtain drawing devices electrically operated; waste compacting machines and apparatus; waste crushing machines; starters for motors and engines; AC motors and DC motors (not including those for land vehicles but including those for AC motors and DC motors); AC generators (alternators); DC generators; dynamo brushes; electric metal cutting machines (by arc, gas or plasma).
Yangon circular railway to run during peak hours

A train of Myanmar Railways (MR) is seen at a station in Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Circular Railway operated by Myanmar Railways (MR) provides service only during peak hours while it has temporarily halted the service on some routes, according to No. 7 Division of MR. Yangon Circular Railway is set to play two times each during the morning and evening rush hours on Yangon-Hlawga, Yangon-Mingalardon and Yangon-Ywathitpyi routes beginning on 21 September.

However, two trains (B/3 and B/4) earlier running clockwise (right) and two trains (A/4 and A/3) running counter-clockwise (left) in the afternoon have temporarily suspended from 21 September. Earlier, Yangon circular railway network, connecting the satellite towns and suburban areas to the city; ran 54 rounds per day. In a bid to control the spread of coronavirus, MR slashed its service of passenger trains.

Additionally, MR continues to run on the main six routes in the country amid the declining passengers feared by the surges in coronavirus cases, coupled with travel restriction in line with the health guidelines by Nation-wide Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Those six principal routes with the available trains are Yangon-Mandalay route with No.3 and 4 (up and down) trains, Mandalay-Myaingyan with No.41 and 42 (up and down) trains, Yangon-Pyay with No.63 and 64 (up and down) trains, Nay Pyi Taw-Chauk with No.101 and 102 (up and down) trains and Manda-lay-Lashio with No.131 and 132 (up and down) trains.

Cargo trains and mail trains will keep running on Yangon-Mandalay and Manda-lay-Myaingyan routes. (Translated by El Myat Mon)

AYA Bank to temporarily close 43 branches in Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

FOLLOWING the coronavirus cases mounting in Yangon Region, AYA Bank has stopped its services in 43 branches in the region from 21 September, stating the bank in its press release.

They are Thuwunna, Yanbin, Pansodan, Hnin Si Gon, University Avenue Road, Mapo Road, Padaw Chaung, Yadan Road, Yuzana Plaza, Hotel No-votel, Laydaikkauk, Bosumap, Myanmar Plaza, North Da-gon-2, Shwebonthar-2, Kyuntau, Thilawa, Myanmar Gonyee, Laman-daw Plaza, Kyimyintdine-3, Bo Aung Kyaw-2, Mayanggon, Mtaw-in, Hline Parami, Ka-mayut Baho Road, Natmauk Road, Dawbon-2, Junction City, Tamway, Thudammara Road, Kyaw-kwite, Hanhaukpin, Thaneinbin, Hlinethaya-3, MICT, Baho Road, Paonthaing, Thumina-ga, Paru-ndaung, Kyauktada (mini), Inya (mini), Shinsawpu (mini) and Shwe Mingala Market (mini) branches.

Among a total of 121 branches of AYA bank in the region, 78 branches will keep opening regularly. This move is aimed to reduce the operation service amid the COVID-19 crisis as AYA prioritizes the health of customers and the staff during the banking service.

As per the Business Continuity Plan set by the AYA, only some branches will be opened across the country.

Last 8 September, one of their employees in Sittway was found positive for the COVID-19, and other two other staff in close contact with that person have been tested positive either.

Additionally, one employee each in AYA University Avenue New Road branch (Yangon 13), AYA headquarters at Riv-er View Tower, AYA Thamein- bagan Road (Yangon-95) branch service in Tamway Township and AYA Laydaikkauk branch have been infected with the coronavirus.

At present, the AYA Bank, AYA SOMPO Insurance and Max Myanmar group have made an initial donation of K1 billion to provide essential items, medical supply, medical facilities and infrastructure of Ayeyawady quarantine camps, Ayeayarwady Foundation stated. (Translated by El Myat Mon)

27 Myanmar seamen stay hotel quarantine in Kawthoung

A total of 27 Myanmar seamen who signed off from three ships anchored in the Andaman Sea for crew change arrived in Kawthoung yesterday evening. Among them, nine are from the ship MT Global Flora that came from China, three are from MV Amis Kalon from Ukraine and 15 are from MT Chemroad Queen from Malaysia.

Captain U Win Min Htet and eight seamen for MT Global Flora vessel, Captain U Kyaw Khaing Zin and three seamen for MV Amis Kalon, and Capt-tain U Min Soe Oo and elev-en seamen for MT Chemroad Queen have swapped the duties with returned seamen.

Officials from departments concerned and healthcare workers examined the returned seamen’s health conditions.

The twenty seven seamen are being quarantined for 21 days, and their lab samples will be sent to the National Health Laboratory—Kyaw Soe (Kaw-thoung) (Translated by Kyaw Soe (Kaw-thoung))

A train of Myanmar Railways (MR) is seen at a station in Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

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Twenty-seven Myanmar seamen returned for crew change arrive in Kawthoung on 21 September 2020. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUng)
Hundreds of whales stranded in southern Australia

SYDNEY (Australia) — At least twenty-five whales have died and scientists are trying to rescue 250 more that are stranded in a remote bay on the Australian island of Tasmania, officials said Monday.

Tasmania’s environment department said the whales had become stuck on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbour, on the island’s rugged and sparsely populated west coast.

Nic Deka, who is managing the incident response, said two large pods were stranded on sandbars about a hundred metres apart inside the harbour.

“They are in water but it’s very difficult to see how many of those whales are deceased or what condition they’re in,” he told reporters in the nearby town of Strahan.

They are believed to be pilot whales but the environment department is yet to confirm the species.

Police are on site and marine experts are assessing the situation ahead of plans to launch a rescue mission early Tuesday morning.

