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Tuesday, 24 March 2020

State Counsellor receives Mr. Ola Almgren, UN Resident Coordinator for Myanmar

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Ola Almgren, UN Resident Coordinator for Myanmar, at 2:20 pm on 23 March 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations based on mutual trust, enhancing cooperation with the United Nations including international partners in the provision of humanitarian assistance and granting improved humanitarian access, to streamline travel authorization procedures for UN staff to speed up the process, to support Myanmar in the implementation of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), and to provide assistance to Myanmar's preventive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister from the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Ola Almgren, UN Resident Coordinator for Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MoHS confirms two Coronavirus cases

Following is the full-text of the news release on monitoring of COVID-19 (11:45 p.m., 23-3-2020) issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

1. A 36-year-old male Myanmar national with an American green card from Tiddim, Chin State, arrived in Myanmar on 13-3-2020. He developed high fever on 19-3-2020 and sought medical treatment at Population Services International. He was transferred to Tiddim Township General Hospital on 21-3-2020 and was quarantined in isolation. He did not exhibit symptoms of coughing or respiratory issues. A lab specimen was obtained on 22-3-2020 and sent to the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) and the lab result on 23-2-2020 showed he has COVID-19. Medical examination at 11 pm on 23-3-2020 reported that the patient was recovering and did not exhibit high fever or respiratory issues. He continued to be quarantined in isolation in Tiddim Township General Hospital.
2. A 26-year-old male Myanmar national from England landed in Yangon International Airport on 22-3-2020 and was quarantined at the Public Health Practical Training Center in Hlegu Township on the same day and later transferred to Dhammaduta Jetavana Tawya Cekinda Yama Monastery in Hmawby Township in the evening. The patient had not exhibited symptoms of high fever or respiratory issues since landing in Myanmar. However, his lab result on 23-3-2020 showed that he has COVID-19. He has been transferred to Waibargi Specialist Hospital in the evening of 23-3-2020 and is quarantined in isolation.
3. The National Health Laboratory (Yangon) conducted 4 different testing protocol on the lab specimens acquired from the aforementioned 2 patients for accurate results.
4. In line with the WHO's regulations, their lab specimens will be sent to WHO's designated laboratory on 24-3-2020 after approval.
5. Investigation is ongoing on history of people who have been in contact with these two patients and systematic quarantines and examinations will be performed.

MoHS

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Pyithu Hluttaw receives veterinary health, national library bills

THE 12th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 15th regular session was held yesterday where asterisk questions were raised and a report read.

First, U Khin Maung Thein of Sagaing constituency asked whether a plot of land measuring 120 by 120 feet will be permitted to construct an administrator's office and staff residences in Sartaung, Sagaing Region.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that they have applied for building an additional housing unit in 2021-2022 FY to the existing 5 units so as to meet the six health officials criteria. However, there are some obstacles to giving out a portion of land of the health department's for building an administrator's office, said the Deputy Minister.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Next, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency asked whether the job advertisement in the 17 March 2013 edition of 'The Mirror' promising primary teacher training for general labourers who meet set requirements will be fulfilled.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied

that there have not been any call for primary teacher training since the advertisement was published that year. He said general laborers who have received a degree are promoted to clerk or allowed to take the PPTT exam if they meet set requirements.

Next, U Sai Sam of Mong-

yan constituency asked whether a police station with an attached holding cell, office and a two-storey building with six rooms for Mongyan Township will be implemented in the coming financial year.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that since the existing infrastructure are old and additional facilities are needed for the expanding local police force, the budget proposal for additional buildings will be included in the 2020-2021 FY.

Following this, Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun submitted the veterinary health and livestock development bill sent back with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat gathered the consideration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and

Irrigation and the deliberation of the Hluttaw. He then announced that the bill will be further debated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Next, the Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent back the national library bill with amendments and called for MPs interested in debating the bill to register their names.

This was followed by Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee member U Myo Naing reading the committee's report and the Speaker calling for MPs interested in debating the report to register their name.

The 13th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 15th regular session will be held on 25 March. —Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Amyotha Hluttaw passes Myanmar Telecommunication Commission Bill

THE Amyotha Hluttaw held its 12th-day meeting of the 15th regular session yesterday, and discussed asterisk questions, tabled a motion and reported a one-year extension of the term of a committee.

MP U Maung Maung Ohn from constituency 5 of Ayeyawady region asked about time and process for the amendment of wordings in 'Exception' paragraph under Section 4 (f-iii) of Chapter 2: Formation of Labour Organizations in the Labour Organization Rules dated on 29 February 2012 with the notification number 1/2012 issued by the Ministry of Labour.

The MP said that his proposal was aimed for effective protecting the rights of Myanmar sailors and their employment opportunities.

Deputy Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing replied that the amendment would be possible only when Myanmar seafarer organizations, which are the members of Myanmar Maritime Tripartite Committee formed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, submitted their proposals to the MoLIP through the related ministry.

MP U Khin Zaw Oo from Mon State constituency 3 asked



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

about the upgrade of a road and construction of five bridges on that way in Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin replied the projects will be implemented with the budget of Mon State government for 2020-2021 financial year.

MP Dr Win Myint from Bago Region constituency 11 asked about the upgrade of roads in his constituency. Deputy Minister Dr Myaw Lin will implement it in accordance with rules and procedures.

MP U Hwae Tin from Chin State constituency 11's question on construction of a motorcycle road in his constituency was answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

MP U Hla Oo Sagaing Region constituency 4's question on renovation of historical heritages in Amyint village of ChaungU Township in Monywa district in his constituency was replied by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min.

MP Naw Hla Hla Soe from Yangon Region constituency 10's question on a mechanism of relevant government organizations to protect the rights of child labours in line with the Child Rights Law (2019) was replied answered by Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing.

MP Dr Khun Win Thaung from Kachin State constituency 11, MP U Kyaw Toke from Mandalay Region constituency 7, MP U Kyi Win from Ayeyawady Region constituency 12, MP U

Okkar Min from Taninthayi Region constituency 8 raised questions on infrastructural developments in their respective constituencies. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin answered the questions.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw's recommendations on the Road Safety and Vehicle Management bill.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Thein Lwin presented the report of bill committee on Myanmar Telecommunication Commission Bill.

The Speaker also explained each paragraph of the bill to the Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo tabled a motion to seek approval of Hluttaw for the bill.

The Hluttaw unanimously passed the bill.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Thein read out a report of the committee on the rules for election of the Bar Council.

The Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives also discussed the fifth amended rules on Pyithu Hluttaw Election Rules, the fifth amended rules on Amyotha Hluttaw Election Rules, and the fifth amended

rules on Region/State Hluttaw Election Rules presented by the Pyithu Hluttaw with recommendations.

MP U Maung Maung Ohn from Ayeyawady Region constituency 5 tabled a motion on suggesting the Union government to issue mandate for private sector to produce the mixture of ethanol and gasoline in an appropriate proportion as Myanmar has to import over 2 million tonnes of gasoline annually and the ethanol can be produced at domestic liquor factories from the local crops of corns and rice. By-products of the crops can be used for animal foods. The MP also said the motion was aimed to decrease trade deficit of the country.

MP Dr Zaw Lin Htut from Mon State constituency discussed the motion should be kept just as a record because the plan needs more detailed research.

The motion was discussed by the 4 MPs.

The Speaker then announced an one-year extension on the term of Amyotha Hluttaw's Construction, Industry, Electricity and Energy Committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will organize its 13th-day meeting on 25 March.—Aung Ye Thwin (Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee
Order No. 1/2020

15th Waning of Tabaung 1381 ME
(23 March 2020)

Declaration of Terrorist Group

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this order with the approval of the Union Government in exercise of the Anti-Terrorism Law Section 6, sub-section (e) and Section 72 (b).

1. The United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA), by organizing as well as using fear and threats to local people in northern Rakhine State, attacked military columns, members of Myanmar Police Force and security outposts using the local people as cover. They also arrested, killed and tortured village administrators, civil service staff and innocent civilians, in addition to shootings and landmine attacks in the villages.
2. These terrorist acts of the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) have caused serious losses of public security, lives and property, important infrastructures of the public and private sector, state-owned buildings, vehicles, equipment and materials. Moreover, the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) also conducted terrorist attacks on the registered vessels, airplanes and motorized vehicles. They committed the acts of violence based in the country.
3. Therefore, the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) which has been committing the above-mentioned terrorist acts has, been declared as a terrorist group.

