

## NATIONAL

Tatmadaw to provide resources in fighting against Covid-19

PAGE-4

## NATIONAL

News release on death of Covid-19 positive patient Case 05

PAGE-2

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 350, 9<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tagu 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 1 April 2020

**At this time, like in the saying “The farther, the better”, please take care and protect your health and the health of others. Stay at home as much as you can: State Counsellor**

The following is the full text of the televised speech of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), reporting the updated situation of the Coronavirus infection in Myanmar.

## Citizens of the of the Union of Myanmar,

I would like to give you the latest news of COVID-19 in Myanmar. Out of fourteen cases, checked and confirmed positive and hospitalized (till today), one passed away this morning. The case (suffering from CA Nose) had come back from Australia via Singapore recently. Based on the nature of COVID-19, those older adults suffering from various diseases with low resistance are more at high risk and vulnerable. The risk is higher if they do not get prompt medical attention. So if you are having early warning signs, like fever, dry cough, and breathing difficulties, get medical attention immediately.

The threat of COVID-19 is alarming because it spreads very fast. That is why a suspected case must be quarantined so that he or she could be separated from others and so that others would not get infected. Although COVID-19 came into the country from abroad, it can spread very quickly in large quantities as a result of contact among people. The most effective method of prevention and control is to avoid contacts. That is why you are advised to avoid going to crowded places, both indoors or outdoors. Gathering at home with relatives and friends and staying close to each other would be dangerous, just like mingling in the crowd outdoors. At this time, like in the saying “The farther, the better”, please take care and protect your health and the health of



State Counsellor delivers the televised speech on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). PHOTO: MNA

others. Stay at home as much as you can. I understand however that some people with accommodation problems would have difficulties. Anyhow, for a certain period of time, all of our people need to

hang on with strong determination and bear the difficulties. If each of us works with full sense of duty to stop the spread of COVID-19, we would be able to overcome this challenge. I would like to request

those who have been placed under the 14 days quarantine to exercise your patience and pass the required period of time with good will for others. Therefore those

**SEE PAGE-3**

## INSIDE TODAY

## NATIONAL

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses coordination in Covid-19 emergency responses

PAGE-3

## LOCAL BUSINESS

India to import more beans, pulses from Myanmar in 2020-21FY

PAGE-11



## LOCAL BUSINESS

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade values at US\$4.5 bln in 2019-2020FY Q1

PAGE-11





## President, State Counsellor in good health and performing State duties

FAKE online accounts used a photo to spread false news that State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with a Covid-19 positive patient.

Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of State Counsellor Office denied the rumour, and the photo was between the State Counsellor and the UN Resident Coordinator for Myanmar at the call in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 March.

The Director-General explained the person with treatments in isolation at 1000-bed hospital in Nay Pyi Taw was the office staff of UN Special Envoy to Myanmar.

“I officially answer that both the President and the State Counsellor are in good health and are serving their State duties. They were neither in self-quarantine nor home quarantine. We are carefully arranging calls by visitors during this time of the Covid-19 disease,” U Zaw Htay said.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Ohn Maung holds a video conference with Luxembourg’s Chief Technical Coordinator for the human resource development project. PHOTO: MNA

## H&T Union Minister, Luxembourg team discuss projects in Myanmar

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung held a video conference with Luxembourg’s Chief Technical Coordinator for the human resource development project in Myanmar Mr. Geert De Bruycker yesterday over the projects.

At the conference, the Union Minister and the Luxembourg delegation discussed

measures to be taken for avoiding delays for the process of drafting the Myanmar Tourism Main Plan 2020-2030, conducting on-line training including English proficiency courses for the ministry’s employees amidst Coronavirus pandemic and loans and technical assistance programmes for the post-Covid-19 period.—MNA

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### Ministry of Commerce

Notification 21/2020

7<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tagu, 1381 ME

(30 March 2020)

This notification is issued in exercise of the power set out in the Notification No 26/2020 of the Union Government dated 30 March 2020.

Issuing order to protect goods

- Under the Section 4, Sub-section (a) of the Essential Supplies and Services Law, the Ministry of Commerce has designated the following goods as important supplies.
  - Health aid equipments for prevention, control and treatment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
  - Medicines
  - Consumer goods

- With effect from the date of this notification, the Ministry of Commerce has banned speculation in the market by selling and distributing the products in the Paragraph (a), or storage of these products with the intention of playing the market.
- Those who are speculating in the market by selling and distributing the products or storing the products with the intention of playing the market would face action under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

Sd/ Dr Than Myint

Union Minister

Ministry of Commerce

## News release on death of Covid-19 positive patient Case 05

THE death of Covid-19 positive patient Case 05 was traced back as follows:

- A 69-year-old man living in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township in Yangon Region was diagnosed with nasal cancer in January 2019. He had been undergoing treatment with radiation therapy for this disease until May 2019 in Australia.
- He went again to Australia for follow-up medical check in February 2020. He arrived to Singapore from Australia in March 2020 before he came back to Myanmar by flight on 14 March.
- He began suffering fever, cough and sore throat on 18 March, and was admitted to the Yangon People’s Hospital on 25 March. He was undergone treatment at the intensive care unit of the hospital and his specimens was tested positive at the National Health Laboratory in Yangon on 26 March. The case was announced as the positive (Case 05) on 27 March. He was transferred to Waibargi hospital on that morning for intensive care.
- His conditions became severe on 31 March morning despite the treatments of medical team led by senior doctors, and died at 7:25 am. The causes of his death

were concluded as follows:

- acute respiratory distress syndrome with septic shock
- Covid-19 with severe community acquired pneumonia
- underlying CA nose with radio therapy.
- According to the WHO’s report on 19 March, 40 per cent of Covid-19 positive patients are found with no severe infection, 40 per cent with moderate severe infection, 15 per cent with severe infection and only 5 per cent with critical infection.
- The rate of death among confirmed cases is 5 per cent, WHO report said.
- Risk factors for severe disease and death in Covid-19 include older age, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, liver, chronic diseases such as renal problem, taking steroids medicines and low immune system
- Therefore, the Case 05 suffered severe infection Covid-19 to die due to old age, cancer and low immune system caused by radio therapy.

