

SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Announcement on Temporary suspension of all types of visas for foreign nationals from all countries visiting Myanmar

PAGE-5

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Sunday, 29 March 2020

Industries affected by COVID-19 to apply loans

Announcement of the application of loans from COVID-19 Fund by the enterprises hit by COVID-19

1. Under the decision of the meeting 2/2020 of the Task Force to Remedy the Economic Impact that

may cause by Coronavirus (COVID-19), CMP enterprises, hotels and tourism services and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are designated as priority sectors that need remedy, and a COVID-19 Fund of Ks 100 billion has been set up to disburse loans to them.

- 2. The loan will be provided to enterprises that are included in the priority sectors at an interest of 1% for a one-year period.
- 3. Businesses included in the sectors can apply for loan if they meet the following points:

SEE PAGE-3

Hotels, restaurants disinfected after 8th confirmed COVID-19 patient visited

AUTHORITIES are now conducting contact tracing and disinfecting the places the 8th Coronavirus patient visited to help prevent the further spread of infections such as Covid-19.

A woman tour guide aged 60 was confirmed by the authorities yesterday that she is positive for the Covid-19 infection.

The local authorities in Pakokku sprayed disinfectant at a restaurant in the town where the tour guide and seven French tourists had lunch on 17 March during their visit to the town.

Workers and owner are home-quarantined and facility quarantined for 14 days.

Meanwhile, the authorities in Thandwe locked down a hotel in Ngapali Beach where the tour guide and seven French tourists stayed and disinfected the hotel.

The employees of the hotel are also quarantined at the hotel for 14 days.

Authorities identified that the patient and French tourists had stayed at the hotel from 22 to 25 March. — Salai Ko Ki

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



A health worker sprays disinfectant at a restaurant in Pakokku after the 8th COVID-19 patient and tourists visit there. PHOTO: IPRD

DAGON LEMON SPARKLING

DAGON BEVERAGES Co.,Ltd- Ph: 07 651177, 652169, 656845,656846
 STARMART nine mile showroom - (9)Mile, Pyay Road, Yangon Township.
 Ph: 09 30860180, 01 9669713, 01 9669714

MSWRR initiates preventive measure in IDP camps



Health care providers help a woman to wash her hands to protect from the COVID-19 virus.
PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, in cooperation with relevant ministries and civil society organizations, has commenced a preventive measure to provide health education and handwashing soaps to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, and Kayin states as part of the prevention, containment, and treatment of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To protect against the outbreak and spread of Coronavirus disease, the internally displaced persons were briefed on the easy-to-understand information about the deadly infection, the Covid-19 symptoms, and the real-time instructions and guidelines issued by the Ministry of

Health and Sports. They were provided with handwashing soaps. With the distribution of posters and leaflets, they were also urged to follow and cooperate in the preventive measure.

There are a total of 18 IDP camps: 9 in Kachin State, 5 in Shan State, 2 in Rakhine State, and 2 in Kayin State.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement has drafted a preparatory plan in line with the international humanitarian assistance standards and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to fight against the Covid-19. In this regard, the ministry has coordinated with UN humanitarian organizations to further implement the plan. —MNA

Public contributions to the fund of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

THE government is increasing its momentum for measures against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. For the successful implementation of these measures, the following companies, organizations, and individuals have contributed medicines, medical equipment, and foodstuffs until 6 pm on 28 March, 2020.

No.	Donors	Items	Quantity	Estimated Value (Kyats in millions)
1	People's Republic of China	COVID test kit	2016	700
		Electronic thermometer	100	
		N95	5000	
		PPE	5000	
		Surgical mask	200000	
		Human body temperature measure Hemisphere	10	
		Sterilized wipes	100	
2	Yeeshin	Ventilator	5	68.5
3	Rolex Group	Ventilator	1	7.5
4	ISM	Ventilator	1	7.5
5	U Htoo Maung, Daw Thet Thet Mon (Bright Family Co.ltd)	Ventilator	1	7.5
6	U Sein Lwin Lay, Daw Phyu Phyu Khaing (Yadanar Shin Thant Co.ltd)	Ventilator	1	7.5
7	Myanmar Awba	Ventilator with humidifier	2	105.3
		Ventilator	4	
		IEC & Hand Speaker		
8	Yatharcho Co.ltd	Pt Monitor	2	28.1
		Instant Noodles	100000	
9	Enervon C	Enervon C	504	10.1
10	Cherry Myittar	Surgical Mask	10000	14
11	EMP	Ventilator	1	18
12	Daw Yee Yee Thar	Ventilator	1	24.5
13	Okkarthiri	Ventilator	1	68
		Protective Suits	999	
14	AMTT	Ventilator	1	25.5

15	Gold Power	Pt Monitor	4	11.6
		Fortified Rice	4000	
16	Zizawa	Bronchoscope	1	5.5
		Non contact Thermometer	40	
17	Sea Lion Co.Ltd	PPE	2000	66
18	Gold Lite Myanmar Co. Ltd	N95 Face Mask (3M 9010)	2000	20
19	Japan Heart Association	Hand Sanitizer Gel 200ml (Biogard)	970	20
20	Myanmar Red Cross Society	Personal protective equipment	2000	25
21	Embassy of China (Myanmar)	Disinfection Wipes	96	7
		Digital Thermometer	100	
22	MERCY Malaysia	Hand Gel 500 ml (MERCY Malaysia)	100	8
		Face Mask (MERCY Malaysia)	500	
		Examination Glove (MERCY Malaysia)	100	
23	Singapore	N95 Face Mask (3M 8210)	680	6.8
		N95 Medicos Duck	320	
24	Embassy of Thailand	Hand Gel	100	3
25	Temasek Foundation	Oxygen concentrator	10	6
26	(1974-1982) former students of University of Medicine (1), Yangon	Ventilator	1	7.5
27	NIBBAN Electric & Electronics	Aircooler	10	4.3
28	Access Spectrum	Hand Speaker	600	6.6
29	Lay Kyun Thu Foundation	Furniture		3.7
30	Uni Energy Co.,Ltd	PPE Isolated Gown	2500	80
31	Zifam	Pt monitor	2	10
Total				1383

Further donations of cash and hospital items/equipment will be published.
National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

“People are the key”

Industries affected by COVID-19 to apply loans

FROM PAGE-1

- (a) Must be a citizen-owned enterprise that is actually hit by COVID-19
- (b) Must be an operating enterprise or an enterprise that has temporarily halted operations for three months from the date of this announcement, but can start operations as soon as it receives the loan
- (c) An enterprise that received the work permit or licence from the relevant department before 31 March 2018
- (d) An enterprise that has annual income during the previous two years
- (e) An enterprise that has favourable conditions to pay back the loan
- (f) An enterprise that will use the loan money only in paying salaries of blue and white collar workers and operations
- (g) As for a company, it shall not be the one that has been suspended or canceled from the company registration. As for non-company, it shall not be the one that has been suspended or canceled from the registration by the relevant department or organization.

- (h) An enterprise that has paid the income tax/commercial tax/special goods tax
- (i) An enterprise that regularly contributes to the social welfare funds
- (j) As for a company the board of directors and for a non-company the owner shall act as the guarantor of the loan
- 4. Failure to pay back the loan shall be met with legal procedures in accordance with the existing laws. If a business entity fails to repay the loan it shall be put in the Negative List of the Credit Bureau, and shall be barred from taking any loans from a bank or a non-bank financial institution or a micro finance institution.
- 5. The loan shall be applied with the designated form which shall be complete with all necessary papers. In complete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements shall not be accepted.
- 6. Applications are available at the following offices or departments:

- (a) The head office of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) Yangon
- (b) Region/State office of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- (c) The head office and Region/State offices of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA)
- (d) The head office and Region/State offices of the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (DISI)
- (e) The head office and Region/State offices of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (DHT)
- 7. Applications are also available on the following websites
 - (a) www.mopfi.gov.mm
 - (b) www.mifer.gov.mm
 - (c) www.msme.gov.mm
 - (d) www.tourism.gov.mm
 - (e) www.dica.gov.mm
 - (f) www.umfcci.com.mm
- 8. Applications can be presented to the following places from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm daily during the period from 30 March to 9 April 2020.
 - (a) Head office of the Union of My-

- anamar Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)
 - (b) Region/State office of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 - 9. Applications presented on the date after the last date 9 April 2020 will not be accepted
 - 10. For more information, please dial the following numbers:

UMFCCI	01-2314343
	01-2302485
	01-2301562
covid-1-@umfcci.com.mm	
DICA	01-658121
	01-658131
DISI	09-5153946
DHT	09-5034582
 - 11. Enterprises that meet the requirements stated in the first paragraph and that are hit by COVID-19 are entitled to apply for the loan
- Task Force to Remedy the Economic Impact that may cause by Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- ■ ■

Central Level Meeting on Containment and Prevention of COVID-19 held in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended the Central Level Meeting on Containment and Prevention of COVID-19 at 9 am yesterday at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw and held a video conferencing with heads of region/state offices of Public Health Department and medical superintendents in the afternoon.

Speaking at the meetings, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said confirmed COVID-19 cases have been found in Myanmar. So, the current virus containment and prevention strategies should be adjusted to meet the changing trends and contact tracing should be carried out to find out the persons who had contacted with the eight persons infected with the virus. The Union Minister also spoke

of the need to carry out the containment and prevention of the virus and movement limitation programmes systematically in accordance with the directives.

The meetings also discussed the virus containment and prevention carried out by the Ministry of Health and Sports, limiting of air flights to countries where the infection rate is high, the return of Myanmar citizens through border crossings, use of personal loudspeakers in announcing the travel limitations at wards and villages of regions and state and public cooperation in the programme, public awareness and observance of the preventive measures, the pros and cons of using Rapid Diagnosis Test Kit in testing COVID-19, distribution of personal protective suits, medicines and medical



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the Central Level Meeting on Containment and Prevention of COVID-19 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

equipment including respiratory machines, arrival of additional supplies ordered from abroad, contact tracing and movement limiting of the persons who had close encounters with the eight infected persons, virus containment and prevention in regions and states and requirements, the treatment of patients under surveillance and infected

patients at specific places, preparations to accommodate new patients if found, accommodation and food arrangements for patients under surveillance and infected patients, the use of Hydroxychloroquine and Azithromycin in other countries in curing the COVID-19 patients, therapies and general matters.

Also present were the depu-

ty minister, the permanent secretary, the director-general (Office of the Union Minister), the director-general (Public Health Department), the director-general (Department of Human Resources for Health), deputy directors-general, professors, specialist doctors among others. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)

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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.

Essential foodstuffs, medicines shops remain open in Mandalay markets

SHOPS selling essential household groceries, fresh fish, meat, vegetables, and medicines and medical equipment will remain open, and other shops will be closed down effective from 28 March in Mandalay markets, said an MCDC official.

Member U Kyaw Hsan Myint of Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) said, "Food and pharmacy shops are allowed to open at the markets and all the remaining shops will be closed. But the owners can bring back their stuff to their houses to be sold at home.

All markets in Mandalay will be closed except the shops selling essential foodstuffs, medicines, medical equipment. Some shops in Mandalay Zay Cho will also be closed as other markets.

In Mandalay Zay Cho, the shops are allowed to sell their items and to transport their goods to their houses till 4 pm. The Zay Cho reopening date will be announced by the Zay Cho committee, according to the shop owners.

"Today, the market committee allowed us to sell or transport our stuff until 4 pm. Some closed



The front view of Mandalay Zay Cho, a main market in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG SAN MAUNG

their shops early and went back home while some were carrying the goods to their home. Today is busy for us," said a shop owner from the Zay Cho market.

There are many shops such as fashion shops, plate and bowl shops, and meat and fish shops

in the Yadanarbon market. The Yadanarbon market committee allowed the fashion shops and plate and bowl shops to bring their stuff till 3 pm, said member U Min Thu of the Yadanarbon market committee.

More than 40 markets in

Mandalay are under the supervision of Mandalay municipal.