Chairman
Anti-terrorism Central Committee
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Order No. 1/2020

15th Waning of Tabaung 1381 ME
(23 March 2020)

Declaration of Unlawful
Association

1. The President is of the opinion that objectives and acts of the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA), its affiliated group and its related individuals have constituted a danger to law and order, peace and stability of the country and public peace.
2. Therefore, the President, as per Section 16 of the Unlawful Associations Act, has declared the above-mentioned group and its affiliated groups as an Unlawful Association in accordance with the stipulations in Section 15, subsection (2) of the Unlawful Associations Act.

By order
Lieutenant General Soe Htut
Union Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoHS's nationwide coordination and command centres come into operation to monitor Covid-19

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has initiated its coordination and command centres to control measures against Covid-19 in the country amid worries about high risk of the viral disease due to the returnees from the countries and territories with the confirmed cases of pandemic.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe advised health authorities from States and Regions during the daily meeting 39/2020 through video conferencing yesterday, and he expressed his appreciation of their round-the-clock efforts on disease-preventive measures.

He also said that the ministry has already developed a working plan for treatments and controls to the first case in line with latest therapy, and it will be distributed to the hospitals in states and regions.

The Union Minister also acknowledged the coordination of Sayadaw Dr Ashin Cekinda, the President of Myanmar Football

Federation and the hoteliers association to set up quarantine places.

He highlighted effectiveness of the 14-day quarantine strategy in the countries with pandemic cases over the two months. Depending on the epidemiological conditions of the returnees from the countries and territories of high cases or low cases, facility quarantine or home quarantine is being practiced.

The ministry has arranged buses to take the returnees through border crossings to their homes in coordination with the Union government, social affairs ministers of Region/State governments and the General Administration Departments.

The returnees also need to impose self-quarantine for 14 days in their respective areas in consideration of other people.

The Union Minister also advised not to organize large community events, to carry out public awareness with hand



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends the coordination meeting 39/2020 of the pandemic prevention central committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

speakers in remote areas with no easy access to televisions, radios and internet.

He added the importance of coordination and command centres in facing against the new disease.

At the meeting, health authorities discussed the updates of Covid-19 in the other countries, findings on international treatments, accumulation of medicines and medical equipment, distributions of medicines

and equipment, getting information by contacting with the focal persons of International Health Regulation and available international funds.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Tatmadaw families donate for COVID-19

A donation ceremony for medicine and equipment for COVID-19 was held at the Defence Services Orthopedic Hospital in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

First, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, delivered a speech regarding the donation and Maj-Gen Soe Win, Director of Directorate of Medical Services, explained the Tatmadaw's preparations for COVID-19.

Next, Adjutant General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein handed over a water purification machine (worth K2.5 million) and medicine and equipment worth K144.7 million donated by families of

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for Waibargi Specialist Hospital in South Okkalapa Township to Dr Tun Myint, Head of Yangon Region's Public Health and Medical Services Department.

This was followed by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the commanders-in-chief of the navy and air force accepting donations from private donors and conferring them with certificates of honour.

The families of the Tatmadaw donated K148 million worth of medicines and equipment, 6 ventilators, 60 portable ventilators, 5 oxygen tanks and test kits for 20,000 people.

Afterwards, the Senior General and entourage visited



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects preparation for quarantine services at a military hospital in Yangon. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Defence Services Rehabilitation Hospital and Defence Services Cardiac Specialist Hospital and inspected the wards for quar-

antined patients, cafeteria, intensive care unit and personal protective equipment provided, according to new released from

the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MIFER Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives World Bank Country Director Gevorg Sargsyan



Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives Mr. Gevorg Sargsyan, Country Director of the World Bank Group, at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chair of Working Committee to Address the Possible Impacts of COVID-19 on the Country's Economy, received Mr. Gevorg Sargsyan, Country Director of the World Bank Group at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Union Minister and the Country Director discussed matters relating to strengthening cooperation between the Bank and the Working Committee regarding the possible impacts of COVID-19 on the country's economy.

The Union Minister under-

scored "Whole of Nation" approach adopted by Myanmar to prevent and control the COVID-19.

He affirmed that the Committee is closely monitoring the situation. It is giving guidance and promoting public awareness on COVID-19 through print media, radio and television and social media. To date there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar. The Government and people are not letting down their guard. The Union Minister expressed his appreciation to the World Bank for allocating funds to support Myanmar's efforts.

The Union Minister also informed the World Bank Country Director of the setting up of a 100

Billion Kyat stimulus package to remedy possible economic impacts on SMEs.

The Director confirmed that the World Bank would make available US \$ 14 billion to support member countries' efforts to meet the challenge of COVID-19. He said US \$ 50 million would be available for Myanmar under IDA credit Fast Track Facility and that World Bank teams were currently evaluating the possible impact on Myanmar's economy.

U Barat Singh, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Aung Naing Oo, Permanent Secretary, and senior officials also attended at the meeting. —MNA

China transfer fund for 22 projects to be implemented in Myanmar under Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the agreement on the transfer of fund for Mekong-Lancang Special Fund (2020) projects, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the afternoon of 23rd March (Monday) 2020.

The Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and concerned Ministries, and officials from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Yangon attended the signing ceremony.

China will transfer over 6.7 million USD (6,788,850/-) to Myanmar for (22) projects to be implemented in Myanmar by the 10 ministries in the areas of agriculture, water resources, education, social and cultural exchange, research, ICT, law enforcement, capacity building and investment promotion. China supported 2.4 million USD for 10 projects un-

der MLC Special Fund (2017) and 7.2 million USD for 19 projects under MLC Special Fund (2018) to Myanmar in the past.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was initiated by the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th ASEAN-China Summit held in Myanmar in 2014 to foster cooperation to reduce development gap and attain sustainable development in the Mekong region. Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was officially launched in 2016 among six Mekong-Lancang countries comprising Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. March 23 marks the 4th Anniversary of the establishment of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation primarily focused on five priority areas, namely; connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, and agriculture and poverty reduction. It has been expanded to the areas such as education, culture and health based on the needs of the Mekong Region. —MNA

"People are the key"

MIFER Union Minister, ADB Country Director discuss ADB projects, assistance to mitigate economic fallout from COVID-19

U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received Mr. Newin Sinsiri, Country Director of Asian Development Bank at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

The Union Minister and the ADB Country Director discussed prevention and control of the pandemic and the government efforts to address the adverse effects of COVID-19 on Myanmar's economy.

The ADB Country Director confirmed that ADB would allocate US\$ 6.5 billion assistance package for Developing Member Countries of ADB. The Bank, he said, was also coordinating with the Ministry of Health and Sports to provide loans and grants to use in the Myanmar's efforts to prevent and control COVID-19.

The Union Minister and Country Director also discussed the allocation of US\$ 1 million under the GMS Health Security Project Fund. —MNA



Union Minister U Thaug Tun holds talks with Mr. Newin Sinsiri, Country Director of Asian Development Bank, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Film industry offers assistance against COVID-19



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint receives K 10 million donated by Myanmar Motion Picture Organization yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) and Forever Group donated K10 million and K20 million for the protection against, containment and treatment of COVID-19 respectively yesterday. Speaking at the donation ceremony held at MRTV in Yangon, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said while the coronavirus has spread to nearly all countries around the world, Myanmar has by some miracle no positive or confirmed cases. However, there are worries as it can enter the nation at any time.

He added that the virus containment process is not something the Ministry of Health and Sports or government departments can carry out by themselves. He said his view is the volunteers and the entire public

should all work together on this. He said the entire nation needs to view this as a national cause and participate accordingly. He said it is energizing to see the emergence of organizations and people willing to provide support in case emergencies arise.

The Union Minister said MMPO has always provided assistance for the people of Myanmar and seeing them do so again in this situation is admirable and that he thanks them. He said Forever Group should also be thanked for their contribution and hoped that artistes will continue to provide assistance with utmost enthusiasm during these times.

The Union Minister said the Ministry of Information is preparing for more entertaining programmes for broadcast during

the Thingyan period as all pandals will be closed and people will be confined to their houses. He requested full collaboration to make these programmes better than ever.

Next, MMPO Vice Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay explained the reason for the donation, and MMPO and Forever Group handed over the donations to the Union Minister. Afterwards, the Union Minister observed the Public Service Announcement for COVID-19 being recorded at MRTV's studio 1.

This PSA is a collaboration between the Ministry of Information, Academy Daw Swe Zin Htaik, Myanmar Music Association Secretary U Zaw Htoo Aung and Bo Bo Film Production's U San Win Oo (Bo San).—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Yunnan Province donates 60,000 masks to Myanmar

YUNNAN Province donated 60,000 masks to Myanmar to be used in preventing the Corona-virus infection.