(Translated by Aung Khin)



## “People are the key”

# If each of us works with full sense of duty to stop the spread of COVID-19, we would be able to overcome this challenge: State Counsellor

### FROM PAGE-1

confined under quarantine are being quarantined because they are liable to be infected by the virus. If you are placed under quarantine, as a PUI (Patient under investigation) case, this is for your own good. If the symptoms are checked and detected earlier, then you'll be given timely medical attention, so the treatment would tip the balance for the better. If you help yourself, you also help others, you know.

After the Ministry of Health and Sports had announced that there could be a big outbreak of the pandemic, there were some people who raised their voices for a “Lock Down”, while others were worried about when the Lock Down was coming.

Therefore, in the national interest, community quarantine may be carried out in some regions, in which the access or exit is denied. If such a situation occurs, a committee headed by the Vice President-1 has already been organized for the purpose of taking systematic measures for the sufficient and sustainable supply of provisions and medicines, as well as for the political stability in such a region under special care. We will inform you as early as possible if there is a need for community quarantine for a particular region. And I would like to urge the people of such a special region to cooperate and collaborate with their understanding of the important situation.

Of course, there could be

consequences from the outbreak of COVID-19, which would make an impact on the economy, and the Union government has, therefore, taken precautionary measures so that the people would have to suffer as little as possible. For example, we have already started giving out loans to enterprises that need the most. This is to pay wages to workers and to keep the enterprises running. The working committee tasked with alleviating the impact of COVID-19 on the economy has been monitoring and studying the situation full time. It has laid down suitable programs and implementing them.

You all are requested to be alert to all announcements made

by the Ministry of Health and Sports on a continuing basis. We all should be united and exercise a full sense of responsibility individually for the sake of individual health and the health of others. Unity is strength; people are the key. If the people do what needs to be done in unity, success will be the outcome for all of us.

Today, while countries all over the world have been grappling with the pressing issue of the highly infectious COVID-19 virus, we are also trying to the best of our ability. It's quite heartening for me to witness that our people have been making their contributions in the roles assigned, serving their duties in respective sectors with a strong sense of responsibility. I fully

believe that we can calmly overcome this pandemic with our collective strength.

I must acknowledge my gratitude to all medical officers, nurses and health workers, who are battling at present on the frontlines with high morale, despite difficulties and hardships. I'd say you are the heroes who are battling for the people. Moreover, I wish to express my gratitude on behalf of the State, to all quarter/ village administrators, staff of the Department of General Administration, staff of other departments and all the people who have been contributing to these efforts.

*Translated by Dr. Zaw Tun*

## Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses coordination in Covid-19 emergency responses



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends a meeting yesterday with departmental heads of his office, civil organizations and local NGOs in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye organized a meeting yesterday with departmental heads of his office, civil organizations and local NGOs to discuss the ministry's participation in containment and emergency responses to the Covid-19 cases.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed systematic implementation of community based facility quarantine for the elderly persons, pregnant women and the persons with disabilities.

He also emphasized coordination with relevant departments, Red Cross Society, civil organizations and non-governmental organizations under the guidelines of the national-level Covid-19 central committee, readiness of essential protective equipment and the estimated costs and awareness programmes on directives, rules and laws among the public.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister held a conferencing meeting with regional officers of the ministry, civil societies and local NGOs on awareness programmes, the list of volunteers and distributions of foodstuffs and commodities.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## Permanent Secretary U Soe Han participates in First Video Conference of ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) on Public Health Emergencies

MYANMAR Delegation led by U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar participated in the First Video Conference of the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies (ACCWG-PHE) yesterday

at 8:30 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the Video Conference, the meeting discussed and exchanged views on ASEAN's existing efforts and cooperative measures in addressing the COVID-19 and each Member State's national measures to prevent the

spread of the pandemic, exchanging information and sharing best practices in the fight against the pandemic, strengthening coordinated and collective actions and addressing the impacts of COVID-19, establishing the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund as well as preparations for the ASEAN

Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting and the proposed Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting and Special ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Meeting on COVID-19.

Present at the Video Conference were representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Investment

and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.—MNA





# Tatmadaw to provide resources in fighting against Covid-19

SENIOR Tatmadaw officers held a coordination meeting to join nationwide measures against prevention and treatment of Covid-19 pandemic.

Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander in Chief of Defence Services (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, Command in Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander in Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and senior Tatmadaw officers attended the meeting held at the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

After opening remark of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the attendees presented preparatory measures of respective forces on awareness programmes.

In response to the discussions, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explained the readiness of 2000 beds and 15,000 beds for quarantine and treatments at the transit centres of Defence Services in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw respectively.

Some facilities of Defence Services could be used for quarantine centres for treatments and sheltering for the Coronavirus



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the coordination meeting to join nationwide measures against prevention and treatment of Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: C-IN-C DEFENCE SERVICES

patients.

The Myanmar Economic Cooperation (MEC) and the Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL) will continue operating their fully invested companies of food and basic commodity, and will reduce 50 percent capacities of the other factories till the end of April. Meanwhile, the operation of joint-venture businesses will be discussed with the foreign partners.

Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing also instructed the Tatmadaw personnel and staff members to follow disciplines and orders to stay at homes and staff quarters, and the navy vessels Thanlwin, Myitkyina and Mottama to be used as the hospitals.

The Senior General urged the military medical experts to provide healthcare services, while the National-Level Central Committee for Covid-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment has been formed and civil doctors,

nurses and health workers under the Ministry of Health and Sports are busy with their respective assignments.

He added to put emphasis on religious communities with providing foodstuffs and medical supplies.

The Senior General asked common people and Tatmadaw families not to believe rumours and false news, and the Defence Services media channels are to present real-time reports.

The report from the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Service also said there is not positive Covid-19 case among the Tatmadaw members, but there are 6 soldiers and 18 family members under the hospital quarantine as they had close contacts with the returnees from foreign countries. A total of 29 officers, 11 other ranks and 3 dependants are under facility quarantine.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Updated information about Covid-19 surveillance at 8:00 pm, 31 March 2020

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring and conducting surveillance on the Covid-19 at international gateways, at the public hospitals, community-based monitoring and private healthcare facilities.
2. There were 44 new persons under investigation between 6 pm on 30 March and 6 pm on 31 March.
3. Laboratory results of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on specimens from a total of 67 persons under investigation and quarantined persons at 7:30 pm 31 March 2020 has shown one positive case of Covid-19 (Table 1), and the remaining 66 persons were tested negative.
4. The Case 15 patient is a 45-year-old Myanmar woman living in Bahan Township, Yangon. She was working at a private clinic of medical services for foreigners. She began suffering fever, sore throat and cough on 27 March, and went to the clinic of Public Health Department in Bahan Township on 30 March. She was then transferred to West Yangon General Hospital and kept as a person under investigation. Her specimens were taken for laboratory tests. She will be admitted to the Waibargi hospital and is now in good health.
5. Out of 14 Covid-19 positive cases, 1 is at Tiddim hospital in Chin State, 9 at Waibargi hospital, 1 at Kandawnadi hospital in Mandalay, 1 at Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital, 1 at Lashio People's Hospital. They are in good health and have been undergoing medical treatments. One of the two positive patients at the Waibargi hospital died in the 31 March morning.
6. As Myanmar has confirmed more Covid-19 positive cases, persons in close contacts with these patients are identified and restricted on their travels. People are advised to strictly follow the awareness of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

### Laboratory results on Covid-19 (7: 30 pm, 31 March 2020)

Sr	Age	Gender	Travel History in the previous 14 days	Place for medical treatment	Quarantine/Admission Date to hospital	Lab result on Covid-19
15	45 yrs	Female	No	West Yangon General Hospital	30 March 2020	Positive

• Remaining 66 PUIs are tested negative in Covid-19 lab results

## Mobile app developed for quarantined people

SAW SAW PYAW, an application for quarantined people, has been developed by collaboration of the Ministry of Union Government Office, Ministry Health and Sports, Ministry of Transport and Communications and youth tech expert Ko Htoo Myint Naung (Technomation).



The mobile app is based on other mobile apps for COVID-19 developed from other nations such as the Republic of Korea and adapted to Myanmar's situation and requirements designated by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The app is designed for people returning from abroad who have to file compulsory reports of their return, imposing quarantines, receiving early treatment and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in communities. The app also has a system for health officials to monitor people under quarantine and people submit their health conditions via the app.

The application will be available in Myanmar and English languages so that both local resident and expatriates in Myanmar can report on their health condition. Mobile operators will be providing free SIM cards and 1GB of Internet data for people under quarantine using the mobile app.

The mobile app will have a hot line number to contact health officials. A database of all registered and quarantine people will be used to incorporate appropriate action plans.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Press Release 13/2020  
7<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tagu, 1381 ME  
(30 March 2020)

## Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 28 March 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Ma Wai Wai who lives in Tat Oo Thida Ward, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 March 2020, police searched the house of Ma Wai Wai (a) Khat Khat Wai, 32, daughter of U San Win, who lives in Tat Oo Thida Ward, Kalay Township, and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Kalay)MaYa(pa)35/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs from Laeyinte Village, Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region.	On 24 March 2020, police investigated some people in Inpaigneyi farm land, Laeyinte Village, Kawlin Township. They found Kyaw Soe Oo (a) Khwet Ni, 29, son of U Myint Maung, who lives in Kyayinn Village; Myo Maung (a) Dinho, 29, son of U Than Maung; and Aung Myo Oo (a) Myo Oo, 41, son of U Phoe Hset, who live in Laeyin Village, and arrested Aung Myo Oo (a) Myo Oo together with heroin and other two men run away. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kawlin)MaYa(pa)42/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs from Nantaw Village, Homalin Township, Sagaing Region.	On 26 March 2020, police searched the house of Tun Naing (a) Maung Ai, 28, son of U Thar Myint, who lives in Nantaw Village, Homalin Township, and arrested him together with heroin. He bought the drugs from Maung Khar, 36, son of U Phoe Htoo, who lives in the same village. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Minekhaine)MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police continued search the house of Maung Khar and arrested him and together with Yan Naing Aung (a) Yan Naing, 49, son of U Khin Mya, who lives in the same village, and Min Thu, 30, son of U Tin Hla, who lives in Tantaroo Ward, Mawlaik Township, together with heroin A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Minekhaine)MaYa(pa)26/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs on Abid-Khalae Dagontaing Village road, Mudon Township, Mon State.	On 22 March 2020, police inspected a motorcycle driven by Ko Ko Win, 23, son of U Soe Win and Mamed Rahim, 48, son of U Adu Martin, who live in Yaytwingon Village, Kyaikmaraw Township, on the road of Abid-Khalae Dagontaing Village and arrested them together with 'WY' and 'R' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwet)MaYa(pa)9/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police inspected a motorcycle driven by Tayzar Hein (a) Gadon, 32, son of U Ko Ko and Aung Zeya (a) Aya, 49, son of U Phoe Yin, who live in Kyarinn Village, Mawlamyine Township, on the same road and arrested them together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwet)MaYa(pa)10/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