Currently, one Covid-19 positive patient was found in the Mandalay region. A total of eight positive patients were reported across the country. — Aung San Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

Banana yields high, but its price falls

THE yield of banana in early this month was high, but its price slightly declined, according to the Myanmar Banana Producer Association.

A bunch of Phee Gyan banana, which was sold at K1,500 last year, now can only be sold at K1,200 to 1,300, and the Thee Hmwe banana, sold at K2,000 in the previous year, now can only be sold at K1,000 to 1,100, said U Saw Mahn Aung Thaung from the association.

"Although the yield of banana was high, its price and market got slightly down. I think it is because of a decline in local consumption. Bananas are not exported to foreign markets," said U Saw Mahn Aung Thaung.

Most of the banana growers started their farming when the rains fell, therefore, the yield time of their bananas are the same. The bananas of only some farmers who can afford to pump water into their farms yielded early, and fetched a high price, he added.

With the use of Good Agri-



The bunches of bananas seen in a farm in Mandalay. Photo: Min Htet Aung

cultural Practices (GAP), Myanmar Banana Producer Association cultivated more than 40 acres of banana, but the sales of the organic banana were not well in the market due to its high price. Therefore, the as-

sociation is selling only natural bananas with its market price.

Currently, there are some 200,000 acres of banana plantation in Mandalay Region; most of them are in Kyaukse, Singaing, and Myittha; and

about 10 12-wheeled vehicles are transporting the bananas to Yangon daily. — Man Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Announcement on Temporary suspension of all types of visas for foreign nationals from all countries visiting Myanmar

1. With a view to further strengthening measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to adopt the following entry visa restrictions for visitors from all countries with effect from 29 March 2020, 0001 hours (Myanmar standard time). These temporary measures will be in force till 30 April 2020:

(a) Suspension of the issuance of all types of visa (including social visit visa) to all foreign nationals, except diplomats accredited to Myanmar, United Nations officials resident in Myanmar and crew of ships and aircraft operating to and from Myanmar.

(b) Suspension of visa exemption granted to all foreign nationals on the basis of bilateral arrangements, including those from ASEAN member countries, except those holding diplomatic and official passport.

(c) All diplomats accredited to Myanmar and United Nations officials resident in Myanmar may obtain entry visas through respective Myanmar Missions abroad. They shall be required to provide certification of the absence of COVID-19 infection issued by a recognized laboratory no more than 72 hours prior to the date of travel and before boarding any aircraft destined for Myanmar. They shall be subject to home quarantine for 14 days on their arrival in Myanmar.

(d) Crew of ships or aircraft operating to and from Myanmar may also obtain entry visa through respective Myanmar Missions abroad. They shall be required to follow the latest guidelines and directives issued by the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Union of Myanmar.

2. Foreign nationals who are required to visit Myanmar on urgent official mission or for a compelling reason may contact the nearest Myanmar Missions abroad for possible exception on certain entry restrictions from the authorities concerned of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 28 March 2020*

Announcement on laws to be abided by people in time of COVID-19 crisis

27 March, 2020

THE Union Government is beefing up the prevention, control and treatment of the Coronavirus Disease-COVID-19. People are requested to follow the instructions, directives and rules released by the ministries concerned in the face of the Coronavirus crisis with the approval from the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of the Coronavirus Disease.

According to the Law Amending the 1995 Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law, the authorities can take measures not to allow the patients infected with the communicable diseases to leave homes, not to allow the people in the area of the infected patient to leave their area, not to allow any outsiders to enter the lockdown area, to impose quarantine any suspected patients having infected with a communicable disease, to ban festivals at once when an outbreak of an infectious disease occurs and to ban the people not to visit the outbreak area and to ban any vehicles which are on suspicion of carrying animals and animal products infected with a communicable disease.

Those who violate the restrictions imposed by the health authorities under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law can face six-month jail terms, fines of K50,000, or both under the Section 18 of the law.

Besides, the current Coronavirus disease is also concerned with the 2013 Natural Disaster Management Law as the natural disaster, by law, is also meant to any outbreak of communicable disease in animals and in the human.

Those who intentionally spread fake news on natural disasters to cause panic can be jailed for not more than one year or fined, or both.

Those who fail to follow any instruction imposed by authorities will face for not more than year jail term or fines, or both, under the Section -30 (a) under the Chapter-8 of the National Disaster Management Law.

Hence, people are urged to follow the instructions released in timely manner and to cooperate with the authorities.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Tatmadaw True News Team holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

TATMADAW True News Team held a press conference at Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Officials of the Directorate of Medical Services of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) conducted COVID-19 test on the participants before the start of the press meet as a virus preventive measure.

Secretary of the team Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained the birth of Kaungkha people's militia (Resident), the seizures of arms, ammunition, narcotic drugs and precursors in the surrounding areas of Kaungkha village and other villages in the area from 2018 to 26 March 2020, the discussions between officials of the Tatmadaw and officials of Kaungkha people's militia (Resident) and 1846 assorted arms, 508,939 assorted bullets, 2197 assorted bomb and rocket shells, 1095 hand grenades, 29 mines and related equipment handed over or seized from Kaungkha people's militia (Resident), Tatmadaw's plans to provide basic requirements and requirements for regional development for the rehabilitation of Kaungkha people's militia (Resident).

He also explained the donation of anti-COVID-19 medicines

and medical aids by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to General Hospital (Waibagi) in North Okkalapa and people's hospitals on 23 March, the inspection of the preparations at Defence Services hospitals in Yangon to treat COVID-19 patients by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the inspection of the preparations at Defence Services hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw to treat COVID-19 patients by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the donation of medical equipment and medicines to Public Health Department to contain and prevent COVID-19 and treat patients, preparations for making four hospitals one each in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Meiktila and Aungban as special hospitals for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and arranging eight beds for emergency patients and 192 beds for positive patients, the plan and preparations to extend the Defence Services Liver Hospital in Mingaladon, Yangon during the visit of the Senior General on 23 March, military command-wise donation of medicines and hospital equipment



Secretary of the Tatmadaw True News Team Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun speaking at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

for hospitals and clinics in townships, Tatmadaw's assistance in conducting sanitation activities including spraying of anti-virus at pagodas, monasteries and other crowded places, medical checks on monks, nuns, religious leaders of other faiths, war veterans and Garuna Kaba Home for the Aged, the carrying of 169,750 Surgical Disposable Masks (2-PLY) by plane from Nay Pyi

Taw, and distributed the masks to Tatmadaw members and families and people of remote areas on 27 March, preparations for warding Tatmadaw members and families and local people at special hospitals, military command-wise hospitals, and field medical battalions, arranging of 131 beds for emergency patients and 1131 beds for infected patients at hospitals in respective

places and medical battalions and all-round preparations including helicopters for transport, and possible limits in carrying out the work resulting from lack of agreements in some cases.

Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun answered the questions raised by reporters of the respective news agencies, it is learnt.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

No new case of Covid-19 on Saturday

Update on Covid-19 Surveillance

8 pm, on 28 March, 2020

1. Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out surveillance on the Coronavirus disease infection at the international airports, border checkpoints and hospitals, and community-based surveillance.
2. From 6 pm, 27 March, 2020 to 6 pm, 28 March, 2020, there are 55 patients who are kept under watch for the disease.
3. The National Laboratory (Yangon) tested the samples from 44 patients who are quarantined at facility and hospital and confirmed that all patients are negative to the disease.
4. Out of eight patients infected with the Coronavirus confirmed by the laboratory, one patient quarantined at the Tiddim People's Hospital, four patients at the Waibargi Specialist Hospital in Yangon, one patient at the Kantawnadi Hospital in Mandalay and one patient in Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital are recovering from the illness. One patient from the Yangon People's Hospital was transferred to the Waibargi Specialist Hospital on 27th March, 2020, and the patient is quarantined with special treatment there.
5. As the patients infected with the Coronavirus have been found, the authorities are tracing the people who closely contacted with the patients and imposing the facility and home quarantine on them. The people are urged to strictly follow the instructions and to take the preventive measures announced by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Announcement

1. Myanmar Food and Drug Administration is taking measures to ensure that people receive good health care with safe and effective drug.
2. Today, due to consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, the people are unnecessarily buying the following two drugs and taking them, and it can lead to suffering side effects.
 - (A) Hydroxychloroquine Tablet
 - (B) Azithromycin Tablet
3. Therefore, people are advised to sell, to buy and to take above two drugs only with the recommendation of a doctor.

Myanmar Food and Drug Administration

Moody's cuts South Africa's credit ratings to junk



South Africa's economy was already in bad shape before the coronavirus hit. **PHOTO: AFP**

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa) — Moody's has downgraded South Africa's credit rating to junk status, piling more anguish on an economy already in recession and battered by Africa's worst coronavirus outbreak.

Moody's move "could not have come at a worse time", the South African government said, as it would "further add to the prevailing financial market stress".

The downgrade late on Friday came as South Africa began a three-week nationwide lockdown to try to halt the rapid spread of

the novel coronavirus, which has infected more than 1,100 people in the country.

"The key driver behind the rating downgrade to Ba1 is the continuing deterioration in fiscal strength and structurally very weak growth," Moody's said.

"The government's own capacity to limit the economic deterioration in the current shock and more durably is constrained," it said, blaming "unreliable electricity supply, persistent weak business confidence and investment as well as long-standing structural labour market rigid-

ities".

Losing an investment-grade notation has a real impact on a government's ability to borrow in international debt markets, as many of the world's investment funds are barred by their statutes from investing in junk bonds.

Crucially, South Africa will now be excluded from the FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI).

'Kicks South Africa'

The downgrade "kicks South Africa when it's down", said Daniel Silke, a political economy analyst, on Twitter.

But he said South Africa had been edging towards such a situation since last year "due to politically constrained economic reforms & broader governance failures coupled with rising debt levels".

Annabel Bishop, an analyst with Investec, said additional public spending to support the economy during the coronavirus crisis "will worsen government finances, as will the contraction in GDP and the negative impact to corporate and household incomes on the shutdown". —AFP ■

Major security forum in Singapore cancelled due to COVID-19

ASIA'S largest security forum held every June in Singapore has been cancelled this year due to logistical disruptions amid the current coronavirus pandemic, organizers said Saturday.

"In light of the serious challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the IISS has decided in close consultation with the Government of Singapore not to convene the 2020 Shangri-La Dialogue," the London-headquartered International Institute for Strategic Studies said on its website.

The meeting, held in the city-state every year since 2002, was slated for June 5-7.

The conference has been providing a platform for ministers and top military officials from more than 40 countries

to discuss major security challenges in the Asia-Pacific in plenary and bilateral meetings.

However, travel restrictions and border shutdowns imposed by many countries in a bid to limit the spread of the virus would severely impact attendance, the British think tank said.

"These (measures) may still be in force at the time that this year's Shangri-La Dialogue would have been convened," it added.

Among such countries is Singapore itself, which recently banned the entry of short-term visitors and has ordered the cancellation or postponement of conferences as part of beefed-up social distancing measures.—Kyodo News — Xinhua ■



Travellers are seen wearing a protective mask at a self check-in kiosk at Changi Airport on 30 January 2020 in Singapore.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Russia to close border amid virus crisis

MOSCOW — Russia is going to suspend border crossings via automobile, railway, pedestrian and other border checkpoints from Monday in a bid to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Russian government said Saturday in a statement.

The Russian Transport Ministry, together with the Russian Federal Security Service, the Russian Federal Customs Service and Rospotrebnadzor (Russia's consumer rights and human well-being watchdog) should temporarily restrict traf-

fic through the automobile, railway, pedestrian, river and other checkpoints across the Russian state border from 00:00 Moscow time on March 30 (2100 GMT on March 29), the statement said.

Russia's COVID-19 cases increased by 228 in the last 24

hours, a daily record, to 1,264 in 62 regions of the country, the country's coronavirus response center said.

The government has ordered the closure of hotels, resorts, restaurants, cafes, canteens and some shops.

Russia has suspended all regular and charter flights from domestic airports to and from foreign countries, except for flights taking Russians home from abroad as well as flights carried out by the government.—Xinhua ■

COVID-19: ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

Mental health and psychological resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe

AS THE coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic sweeps across the world, it is causing widespread concern, fear and stress, all of which are natural and normal reactions to the changing and uncertain situation that everyone finds themselves in.