The donation ceremony was held at the Consul General Office in Kunming, Yunnan Province of China, in the presence of the Deputy Director-General of the Yunnan Province Government's foreign affairs office Mr Hao Kun and Myanmar Consul General U Tun Aung Kyaw.

At the ceremony, Mr Hao Kun handed over the masks to

the U Tun Aung Kyaw.

Of 60,000 masks, 14,000 will be distributed to Yangon Region, which has established friendship relations with Yunnan Province, and 14,000 to Mandalay Region, which signed the cooperation agreement with Yunnan Province, and the remaining 32,000 to the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar.

The donated masks will be airlifted from Kunming to Yangon today. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Yunnan Province donates 60,000 masks to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

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Covid-19 affects Mandalay Zay Cho trading

“THERE are fewer travellings throughout the country due to the Covid-19 crisis. So, it could have affected our sales and purchases dramatically. However, manufacturing activities and distribution channels are running as usual because they are ordering goods online even though people don't come to the market. We deliver their orders for the products. So, the goods are still on demand as almost usual,” said Secretary U Myo Min Tun of Mandalay Zay Cho Market Committee.

Although the sale and purchase of Mandalay Zay Cho market are affected by Covid-19, the general trading is going on online, according to Mandalay Zay Cho Market Committee.

Although there are rumours that the Zay Cho market will be closed because of Covid-19, the sale and purchase of Mandalay Zay Cho market are near as usual and the market will be closed only during the



Shopper are seen at the Zay Cho Market in Mandalay. PHOTO: HTET HTAR NAING

water festival period.

“The customers in the region don't come to the market in person. At present, the volume of the sale and purchase of the market has declined slowly. People are scared of the virus. If the online market system is running more smoothly, we can help prevent

the virus outbreak and spread. Currently, people turn to a teleworking now. In the Zay Cho market, people are using Viber and WeChat applications. However, selling from online is not highly effective,” said U Ye Naing Swe, the owner of Myoma slipper shop from Zay Cho market.

There are over 3,000 shops in Mandalay Zay Cho market in which there is trading of raw materials and finished products to upper and lower regions of Myanmar. —Htet Htar Naing

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Yangon 6 townships test run Smart Parking project

“THIS system has been in use in other parts of the world for a long time, but this is for the first time to use the technology in Myanmar. Smart car parking system aims at preventing unnecessary delays in the parking of the vehicles and reducing the congestion of roads,” said Managing Director U Soe Zaw Min Htet of Team-2 Myanmar Gateway Engineering Consultancy.

Under the supervision of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), a smart parking project is underway as a pilot project from 22 March to 4 April in downtown six townships of the Yangon City Development Committee Area, according to the smart parking project tender competing companies.

The three technology companies have participated in YCDC's smart parking tender bid. These companies are team-1 Paradigm Technology Company, team-2 Myanmar Gateway



Workers from a parking Company conduct a survey in Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

Engineering Consultancy, and team-3 Suntan Technology Company.

The three companies started their pilot projects of smart parking from 22 March onward to 4 April from 8 am to 6 pm. The companies have provided awareness for the parking users by putting a notice on the cars, which are parked on the road, for turning the current parking system into the smart one. The three companies will be responsible for the roads designated for them — team-1 is for car parking block-A between Bogyoke and Anawyahtar Roads, team-2 for car parking Block-B between Anawyahtar and Maha Bandoola Streets, and team-3 for car parking Block-C between Maha Bandoola and Merchant roads.

The three teams will submit work progress reports to the YCDC tender board. Then, the tender committee will choose the best team to continue to implement the smart car parking project.

Related to the smart parking charges, the payment will be made by cash or through the online system — that is through the use of mobile phones after developing of Block-A for Parking Yangon application, Block-B for Smart Parking @ Yangon application and Block-C for Flowbird application.

During this pilot period, there will be no need to make any payment. The parking fees will range from Ks 500 and Ks 300 to Ks 200 for upper block, middle block and lower block of the Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Anawyahtar, Maha Bandoola, Seikkantha, Bogyoke Aung San roads. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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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.

Over 300,000 students sit for 1st-semester exams of higher education

THE Ministry of Education announced over 300,000 students are sitting for the first semester exams of universities, degree colleges and colleges for 2019-2020 academic year across the country.

Out of 299,029 registered students at arts/science universities, degree colleges, and colleges, a total of 289,669 students join the exams, while 9,360 were absent.

At the Technological Universities and Uni-

versities of Computer Studies, 51,153 students are present out of 52,000 and 847 students were absent.

At the education colleges, 10,777 students are present out of 10,782 registered students and 5 were absent. The ministry has confirmed 351,599 students reached to exam rooms, out of 361,811 registered students, while 10,212 students failed to sit the exams. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Suzuki to establish new car factory in Thilawa SEZ

By Nyein Nyein

Suzuki will expand its production with a new factory in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ), with an annual production of 40,000 cars, stated a press release by Suzuki Motor Corporation on 23 March.

Suzuki will set up its new assembly plant in keeping up with the growing automobile industry in Myanmar. The plant is slated to start running in September 2021. The annual production is estimated at 40,000 vehicles, the press release added.

Suzuki Motor Corporation is producing the cars under the Semi-Knocked Down (SKD) under the name of Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co., Ltd. It will open a new assembly plant including welding process, painting pro-

cess and assembly process to locally produce the assembled completely knockdown (CKD) vehicles in the country. The company will construct the 42,000-square-metre plant in Thilawa SEZ, with the estimated capital of 12 billion yen.

At present, Suzuki has wholly invested US\$35 million in the Thilawa SEZ, employing 224, as per data of the company in February.

Suzuki has entered Myanmar since 1998. It formed a joint venture with the government and started to produce assembled motorcycles and vehicles in 1999. Later, it stood as the wholly foreign-owned enterprises under Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Co., Ltd, and Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co., Ltd, producing Carry, Ciaz, Ertiga and Swift brands at the automobile plants in South



Suzuki factory in Thilawa Industrial zone. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Dagon and Thilawa SEZ.

Suzuki produced 13,300 assembled cars in Myanmar in 2019. The production has ramped up to 125 per cent compared with the previous year.

Suzuki grasped 60.3 per cent of the share of brand-new car sales in the country, selling 13,206 vehicles. The rate of sales is up by 128 per cent, according to the press statement. Establishing a

new factory, Suzuki aims to fulfil the requirements of Myanmar's automobile market and to expand its market in the country.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic gold price falls by K60,000 amid global slide



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

By Nyein Nyein

WITH the gold price sliding in the global market, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market dropped by about K60,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) within two weeks, according to the local gold market.

Global gold price stood at \$1,637 per ounce on 12 March while domestic gold price crossed K1,210,000 per tical. It fell to K1,151,500 per tical on 23 March when the price in the world market dipped to \$1,486 per ounce, as per market data.

Within two weeks, the global gold price dropped by \$151 and the local gold price plunged by K60,000 per tical.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic prices hit fresh highs last year, reach-

ing K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a recorded peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September.

According to gold traders, in the month of November in the current fiscal, the local gold price moved in the range of K1,219,400 (2 November) and K1,173,000 (28 November). It reached the lowest level of K1,170,800 (3 December) and the highest level of K1,197,800 (28 December). The lowest price was K1,191,600 (2 January) and the highest was K1,232,700 (8 January). The gold price touched the lowest level of K1,214,100 on 5 February and the highest level of K1,234,200 on 28 February, according to the gold traders.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports of cattle, animal products decline in current FY

Myanmar's exports of animal products between 1 October and 13 March in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 touched a low of US\$53 million, a sharp drop of \$216.158 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY when livestock trading was suspended by China. In the previous fiscal, animal products exports were registered at \$269.287 million. Animal products exports are solely driven by the private sector this year.

At present, cattle exports to China are on the decline due to suspension of a trade by China since the pre-Chinese New Year period, said cattle exporters.

Normally, a large cow is valued at over K1.6-2.3 million, but last year, the suspension of trade led to Chinese traders resorting to price manipulation and offering a lower price of about K1 million. Myanmar has held a series of negotiations with China at the Joint Border Trade

Cooperation and Coordinating Committee (JBTC) meetings on legal exports of cattle along with cross-border control of communicable diseases.

While cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, livestock trading is still not permitted by China, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation. Myanmar, which allowed livestock trading in late 2017, is now exploring new export markets for cattle. At present, in order to prevent from animal disease, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation issued a notification on 11 March 2020 that the cattle are subject to special goods and procedures for movement of the cattle in the regions and states were mentioned, posing difficulties to those livestock farmers working on a manageable scale.