5	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Tawku Village, Mudon Township, Mon State.	On 26 March 2020, police searched the house of Phone Myint Oo, 42, son of U Min Aung, who lives in Tawku Village, Mudon Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mudon)MaYa(pa)19/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Thein Min Naing who lives in east Myohaung Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22 March 2020, police arrested Thein Min Naing, 40, son of U Mya Than, who lives in east Myohaung Ward, Thanlyin Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets at a tea shop on Kyaikkhauk Pagoda Road, Thauktawtwin Ward, Thanlyin Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Thanlyin)MaYa(pa)18/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Kyaw Soe who lives in west Seikgyi Ward, Seikkyi/Khanaungto Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 March 2020, police searched the house of Kyaw Soe (a) Kyaw Soe Tun, 26, son of U Kalar, who lives in west Seikgyi Ward, Seikkyi/Khanaungto Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Seikkyi Khanaungto)MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,042 cases have been opened files as of 28 March 2020. A total of 1,600 people, including 1,338 men and 262 women had been arrested with 8,571.0014 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 40,404.33886 g of opium, 665.27 g of low-quality opium, 53,252.76 g of speciosa powder, 12,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 515,673 stimulant tablets, 10,311.67 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

#### Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200  
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233  
Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Advertise with us.

Hotline: 09 974 424 114  
thinthinmaygnlm@gmail.com  
No.150, Ngar Htet Kye Pagoda,  
Bahan Tsp, Yangon.

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**  
Aye Min Soe  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**  
Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR EDITOR**  
Aungthu Ya

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**  
Zaw Htet Oo  
Aung Khin

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**  
Ye Htut Tin,  
Aung Htein,  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**  
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**TRANSLATORS**  
Hay Mar Tin Win,  
Ei Myat Mon,  
Kyaw Zin Lin,  
Kyaw Zin Tun

**REPORTER**  
Nyein Nyein Ei,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar  
Kyaw Zeya

**COMPUTER TEAM**  
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,  
Nyi Lin Thu

**EDITORIAL SECTION**  
(+95) (01)8604529,  
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**  
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**  
(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM



**Write for us**

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title. 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.

# Religious places temporarily closed in Kalaw amid Covid-19

SIGNIFICANT places and pagodas have been temporarily closed to prevent spreading of Covid-19 in Kalaw Township, Shang State (South), said U Than Maung, a member of a pagoda board of trustees.

The temporarily closed significant pagodas are Kalaw Hnee pagoda located in Ward-8, Kalaw Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda located in Ward-10 and Ohn Na Lone Mway Shin Stupa located in Myin Ma Hti village, Kalaw township.

"Local pilgrims from across the country visit the Kalaw Hnee pagoda on overnight trips. Starting from 27 March, they are not allowed to stay overnight in the pagoda. The shops in the pagoda precinct are temporarily closed these days. However, the pilgrims are allowed to visit the pagodas on day return trips. But these days, only a few visitors come to the pagodas," he added.

"The pagoda board of trustees has banned the visits to the Ohn Na Lone Mway Shin Stupa



No visitors are allowed in Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda amid COVID-19. PHOTO: KYAW WIN (IPRD)

including the shops opened on the pagoda precinct beginning from 26 March as part of the pagoda trustees' effort to prevent the

spread of Coronavirus pandemic. We will announce the opening date of the pagoda to the public," said U Myo Aung, a member of the

pagoda board of trustees. —Kyaw Win (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Thanakha submitted to UNESCO for intangible cultural heritage

MYANMAR Thanakha, which is one of the favourite products of the local people to apply on their face, was submitted at the end of March as a world's intangible cultural heritage to be nominated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said Member U Ye Myat Aung of Intangible Cultural Heritage Promotion Committee under the Archeology and National Museum Department.

There are many intangible cultural heritages in Myanmar. But most are not yet listed in UNESCO. So, Myanmar will add the traditional Thanakha, which has been in use for more than 1,000 years and which remains up to these modern years. Myanmar Thanakha is found to meet the five norms. So, we have been attempting to nominate our Thanakha starting from January 2020 for being put on the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Myanmar will receive technical assistance from UNESCO for the preservation of Thanakha if it is listed.

"Myanmar has nominated Thanakha as an intangible



Myanmar Thanakha bark being sold in the market. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MAN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

cultural heritage at the end of this month to UNESCO. To be nominated in UNESCO, our department has established the Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritage Promotion Committee in cooperation with other Thanakha associations. The survey over the use of Thanakha was conducted across the country. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has also surveyed on the social website (Facebook). Moreover, Myanmar submitted a form at the

end of March after completing all the necessary information. Our Thanakha matches the standards of the UNESCO. We have submitted the forms together with the video records related to the use of Thanakha. The UNESCO holds its meeting every three months and chooses the items for putting them on the list of tangible and intangible cultural heritages. Myanmar will know the result in next December 2021 as to whether Thanakha will be listed

in UNSECO or not," he noted.

There are more than 200 countries in the world. Among them, 198 countries are members of the UNESCO. A total of 508 intangible cultural heritages from 122 countries have been named in the UNESCO world heritage list. About 33 intangible cultural heritages from seven ASEAN countries have been named by UNESCO. —Min Htet Aung (Man sub-printing house)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



## Worldwide lockdown hardens as Spain sees deadliest day

MADRID (Spain)— Tightened lockdowns across the planet saw nearly half of humanity told to stay at home in a bid to stem the spiralling coronavirus pandemic, as Spain recorded its deadliest day Tuesday and the United States braced for the full impact of the disease.