“In terms of the tides, when we start making an effort tomorrow it will be with an outgoing tide, so that’ll be in our favour, but obviously tides go up and down so we’ll be aiming to make the most of the windows that we have,” Deka said.

Mass whale strandings occur relatively often in Tasmania, but the large numbers involved present a daunting rescue prospect.

Authorities may call on a network of local volunteers to assist but have cordoned off the area to the general public.

The latest stranding comes as a humpback whale that was stuck in a tropical river in Australia’s north finally returned to the ocean after more than two weeks. Public broadcaster ABC reported the creature, which spent 17 days in the crocodile-infested waters of Kakadu National Park, has been spotted in open seas off Darwin.

Scientists had been weighing options for guiding the humpback to safety after it became the first known whale to travel up the muddy river but were relieved when it returned to sea on its own.—AFP

Honduras hopes to move embassy to Jerusalem by year’s end

HONDURAS announced Sunday that it hoped to relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before the end of the year, putting an end to its policy of neutrality in the face of the Middle East conflict.

Israel will also open a diplomatic office in Tegucigalpa, Honduras’s capital.—AFP

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Dated: 22 September 2020
Ayeyawady United leads MNL standing table after Week-17

AYEYAWDY United FC was in the first place of MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) 2020 standing table after Week-17, according to the league’s social media.

The football club stood first with 35 points from 11 wins, two draws and two losses, followed by Yangon United in the fourth place with 36 points from nine wins, three draws and three losses and Yadanarbon FC in the fifth place with 19 points from five wins, four draws and six losses.

The sixth-place team is Rakhine United with 17 points from five wins, two draws and eight losses, the seventh-place Sagaing United with 13 points from four wins, one draw and ten losses.

Players of Shan United and ISPE vie for the ball during their Week-17 match at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 19 September 2020. PHOTO: MNL

Magway United is in the eighth place with 10 points from two wins, four draws and nine losses, followed by ISPE in the ninth position with eight points from two wins, two draws and 11 losses, and Southern Myanmar in the tenth place with four points from no win, four draws and 11 losses.

All of the MPT MNL 2020 football teams had played 15 matches each so far after Week-17. Its Week-18 games will be played on 23 and 24 September 2020.

On 23 September, Magway FC will take on Southern Myanmar FC, Yadanarbon FC will play against Hanthawady FC, and Sagaing United FC will compete against ISPE FC.

On 24 September, Shan United FC will compete against Ayeyawady United, and Yangon United will play against Rakhine United.—Kyaw Khin

DeChambeau wins US Open to capture first major victory

NEW YORK (United States) — Bryson DeChambeau captured his first major golf title on Sunday, firing a three-under-par 67 to win the 120th US Open and humble a relentless Winged Foot layout.

The 27-year-old American, who bulked up during the coronavirus lockdown in a bid to add power to his game, eagled the par-5 ninth from just inside 40 feet and rolled to a six-stroke victory over 21-year-old countryman Matthew Wolff.

“Of gosh, I can’t believe it,” said DeChambeau, renowned for his scientific approach to the sport. “It has been a lot of hard work.”

DeChambeau hit only 23 fairways for the week but finished 72 holes on six-under par 274 thanks to Sunday’s only sub-par round at the formidable Mamaroneck, New York, layout.

DeChambeau became the first player since 1955 to win with the only sub-par score in the final round, and just the fourth ever to do it, completing a dominating performance.

Typical US Open rough could not stop DeChambeau, whose exercise and protein shakes delivered powerful drives while his calculations and precise readings produced solid shotmaking on a layout that crushed rivals.—AFP

Liverpool’s Alisson shows Chelsea the value of a great goalkeeper

LONDON (United Kingdom) — The gulf that still exists between Liverpool and Chelsea was on show on Sunday as the Premier League champions secured a 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge in a match defined by the differing fortunes of the world’s two most expensive goalkeepers.

Alisson Becker’s record £67 million ($87 million) move from Roma to Liverpool in 2018 lasted just three weeks before Chelsea paid £72 million to buy Kepa Arrizabalaga from Athletic Bilbao.

Just over two years on there is no doubt who got value for money with Chelsea prepared to spend again to solve their ‘keeper crisis with the imminent arrival of Edouard Mendy from Rennes.

Kepa’s latest calamity saw him gift possession to Sadio Mane for the Senegalese’s second goal after heading Liverpool into the lead early in the second-half.

Chelsea’s decision to spend £200 million in recent months before addressing their goalkeeper situation raised questions before the season started as to their title credentials.

Just two games in, doubts over Kepa’s ability to start for a title contender have proven well founded as he also let Leandro Trossard’s long-range striker under his arm in Monday’s 3-1 win at Brighton.

“It’s our player and it’s clear there are two games where we feel the made mistakes,” said Lampard. “Brighton was a mistake as well. He’s reflected on that.”

“It is a clear mistake that’s cost us because at that point we go onto have a penalty which we might score and those fine margins change games at this level. Kepa has to keep working, he has to have support around him that’s very clear but it was a clear mistake.”

The Spaniard was dropped to play at least 10 games in the Premier League last season and Chelsea’s failure to solve their goalkeeping problem before splashing out to reinforce him gift possession to Sadio Mane.

“It was a clear mistake that’s very clear but it was a clear mistake.”

DeChambeau became the first player since 1955 to win with the only sub-par score in the final round, and just the fourth ever to do it, completing a dominating performance.

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Chelsea’s Spanish goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga keeps his eyes on the ball during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in London on 20 September 2020. PHOTO: AFP

DeChambeau lines a putt on the 1st green, during the fourth and last round of the World Golf Championship, at Chapultepec’s Golf Club in Mexico City, on 23 February 2020. PHOTO: AFP