To transport the cattle within the country, the health certificate (AHD/PC-3) issued by the head of the related Livestock Breeding and Veterinary

Department in the townships, districts and regions or states.

If the traders fail to comply with the notification, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law.

The country exports cattle that are above five years old, along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

Between the 2017-2018FY and the month of October in the current FY, over 460,000 heads of cattle, with an estimated value of over \$581 million, have been exported to China through Muse, according to trade figures.

The authorities have issued cattle export licences to more than 300 companies in the Magway region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licences across the country. — Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Stay united in preventing, controlling Coronavirus infection

AS Myanmar migrant workers are returning in crowds from foreign countries, including neighbouring countries which are suffering from the Coronavirus outbreak, our country is at a very high risk of the people contracting the Coronavirus infection.

The large numbers of migrant workers returning to Myanmar will increase the spread of the virus. In this situation, we need to ramp up our current efforts, considering that an imminent epidemic is coming to our country.

This is not meant to induce panic, but to prepare citizens for what lies ahead.

Only by imposing travel restrictions or 14-day quarantines in homes or larger facilities can we minimize the possible spread of the disease. Two months after the outbreak, it has been found that this quarantine strategy is the correct way to effectively control the disease in outbreak countries.

The government is also implementing the quarantine strategy. The Ministry of Health and Sports has updated the steps for providing treatment to an infected patient and for controlling the infection, and it will soon distribute updated advisories to health authorities in regions and states.

With the contribution of the private sector, larger quarantine facilities are ready to provide accommodation for the returnees.

The regional authorities are transporting returning

migrant workers to their hometowns, in an effort to quarantine them in their own homes.

The people should understand that what the government is doing for them is in the interests of the country and the people, and it is not meant to stigmatize those with the infection.

The returnees are also obliged to exercise a great degree of responsibility for strictly abiding by the quarantine. Social distancing will have to be accompanied by social solidarity and care for the more vulnerable populations.

Local authorities, health workers and the people will need to be even more sensitive towards the returnees in their wards, villages and towns, and provide support for home quarantine for 14 days.

In fact, COVID-19 can spread to others very rapidly, and we should notice that even Italy, a developed country, is facing difficulties in controlling the epidemic.

Hence, the local authorities are advised to ban holding traditional charity food donation ceremonies by the returnees, which attract crowds, as it is an activity inviting dangers in this time of pandemic.

Whether the general public follows the advice of health officials should be monitored by local authorities.

The authorities are also urged to alert the local people in rural areas, which are not easily accessible to TV, radio and internet, by disseminating information about COVID-19 over loudspeakers.

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

Asia virus latest: Olympic delay 'inevitable'; India grounds flights

SINGAPORE (Singapore) —Asian nations are ramping up efforts to fight the novel coronavirus, which has upended societies and sparked economic turmoil as it spreads around the world.

Here are the latest developments in the region:

India grounds domestic passenger flights

India will ground all domestic passenger flights from Wednesday to combat the spread of the virus, having already banned incoming international arrivals and sealed most of its land borders.

Domestic Indian carriers flew some 144 million passengers last year.

Chances grow of Olympic delay

After weeks insisting the Tokyo Olympics will begin in July, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said postponing the Games may become "inevitable".

It came as Canada's Olympic and Paralympic committees announced they will not send teams to the Games if they are held this summer, and Australia's Olympic committee told athletes to prepare



The Tokyo 2020 Olympic flame is displayed at Ofunato, Iwate prefecture on March 23, 2020. The flame arrived on March 20 in Miyagi prefecture north of Tokyo, following the traditional lighting ceremony in Greece which took place without spectators due to the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. PHOTO: AFP

for them to take place in 2021.

Australians at unemployment offices, New Zealand lockdown

In scenes not witnessed in Australia for decades, jobless people queued around the block at

unemployment offices, while the forced closure of pubs, casinos, churches and gyms began at midday Monday.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison warned the pandemic would cause an economic crisis akin to the Great Depression.

In neighbouring New Zealand, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the government will impose a four-week lockdown.

Hong Kong bans non-residents

The financial hub will bar

entry for all non-residents from midnight on Tuesday evening, its leader said, as it tries to halt a recent spike in virus infections from people returning from abroad. It will also ban transit at the airport.

It came a day after rival financial centre Singapore also barred all short-term visitors from entry, except for citizens, permanent residents and some work permit holders.

Hong Kong also said bars and restaurants could no longer serve alcohol.

Singapore Airlines warns of 'greatest challenge'

Singapore's flag carrier, one of Asia's leading airlines, warned it was facing the "greatest challenge" in its existence as it grounded almost all its planes until the end of April.

The airline will also implement salary cuts as well as a voluntary unpaid leave scheme.

Indonesia converts Games village to hospital

Indonesia, which has the highest death toll from the pandemic in Southeast Asia at 48, has converted an athlete's village built for the 2018 Asian Games into an

emergency hospital for coronavirus patients.

The facility in the capital Jakarta, where a state of emergency has been declared, opens Monday with initial capacity for 3,000 patients in the 10-tower complex.

Thailand migrant labourer exodus

Tens of thousands of migrant labourers from Laos and Myanmar flooded bus stations and border crossings in Thailand, defying requests to stay put to prevent exporting infections.

Laos and Myanmar – two of Southeast Asia's least developed countries – both claim they have no cases of COVID-19. Thailand has reported 721 infections.

What crisis? Japanese admire cherry blossoms

The snowballing pandemic could not put off Japanese from celebrating the country's famed cherry blossoms, with people packing into traditional viewing hotspots over the weekend.

Tokyo's governor said taking cherry blossom parties away from Japanese was like "taking hugs away from Italians". — AFP

Extensive Rural Development Needed

By Lokethar

MYANMAR is witnessing movements of population from the rural areas to the large Urban areas as well as to neighbouring countries in search of wage employment to support their families and the way of life they want in this modern age of consumerism. Rural incomes are just not enough for them and hence they seek ways of earning more. If the trend continues and maybe escalates, then the population density in the rural areas will decrease. The total population of Myanmar is just about 53 million and the population density in the States and some Regions bordering other countries are rather low. This being the case with the population density decreasing further there is bound to be a shortage of able bodied men and women

to engage in agriculture and it's allied functions. Besides there will be likelihood of illegal immigration to fill the "vacuum". Given Myanmar's long border with adjoining States, the Immigration authorities cannot effectively control illegal immigration as is being witnessed in many countries around the world. This will compound problems relating to illegal immigration.

The long term solution is to develop the rural areas, especially those along the borders of the country so that rural incomes increase and the standard of living rises. The Rural Development Law, (Pydaungsu Hluttaw Law No.39/2019) is a comprehensive law covering all areas of Rural Development. There are so many aspects of Rural Development that are legislated that there is

much to be done and strong leadership to be given to get them done. As for example there is in the law a clause to lessen the Urban-Rural income gap and to pull the rural populace out of poverty. To tackle all the tasks including poverty reduction nation wide, would call for much effort and resources.

As such it is suggested that a separate Ministry of Rural Development be set up and under it the Organizations/Departments needed to implement/supervise implementation of the various activities laid down in the Law. The present Department of Rural Development could be reorganised under the Ministry of Rural Development so as to combine the existing Divisions according to related functions, into separate Departments to

strengthen them in carrying out the various functions.

Besides organizational matters, financing of the activities

Opportunities for vocational training must also be provided and employment opportunities created, particularly in agriculture with emphasis on modern agriculture practice and Mechanised agriculture.

would be needed. Of course as The Ministry of Rural Development, separate Budget would be allocated to the Ministry and it's Departments. As Rural Development is a function that need to be carried out extensively, it could seek funds from private

donors both local and foreign to establish a "Rural Development Fund" under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development.

of poverty.

For development to be sustainable, there must be adequate Human Resources Development. As far as the rural population is concerned, the average education attainment is probably below the National level. Hence more facilities and opportunities have to be provided to enhance the educational attainments with particular regard to children of the poorer families. Opportunities for vocational training must also be provided and employment opportunities created, particularly in Agriculture with emphasis on modern agriculture practice and Mechanised agriculture. All such activities could be carried out in partnership with the authorised private sector organisations engaged in Rural Development.

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

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release No 12/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 21 March.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 21 March.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 25 March issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Myint Than as Director-General of the General Administration Department, Ministry of Union Government Office, on expiry of the one year probationary period.