The virus has claimed nearly 38,000 lives worldwide in a health crisis that is rapidly reorganising political power, hammering the global economy and the daily existence of some 3.6 billion people.

Spain, whose outbreak is the world's second deadliest after Italy, broke another national record of 849 deaths in one day Tuesday, dampening hopes it could have passed the peak of the crisis that has debilitated

the country for weeks.

In battered Italy, flags flew at half-mast during a minute of silence to honour the more than 11,500 people who have perished from the virus, and the health workers still working through nightmarish conditions.

Although there are signs the spread of infections is slowing in Italy, hundreds are still dying every day, leading authorities to extend a stringent nationwide shutdown despite its crushing economic impact.

In Belgium a 12-year-old girl infected with COVID-19 was pronounced dead, a rare case of a young person succumbing to the disease, and yet another grim reminder of its reach. —AFP



A woman prays in front of the doors of Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem following its closure due to the coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

## Macron announces push to produce coronavirus masks, ventilators

SAINT-BARTHELEMY-D'ANJOU (France)—France is rushing to produce millions of face masks and thousands of ventilators as reliance on imports to fight the coronavirus has exposed the country's need for "independence" in producing vital medical equipment, President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday.

"We have to rebuild our national and European sovereignty," Macron said as he visited a surgical mask factory in Saint-Barthelemy-d'Anjou, near Angers in western France, where he donned a mask, coveralls and a

plastic hairnet to tour the facility.

Macron promised "full independence" by the end of the year in the production of protective face masks for France, which like most other countries was woefully understocked when the epidemic struck.

With some 40 million masks required per week for frontline medical staff, the government had placed orders for over a billion masks to be delivered in the coming weeks, mainly from China.

In the meantime, local production is being ramped up, with capacity to reach 10 million

masks per week by the end of next month, compared to 3.3 million per week before the crisis struck.

The number could rise to 15 million per week with the aid of several companies that have volunteered contributions.

In terms of the urgent need for ventilators to help the most serious COVID-19 cases, Macron announced that 10,000 would be produced by a consortium of companies at two factories in France.

Of these, 4,500 will be delivered during the last two weeks of April, and the rest before mid-May. —AFP



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) wearing protective suit and face mask visits the Kolmi-Hopen protective face masks factory in Saint-Barthelemy-d'Anjou near Angers, central France, on March 31, 2020 amid a new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

## ANA, labour union agree on paid leave for 6,400 cabin attendants

TOKYO — All Nippon Airways Co. and its labour union agreed Tuesday on have 6,400 of its cabin attendants take several days of leave a month starting in April due to flight cancellations forced by the coronavirus outbreak, people close to the matter said.

Full-time flight attendants of the airline known as ANA will take three to five days a month of partially paid leave for one year, they said. ANA has sharply cut domestic and international flights and is considering seeking around 100 billion yen (\$920 million) of fresh loans from banks due to declining travel demand as the pandemic has forced the postponement of sports events, the closure of cultural and leisure facilities, and the cancellation of business and leisure trips. —Kyodo News

## IMF secures loans from members to bolster lending

WASHINGTON (United States) — The International Monetary Fund said Tuesday its members have agreed to renew arrangements ensuring the fund has lending firepower, especially as the coronavirus pandemic creates a demand for financing.

"This action is part of a broader package on IMF resources and governance reform that will help maintain the IMF's lending capacity of \$1 trillion," the fund said in a statement.

The executive board of the Washington-based development lender on Monday approved the bilateral borrowing arrangements to take effect January 1, 2021, just after the current round expire, which will be in place for three years but can be extended through the end of 2024. The arrangements currently in place provide \$450 billion from 40 countries, and add to the IMF's other resources including usual quotas provided by each member, as well as financing under the New Arrangements to Borrow which will be doubled to just over \$500 billion.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva last week said the global economy already has entered recession due to the sudden stop in activity caused by the pandemic and more than 80 countries, mostly of low incomes, have requested emergency aid.

Emerging markets, which have suffered an exodus of capital of more than \$83 billion in recent weeks, face financing needs of \$2.5 trillion, which will require some outside assistance, she said. — AFP



# Playing the market is breaking the law

**W**ITH more findings of Coronavirus infections, which reached 14 yesterday in Myanmar, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic appears imminent in our country.

At the same time, food and medicine prices are trending upwards, with some protective items, such as masks, sanitizers and alcohol, disappearing from the market.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to medicines, medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in neighbouring China.

In a welcome step, the ministry issued an order yesterday warning the public not to speculate on three goods, banning those who are speculating in the market by selling products at higher prices than the street market and distribution chains call for.

The ministry labeled three goods as "important goods", which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control and treatment, medicines and food.

Under the Essential Supplies and Services Law, anyone who violates any order issued under section 4 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term from a minimum of six months to a maximum of three years, and shall also be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand Kyats.

The government is helping to smooth the flow of commodities by joining hands with the private sector. Thus the public and businesses are urged to abide by the law.

This new move by the Ministry of Commerce is another step to alleviate the impact on the nation's economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regarding food, we are confident that our country will not encounter shortages, as the country is producing basic household commodities and even exporting these goods to foreign countries.

The government is taking steps to address difficulties in trade and will not hesitate to take legal actions against those causing price hikes in the market during this time of crisis.

For in a time of crisis, the people instinctively know what they need, which is food.

Obviously, if the producer receives less and the consumer pays more, then there is price gouging in the middle. Ordinary people have been outraged by individuals who purchase excessive amounts of basic necessities in order to personally profit.