“The issue facing each and every one of us is how we manage and react to the stressful situation unfolding so rapidly in our lives and communities. Here we can draw on the remarkable powers of strength and cooperation that we also fortunately possess as humans. And that is what we must try to focus on to respond most effectively to this crisis as individuals, family and community members, friends and colleagues,” said Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.

People's mental health

WHO takes the impact of the crisis on people's mental health very seriously and is monitoring the situation together with national authorities, while providing information and guidance to governments and the public.

At a press briefing held on 26 March, Dr Kluge, together with Dr Aiysha Malik, Technical Officer, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO Headquarters and Dr Dorit Nitzan, Acting Director of Emergencies, WHO/Europe, answered questions on mental health issues in the context of COVID-19 and offered insights on tools, techniques and interventions to address them.

“With the disruptive effects of COVID-19 – including social distancing – currently dominating our daily lives, it is important that we check on each other, call and video-chat, and are mindful of and sensitive to the unique mental health needs of those we care for. Our anxiety and fears should be acknowledged and not be ignored, but better understood and addressed by individuals, communities and governments,” Dr Hans Kluge noted.

Many of the questions focused on specific population groups, including children and older people.

What could the impact of the COVID-19 crisis be on children's mental health?

This is indeed an unprecedented time for all of us, especially for children who face an enormous disruption to their lives. Children are likely to be experiencing worry, anxiety and fear, and this can include the types of fears that are very similar to those experienced by adults, such as a fear of dying, a fear of their relatives dying, or a fear



A volunteer packs vegetables for residents of Huajin community Wuchang District of Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 23, 2020. More than 10,000 people in Wuhan have applied for a volunteer project, shortly after its kick-off on Sunday morning. Authorities announced the project of recruiting volunteers to buy and deliver groceries and other essentials to local residents, as it is difficult to buy daily necessity for some residents after the lockdown of the city Cheng Min. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

of what it means to receive medical treatment. If schools have closed as part of necessary measures, then children may no longer have that sense of structure and stimulation that is provided by that environment, and now they have less opportunity to be with their friends and get that social support that is essential for good mental well-being.

Being at home can place some children at increased risk of, or increased exposure to, child protection incidents or make them witness to interpersonal violence if their home is not a safe place. This is something that is very concerning.

Although all children are perceptive to change, young children may find the changes that have taken place difficult to understand, and both young and older children may express irritability and anger. Children may find that they want to be closer to their parents, make more demands on them, and, in turn, some parents or caregivers may be under undue pressure themselves.

Simple strategies

Simple strategies that can address this can include giving young people the love and attention that they need to resolve their fears, and being honest with children, explaining what is happening in a way that they can understand, even if they are young. Children are very perceptive and will model how to respond from their carers. Parents also need to be supported in managing their own stressors so that they can be models for their children. Helping children to find ways to express themselves through creative activities, and providing structure in the day – if that is possible – through establishing routines, particularly if they are not going to school anymore, can be beneficial.

Mental health and psychosocial support services should be in place, and child protection services need to adapt to ensure that the care is still available for the children of families who need it.

What is the psychological impact of this disease on the elderly?

Regarding older people and also those with underlying health conditions, having been identified as more vulnerable to COVID-19, and to be told that you are very vulnerable, can be extremely frightening and very fear-inducing. The psychological impacts for these populations can include anxiety and feeling stressed or angry. Its impacts can be particularly difficult for older people who may be experiencing cognitive decline or dementia. And some older people may already be socially isolated and experiencing loneliness which can worsen mental health.

On a positive note, there are many things that older people can initiate themselves or with the support of a carer, if needed, to protect their mental health at this time. These include many of the strategies that we are advocating across the entire population, such as undertaking physical activity, keeping to routines or creating new ones, and engaging in activities which give a sense of achievement. Maintaining social connections is also important. Some older people may be familiar with digital methods and others may need guidance in how to use them. Once again, the mental health and psychosocial support services and other services that are relevant to this population must remain available at this time.

The impacts of COVID-19 on older people will be the focus of WHO's next live briefing, to take place at 11:00 CET on Thursday 2 April, streamed live on WHO/Europe's Facebook page and YouTube channel. ■

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Prevention

There's currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease (COVID-19). You can protect yourself and help prevent spreading the virus to others if you:



- Do**
 - Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze
 - Avoid close contact (1 meter or 3 feet) with people who are unwell
 - Stay home and self-isolate from others in the household if you feel unwell
- Don't**
 - Touch your eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are not clean

Source: World Health Organization



People clean their hands with hand sanitizer in Fukushima, Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Any threat to the public's health is a crime

WITH the approval from the National-level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of the Coronavirus Disease, ministries concerned have released instructions and directives to overcome the Coronavirus crisis, and people are obliged to understand the prohibitions and to follow the official advice.

Those who violate the restrictions imposed by the health authorities under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law can face six month jail terms, fines of K50,000, or both.

Those who do not carry out the measures to stem the spread of the pandemic will be punished according to the law.

Meanwhile, another threat to public health in this time of crisis is fake news. Those who spread fake news intentionally to cause panic can be jailed for one year or fined, or both. Any threat to public health is classified as a "crime".

The fight against coronavirus stands or falls on whether authentic information can be provided to citizens. However, social media now threatens to throw a monkey wrench into the works.

In this time of crisis, it is important for people to rely on trusted sources of information. We must also question social media platforms about their claims to self-regulate.

Fake news and rumors can cause more damage preying upon social anxieties, stoking panic, spreading quackery and putting lives at danger. Platforms must urgently take corrective actions, or be made to do so.

The world has faced infectious diseases before and we have come through it, just as we will get through this. It is best to be vigilant and cautious, but not to panic. "Be Calm and Wash Your Hands." Get your facts from trusted news sources.

The following are the recommended steps that can help avoid the spread of any respiratory illness, including COVID-19. The steps are:

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible.
- Stay home if sick.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, as germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub which is composed of at least 60 percent alcohol.

If a communicable disease is detected among public and private health workers after they contact an infected person, they must immediately inform the authorities.

This is particularly true about those who returned from foreign countries, who have been advised to quarantine themselves or visit medical centers to be treated if they have become ill. Those returnees who continue their presence and activities in society can be punished.

Those who do not carry out the measures to stem the spread of the pandemic will be punished according to the law.

Latest Coronavirus updates from around the world

The coronavirus pandemic has driven the global economy into a downturn that will require massive funding to help developing nations: IMF

European tourists evacuated

Hundreds of European tourists stranded in Bali were evacuated from the Indonesian holiday island on Saturday after their flights were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

British authorities booked seats on two commercial flights to London for hundreds of citizens, while Germany has chartered six flights from Denpasar to Frankfurt since Friday. France also organised flights to Paris for hundreds of its citizens.

Coronavirus cases recorded globally

More than 600,000 cases of the new coronavirus have been officially recorded around the world since the outbreak of the epidemic, according to an AFP tally at 1045 GMT on Saturday.

There were 605,010 cases of infection with 27,982 deaths in 183 countries and territories.

The United States had 104,837 cases of which 1,711 were fatal. Italy had the highest number of deaths at 9,134 and a total of 86,498 cases. China, the epicentre of the outbreak, had 81,394 cases and 3,295 deaths.

The figures represent only a fraction of the number of infections as many countries only carry out tests on suspected cases if they are hospitalised.

Spain counts 832 deaths in 24 hours

The death toll in Spain surged over 5,600 on Saturday

after a record 832 people died in 24 hours, and the number of infections soared over 72,000, the government said.

Spain has the world's second-highest coronavirus death toll after Italy with 5,690 fatalities. The number of cases have jumped to 72,248 as the country moves to significantly increase testing.

Iran coronavirus death toll

Iran announced Saturday that 139 more people had died from the novel coronavirus, raising the official death toll to 2,517 in one of the world's worst-affected countries.

Health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour told a news conference that 3,076 more cases had been confirmed in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of infections to 35,408.

Virus response fateful for EU

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte warned Saturday that the European Union could lose its purpose if it fails to come up with a strong response to the coronavirus threat.

Conte aired his grievances after the 27 EU leaders could not agree on an action plan during an argumentative six-hour video conference Thursday and gave their finance ministers two more weeks to forge a policy that could please Italy and Spain.

Sex toy sales on the rise

A recent study indicates that many people seem to have found

a pleasurable way to deal with the boredom that comes with isolation: sex toy sales are skyrocketing across the world.

The report analyses numbers from the company Womanizer from 1 January to 6 March. Canada's sex toy sales are up 135% more than the company had anticipated while the US are up 75%. Sex toy sales are also up 60% in Italy, 40% in France, and 13% in the UK.

Trump signs \$2 trillion recovery plan

President Donald Trump signed into law Friday the \$2 trillion rescue plan to salvage a US economy crippled by the novel coronavirus, on a day the nation's total count of COVID-19 cases surpassed 100,000.

Trump's signature brings an end to a dramatic, weeklong legislative saga on Capitol Hill and triggers the distribution of millions of relief checks of up to \$3,400 for an average American family of four.

The two countries hardest-hit by the pandemic blocked Thursday's statement because it did not go far enough.

US lab unveils portable 5-minute COVID-19 test

A US-based lab has unveiled a portable test that can tell if someone has COVID-19 in as little as five minutes, it said in a statement Friday.

Abbott Laboratories said the US Food and Drug Administra-



Aerial photo taken on March 24, 2020 shows vehicles back to Wuhan wait to pass through a highway toll station in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province. Wuhan, the Chinese city hardest hit by the novel coronavirus outbreak, will lift outbound travel restrictions from April 8 after over two months of lockdown. Local authorities said. PHOTO: XINHUA

tion (FDA) had given it emergency authorization to begin making the test available to healthcare providers as early as next week.

China virus epicentre eases travel restrictions

The Chinese city of 11 million people that was Ground Zero for what became the global coronavirus pandemic partly reopened on Saturday after more than two months of almost total isolation.

IMF chief: 'Clear we have entered recession'

The coronavirus pandemic has driven the global economy

into a downturn that will require massive funding to help developing nations, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said Friday.

"It is clear that we have entered a recession" that will be worse than in 2009 following the global financial crisis, she said in an online press briefing. With the worldwide economic "sudden stop," Georgieva said the fund's estimate "for the overall financial needs of emerging markets is \$2.5 trillion."

How to survive a lockdown Survivors from two dramatic rescues that captivated the world, the 2010 Chilean mine collapse

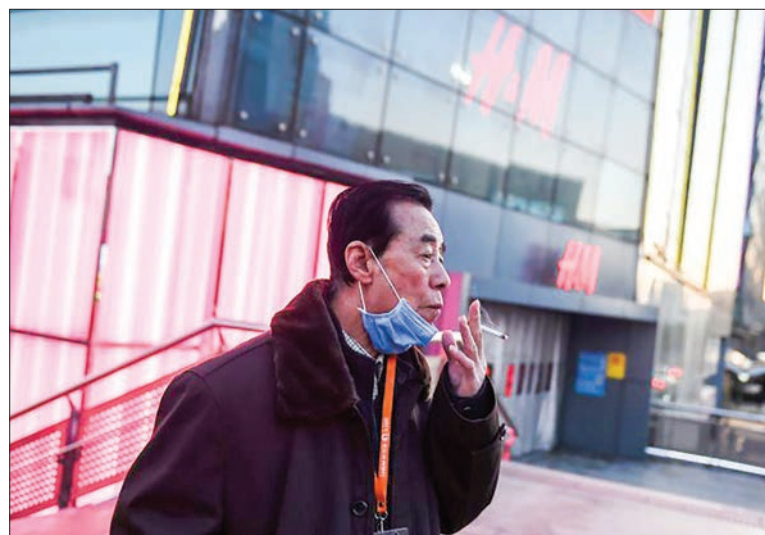
and the 1972 Andes plane crash, gave their advice for how to survive a lockdown as the number of Latin American coronavirus cases soared past 10,000 Friday.