Union Supreme Court sits to hear criminal cases

THE Union Supreme Court convened at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and Union Supreme Court Judges hearing five special criminal appeal cases. — MNA
(Translated by TTN)

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the [Global New Light of Myanmar](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

National Literary, Sarpay Beikman selection committees hold annual first meeting in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met with the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and secretaries of the National Literary Award Selection Committee and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee at MRTV meeting hall on Pyay Road, Yangon, yesterday morning.

The Union Minister first delivered a speech. He said the National Literary Award Selection Committee is reformed every year and discusses selection processes in their meetings. He said while the meeting was planned to be held as it had been in previous years, the current situation surrounding COVID-19 has led to the meeting being called with only a few selected personnel. He said all members will be called for a meeting when the opportunity arises.

The Union Minister said the people attending this meeting should pass on the meeting details to the other members who are not present. Since this is the selection committee's first meeting of the year, all attendees



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the address at the meeting of the committees related with selection of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award. **PHOTO: MNA**

should discuss and give suggestions for the selection process, said the Union Minister.

Next, National Literary Award Selection Committee Chairman Dr Sithu Thaw Kaung, vice-chairpersons Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min – Danuphyu) and U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Paw Tun) explained the committee's organization, selection regulations and books selected

for the awards.

Secretary U Than Ohn (Maung Zeyar) explained books received for National Literature Award and preparations for selection processes, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee Chairman U Ohn Myint (Maung Yint Mar – Kyaung Kone) explained receiving submitted manuscripts and preparations for selection

processes. Attendees then discussed the selection process.

Next, the Union Minister handed over K10.8 million at a rate of K200,000 per person for 54 people and certificates of honor to Dr Sithu Thaw Kaung on behalf of the National Literature Award Selection Committee members. He also handed over K5.4 million at a rate of K200,000 per person for 27 people and certificates of

honour to U Ohn Myint on behalf of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee members.

Afterwards, the Union Minister provided suggestions to acquiring all published books in a year for National Literary Award selection, ensuring the selection process is completed on time, and approving the selection rules and guidelines and strictly adhering to them. He then delivered the closing speech and concluded the meeting.

The National Literary Award is awarded among 18 literary genres published within a calendar year according to set guidelines. The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award invites writers facing difficulties getting their work published and have them enter contests for the award. This annual event is done to promote the emergence of fine literature in Myanmar and is organized by the Ministry of Information. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Migrant workers receive health care, monitoring as they return Myanmar

WITH monitoring at the border checkpoints, health authorities have been providing health care to migrant workers returning home from Thailand crossing the land borders. Over

2,300 workers returned home across the Myawady Friendship Bridge 2 yesterday.

So far, over 32,600 migrant workers have entered the country through the bridge-2.

Kayin State authorities has arranged separate transportation services for the returnees to return home in efforts to quarantine them from public.— GNLM



Migrant workers receive screening from a health worker. **PHOTO: MNA**

Investigation group into Rakhine crimes holds second meeting



Crime Investigation body on Rakhine holds the 2nd coordination meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Crime Investigation and Litigation Group held their second meeting at the Office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, Group Chairman Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said ARSA attacked police outposts, police stations and Tatmadaw troops in Northern Rakhine on 25 August 2017, and this was followed by clashes between ARSA and security forces.

He said the final report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) said crimes had been committed in 13 areas of Maungtau, Buthidaung and

Yethedaung townships during those clashes.

U Tun Tun Oo said the Group's first meeting was held on 14 February and cases that have been opened, are ongoing and in the middle of inspection will be reviewed and priority cases will be submitted in this meeting. He said a joint investigation task force was formed to look into this matter with Notification No. 1/2020. The Union Attorney-General said they will collaborate with Myanmar Police Force to ensure all cases proceed smoothly and swiftly.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Yangon Region receives protective equipment donation for COVID-19

EXCELLENT Fortune Foundation donated protective equipment regarding COVID-19 to the Yangon Region government yesterday.

The donation included 200 personal protective equipment (PPE) suits, 800 single-use rubber gloves, 67 goggles, 2,400 face masks and 240 N95 masks.

Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Linn said they have prepared spaces for placing quarantined people and stocked up on medicine and necessary equipment and prepared food for quarantined persons in Waibargi Hospital.

Excellent Fortune Foundation has also donated 1,436 PPE suits, 5,744 single-use rubber gloves, 378 goggles, 15,820 face masks and 1,723 N95 masks



Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Linn receives protective equipment regarding COVID-19 from U Sai Myo Win, Chairman of Excellent Fortune Foundation yesterday. **PHOTO: MIN THIT**

to public hospitals, Tatmadaw organizations as well. —Min Thit hospitals and civil society or- (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Prison riot kills 23 in Colombia as Chile enforces virus curfew

MONTEVIDEO(Uruguay) — Panic over the spread of the coronavirus sparked a prison riot in Colombia that killed 23 inmates on Sunday, as Chile became the latest Latin American country to announce restrictions on movement.

Rioting swept through the crowded jail overnight in the Colombian capital Bogota amid rising tensions over the virus in the penitentiary system.

Justice Minister Margarita Cabello described the violence as an attempted mass breakout, part of what she said was a coordinated plan with inmates who caused disturbances in 13 jails across the country.

The minister rejected accusations by rights groups that the riots were sparked by unsanitary conditions inside a prison system that was woefully unprepared to face the pandemic.

A curfew in Chile “will take effect throughout the national territory from 10:00 pm to 05:00 am the next day,” Health Minister Jaime Manalich announced Sunday. The country, which has 632 infections, registered its first death from the pandemic at the weekend.

Ecuador, which has seen the region’s second-greatest number of deaths after Brazil, marked its highest daily increase on Sunday, doubling to 14 dead and 789 positive cases.

Quito on Sunday ordered the military to take control of the worst-hit province of Guayas in the south-west of the country.

Government Minister Maria Paula Romo said the armed forces had been authorised “to manage the province of Guayas as a national security zone”. A nationwide curfew has been in place since Tuesday.— AFP ■

US orders first shutdown of website over coronavirus fraud

WASHINGTON(United States) — The US Department of Justice announced Sunday it had shut down a website claiming to sell a coronavirus vaccine, in its first act of federal enforcement against fraud in connection with the pandemic.

Lawsuits had been filed against the site coronavirus-medicalkit.com, which claimed to sell vaccines for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, when in fact there is no such vaccine, the Justice Department said in a statement.

A Texas federal judge on Saturday ordered the site to shut down, according to the statement. Its homepage, however, was still accessible as of Sunday evening.

“Due to the recent outbreak for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) the World Health Organization is giving away vaccine kits. Just pay \$4.95 for shipping,” read a statement on the homepage.

It was followed by a place to leave bank account information to pay shipping fees.

The Justice Department did not specify how many people fell victim to the scam, but the in-



In this file photo taken on 22 July, 2019 the US Department of Justice flag is seen in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: AFP**

vestigation is ongoing to identify who is behind the fraud and how much money was stolen.

The intervention by the federal judiciary system is part of ongoing efforts by US authorities to combat the spread of misinformation that has blossomed since the start of the pandemic.

Attorney General Bill Barr last week urged federal prosecutors to make stopping misinformation a priority and called US civilians to report all such abuses to the National Center for Disaster Fraud.

He also warned citizens against a variety of scams in-

cluding selling fake treatments online, imitating emails from the WHO or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) intended to collect personal data, and asking for donations for imaginary organizations.

Simultaneously, the US judicial system is on the warpath to combat price gouging of products such as hand sanitizer or hygienic masks.

More than 33,000 people have been infected by the coronavirus in the US, and 416 have died, according to a tracker managed by Johns Hopkins University. — AFP ■

3 G-20 finance chiefs hold emergency teleconference on virus impact

TOKYO— Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 major economies held an emergency conference call Monday to discuss the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak, a Japanese government official said.

The meeting was called as the virus has rapidly spread from China where the outbreak started to more countries in Europe, North America and other regions since they last met in Riyadh late last month.

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda are expected to join the call, which will be followed by another teleconference to be held this week

by leaders of the G-20 members.

The G-20 finance chiefs expressed their readiness to act against risks to the global economy posed by the epidemic when they gathered in Riyadh.