Again, we should avoid any measures and actions which can lead the people to be outraged by price hikes caused by individuals playing the markets.



... anyone who violates any order issued under section 4 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term from a minimum of six months to a maximum of three years,

# Q & A on coronaviruses (COVID-19)

## What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Around 1 out of every 6 people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention.

## How does COVID-19 spread?

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets. This is why it is important to stay more than 1 meter (3 feet) away from a person who is sick.

WHO is assessing ongoing research on the ways COVID-19 is spread and will continue to share updated findings.

## Can the virus that causes COVID-19 be transmitted through the air?

Studies to date suggest that



An employee of Hill Rom medical beds works in the plant in Pluvigner, western France on March 31, 2020, on the fifteen day of a lockdown in France to stop the spread of the epidemic COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

the virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through contact with respiratory droplets rather than through the air. See previous answer on "How does COVID-19 spread?"

## Can COVID-19 be caught from a person who has no symptoms?

The main way the disease spreads is through respiratory droplets expelled by someone who is coughing. The risk of catching COVID-19 from someone with no symptoms at all is very low. However, many people with COVID-19 experience only mild symptoms. This is particularly true at the early stages of the disease. It is therefore possible to catch COVID-19 from someone who has, for example, just a mild cough and does not feel ill. WHO is assessing ongoing research on the period of transmission of COVID-19 and will continue to share updated findings.

## Can I catch COVID-19 from the feces of someone with the disease?

The risk of catching COVID-19 from the feces of an infected person appears to be low. While initial investigations suggest the virus may be present in feces in some cases, spread through this route is not a main feature of the outbreak. WHO is assessing ongoing research on the ways COVID-19 is spread and will continue to share new findings. Because this is a risk, however, it is another reason to clean hands regularly, after using the bathroom and before eating.

## What can I do to protect myself and prevent the spread of disease? Protection measures for everyone

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority. Many countries around the world have seen cases of COVID-19 and several have seen outbreaks. Authorities in China and some other countries have succeeded in slowing or stopping their outbreaks. However, the situation is unpredictable so check regularly for the latest news.

You can reduce your chances of being infected or spreading COVID-19 by taking some simple precautions:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.
- Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Why? When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and

mouth. Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good 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.
- Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.
- Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.
- Keep up to date on the latest COVID-19 hotspots (cities or local areas where COVID-19 is spreading widely). If possible, avoid traveling to places - especially if you are an older person or have diabetes, heart or lung disease.

Why? You have a higher chance of catching COVID-19 in one of these areas.

## Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited (past 14 days) areas where COVID-19 is spreading

- o Follow the guidance outlined above (Protection measures for everyone)
- o Self-isolate by staying at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache, low grade fever (37.3 C or above) and slight runny nose, until you recover. If it is essential for you to have someone bring you supplies or to go out, e.g. to buy food, then wear a mask to avoid infecting other people.
- o Why? Avoiding contact with others and visits to medical facilities will allow these facilities to operate more effectively and help protect you and others from possible COVID-19 and other viruses.
- o If you develop fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical advice promptly as this may be due to a respiratory infection or other serious condition. Call in advance and tell your provider of any recent travel or contact with travelers.

Why? Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also help to prevent possible spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.

## Should I worry about COVID-19?

- o Illness due to COVID-19 infection is generally mild, especially for children and young adults. However, it can cause serious illness: about 1 in every 5 people who catch it need hospital care. It is therefore quite normal for people to worry about how the COVID-19 outbreak will affect them and their loved ones.
- o We can channel our concerns into actions to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities. First and foremost among these actions is regular and thorough hand-washing and good respiratory hygiene. Secondly, keep informed and follow the advice of the local health authorities including any restrictions put in place on travel, movement and gatherings.
- o Learn more about how to protect yourself at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public

## Who is at risk of developing severe illness?

While we are still learning about how COVID-2019 affects people, older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer or diabetes) appear to develop serious illness more often than others.

## Are antibiotics effective in preventing or treating the COVID-19?

No. Antibiotics do not work against viruses, they only work on bacterial infections. COVID-19 is caused by a virus, so antibiotics do not work. Antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment of COVID-19. They should only be used as directed by a physician to treat a bacterial infection.

## Are there any medicines or therapies that can prevent or cure COVID-19?

While some western, traditional or home remedies may provide comfort and alleviate symptoms of COVID-19, there is no evidence that current medicine can prevent or cure the disease. WHO does not recommend self-medication with any medicines, including antibiotics, as a prevention or cure for COVID-19. However, there are several ongoing clinical trials that include both western and traditional medicines. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings are available.

## Is there a vaccine, drug or treatment for COVID-19?

Not yet. To date, there is no vaccine and no specific antiviral medicine to prevent or treat COVID-2019. However, those affected should receive care to relieve symptoms. People with serious illness should be hospitalized. Most patients recover thanks to supportive care. Possible vaccines and some specific drug treatments are under investigation. They are being tested through clinical trials. WHO is coordinating efforts to develop vaccines and medicines to prevent and treat COVID-19.

SEE PAGE-10

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Notification 54/2020  
8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tagu, 1381  
(31 March 2020)  
**Coming into force of the Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Law**

IN accordance with the provisions stated in the article 2 of the Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Law, this Law comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 (9<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tagu 1381).