Italy, Spain suffer record virus deaths

Italy has logged a shocking spike in its already staggering coronavirus death toll, with officials warning the peak of the crisis was still days away, as the global infection rate surges relentlessly upwards.

REFERENCE
RTL Digital Media News

Coronavirus Q & A



A man lowers his face mask to smoke a cigarette in Beijing. GREG BAKER—AFP

Smoking and COVID-19

Are smokers and tobacco users at higher risk of COVID-19 infection?

Smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips which increases the possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth. Smokers may also already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase risk of serious illness.

Smoking products such as water pipes often involve the sharing

of mouth pieces and hoses, which could facilitate the transmission of COVID-19 in communal and social settings.

Conditions that increase oxygen needs or reduce the ability of the body to use it properly will put patients at higher risk of serious lung conditions such as pneumonia.

Are pregnant women at higher risk from COVID-19?

Research is currently underway to understand the impacts of COVID 19 infection on pregnant women. Data are limited, but at present there is no evidence that they are at higher risk of severe illness than the general population.

However, due to changes in their bodies and immune sys-

tems, we know that pregnant women can be badly affected by some respiratory infections. It is therefore important that they take precautions to protect themselves against COVID-19, and report possible symptoms (including fever, cough or difficulty breathing) to their healthcare provider.

WHO will continue to review and update its information and advice as more evidence becomes available.

I'm pregnant. How can I protect myself against COVID-19? Pregnant women should take the same precautions to avoid COVID-19 infection as other people. You can help protect yourself by:

- Washing your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

Keeping space between yourselves and others and avoiding crowded spaces.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Practicing respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

If you have fever, cough or difficulty breathing, seek medical care early. Call before going to a health facility, and follow the directions of your local health authority.

Pregnant women and women who have recently delivered - including those affected by COVID-19 - should attend their routine care appointments.

REFERENCE
WHO Health Topics



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 28th March, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29th March, 2020: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in Naypyitaw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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** 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

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Spotlight: FDA warns against using Chloroquine intended for fish as treatment for COVID-19

“Unfortunately, we have learned that one person in the United States has died after he and his wife reportedly took chloroquine used to treat their fish in an attempt to prevent COVID-19; his wife also became very ill,” said the FDA in a letter to stakeholders.



THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday warned against taking antimalarial drug chloroquine phosphate used to cure fish disease in

aquariums as treatment against COVID-19 cases.

The warning followed a misuse of the drug in Arizona, which caused one death and one

critical illness.

The FDA said some consumers may mistake chloroquine phosphate used to treat disease in aquarium fish for FDA-approved drugs that are being studied as a COVID-19 treatment for humans.

“Unfortunately, we have learned that one person in the United States has died after he and his wife reportedly took chloroquine used to treat their fish in an attempt to prevent COVID-19; his wife also became very ill,” said the FDA in a letter to stakeholders.

“While FDA is aware of the use of unapproved drugs to treat aquarium fish, our primary concern during the COVID-19 pandemic is the imminent threat to the health of consumers who

may take animal drugs thinking they are interchangeable with approved human drugs,” said the agency.

Chloroquine products sold for aquarium use have not been evaluated by the FDA to determine whether they are safe, effective, properly manufactured, and adequately labeled for use in fish, let alone humans.

People should not take any form of chloroquine unless it has been prescribed by a licensed healthcare provider and is obtained through a legitimate source, the FDA noted.

U.S. President Donald Trump said earlier an antimalarial drug, which he called as “chloroquine” or “hydroxychloroquine”, will soon be made available with a prescription to

treat the novel coronavirus.

Trump said the drug has shown “very, very encouraging” early results, adding he has pushed the FDA to eliminate barriers to getting therapeutics for coronavirus patients.

But some medicine and immunology experts expressed concern about the results and safety of the drug.

“The drugs of this class can have side effects and it is also still quite possible that it is not effective,” Robert Schooley, professor of medicine at the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health at the University of California, San Diego, told Xinhua.

SOURCE:
Xinhua



Pedestrians wearing face masks walk along the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, the United States, on March 27, 2020.
(PHOTO BY MICHAEL NAGLE/XINHUA)

What is Chloroquine and could it cure the Coronavirus?

COULD a pair of decades-old, relatively inexpensive drugs be the solution to the novel coronavirus pandemic?

Around the world, countries are expanding access to hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and chloroquine (CQ), related compounds that are synthetic forms of quinine, which comes from cinchona trees and has been used for centuries to treat malaria.

HCQ which is the less toxic of the two, is also used as an anti-inflammatory to treat conditions like rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, purposes it is primarily known for outside the tropics.

The medicines have shown early promise against the COVID-19 illness in early studies in France and China, which led US President Donald Trump this week to call them a “gift from God” -- even as experts urge caution until bigger trials validate their effectiveness.

Here is what you need to know.

Why they might work

China used CQ on a trial of 134 patients in February, finding it was effective in reducing the severity of the illness, according to officials.

But these results haven't yet been published. Chinese respiratory expert Zhong Nanshan, who leads a government task force in response to the epidemic, said in a press conference last week that the data would be widely shared soon.

In France, a team led by Didier Raoult of the IHU-Mediterranean Infection, Marseille reported last week they had carried out a study on 36 COVID-19 patients, finding that HCQ drastically reduced the viral load in a group which received the drug.

Azithromycin

The effects were especially pronounced when it was used with azithromycin, a common antibiotic used to sweep out secondary bacterial infections.

What's more, HCQ and CQ drugs have been proven to act against the SARS-CoV-2 virus in lab settings, and a paper published by a Chinese team last week in Cell Discovery offered a potential mode of action.

Karine Le Roch, a professor of cell biology at the University of California, Riverside, explained that both HCQ and CQ are weak bases that elevate the pH of parts of human cells called organelles — which are analogous to organs in animals — and

which are normally acidic.

This in turn interferes with the virus' ability to enter the cells — and also seems to block them from replicating once they are already inside.

But, she added: “While it worked in vitro, I am still waiting to see published results of large blind clinical trials demonstrating the efficacy of HCQ in vivo,” she told AFP.

The case for caution

Promise doesn't mean proof, and the small studies carried out so far amount to “anecdotal” evidence, according to Anthony Fauci, head of infectious diseases at the US National Institutes of Health.

What's more, a small Chinese study on 30 patients that was also published this month found HCQ was no better than standard care — meaning treating the symptoms via bed rest, fluids and so on — adding a note of caution to the discourse.

The only way to know for sure is to carry out randomized clinical trials, scientists say. Such experiments are considered the gold standard in the field but last months or years and involve thousands of patients, often from around the world.

Patients are assigned at random to either receive the drug under investigation or a placebo, and the studies are “blinded” meaning the participants and their doctors are unaware which group they are in, to further reduce bias.

Overhyping medicine can have several unintended effects, warn experts.

“One of the unintended consequences are drug shortages of chloroquine, for people that need to manage their rheumatoid arthritis, for example,” Peter Pitts, a former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration told AFP.

A few countries are taking

a cautious approach. Spain, for example, announced Monday said that “until further notice” these arthritis and lupus patients would be given priority access to the drug.

French Health Minister Olivier Veran meanwhile said the compounds can be used only to treat the most severe cases of COVID-19.

Another problem is that people may try to self-medicate. A US man from Arizona died this week after ingesting a form of chloroquine intended to fight aquatic parasites.

SOURCE:
AFP



Could these pills help solve the coronavirus crisis? Experts are studying Nivaquine (L), which contains chloroquine, and Plaqueril, which contain hydroxychloroquine. **PHOTO:AFP**

Pope faces coronavirus 'tempest' alone in St Peter's Square

VATICAN CITY (Holy See) — Pope Francis stood alone in vast Saint Peter's Square Friday to bless Catholics around the world suffering under the coronavirus pandemic, urging people to ease their fears through faith.

"Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by," he said.

In a historic first, the Argentine performed the rarely recited "Urbi et Orbi" blessing from the steps of the basilica to an empty square, addressing those in lockdown across the globe via television, radio and social media.

"We find ourselves afraid and lost," he said in a homily ahead of the blessing, as he stood under a canopy protecting him from a downpour.

He described the coronavirus "tempest" which he said had put everybody "in the same boat".

The hour had come to "re-awaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable

of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering", he said.

'Did not listen'

The blessing — which translates as "To the City (Rome) and the World" — is usually given on just three occasions: when a pope is elected, and each year at Christmas and Easter.

The pontiff traditionally speaks out against armed conflicts around the globe before delivering the Urbi et Orbi blessing.

But on Friday, the COVID-19 pandemic which has already killed more than 23,000 people was in his sights — and humanity's errors and lack of faith leading up to the crisis.

"We have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste," said Francis in his homily.

"We were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the



In a historic first, the pope said prayers to an empty Saint Peter's Square. PHOTO: AFP

cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick."

Today was not "the time of your judgement," the Pope clarified, but rather a time for people to focus on the important, "a time to separate what is necessary from what is not."

'Forgotten people'

The pontiff saluted "ordinary people — often forgotten people"

who are showing courage and selflessness in the current crisis, citing doctors and nurses, supermarket employers, police forces, volunteers, priests and nuns.

And at the end of the service, Francis granted Catholics the chance to have a rare remission for the punishment of sins.

Earlier this month, when the Italian capital was already in lockdown, Francis made a solitary pilgrimage to two of the city's churches.

At one, he borrowed a crucifix believed to have saved Rome from plague in the 16th century. On Friday, that crucifix was placed in front of Saint Peter's.

"During the plague in the Middle Ages, the Church was the only visible presence in public, through the processions of priests who were supposed to produce miracles," Vatican expert Marco Politi told AFP.

"The Pope wants to recapture a part of that scene and of the collective imagination," he said.

The head of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics is a high-risk subject for the virus himself. Since coming down with a cold late last month, the 83-year-old has remained largely secluded within the Vatican.

Italian media reported that the pope had tested negative for coronavirus after a prelate who lived at his residence — a guest house in the Vatican — was hospitalised on Wednesday with the virus. "The anti-contagion cordon has been tight around the pope for weeks," La Stampa daily wrote. — AFP ■

Europe's virus toll surges, world plunges into recession



Spain recorded another 832 coronavirus deaths on Saturday, following the pattern of hardest-hit Italy as the epidemic surges through Europe. PHOTO: AFP

ROME (Italy) — Europe was reeling from a staggering surge in coronavirus deaths Saturday, still days or weeks from what experts desperately hope will be the epidemic's peak.

Grim new tolls from Italy and Spain came as the IMF confirmed the world economy has plunged into a historic slump, and the US invoked wartime procurement powers.

More than 600,000 cases of the new coronavirus have been

officially recorded around the world since the outbreak of the epidemic, according to an AFP tally. Variations in testing regimes mean the true number is likely far higher still, and confirmed deaths are mounting.

Spain recorded 832 fatalities in 24 hours, bringing its toll to 5,690, second in the world only to Italy, which confirmed a one-day record of 969 on Friday. Elsewhere, Iran announced 139 more deaths and India sealed off

a dozen Punjab villages that had been visited by a guru now known to be infected and a possible "super-spreader".

And, in South Africa, Johannesburg police resorted to rubber bullets to enforce social distancing on a crowd queuing for supplies outside a downtown supermarket during a national lockdown.

The United States now has the world's highest single number of COVID-19 cases but per capita European nations are still the worst hit, with emergency services struggling to cope.

Wuhan partially reopens

However, two months of almost total isolation appear to have paid off in China's Wuhan, where the virus first emerged, which was partially reopened.

Since January, residents have been forbidden to leave, with roadblocks installed and millions subjected to dramatic restrictions on their daily life. But on Saturday people were allowed to enter the city, and most of the subway network restarted. Some shopping centres will open their doors next week. — AFP ■

'Corona criminals' prey on Europe's virus fears

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — From trafficking dodgy surgical masks to peddling counterfeit medicines and running internet scams, criminals are finding ways to profit from the coronavirus crisis, European police warn.