Earlier this month, they also issued a statement to show their commitment to taking necessary actions to shield the global economy from the virus and protect financial markets from unstable moves. However, financial markets remained unstable, leaving the global economic outlook uncertain and prompting central banks in the United States, Europe, Japan and other countries to scramble to implement stimulus measures to regain market stability.—Kyodo News ■



Journalists are silhouetted at the Intex Osaka convention center, the venue of the Group of 20 summit, on 28 June 2019, the first day of the event in the western Japan city. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



The coronavirus pandemic has hammered markets around the world. PHOTO: AFP

Global markets sink as pandemic deaths soar

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Stock markets suffered a further hammering Monday despite massive economic stimulus efforts worldwide, with investors spooked by a mounting death toll from the coronavirus pandemic. The negative mood was fuelled by the failure of US lawmakers to agree on a trillion-dollar emergency package to help the reeling American economy, analysts said.

European equities tanked four per cent at the open before trimming some losses — but still remained deep in the red in late morning deals and following heavy losses across Asia.

The dollar scaled to a three-year pinnacle against the euro as investors shunning risky equities flocked to the haven greenback.

On oil markets, Brent North Sea crude sank 4.6 per cent and West Texas Intermediate was down 0.8 per cent.

Oil has plunged in recent weeks to multi-year lows, mainly on slumping demand caused by the virus — but also because of a price war between top producers Saudi Arabia and Russia.

'Mammoth recession'
“Markets are again showing stress on fears that the economic damage will be worse than anticipated and that the response by governments and central banks will not be enough to prevent a mammoth recession,” said analyst Neil Wilson at trading site Markets.com. “James Bullard, President of the St Louis Fed, said US unemployment could reach 30 per cent in the second quarter due to coronavirus shutdowns, while he warned GDP could decline by 50 per cent. This would be an unprecedented event.” The global death toll from the virus has surged past 14,400, with nearly a billion people confined and non-essential businesses shut in dozens of countries and growing fears about a recession.

“A leap in the global death toll led by Italy from the coronavirus coupled with a failed stimulus vote in the United States saw markets rocked at the start of the week,” said London Capital Group analyst Jasper Lawler.

The European single currency meanwhile sank to \$1.0636, a level last seen in April 2017. — AFP ■

SoftBank plans \$41 bil. asset sale for share buyback, debt reduction

TOKYO — SoftBank Group Corp. said Monday it will sell up to 4.5 trillion yen (\$41 billion) of assets to expand share buybacks and reduce debts in an effort to bolster its share price hit by some of its major investments turning sour and global financial market turmoil over the coronavirus outbreak.

The company, the operator of the nearly \$100 billion Vision Fund, said it plans to buy back up to 2 trillion of its own shares and the remainder of the cash to be raised will be spent on debt reduction and cancellation of some of its outstanding corporate bonds over the next 12 months.

The share buyback plan, together with the 500 billion yen buyback program announced earlier in the month, will be enough to cancel 45 percent of its shares in issue, it said.

SoftBank Group, which also runs a telecommunication business, said it currently has 27 trillion yen in assets and more

than 1.7 trillion yen in cash. Its aggressive investment strategy, however, has inflated its debts, exceeding 19 trillion yen as of the end of last year.

The latest decision comes after US investment fund Elliott Management Corp. bought more than \$2.5 billion or around 3 per cent of SoftBank Group shares and requested a large-scale share buyback to improve the company's market value.

SoftBank Group shares, which plunged last week on the Tokyo Stock Exchange partly on concerns about its investment in tech startups such as workplace provider WeWork and ride-hailing firm Uber Technologies Inc., surged Monday to finish up 18.6 percent at 3,187 yen.

SoftBank said in a statement its shares are “substantially undervalued” as it was traded “at a 73 per cent discount to their intrinsic value” as of the end of last week.

“This (asset-buying) pro-



SoftBank Group Corp. Chairman and CEO Masayoshi Son explains the company's April-December earnings at a press conference in Tokyo on 12 February 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

gram will be the largest share buyback and will result in the largest increase in cash balance in the history” of SoftBank Group, Chairman and CEO Masayoshi Son said in the statement, adding the decision reflects “the firm and unwavering confidence in our business.” — Kyodo News ■

Toyota, Honda, Suzuki halt plants in India due to coronavirus

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co. and Suzuki Motor Corp. said Monday they have halted operations at their plants in India amid the spread of the new coronavirus.

Toyota has suspended operations at its two plants in Karnataka state as employees could not commute to the sites after the Indian government instructed public transportation operators to suspend business.

Toyota, which produced some 116,000 units in India in 2019, including the Corolla sedan and Innova minivan, said it is undecided about operations at the two factories from Tuesday onward.

Honda also has stopped operations at two vehicle factories making the City compact sedan and other models as well as four motorcycle plants until 31 March.

Suzuki, the market leader in

India with 30 per cent of group sales coming from the South Asian country, stopped output at its Gurgaon and Manesar plants in the state of Haryana, operated by its local subsidiary Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

Suzuki also suspended business at its research and development center in Haryana.

Nissan Motor Co. said it will suspend manufacturing of vehicles in Mexico from Wednesday to 14 April. — Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY. NO. (0198-641N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ACCORD VOY. NO. (0198-641N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN MARINE
(S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (012W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (012W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE
LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1134W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1134W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Pompeo in Kabul to try to break political deadlock

KABUL (Afghanistan) — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in the Afghan capital Monday to help break a poisonous political deadlock that has further riven the country just as the Taliban are increasing attacks and a rise in coronavirus cases threatens an already-floundering peace process.

Afghanistan has been enmeshed in a political crisis since elections last year left the country in disarray due to numerous fraud claims that ultimately saw two men claiming the presidency and holding separate inaugurations.

Pompeo was to hold both separate and joint meetings with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani — the election's official winner — along with his

archrival Abdullah Abdullah, who also claims the presidency.

"We have tried... for the last several weeks to try to find the formula and encourage them to come to an agreement," a senior state department official said, according to a pool report.

Pompeo has come "to help push, to encourage and to point out what our expectations are and what that assessment is if they don't do the right thing".

The top US diplomat was welcomed by special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad — the lead US negotiator in recent talks with the Taliban — after arriving at Kabul airport.

The visit comes just a day after the Afghan government and Taliban held their first discussion

on prisoner exchanges — a key step in a broader push for peace following a withdrawal deal signed between Washington and the militants.

The agreement established a framework for bringing to an end America's longest war following the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

Khalilzad tweeted Sunday it was "urgent" to quickly conclude plans for the prisoner swap — as called for in the US pact with the Taliban — with the coronavirus pandemic complicating diplomatic contacts.

The deal envisioned the release of up to 5,000 Taliban fighters held by Kabul, and up to 1,000 members of the Afghan government forces in insurgent hands.

That was meant to take place before the start of peace talks originally set for March 10 between the government — which was not a party to the negotiations that produced the Doha deal — and the Taliban.

After initially refusing to release the Taliban prisoners, Ghani announced that the authorities would free 1,500 insurgents as a "gesture of goodwill" with plans to free another 3,500 prisoners after the talks are underway. The Taliban rejected the offer.

Corona and clashes

The Doha accord also calls for the gradual withdrawal of American and other foreign troops over a 14-month period.

The first phase of that withdrawal has already



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrives in Kabul amid an ongoing political crisis in Afghanistan. PHOTO: AFP

begun, though some troop movements have been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic. In exchange, the Taliban committed to fight jihadist groups like Al-Qaeda and promised to negotiate for the first time with Kabul. But since the Doha agreement was signed, the Taliban have carried out scores of attacks.

Political chaos in Ka-

bul has further complicated matters. The spat between former chief executive Abdullah and Ghani, along with the world's preoccupation with coronavirus, has sparked fears the window for a peace deal is closing fast. Afghan health officials have reported just 40 cases of the novel coronavirus and one death to date.

—AFP ■

Hong Kong to bar foreigners from entering to curb coronavirus spread

HONG KONG — Hong Kong will bar foreign travellers from entering the territory effective Wednesday and halt wine sale at restaurants and pubs in tightened measures to curb the growing new coronavirus cases, government leader Carrie Lam said Monday.

The chief executive said the entry ban on foreign travelers and flight transit service suspension at the international airport will last for 14 days, while arrivals from mainland China, Macau and Taiwan, who were earlier exempted, will be quarantined for 14 days.

Apart from port control, alcoholic beverage sales at some 8,600 restaurants, pubs and clubhouses will also be suspended to ensure greater social distancing.

"The risk of cross infection is higher among drinkers who would have taken off their facemasks to drink and talk, and could engage in intimate behavior when drunk," Lam told reporters.

"Therefore, we are considering banning alcoholic beverages at these entities through law amendment."

It was no immediately not known when the drinking ban will be imposed.

The government will consult with the hospitality and catering sectors in coming up with further measures such as shortening operating hours or reducing the number of seats, Lam said.