Sd/Win Myint  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Announcement of MoALI to public

1. The Department of Agriculture is facilitating to acquire good seeds and technologies for respective crops to prevent declines in produce, high yield and reliable markets.
2. Myanmar produced over 26 million tonnes of rice in 2019-2020 FY, although the amount of annual domestic consumption was just more than 15 million tonnes. Moreover, kitchen vegetables such as chili, onion, garlic and potatoes are more than enough for domestic consumptions.
3. Farmers can ask knowledge about availabilities of good seeds and agricultural technologies for high yields from the offices of Agriculture Department, rural-based technology centres, regional offices and seed producing facility by calling the hotline number of DoA at 01-399555.

**Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation**  
*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin 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 rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020:** Generally fair weather.



## Q & A on coronaviruses (COVID-19)

### FROM PAGE-9

The most effective ways to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 are to frequently clean your hands, cover your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue, and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing. (See Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus).

### Is COVID-19 the same as SARS?

No. The virus that causes COVID-19 and the one that caused the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 are related to each other genetically, but the diseases they cause are quite different.

SARS was more deadly but much less infectious than COVID-19. There have been no outbreaks of SARS anywhere in the world since 2003.

### Should I wear a mask to protect myself?

Only wear a mask if you are ill with COVID-19 symptoms (especially coughing) or looking after someone who may have COVID-19. Disposable face mask can only be used once. If you are not ill or looking after someone who is ill then you are wasting a mask. There is a world-wide shortage of masks, so WHO urges people to use masks wisely.

WHO advises rational use of medical masks to avoid unnecessary wastage of precious resources and mis-use of masks (see Advice on the use of masks).

The most effective ways to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 are to frequently clean your hands, cover your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing. See basic protective measures against the new coronavirus for more information.

### How to put on, use, take off and dispose of a mask?

1. Remember, a mask should only be used by health workers, care takers, and individuals with respiratory symptoms, such as fever and cough.
2. Before touching the mask, clean hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water
3. Take the mask and inspect it for tears or holes.
4. Orient which side is the top side (where the metal strip is).
5. Ensure the proper side of the mask faces outwards (the coloured side).
6. Place the mask to your face. Pinch the metal strip or stiff edge of the mask so it moulds to the shape of your nose.
7. Pull down the mask's bottom so it covers your mouth and your chin.
8. After use, take off the mask; remove the elastic loops from behind the ears while keeping the mask away from

your face and clothes, to avoid touching potentially contaminated surfaces of the mask.

9. Discard the mask in a closed bin immediately after use.
10. Perform hand hygiene after touching or discarding the mask – Use alcohol-based hand rub or, if visibly soiled, wash your hands with soap and water.

### How long is the incubation period for COVID-19?

The “incubation period” means the time between catching the virus and beginning to have symptoms of the disease. Most estimates of the incubation period for COVID-19 range from 1-14 days, most commonly around five days. These estimates will be updated as more data become available.

### Can humans become infected



An officer plans a route for the soldiers at the naval base in Wilhelmshaven, northern Germany, for them to make and deliver purchases on March 31, 2020 for people needing help in Wilhelmshaven, northwestern Germany, amid the novel coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic. During the Corona crisis, navy soldiers at the largest German military base in Wilhelmshaven help elderly people to do their shopping. **PHOTO: AFP**

### with the COVID-19 from an animal source?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in animals. Occasionally, people get infected with these viruses which may then spread to other people. For example, SARS-CoV was associated with civet cats and MERS-CoV is transmitted by dromedary camels. Possible animal sources of COVID-19 have not yet been confirmed.

To protect yourself, such as when visiting live animal markets, avoid direct contact with animals and surfaces in contact with animals. Ensure good food safety practices at all times. Handle raw meat, milk or animal organs with care to avoid contamination of uncooked foods and avoid consuming raw or undercooked animal products.

### Can I catch COVID-19 from my pet?

While there has been one instance of a dog being infected in Hong Kong, to date, there is no evidence that a dog,

cat or any pet can transmit COVID-19. COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. To protect yourself, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly.

WHO continues to monitor the latest research on this and other COVID-19 topics and will update as new findings are available.

### How long does the virus survive on surfaces?

It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the

- Wearing multiple masks
- Taking antibiotics (See question 10 “Are there any medicines of therapies that can prevent or cure COVID-19?”)

In any case, if you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early to reduce the risk of developing a more severe infection and be sure to share your recent travel history with your health care provider.

### Is the source of the coronavirus causing COVID-19 known?

Currently, the source of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus (CoV) causing COVID-19 is unknown. All available evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 has a natural animal origin and is not a constructed virus. SARS-CoV-2 virus most probably has its ecological reservoir in bats. SARS-CoV-2, belongs to a group of genetically related viruses, which also include SARS-CoV and a number of other CoVs isolated from bats populations. MERS-CoV also belongs to this group, but is less closely related.

### How did the first human SARS-CoV-2 infections occur?

The first human cases of COVID-19 were identified in Wuhan City, China in December 2019. At this stage, it is not possible to determine precisely how humans in China were initially infected with SARS-CoV-2.

However, SARS-CoV, the virus which caused the SARS outbreak in 2003, jumped from an animal reservoir (civet cats, a farmed wild animal) to humans and then spread between humans. In a similar way, it is thought that SARS-CoV-2 jumped the species barrier and initially infected humans, but more likely through an intermediate host, that is another animal species more likely to be handled by humans - this could be a domestic animal, a wild animal, or a domesticated wild animal and, as of yet, has not been identified.

Until the source of this virus is identified and controlled, there is a risk of reintroduction of the virus in the human population and the risk of new outbreaks like the ones we are currently experiencing.

### Is COVID-19 airborne?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air. They quickly fall on floors or surfaces.

You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within 1 metre of a person who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

environment).

If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others. Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.

### Is it safe to receive a package from any area where COVID-19 has been reported?

Yes. The likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, travelled, and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low.