With billions of people under lockdown in their homes and borders shut, police chiefs say criminals are finding it hard to make money out of "traditional" activities like burglary and drug smuggling.

Instead they are preying on people's fears of the COVID-19 pandemic to sell them substandard protective goods or trick people out of their cash online, warned Europe's police agency Europol. "Criminals are just interested in one question: 'how can I make more money?'" Europol director Catherine De Bolle told AFP in an interview.

"This is why they are now abusing the pandemic to change their way of working." Police around the world seized 34,000 counterfeit surgical masks in one major operation targeting so-called "corona criminals" earlier this month, Europol said in a report Friday.

"Fraudsters have been very quick to adapt well-known fraud schemes to capitalise on the anxieties and fears of victims throughout the crisis," the report added.

'Decrease in break-ins'

In many European countries, police have reported a dramatic drop in common criminal behaviour. Spanish police said there had been a roughly 50 percent drop in criminal offences compared to a year earlier since the country was put on a near total lockdown on March 14. "There is no doubt that confinement makes crime more difficult," said the deputy director of Spain's Guardia Civil police force, Laurentino Cena.

Sweden too said it had seen burglaries drop since people were asked to work at home.

Sales of street drugs have also dropped sharply in many countries since the outbreak as authorities shut borders and restrict the movement of people.

But the flip side of the coin is a rise in other forms of crime trying to profit on the back of the disease. — AFP ■

Trump signs \$2 trillion recovery plan as US virus cases skyrocket

WASHINGTON (United States) — President Donald Trump signed into law Friday the \$2 trillion rescue plan to salvage a US economy crippled by the novel coronavirus, on a day the nation's total count of COVID-19 cases surpassed 100,000.

Trump's signature brings an end to a dramatic, weeklong legislative saga on Capitol Hill and triggers the distribution of millions of relief checks of up to \$3,400 for an average American family of four.

Hours earlier lawmakers in the House of Representatives united to green-light the mega-plan as the number of recorded deaths from the virus hit 1,693.

"I want to thank Democrats and Republicans for coming together and putting America first," Trump said.

"This will deliver urgently needed relief to our nation's families, workers and businesses. That's what this is all about."

Trump signed a separate order late Friday allowing the Pentagon to bring former troops and members of the National Guard back to active duty to help

the military combat the virus, the Washington Post said, citing a Pentagon spokesman.

The president also took the long-called-for step of invoking the Defense Production Act to compel auto giant General Motors to quickly honor its commitment to making ventilators, machines crucial to keeping critically ill coronavirus patients alive but which are in short supply in hospitals.

"GM was wasting time," the president said. Nationwide the number of coronavirus cases surpassed 104,000. The need for medical supplies is acute in New York state, the US hotbed of the epidemic where 44,635 infections have been confirmed.

The death toll there increased Friday to 519 — up from 385 the previous day — but Governor Andrew Cuomo expressed optimism that the increase in the hospitalization rate has slowed.

Cuomo announced the creation of temporary hospitals at large facilities in each borough of New York City — including at a horse racing track in Queens — modeled on an already-constructed space in Manhattan's



US President Donald Trump signed a \$2 trillion rescue package into law to provide economic relief amid the coronavirus outbreak. PHOTO: AFP

Javits Center.

The national rescue bill pumps \$100 billion into hospitals and health facilities in critical need of medical gear like personal protective equipment and intensive care beds, creates a \$500 billion loan reserve for large corporations including airlines, and provides \$377 billion in grants to small businesses.

It also dramatically expands unemployment assistance, aid that will cushion the blow for a staggering 3.3 million people who

filed jobless claims in the week ending March 21.

Americans 'can't wait'

"Our nation faces an economic and health emergency of historic proportions due to the coronavirus pandemic, the worst pandemic in over 100 years," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told colleagues shortly before the chamber passed the measure.

Several lawmakers including top House Republican Kevin McCarthy hailed the bill as a

critical lifeline for workers and small businesses. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pledged a speedy distribution of checks.

"Americans need that money now, they can't wait for government to take three or four or six months like we normally do," Mnuchin said on Fox Business Network, adding he expected direct deposits of the cash to arrive in three weeks.

US stocks sank Friday despite the legislative breakthrough. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 4.1 percent, the broad-based S&P 500 shed 3.4 per cent and the tech-rich Nasdaq tumbled 3.8 per cent.

The Senate had passed the huge bill earlier this week.

The vote in the House was notable for the implementation of social distancing rules that prevented lawmakers from all gathering on the floor, leading to unprecedented scenes of members sitting in the upper galleries to allow for sufficient spacing.

With the House in recess this week, leaders had wanted a quick voice vote requiring just a few members present.— AFP ■

New York medical workers decry 'abysmal' lack of coronavirus protection

NEW YORK (United States) — Medical staff in America's coronavirus hotbed New York are struggling with long hours and a dire need for protective equipment — and as infections surge, they increasingly fear for their own safety.

Doctors and nurses are working around the clock caring for patients hit by the fast-spreading infection, risking their lives on the front lines of the global crisis.

The same week the United States became the new epicenter of the pandemic — posting over 100,000 confirmed cases of infection, including more than 1,500 deaths — Kious Kelly, a nurse manager at a Manhattan hospital, succumbed to a fatal case of Covid-19.

The death of the 48-year-old male nurse crystallized fears of many medical workers who've lamented severe shortages of necessary supplies, including plastic protective gowns and hospital-grade masks.

"It's abysmal," said Andrew, a psychiatry resident in a New



Medical personnel outside New York's Elmhurst Hospital Center, where 13 COVID-19 patients died in 24 hours. PHOTO: AFP

York hospital who spoke on condition his name be changed.

He is now quarantined at home with a likely case of the virus himself.

"There's not enough money, there aren't enough tests, there's not enough personal protective equipment for people who are dealing with this — not just the doctors, but nurses, ancillary staff, janitors — everyone in the hospital who are getting huge

exposure to the virus," the resident told AFP in an interview punctuated by coughs.

'Hopelessness'

Diana Torres, a former colleague of the late Kelly, said hospital staff are "devastated" that "he paid the ultimate price."

The mother of three told AFP there are units of the hospital filled to the brim with coronavirus patients.— AFP ■

US civil rights leader Joseph Lowery dies aged 98

WASHINGTON (United States) — US civil rights leader Reverend Joseph Lowery who campaigned with Martin Luther King died on Friday aged 98.

"Our beloved, Rev. Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery, made his transition peacefully at home" surrounded by his daughters, the Joseph & Evelyn Lowery Institute said, adding "his legacy of service and struggle was long and rich."

Born in Huntsville, Alabama in 1921, Lowery worked closely alongside leading figures in the civil rights movement and with King co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) civil rights group in 1957.

He was chosen to speak at the inauguration of the country's first black president Barack Obama in 2009, and later that year was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

"Rev. Joseph Lowery was a fighter for civil rights," fellow civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"He spoke up spoke out he never gave up. He marched and he protested all across America. We mourn his passing this evening," Lewis said.

"By being born black, I can't ever remember not being in the movement," Lowery told the Journal-Constitution in a 2001 interview.

He recalled one day in 1933 that almost set him on a very different path to the civic action, protest marches and impassioned oratory that made his name.

As he was leaving his father's candy store in Huntsville, the 11-year-old Lowery almost collided with a white police officer entering the shop.

"Don't you see a white man coming in?" he recalled the officer saying, after referring to the boy using a racial epithet and hitting him in the stomach with his stick.

Incensed, Lowery went home to fetch his father's gun.

But by chance his father was in the house too, and after taking the weapon away, gave his son a long lecture.— AFP ■

China's virus epicentre eases travel restrictions after lockdown

WUHAN (China) — Trains packed with thousands of passengers arrived in Wuhan Saturday as the Chinese city that was Ground Zero for the global coronavirus pandemic partly reopened after months in lockdown.

Returnees, some wearing two face masks, latex gloves and protective suits, were greeted at the railway station by staff in similar anti-virus gear — a grim reminder that while the city was emerging from isolation, it was still far from normal.

“As the train neared Wuhan, my child and I were both very excited,” a 36-year-old woman told AFP. She and her daughter had been away from her husband for nearly 10 weeks.

“It felt like the train was moving faster than before, and my daughter said the driver must know we really want to go home.

“She rushed towards her father, and watching them from behind I couldn't help but cry,” she added.

Wuhan, where the contagion was first detected late last year, was placed under lockdown in January, with residents forbidden



A woman wearing protective gear as she boards a train stopping at Wuhan, which has opened stations again to incoming passengers. PHOTO: AFP

to leave, roadblocks ring-fencing the city's outskirts and drastic restrictions on daily life.

With the outbreak deemed under control, rules have been eased to allow people to enter the city and many trains had been fully booked days in advance.

Restrictions on residents heading out of Wuhan will not be lifted until April 8 when the airport will also reopen for domestic flights.

Travellers were allowed to leave the train station on Saturday after showing a green code

on a mobile app to prove they are healthy.

Those who had been overseas were herded to reception desks to be tested for the virus as China battles to control infections brought from abroad.

A woman told AFP she was finally able to return to Wuhan after a cancelled flight two months ago left her stranded in the southern city of Guangzhou. Elsewhere in China long lines of travellers queued up at train stations to board high-speed services back to the city. — AFP ■

63 new COVID-19 cases found in Tokyo, biggest for single day

TOKYO — Tokyo continues to see a spike in the number of coronavirus infections, with 63 new cases confirmed Saturday, the largest record for a single day, the metropolitan government said.

The number of daily infections in the Japanese capital more than doubled on Wednesday from the previous day to 41, and continued to stay at a level of 40 or more for the third day in a row on Friday, bringing the total number of cases to 299, the highest among Japan's 47

prefectures.

With the newly confirmed cases on Saturday, the number of COVID-19 infections in Tokyo reached 362.

The surge in the figure led Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike to say earlier this week that the capital was facing an “important phase in preventing an explosive rise in the number of infections.”

She also requested that the city's nearly 14 million residents stay at home this weekend. — Kyodo News ■



A large number of people walk in Tokyo's Roppongi entertainment district on 27 March 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

COVID-19 : Delhi Police sets up 24*7 helpline

NEW DELHI (India) — The Delhi Police on Saturday started 24-hour helpline number— 011-23469526 — to resolve issues related to lockdown due to coronavirus.

A total of 3796 calls were received on the helpline so far, informed Delhi Police. Earlier today, Delhi Police said that they have introduced online passes for the movement of essential commodities in the national capital.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a

21-day lockdown in the entire country to deal with the spread of coronavirus, saying that “social distancing” is the only option to deal with the highly contagious disease.

The total number of coronavirus positive cases rises to 918 in India including foreign nationals, 80 people have been cured/discharged/migrated so far and 19 deaths have been reported, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Saturday.

— ANI ■

Indonesia's capital extends emergency response over coronavirus

JAKARTA — The governor of Jakarta on Saturday extended an emergency response period currently in place in Indonesia's capital until April 19 in a further bid to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus.

“I call on people to keep staying at home, not going out, except for doing something essential related to basic necessities and their health,” Gov. Anies

Baswedan said in announcing the extension in a virtual press conference broadcast over social media. On March 20 he declared the measure, under which public entertainment outlets such as bars and cinemas as well as tourist facilities have been closed since Monday. Public transport has been scaled back and companies have been requested to have their employees work from home,

making the normally bustling metropolis eerily quiet.

An increasing number of Japanese companies with expatriate staff in the capital are having their families return to Japan.