The travelers ban came as the number of imported cases of the coronavirus continues to rise.

As of Monday, Hong Kong reported 39 new confirmed cases of infection, taking the total to 356. Among the new cases, 30 traveled abroad before falling ill.

While most of the rest were connected to previously confirmed cases, the infection sources of two cases, including a government doctor who worked at an airport control point, remain unknown. — Kyodo News ■

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Dated 24th March 2020 lmm@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V THERESA GRACE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THERESA GRACE VOY. NO. (01-02) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928



Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. PHOTO: AFP

Celebrities hit by the coronavirus

PARIS (France) — Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo and disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein have joined the growing list of the rich, famous and powerful hit by the coronavirus.

Here is a roundup: Politics

Prince Albert II of Monaco has tested positive, although there are “no concerns for his health” the palace said on 19 March.

Michel Barnier, who leads EU negotiations with Britain on Brexit, announced in a Twitter video on 19 March that he had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been in isolation since March 13 after his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau tested positive. Members of governments in several countries — Australia, Brazil, Britain, Burkina Faso, France, Iran, Morocco, Norway, Poland and Spain — have been infected. German Chancellor Angela Merkel decided on Sunday to quarantine herself at home after being treated by a doctor who has since tested positive.

Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi went into self-quarantine Saturday after a visit to neighbouring Namibia, which has three coronavirus cases.

Arts

Congolese music legend Aurlus Mabele, known as the “King of Soukous”, a high-tempo modern variant of Congolese rumba, died in Paris on Thursday of the coronavirus, aged 67.

Spanish opera star Domingo said Sunday he had tested positive, adding he was “in good health”.

Cameroonian jazz star Manu Dibango, 86, was admitted to a French hospital suffering from

the virus, his official Facebook page said on March 18, adding he was “resting well and calmly recovering”.

Hollywood producer Weinstein, in prison in northern New York state after being sentenced to 23 years in jail for rape and sexual assault, has also tested positive, US media reported on Sunday. Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks and his wife, actress and singer Rita Wilson, said on Monday they were doing better after nearly two weeks quarantine in Australia.

British actor Idris Elba said on March 16 that he had tested positive for the virus and gone into self-isolation. Chilean author Luis Sepulveda, who lives in northern Spain, also has the virus and is in hospital. He felt the first symptoms on 25 February.

Sport

Former Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz died on Saturday aged 76, three days after being hospitalised with the coronavirus.

In Italy several players at Juventus are infected, including France’s 2018 World Cup winner Blaise Matuidi and Argentinian attacker Paulo Dybala.

As a precautionary measure their teammate Cristiano Ronaldo has been in isolation for several days. Former AC Milan defender Paolo Maldini and his footballer son Daniel announced they were positive Saturday. At Fiorentina, another top Italian club, 10 players are infected.

In England, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta and Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi have both tested positive.

In 12 days at least 14 players from the NBA have tested positive, including Brooklyn Nets superstar Kevin Durant. Most of them have said they are without symptoms according to NBA boss Adam Silver.—AFP ■

TCM treatment effective on over 90 pct of COVID-19 patients on China’s mainland: official

WUHAN — Clinical observation showed that traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has proven to be effective in the treatment of over 90 per cent of all confirmed COVID-19 cases on the Chinese mainland, said a TCM official on Monday.

A total of 74,187 COVID-19 patients, or 91.5 per cent of the total confirmed cases on the Chinese mainland, have received TCM treatment, said Yu Yanhong, Party chief of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, at a press conference in Wuhan, capital of the hardest-hit prov-

ince of Hubei.

In Hubei, TCM treatment has been given to 90.6 per cent of COVID-19 patients.

All TCM prescriptions have effectively relieved symptoms, slowed the progression of the disease, improved the cure rate and reduced mortality and boosted the recovery of patients, said Yu.

Over 4,900 medics from TCM hospitals and institutions across China have been sent to aid the epidemic fight in Hubei, accounting for about 13 per cent of all medics dispatched to the province.

“The scale and strength of the TCM aid team are unprecedented,” said Yu.

Yu added that China has worked out a unique “Chinese plan” to combine traditional Chinese medicine with western medicine, and several effective TCM drugs and prescriptions have been discovered to treat the disease.

“The epidemic knows no borders, and the virus is the common enemy of mankind. China is willing to share its experiences and effective treatment methods with the world,” said Yu.—Xinhua ■

Over 400 cruise ship visits cancelled at Japan ports over coronavirus

TOKYO — At least 443 port calls by cruise ships at major Japanese ports for February to December have been cancelled as many ship operators halted services amid coronavirus fears, a Kyodo News tally showed Monday.

The cancellations at Japan’s 10 largest ports for cruise ships could result in the loss of more than 10 billion yen (\$90 million) to the local economies.

A number of cruise ship operators have suspended services since infections were found among passengers and crew aboard the Diamond Princess which was quarantined at a Japanese port. Cruise service cancellations increased also as more countries implemented travel restrictions.

Japanese cruise ship operator NYK Cruises Co. said last month that it canceled trips from March and April as it decided to “prioritize safety” of passengers.

Among the 10 ports, Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture saw the largest number of cancellations at 86, followed by Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture at 81, and Hirara in Okinawa Prefecture at 67, according to the local governments.

For March alone, the number of cancellations totaled 159 with no port calls scheduled at six of the 10 ports, including

those three. Port calls by cruise ships usually peak in the summer season. Some cruise ships were docked at ports in the city of Nagasaki, Sasebo and the city of Kagoshima in the month for the purpose of refueling and supplying with no passenger disembarkations.

According to the Japan Oceangoing Passenger Ship As-

sociation, a port call by a cruise ship with 3,000 or more passengers aboard has an economic impact of about 30 million yen to 40 million yen on the local economy through spending by passengers.

Based on this estimate, the cancellation of 443 port calls would be a loss of 13 billion yen to 18 billion yen.—Kyodo News



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 18 March 2020, shows the coronavirus-hit Diamond Princess cruise ship at Yokohama Port near Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Trillion-dollar US economic rescue package crashes in Senate

WASHINGTON (United States) — A trillion-dollar Senate proposal to rescue the reeling US economy crashed to defeat Sunday after receiving zero support from Democrats, and with five Republicans absent from the chamber because of virus-related quarantines.

Democrats said the Republican plan failed to sufficiently protect millions of American workers or shore up the critically under-equipped health care system during the coronavirus crisis.

The bill proposed an estimated \$1.7 trillion or more in funding to cushion the blow for American families and thousands of shuttered or suffering businesses.

Despite intense negotiations between Republicans, Democrats and President Donald Trump's administration, the roll call was 47-47, far short of the 60 votes needed to advance.

Five Republican senators are in self-quarantine and did not vote, including Senator Rand Paul, who announced Sunday he had tested positive for the COVID-19 illness.



A homeless man walks by a closed theater in Los Angeles, on 21 March 2020, as California grapples with its part of the global coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

Even as infighting derailed the plan, lawmakers carried on with closed-door negotiations deep into Sunday hoping to get the package back on track.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin "are working late into the night, and they just had another productive meeting," a Schumer spokesman said.

The shock Senate result heaps major pressure on Congress to overcome divisions and swiftly greenlight a federal government intervention — likely the largest of its kind in US history.

The impasse likely will have a profound effect on already-traumatized stock markets when they

open Monday.

The futures on the main US stock exchange indicators were dropping around four percent or more, indicating that Wall Street could open sharply lower.

Hong Kong stocks plunged five percent upon opening. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell blasted the Democratic opposition and warned of economic devastation ahead if Congress does not act promptly.

"The notion that we have time to play games here with the American economy and the American people is utterly absurd," he fumed.

"We need to signal to the public that we're ready to get this thing done."

He said he wanted lawmakers to recognize "the need to act before the markets go down further and the American people become even more depressed about our lack of ability to come together under the most extraordinary circumstances."

—AFP ■

Emirates reverses decision to suspend all passenger flights

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates) — Dubai carrier Emirates reversed on Sunday its decision to suspend all passenger flights, shortly after it said it would halt operations from 25 March amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The airline said it "received requests from governments and customers to support the repatriation of travellers" and will continue to operate passenger flights to 13 destinations, down from its usual 159.

Emirates will continue to fly to the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Australia, South Africa, the United States and Canada.

The announcement was made just hours after a previous statement said the carrier "will have temporarily suspended all its passenger operations" by 25 March. "We continue to watch the situation closely, and as soon as things allow, we will reinstate our services," said the airline's chairman and CEO, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum.