Separately Saturday, the country's health authorities reported 109 new confirmed infections, raising the national tally to 1,155, with the death toll standing at 102. — Kyodo News ■

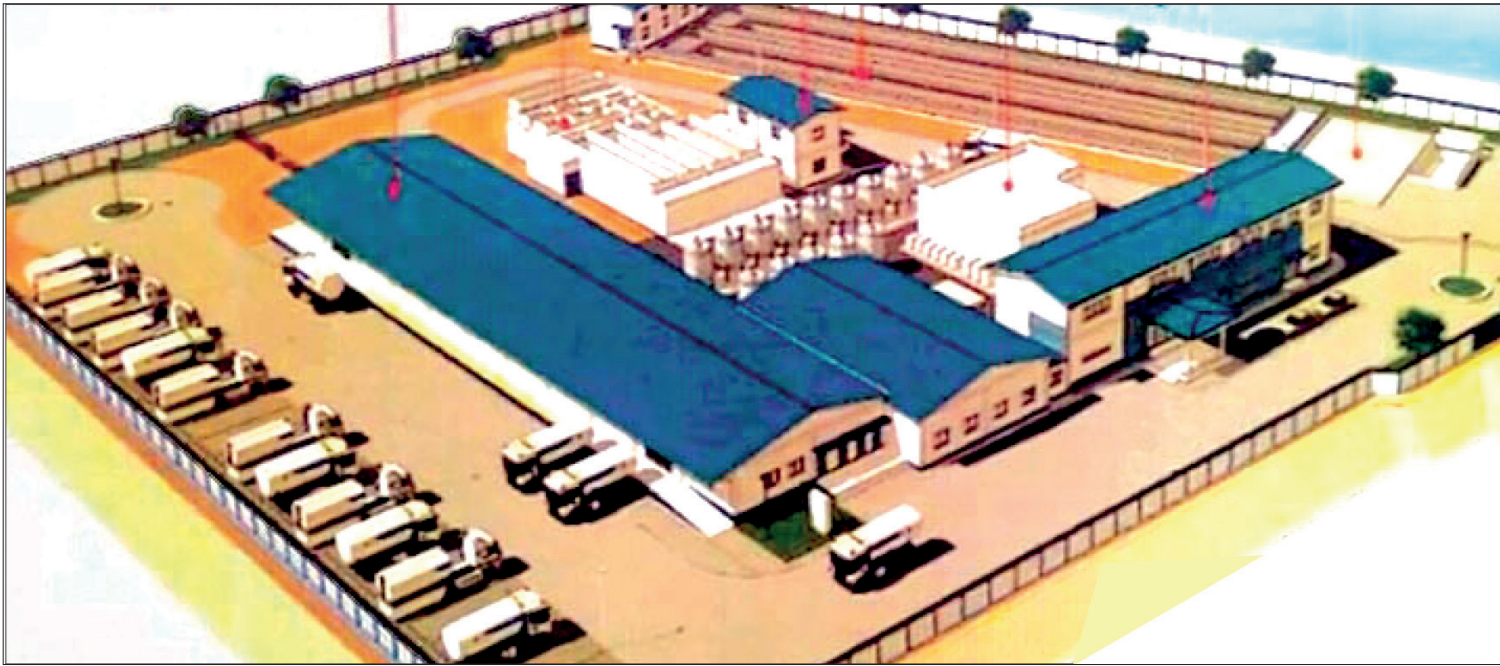


Aceh police personnel in protective gear spray disinfectant at Baiturrahman Mosque in Aceh, Indonesia, on 21 March 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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The photo show a scale model of water treatment plant project in Phayagyisu village in Twantay, southern part of Yangon.

will be supplied on a daily basis. Lagunpyin water supply project will distribute drinking water to the wards in Dagon Myothit (East) township and the industrial zone area.

An increase in water supply area in Yangon

Ngamoeyeik, Hlawga and Gyobyu reservoirs are key parts in supplying drinking water to the Yangonites. New water supply projects are under implementation in a bid to increase water supply area.

Water supply area accounted for 45% in Yangon Region until July in 2019. It is expected that the water supply area will rise to 90 % in 2025, said U Than,

World-class water treatment plant project to come into sight in Yangon



Municipal workers are in process of connecting water pipelines.

AT a time when every effort is being made to ensure equitable urban development in Yangon, a host of various projects are being implemented not only in the downtown but also in the outskirts. The implementation of establishing a world-class water treatment plant project has already begun in Twantay, Yangon Region.

The site of the world-class water treatment plant project is beside 5.5 nautical miles of Twantay canal near Phayagyisu village, Pateswe village tract, Twantay Township. Once the project is completed, purified drinking water will be distributed to local people from Twantay and Dala.

Officials met in discussions

In regard to the world-class water treatment plant project, officials met locals and discussed with them at the prayer hall of

U Pyue Pagoda in Phayagyisu village at 9 am on 3 March in 2020. During the meeting, departmental officials from Dala and Twantay Townships briefed locals about the water treatment plant project.

“With the assistance provided by Japanese government, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is taking charge of the project in an effort to supply drinking water to local people in Twantay, Dala and Kawhmu townships located in the south district of Yangon” said Daw Thin Thin Soe, in-charge and assistant head of water availability and water supply under the YCDC.

The water treatment plant project will be implemented at a cost of 4.176billion Yen. The government bought a land plot having 18.778 acres of farmland in Phayagyisu village in Twantay where the project will be established. As regards, the public

meeting was held on 3 March and discussions with local people centered on matters relating to the project.

Distribution of 3.3million gallons of water

The world-class water treatment plant will treat sewage from Twantay canal in the multiple processes and then supply 3.3million gallons of drinking water to local people in Dala and Twantay townships daily through the township water supply pipeline network.

The drinking water will be distributed to the local people from Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships by car.

Hoping the project can complete in 2022

It is hoped that the water treatment facility starts in 2020 and completes in December in 2022. At present water pipelines

are being connected. This project will bring about pleasure to the local people from Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships that have difficult access to purified drinking water.

The water treatment plant project will distribute 3.3million gallons of water through Dala water supply network and 0.066million bottles of drinking water to local people in Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships.

The world-class water treatment plant will produce purified drinking water introducing rapid sand filtration system. The sediments settled from the water treatment process will be used in rubbish disposal system the YCDC is handling. Lagunpyin water supply project is under implementation to help supply water to the townships in Yangon Region. This project is expected to complete in 2022. Once completed, 40million gallons of water

Joint-Secretary of the YCDC.

Kokkowa water supply project that is under implementation is also expected to be completed in 2025. Once completed, the project will supply water where necessary. The YCDC is exploring new water resources and striving for a reduction in water loss and wastage in the current water supply system acquiring international helps.

Basic needs for public

The basic needs for the public are being fulfilled while implementing all-round developments in Yangon. At the same time hygiene drinking water projects will have to be undertaken. Such implementation of the world-class water treatment project is also a part of fulfilling daily basis need for the Yangonites.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)



KBZ Bank donates hospital equipment

KBZ Bank is contributing donations valued at more than MMK1.4 billion for hospital equipment and supplies to prevent, control and treat COVID-19 in Myanmar.

On 18 March 2020, KBZ Bank and KBZ MS General Insurance contributed MMK 100 million to the Ministry of Health and Sports to be channelled towards supporting medical professionals at public hospitals and to treat suspected COVID-19 patients.

This was followed by the donation of 400,000 pieces of surgical masks, valued at MMK 200 million, which were sourced from a supplier in China. The delivery of the surgical masks is ongoing, currently in Shweli in China, and the donation will be made in the coming days.

To prevent the shortage of medical equipment at hospitals in Myanmar, KBZ Bank has also procured 21,000 sets of European CE Standard PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) suits,

along with medical protective goggles, medical protective gloves, surgical 3-ply face masks, headgear and 10,000 bottles of 500ml hand sanitizer. These items were sourced from a supplier in China and will be donated as soon as possible.

KBZ Bank is also collaborating with the Shan State Regional Government to distribute 100,000 emergency packages. Each package includes 2kg of rice, one bottle of cooking oil, 1.6kg of chickpeas and a cash allowance of MMK 10,000.

As of 26 March 2020, KBZ Bank has donated more than MMK 1.4 billion to support the control, prevention and treatment processes related to COVID-19. KBZ Bank will continue to provide donations of required items on a national scale when needed, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports. —KBZ



PPE Suit_Credit to KBZ Bank.

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower (A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No. -26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No. (33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon. Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No. 141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No. 93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No. 37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No. 82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No. 17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No. 459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogvoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No. 33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No. 65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No. 171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/ 09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No. 129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

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 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

MFF presents quarantine centre to healthcare providers amid Covid-19

THE Myanmar Football Federation has prepared an apartment of the Myanmar National Football Teams as a quarantine centre for healthcare workers, nurses, and physicians, who are assisting in combatting the Covid-19 spread, according to the football federation.

The space of the quarantine centre can accommodate about 80 people, according to the MFF.

The centre is also equipped with full facilities for use as the quarantine site, MFF stated.

Previously, MFF and Ayyarwady Foundation have upgraded AYA Bank Training Centre, three national teams' apartments and National

Football Academy as facility quarantine sites, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Currently, Myanmar national football teams have postponed their international matches due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 across the globe and the Myanmar Football Federation is coordinating with the government and the public to provide necessary healthcare facilities. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

The view of the Myanmar National Football Team's apartment which will be used as a quarantine centre for healthcare providers. **PHOTO: MFF**



New date for Tokyo Olympics 'won't satisfy everybody', says Coe



Coe calls for flexibility over finding new date for Tokyo Olympics.

PHOTO: AFP

PARIS (France) — World Athletics president Sebastian Coe admitted Friday that settling on a new date for the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 will not satisfy everybody.

"All sports have made it pretty clear they have particular challenges at particular times of the year," said Coe.

"We are probably not going to reach a solution that meets with the approval of every sport.

"But there does have to be an element of flexibility and there is going to be flexibility for the next two years."

The 2021 World Athletics Championships, for example, are scheduled to be staged in August next year in Eugene, Oregon. The 2020 Olympics, which were set for July 24-August 9

this year, were postponed until 2021 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) this week because of the coronavirus.

However, there is no definite date yet for the rescheduled Games with IOC chief Thomas Bach saying Tuesday the Olympics "must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021". There have been suggestions even that the rebooted Olympics could be held in the spring and so allow athletes to avoid competing in the brutal heat and humidity of Japan's summer.

"There are clearly demands for this decision to be taken as quickly as possible – the athletes and the federations need clarity," added Coe.—AFP ■

Former Liga winger dons white coat to take on coronavirus

CORUNNA (Spain) — Journeyman footballer Toni Dovale put his football boots to one side and slipped into a pharmacist's white coat in the front line struggle against coronavirus in Spain.

The 29-year-old pharmacy graduate and former top-level sportsman had been playing football for a Thai club, but was visiting his family in Spain when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold.

So he decided to pitch in his 'grain of sand' against the virus using the studies which he had yet to put into practice due to his passion for football.

"I really was packing my bags to go back when things got complicated," Dovale told AFP.

Travel restrictions trapped Dovale in his native La Coruna in the Atlantic coast region of Galicia, where he started his football career with nearby Celta Vigo.

Although Dovale also completed his university studies in pharmacy four years ago, he had never actually worked in the field.

Now with the world of sport in limbo the footballer realised the time was ripe to use his studies to help his homeland.

"I was playing in Asia then; pharmacy is different there and I was never in Spain long enough to work," he says,

"With football stopped and travel banned I said to myself 'get some practical experience and do your bit'."

'Fear'

The coronavirus is ravaging Spain with a death toll of over 4,800 and some 64,000 registered cases of infection.

There is hope of course with around 10,000 people already cured of the virus in Spains for multimedia clients

"We're in a really frightening situation. Those of us working with the public are afraid, and the people who come to us for advice are afraid too," says Dovale, who is working in a

pharmacy run by his family.

He has gloves but no mask, and does not appear ready to lose his smile any time soon.

"We all know we are exposed, that this is a pandemic and a complicated situation," he says.

"But we all know too that our behaviour in complicated situations defines who we are, and for me I need to put fears for my own safety to one side and help in any way that I can.

"There are shortages of many things and we are struggling to get enough of the simple things like thermometers, paracetamol, gloves and hand gels."— AFP ■



Toni Dovale has returned from playing in Thailand and is working in his family's in La Coruna, northwestern Spain. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

29 MARCH 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Staying in Confinement

By Zaw Tun (*Monywa*)

COVID-19 has hit Myanmar today. Our people had remained, for some time, free from the virus infection, safe among the infected countries, all red on the world map.

Though I have wanderlust feet, I now have to confine myself. Lucky me, after serving as a government servant for over thirty years, I have already retired my job, and there's no need for me to go to my department. Nevermore.

Formerly, I woke up at five, as I always do. Said the morning prayer, offered a cup of water and three incense sticks to the Buddha. Maybe did a few minutes meditation, and went to a nearby tea shop and had my breakfast. Seven o'clock, and I found myself there at my department, sitting before the computer, checking the incoming G-mails, letting my mind engrossed in the work of translation before me, playing on YouTube a piece of relaxing piano music, Yiruma's River Flows in You. Office work, lectures, meetings during the office hours. After office hours, I resumed my work of translation till 8 or 10 pm. Went back home. Sometimes stayed overnight in the quiet, lonely department_ when, sporadically, I had a family problem with my better half!

Before COVID-19 hit, my wife and I used to do a lot of travelling. No chauffeur, please. I drove miles and miles, to many parts of the country, except the Chin State. My students feel worried about me, you know. I am nearly 60, and my wife's two months older. Me and my wife alone_ with no other companion so that we could do exchanging views, or gossiping, if you excuse us, about our friends and colleagues, and grumbling about the ongoing politics, as well, all along the way_ driving to Bagan, to Taunggyi, to Mawlamyaing, to Pha-Un, to Lashio, and what else. Imagine the life of an old couple. Almost every week-end, we went to Pyin Oo Lwin, where we have a little house over there, near the BE Falls and the Maha Unt Htoo Kan Thar Pagoda. My wife does laundry the whole day and I do weeding and watering, planting trees, more trees.

Now COVID-19 has confined my wanderlust feet. Not many people go out. They're staying indoors, I suppose. Roads look almost deserted. Doctors stay at hospitals, and people are requested to stay at home. I wonder how those who are living from hands to mouth are going through: how would they survive in the long run? There are non-profit, social welfare groups who are ready to supply food to the needy. I am glad to hear the stories of the benevolent hearts. Myanmar people do not fail to give a helping hand to those going through hard times, as when the Nargis hit Myanmar in May, 2008. I pray for the Chin Land, which is now under community quarantine.

Staying in confinement at home has its own good points. Normally, as the day breaks, the family members go to their own directions, and only in the evening, come back home exhausted. Normally, the family have no time for a get-together dinner. Now is the best time you can enjoy your family time. Give more time, more love to each other these days. Those who love reading can now devote their time and heart to the books they had long put off reading. Relax and have a good rest so that when bad things are over, you can come back to work, rejuvenated once again.



Home Sweet Home: The Place I want to be

By Htar Sandi Naing
*English Specialization,
University of Yangon*



HA V E you ever wanted to run straight back to your home while leaving everything behind? These days, due to the crisis, it is certain that everyone wants to be together with their families. As we are all mortal beings, our home is definitely where our hearts are. Though we can't physically be there due to the circumstances, our soul may be wandering somewhere near our homes. There certainly are three wishes that I want a Genie to grant me right now.

Due to the crisis, I couldn't be with my beloved ones. Everything I have planned since last year has been destroyed. All I can do is call them via mobile phones. Thanks to the advanced technologies, at least, I am able to look at their faces through the screen. I can still feel connected though we may be miles apart. On the bright side, I can keep in touch with them. There is still one wish that advanced technology couldn't fulfill. A warm hug is what I ask for.

As I get older, I have to stand on my own. I couldn't just run into my mom's arms and open up all my problems.

That is when I realize that I am not a little kid anymore. Though I may be getting old, I still act like a little girl in front of my parents. That is one of the reasons why I miss being home. I can at least hug them when I feel down. A big warm hug is what I need right now.

At this moment, I believe almost everyone wants to be at home. Not just a random house but a home sweet home is where we all wish to be. The only place in this whole universe where I can set my mind free. The only place on earth where I can find peace. The only place where I feel safe. Even if everything falls apart, I still want to be at home. No matter how strong I pretend to be in front of others, there are still times when I want to give up on everything. There are still times when I can no longer hold back my tears. I'm indeed a mortal being as well. At least, when I get home, all those moments vanish into thin air once I see my beloved ones smiling at me. They put a smile on my face as well. A big smile on my beloved ones' faces is what I want to

see right now. These days, there is one trick that I do to cure my homesickness. I close my eyes and imagine being back home. I can clearly visualize every single detail. In that way, I can at least be at a place where I wish to be at. I always remember my journey back home. Once the plane lands, I search for my beloved ones. Even at the crowded place, I can still spot my mom waving at me. Regardless of all the strange faces I may encounter, I can still manage to find my dad and mom. I love the feeling of being able to run straight to their arms. On the other hand, when the time comes for me to go back to the place where I HAVE to be, I never look back. It is no longer a welcoming wave but a farewell wave in which I can find. Just thinking about it again brings me into tears. A welcoming wave is what I want to spot right now.

Overall, time flies so fast. Faster than we can imagine. Counting the days to return back to the home sweet home. Wishing to be there. Waiting and waiting and waiting. Nothing is better than staying at home with your beloved ones. Praying for everything to be back to normal. I'm coming home...





The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed

By Kyaw King

On the night of 23 March, my co-worker Zaw said two positive cases of Covid-19 are confirmed in Myanmar by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Although Myanmar people know that one day the pandemic will surely arrive in their country, they were surprised and felt fear of the virus when it has actually arrived. It also became a very bad news for people who were proud of not having any coronavirus positive case, while almost every part of the world has reported growing positive cases.

Following the day of the news went viral on Facebook, face masks, sanitizers, and hand gels were sold at a rapid speed like they are given away. Some offices were closed, all of the exams have been halted, and sports events were postponed. People became panic, and started buying a lot of goods. The situation of some industries including insurance, entertainment, and travel and tourism has worsened.

Therefore, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made a speech, encouraging people not to panic, but remain calm and follow the advice from the health authorities on Covid-19, and not to buy and store a lot of goods as the country has enough foods for local consumption. Myanmar

Rice Federation was also repeatedly assuring of sufficient rice for local consumption.

Due to people's panic-buying and price high in some goods, relevant department urged merchants and traders not to raise prices of basic goods amid the pandemic.

Ignoring the requests of leaders, and the hearts of people, greedy sellers were selfishly earning money with the Covid-19, raising the prices of essential protective equipment including face masks, and hand gels, while generous sellers were giving away or selling the items with normal price and limited amount so that everyone who needs can access to the equipment. While greedy people are buying a lot of goods for their small family members, generous persons helped and shared with people who can't afford.

Using social media, evil-hearted persons are misleading people with fake news, while good-hearted individuals and organizations are fighting against the fake news.

Most of the health organizations are finding solutions for stopping the pandemic, but some health companies are illegally selling fake medical products.

While some people are thirsting for

best personal protective equipment, some are struggling for their daily meals without having access to face masks, and hand gels.

Although evil individuals and communities are discriminating patients instead of encouraging, lovely social leaders and volunteers are helping patients risking their lives.

In history, at present, and in the future, there are not many types of people, but only two types of people - good people and evil people. Good people do for themselves and others, while evil people do only for themselves.

At present, people, especially poor and vulnerable people, are worried about food, which is one of the basic human needs, as evil people are storing a mass amount of food.

Whenever I see and hear people buying mass amount of foods amid pandemic fear, the quote of famous great leader Mahatma Gandhi always appear in my mind, "The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed."

Be the world safe from the Covid-19 pandemic.



Invitation to young
writers for Sunday
Special

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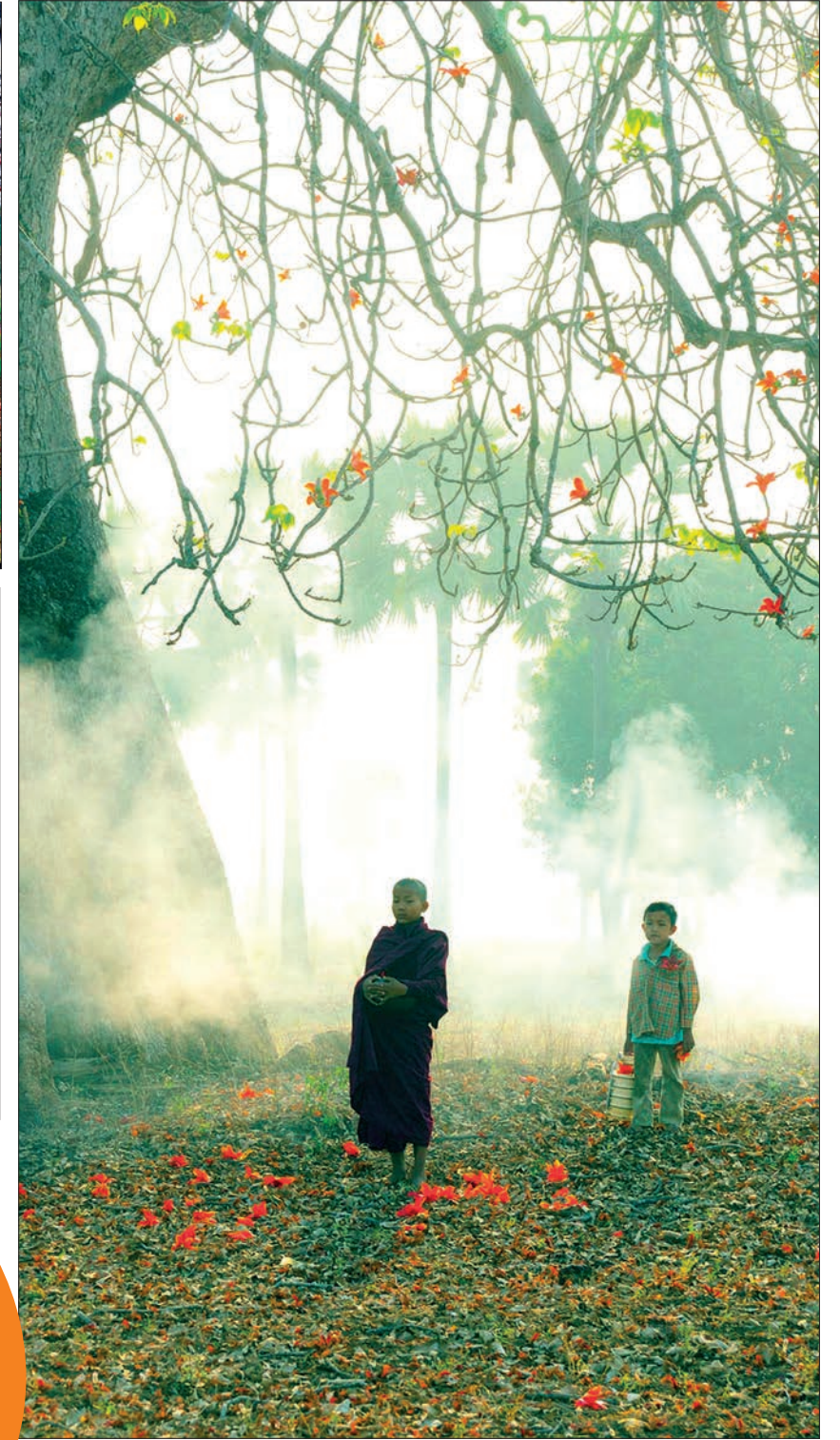
The summer, the Latpan flowers and folk culture on brink of extinction

By Chan Thar (Meikhtila)

Red-silk cotton trees (*Salmalia malabrica*) and Myanmar's folk culture are inseparable, as the dried flowers of the red-silk cotton trees are cooked with beef, which has been the traditional cuisine of Myanmar since the time of kings. The poem, entitled "The time to collect Latpan flowers (red-silk cotton flowers)", dating from the time of the kingdom, is also taught to school children. The Latpan trees, mostly grown in central Myanmar, blossom with red flowers every February and March.