The United Arab Emirates on Friday announced its first two deaths from the COVID-19 disease, having reported 153 infections so far, of which 38 people have recovered.

Maktoum said that, until January this year, the Emirates Group was "doing well" against current financial year targets, but "COVID-19 has brought all that to a sudden and painful halt over the past six weeks".

"The world has literally gone into quarantine due to the COVID-19 outbreak," he said.

Emirates also announced it will slash the basic salaries of a majority of employees by between 25 and 50 per cent for three months, but will not cut jobs.

"Rather than ask employees to leave the business, we chose to implement a temporary basic salary cut, as we want to protect our workforce," Maktoum said. "We want to avoid cutting jobs."

Gulf countries have imposed various restrictions to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic, particularly in the air transport sector.—AFP ■

Oil prices volatile as virus saps demand

SINGAPORE (Singapore) — Oil prices were mixed in volatile Asian trade on Monday, but remained at multi-year lows due to the double shock of the coronavirus pandemic and the Saudi-Russia price war.

Both main contracts plummeted at the open after a trillion-dollar support package for the American economy crashed to defeat, and virus deaths surged in Europe and the US over the weekend.

International benchmark Brent crude was off 2.3 per cent in afternoon trade at \$26 a barrel, after earlier being down about five per cent.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate however was up 1.3 per cent at nearly \$23 a barrel as traders bought at bargain prices — after having fallen over three percent in earlier deals.

Both contracts remain at multi-year lows as lockdowns and travel restrictions to fight the virus hit demand, and top producers Saudi Arabia and Russia engage in a price war.

Coronavirus deaths soared across Europe and the United States at the weekend despite heightened restrictions, with the tally jumping to more than 14,700, according to a Johns Hopkins

University tracker. Prices also fell after a trillion-dollar Senate proposal to rescue the US economy was defeated because of zero support from Democrats, and with five Republicans absent from the chamber because of virus-related quarantines.

The bill had proposed funding for American families, thousands of shuttered or suffering businesses and the nation's critically under-equipped hospitals.

Oil markets began plunging earlier this month after top exporter Saudi Arabia launched unilateral price cuts following a failure to secure an agreement with Russia to further reduce

output and support prices.

There were hopes for some action to support the market after an envoy from Texas, a top oil-producing US state, was given a rare invite to an OPEC meeting in June. But hopes for an agreement fizzled after he faced criticism for suggesting output curbs. Even if cuts are agreed at some point, they "alone will not be enough to see prices fully recover the lost ground over the last month", said Peter Kiernan, energy analyst from the Economist Intelligence Unit. "This would need a noticeable recovery in demand, which is unlikely in the short to medium term." —AFP ■



Both main oil contracts plummeted at the open after a trillion-dollar support package for the American economy crashed to defeat, and virus deaths surged in Europe and the US. PHOTO: AFP

MPT MNL 2020: Hantharwady beats Zwegapin 4-2 in Week-10

HANTHARWADY United beat Zwegapin United on the first day of Week-10 of MPT Myanmar National League 2020 at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The goals for Hantharwady Utd were scored by Donald Bissa at 14th minute, 37th minute and 66th minute and by Emeka at 70th minute, while the goals for Zwegapin United were scored by Min Zaw Soe at 53rd minute and Emerson at 54th minute.

In the similar match of Week-10 yesterday, Sagaing United trounced Chin United 3-1 at Yangon United Sports Complex.

The goals for Sagaing United were scored by Kaung Htet Kyaw at 32nd minute, and Ella Edubat Patrick at 41st minute. Sagaing United got a goal by the own goal of Dixon Alusine (Chin United) at the 44th minute. Chin United's Samuel shot the lone goal for the team.



Players of Hantharwady United and Zwegapin United vie for the ball at the Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

The remaining matches of the Week-10 will continue on 24 and 25 March.

On 24 March, Magwe FC will meet with Yangon United FC at Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon, and Shan United and Southern Myanmar FC will play at Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon.

On 25 March, Yadanarbon FC will take on ISPEC at Thuwunna Stadium, while Ayeyawady United and Rakhine United will play at Yangon United Sports Complex.

All the matches will be played at 4 pm on respective dates.— Kyaw Khin ■

Football Academy to be used as Covid-19 quarantine site

THE Myanmar National Football Academy on Waizayandar Road Thingangyun Township, Yangon, has allowed its facilities to be used as a quarantine site.

U Zaw Zaw, President of Myanmar Football Federating, offered the MFF's football academy to accommodate Myanmar citizens who will return from foreign countries and territories with the outbreak of Covid-19 and those who have no symp-

toms despite their close contact with the infected patients.

On Sunday, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin, Deputy Director-General of Health and Sports Dr Tun Myint and officials visited the sports school to inspect the preparations for quarantining which will be supervised by a healthcare team.

The facility can accommodate about 50 persons.

U Zaw Zaw, in his capacity as the Executive Chairman of the AYA Bank, also allowed the bank's training school in Tamwe to be used as a quarantine site. The training school can accommodate about 150 persons.

Food and necessities for the two quarantining sites will be donated by the Ayeyawady Foundation, according to Myanmar Football Federation.

— Kyaw Khin ■

Fixture released for Week-11 of MPT MNL Youth 2020

THE fixtures for the eleventh week of the MPT Myanmar National League were released yesterday, according to Myanmar National League (MNL).

The Week-11 consists of 10 matches that will be held on 24, 25 and 26 March, and 21 May.

On 24 March, MFF Youth will meet with Hantharwady United at Padonmar Stadium, Myawady FC will play against Yadanarbon FC at Sa Lin Stadium, and ISPE

will take on Chinland at the M-3 Stadium. On 25 March, Sagaing United and Shan United will meet at Sa Lin Stadium, Mawyawadi will play against Rakhine United FC at South Dagon Stadium, and Kachin United FC will take on Southern Myanmar FC at Padonmar Stadium. On 26 March, Yaw Myay and Magwe will play at Sa Lin Stadium, Silver Stars will meet with Zwegapin United at Padonmar Stadium, and Chin Unit-

ed will play against Ayeyawady United at South Dagon Stadium.

On 21 May, Yangon United FC will take on University FC at Yangon United Sports Complex.

All the matches will be played at 4 pm on respective dates.

After Week-10, Yadanarbon FC was leading the standing table with 25 points, followed by Yangon United FC 24 points, and ISPE FC 23 points.— Kyaw Khin ■

Brazil's football clubs offer stadiums to help with coronavirus sick

SAO PAULO (Brazil) — Brazil's top football clubs are handing over their stadiums to allow health authorities to turn them into field hospitals and clinics to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

With football in the country suspended until further notice, more than half the clubs in Brazil's Serie A have given up their stadiums as authorities in densely populated Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro seek to expand hospital capacity to deal with the crisis.

Current South American champions Flamengo are giving control of their famous Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro to health authorities, said club president Rodolfo Landim.

"In this grim moment, I wanted to invite our great Red and Black nation to renew hope and work for better days. Let us take care of our elders, help those who need it most," Landim wrote in a message to supporters.

Authorities in Sao Paulo — Brazil's biggest city — said they

would install 200 beds in a field hospital at the Pacaembu municipal stadium to relieve pressure on the city's hospitals, while two of the city's big clubs were also lending a hand. Corinthians said they have made their Itaquerao stadium and their training headquarters available "so that the authorities can evaluate how they can be used to combat the spread of the disease".

Santos announced that a temporary clinic would be set up in one of the lounges inside its Vila Belmiro stadium.

Brazil currently has 1,128 confirmed infections and 18 deaths. Health Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta on Friday predicted the virus would reach its peak in the country between April and June, anticipating a drop in COVID-19 infections from September. Mandetta warned the health system in the country of 210 million people could reach saturation by the end of April.

— AFP ■



File photo of the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 16 June 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

IOC accepts delay of Tokyo Olympics now a possibility

GENEVA — The International Olympic Committee said Sunday it will assess a postponement of the Tokyo Olympics over four weeks of talks amid mounting criticism by athletes and sports officials about the prospect of holding the event during the coronavirus pandemic.

In response, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday during a parliamentary session that postponing the Tokyo Olympic Games may become an option if holding the event

in its "complete form" became impossible.

Tokyo Olympic organizing committee President Yoshiro Mori said at a press conference later Monday he supports the IOC's decision to review the existing plan to hold the Tokyo Olympics from July 24.

Abe said that safety and security of the athletes will be given the highest priority before a final decision is made by the IOC, while saying that cancellation is not on the agenda.—Kyodo News