U Tint Hlaing, a man from Shawpyukan Village in Meikhtila Township in central Myanmar, is one of the elderly people who remember their younger days when they saw beautiful flowers on the Latpan trees in the early summer. "In our younger days, the curry of dried Latpan flowers cooked with beef was served to all of our family members," recalled the 72-year-old man. "I had the most hearty appetite at the dining table," said U Tint Hlaing. When he was a boy, there were many villagers collecting fallen Latpan flowers under the red-silk cotton trees outside their village. Some villagers woke early to collect flowers which fell at night. But, he is seeing that today's generation is not interested in this ancient culture of collecting Latpan flowers and cooking it for a curry. "This culture is not popular today among the people. When I want to enjoy this cuisine, I ask my children and grandchildren to cook for me," said the old man. The cuisine of dried Latpan flowers and beef cooked by his parents remains in the memories of the 72-year-old man. "I have concerns that this culture would become extinct," he said. In rural areas, folk people also believe that the dried flowers of Latpan has a healing power for women's health matters. Daw Ngwe Ohn, a 74-year-old woman from Makyisu Village, is still in love with the traditional cuisine of dried flowers of the Red-Silk Cotton trees. "Now that I am old, I still love the cuisine of Latpan flowers without beef," said Daw Ngwe Ohn. The difference from her younger days is that the number of villagers who collect the flowers under the trees in the summer has dwindled, year by year. However, the trees with blossoms of red flowers are still beautifying the rural areas of Myanmar every summer.

Translated by Nat Ye Hla



SUNDAY COMICS

Mi Chuu
HTOO

I've put on 'mask'.

I've kept hand gel. I'm off.

I hafta shun 'chak-a-block'.

We need a safeguard against 'Covid-19'. 'Prevention is better than cure'.

COVID-19
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ပပပပပပပပပပပပပပပပပပ

Not a people at all on the streets!

Where to, Mi Chuu?

I take a walk, Uncle.

You don't go out for no reason.

Get back and stay safe at home.

Yes, of course.

PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE
Cartoon Maung Shwe Win

Dad, I'm coming back!

Stop! Stop! Don't go in. It couldn't be.

Ahh! I came back coz I miss my family.

Where will I turn to unless I stay with you?

Go and stay at the facility quarantine.

Ahh!

If you're free of disease, your family will be so.

If a family's okay, environs will be Ok.

COVID-19

Yes, I see Dad.

SUNDAY JOKE
Cartoon Maung Maung Aung 2020

I do repent of Coronavirus.

Does it harm you people?

Aye! It's a problem both for my love and me.

Um!

I've come from abroad to see my love.

I hafta stay separated for 14 days after just seeing once.

Now is okay? You did see your love.

Just talking at home with a 3-foot distance!

Er!

END

Respect, Politeness and Culture

By Yay Thu Yae



SINCE our childhood days, we had been taught and guided by our parents, elders and teachers to have respect to the elders and to be polite. As infants, our brains were not yet mature enough to understand or to absorb complicated things. So, just to respect the elders and to be polite seemed as easy as bowing our heads when passing in front of them and speak politely or sweetly. So, I would bow my head as low as I could when I pass in front of the elders as a show of respect and spoke very politely to them. In our Myanmar culture and also, may be, in other civilized cultures, the behaviours of the children are deemed to reflect their parent-ages and upbringings.

As I grew up, I began to understand that we should respect everyone who deserves to be respected though they may be younger or junior to us or in

other words, have mutual respects irrespective of age. Also, I came to realize that just showing respect and speaking politely are not enough, as behaviours, mentalities and attitudes or in other words mannerism also define a person's character. Thus, bad mannerisms should also be avoided.

Every culture has its own norms or standards of respect and politeness, but they will differ from one another. Certain behaviours may be acceptable in one culture, but that same behaviour may not be acceptable and seen as rude by another culture. So, it is important that we should know what is acceptable and what is not by certain people of different cultures.

Different countries have different cultures and even in the same country, different communities have different cultures.

These cultures are evolved gradually since time immemorial and become the accepted norms to be observed where respect and politeness are concerned, for that particular community. In some communities they may even be found incorporated into their religions.

For instance in Buddhism, we have "The Mangala Sutta", where the "Thirty Eight Mangalar", which can be roughly translated as "auspiciousness" that every good Buddhists must observe, are outlined. According to that Thirty Eight Mangalar, giving respect to those who deserved to be respected is one of the Mangalar. Those that deserved to be respected includes the Buddha, Dahhamas--the teachings of the Buddha, Sanghas or monks, Teachers and Parents. As being Buddhists, we are also being taught to respect anyone who is older by "one day or one morning". There are also guidances to be polite in speech and behaviours in the Mangala Sutta. Likewise, every other cultures and religions too may also have their own teachings related to respect and politeness.

However, today, we are

witnessing the deteriorations in many cultures around the world including our country, as more and more people are getting unpolite to the point of rudeness and have no respect or regards whatsoever for others, including the elders. This trend is more common among the younger generations.

This statement can be proven by just having a peek at the social media pages. As the Facebook is the most popular and extensively used by the Myanmar, if you should surf its pages you are bound to realize, within minutes, how rude and low-down many Facebook users, both males and females have become. Abusing and cursing in the filthiest and foulest of languages are becoming the standard language of the Facebook for Myanmar.

There, you can find all kinds of unimaginable foul and filthy languages being used readily, in making comments or in many cases they are not even comments, but just obscene remarks to vent their perverted minds. The four-letter words, or obscene words, which are taboo in the print media are becoming common place on the social media.

SEE PAGE- S-8

FROM PAGE-S-7

Recently I was involved in a heated debate on an important issue related to a certain profession on the Facebook. An old acquaintance and a Facebook friend of mine made a very important advice to the authorities concerned. He is one of the authoritative and respected person in that profession and used to share his experiences and valuable advices with the new generations of his profession. I see him as a widely respected person by the new generations of that profession. As I have had some experience in that field early on in my career, I made a comment on his post. My comment was a bit contradictory to his ideas, so, out of politeness I ended my comment with an apology to that person by writing "I may be a bit outdated. Pardon me if I'm wrong".

I was shocked to see an unexpected response to my comment. It wasn't from my friend, who posted on the Facebook, but a young upstart officer from that profession who I don't know. He wrote that I was not only a bit outdated but totally outdated and wrong, without pointing out in what way I was wrong. If he should have given sound reasons for his remarks, to convince me I was wrong, I would have admitted that I was wrong and thanked him. I wasn't angry at him, but pitied him for his ignorance and thus I tried to explain to him the reasons behind my comments. He became more arrogant and replied that old persons don't want to admit their mistakes and added that

just being old didn't make one wiser or a leader, a common usage popular on the Facebook among our young generations of today. Though he was arrogant and rude, at least he didn't use abusive language. For that I thank him.

In this case, I wasn't the only one, who was rudely insulted or attacked by young individuals, but the person who initially made the post, too, was openly challenged and insulted by some who are very junior to him in that profession. This is just an example of the deterioration of the behaviourism of our young people today. They have no respect for age or the wisdoms of the older generations and thought that we are nothing, but the extinct species. I am game to criticisms and arguments and challenges to my views and outlooks, if done in a gentlemanly manner with mutual respects to one another. However, being rudely insulted without discussing the matter reasonably, is quite unacceptable.

I was wondering, how our cultural traits, that we used to take much pride in, had become so deteriorated and who or what are to be blamed. Is it the parentage or the upbringing of the individuals or the systems they had been subjected to for decades or the unrestricted freedom provided by the social media? Though we might be able to find the answer to that question, it wouldn't be easy for the mentalities or the mindsets of the people to be changed overnight. However, we should do something about that before it's too late!

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Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily	
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily	
UB019	7:25	9:20	Daily	
TG2304	9:35	11:30	Daily	
PG702	10:30	12:30	1,2,3,4,6,7	
TG2302	11:20	13:15	Daily	
PG708	15:35	17:35	Daily	
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily	
UB017	17:35	19:30	Daily	
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily	
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily	

BANGKOK TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
TG2303	7:50	8:45	Daily	
PG701	8:45	9:40	1,2,3,4,6,7	
TG2301	9:35	10:30	Daily	
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily	
UB020	10:20	11:15	Daily	
PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily	
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily	
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily	
8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily	
PG705	20:30	21:55	Daily	
UB018	20:30	21:25	Daily	

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily	
MH741	11:15	15:45	Daily	
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7	
MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7	
AK503	19:10	23:30	Daily	
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6	

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily	
MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily	
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7	
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7	
AK502	17:20	18:30	Daily	
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6	

YANGON TO KUNMING				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU9750	15:55	19:35	2,4,6	

KUNMING TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU9749	13:45	14:45	2,4,6	

YANGON TO DON MUEANG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily	
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily	
SL201	8:30	10:20	1,3,4,5,7	
FD254	17:40	19:25	Daily	
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily	
SL207	19:35	21:25	1,2,4,6,7	
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	

DON MUEANG TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily	
FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily	
SL200	6:45	7:35	1,3,4,5,7	
FD253	16:25	17:05	Daily	
FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily	
SL206	18:55	19:45	1,2,4,6,7	
DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily	

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE472	23:30	7:25	1,3,5,6,7	
8M801	16:50	0:50	2,4,6	

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE471	18:15	22:10	1,3,5,6,7	
8M802	1:50	6:00	3,5,7	

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG724	13:40	15:30	1,3,5,7	

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG723	12:05	12:55	1,3,5,7	

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG710	14:30	16:55	Daily	
PG714	19:15	21:40	Daily	

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG709	12:15	13:40	Daily	
PG713	17:00	18:25	Daily	

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,5	
CZ3056	12:05	16:35	2,6	

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CZ3055	9:05	11:05	2,6	
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,5	

YANGON TO DHAKA				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6	

DHAKA TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
BG060	10:45	13:30	1,3,6	

MANDALAY TO DON MUEANG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FD245	12:55	15:20	Daily	

DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FD244	11:10	12:25	Daily	

YANGON TO DUBAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FZ1586	1:50	5:45	Daily	

DUBAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FZ1585	10:30	16:15	Daily	

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG722	20:00	22:50	1,2,3,4,5,7	

BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG721	17:25	19:20	1,2,3,4,5,7	

YANGON TO SINGAPORE				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
UB001	7:15	11:45	Daily	
8M231	8:20	12:40	1,2,3,5,6,7	
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily	
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,4,5,7	
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily	
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,4,6,7	
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4,5,6	
3K584	19:40	00:10	1,2,3,5,6,7	

SINGAPORE TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily	
3K581	9:10	10:35	1,2,3,5,6,7	
UB002	13:00	14:30	Daily	
8M232	13:45	15:15	1,2,3,5,6,7	
MI518	15:15	16:40	1,2,4,6,7	
MI520	14:10	17:35	3,4,5,6	
3K583	17:30	18:45	1,4,5,7	
UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily	

YANGON TO HANOI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN956	19:00	21:30	Daily	
VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily	

HANOI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN957	16:40	18:05	Daily	
VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily	

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN942	12:10	15:05	1,3,4,6,7	

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,6,7	

YANGON TO TOKYO				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH814	22:10	6:45+1	Daily	

TOKYO TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH813	11:00	16:25	Daily	

YANGON TO DOHA				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR919	7:50	12:00	1,3,7	
QR916	8:25	17:50	1,3,4,5	

DOHA TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR918	20:10	5:35	2,6,7	
QR917	1:05	4:55	2,4,5,6	

AIR LINES CODES	
3K = Jet Star	MH = Malaysia Airlines
8M = Myanmar Airways International	MI = Silk Air
AI = Air India	MU = China Eastern Airlines
AK = Air Asia	NH = All Nippon Airways
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	PG = Bangkok Airways
CA = Air China	QR = Qatar Airways
CI = China Airlines	SL = Thai Lion Air
CZ = China Southern	SQ = Singapore Airways
DD = Nok Airline	TG = Thai Airways
FD = Air Asia	TR = Tiger Airlines
KA = Dragonair	UB = Myanmar National Airlines
KE = Korea Airlines	VN = Vietnam Airlines

DATE	
1 = Monday	4 = Thursday
2 = Tuesday	5 = Friday
3 = Wednesday	6 = Saturday
	7 = Sunday

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