### Is there anything I should not do?

The following measures ARE NOT effective against COVID-2019 and can be harmful:

- Smoking

SOURCE : WHO



## India to import more beans, pulses from Myanmar in 2020-21FY

By Nyein Nyein

INDIA has notified the annual quota of beans imports for the next fiscal year 2020-2021, including 400,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, said Secretary U Min Ko Oo of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

India's Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry informed of the quota limit for the next FY on 28 March, allowing Indian millers to import 400,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, 150,000 tonnes of green peas and another 150,000 tonnes of yellow peas and other types of beans.

Moreover, India's Commerce Department has announced to import 400,000 tonnes of mung beans for the 2020-2021 FY as per the amended 2015-2020 Foreign Trade Policy of the Central Government.

"India notified import quota by end-March. Following



Myanmar's bean industry is showcasing beans and pulses. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Myanmar President's visit to India, India issued quota restriction for mung beans for the 2020-2021FY. Again, they've released an announcement on

annual quota for other types of beans including 400,00 tonnes of pigeon peas", said U Min Ko Oo.

"India's notification of pea import quota for the coming

fiscal year reflects the requirement of India's market. The larger quota limit is a good potential for Myanmar's bean industry", he added.

"India increased the quota limit from 150,000 to 400,000 tonnes to reach the market's demand. This action will bring benefits both to the Indian importers and Myanmar traders and growers. The local traders and growers are happy with early notification of India. The market is expected to grow better next year than the current fiscal year", he noted.

Following India's notification on quota limit, the prices of pulses and beans have risen. Mung bean is priced at K985,000 per ton, while pigeon peas fetch K710,000 per ton.

Myanmar is the main supplier of mung beans to India. Concerning other types of beans, Myanmar has to compete against Australian and African markets, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Rice export price surges amid Covid-19

THE prices of rice in the export market rose a bit in March compared with the prices of previous months, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The price of white rice variety (well-milled) was priced US\$300-305 per metric ton in January and February 2020. In March, the price slightly climbed to \$315-325. Similarly, low-quality rice variety (reasonably well-milled) saw a significant increase last month against the prices in January and February, rising from \$265-270 to \$285-295 per metric ton.

However, broken rice variety in the last three months (Jan-March) remained flat at 280-290 for (A1:2), \$260-270 for B1:2 (sorted), \$245-255 for B1:2 (non-sorted), \$240-245 for (B2:3:4 non-sorted), according to the MRF. Moreover, the prices of parboiled rice varieties, high-quality rice variety (Pawsan) and low-quality rice variety (Ngasein) in March are not largely unchanged against the previous months.

The foreign market purchases our rice as the price is cheaper than other Asian countries. If they do not ship the rice at a low price, there will be no market for export, said an official of Bayintnaung commodity depot.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through land borders. However, trade-in ag-

ricultural products have been frequently halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade. At present, the MRF is monitoring the impact of Covid-19 in the foreign and domestic market, and working with stakeholders in the respective regions and states to govern the market. The federation will call on the government to take systematic measures on exports by involving exporters. Owing to a volatile dollar exchange rate in the local forex market, some exporters have halted rice purchases at the end of March.

"In the meantime, some people are panic-buying food and consumer goods in preparation for the possible negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, some are worrying over a possible price hike in the domestic market in the wake of the coronavirus," said a market observer.

To tackle with this, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and its affiliated organizations including MRF and Myanmar Rice & Paddy Traders Association have started selling basic food commodities at the much fairer price in the townships where industrial zones are located, said UMFCCI Vice-Chair Dr Maung Maung Lay.

MRF has already notified

the public not to believe misinformation and disinformation and reaffirmed them the other day not to worry about any possible shortage of rice as they have an adequate supply of rice in the domestic market.

Regardless of MRF's attempt to control the unnecessary price hike, the prices of rice surged due to growing demand, according to Yangon Wadan Commodity Depot. At present, the summer paddy is going to be harvested and the number of rice stocks has become lesser, said some traders.

The prices of rice currently move in the ranges of K36,000-53,000 per 108-pound-bag of Pawsan varieties, while low-quality rice fetched 20,500-23,500. The price is up by 500-, 10,000 per bag against previous months, the MRF data showed.

During the October-February period of the current fiscal year 2019-2020, 1.3 million metric tons of rice and broken rice were shipped to foreign countries, with an estimated value of \$396.29 million.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was a record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million metric tons, worth \$691 million, in the 2018-2019 FY. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade values at \$4.5 bln in 2019-2020FY Q1

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China through maritime trade channels totalled over US\$4.5 billion in October and January of 2019-2020 fiscal year, including \$2.108 billion worth of exports and \$2.39 billion for imports, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries touched a high of \$4.2 billion.

Myanmar primarily exports agro-products to China through land borders. However, trade-in agricultural products are frequently halted on account of China clamping down

on illegal trade in border crossings.

The value of bilateral trade with China was \$11.36 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, \$6 billion in the past mini-budget period, \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY respectively.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronics tools flow into Myanmar. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A worker loading smoked rubber sheets to a truck at a rubber market. PHOTO: KHUN (WIN PA)



## Well-wishers donate bedding for Covid-19 patients in Waibargi Hospital

A ceremony to donate bedding materials for Covid-19 patients in the Waibargi Specialist Hospital was held at the Craft Café in

Union Business Centre in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, well-wishers led by Daw

Rose Zar Win, a retired teacher from International School Yangon (ISY), handed over mattresses, bed sheets, pillows, and

pillowcases to the officials from the Waibargi Specialist Hospital.

“The materials that are essential for the Covid-19 quarantine processes, was collectively donated with my friends. Our donated materials are estimated K2.5 million.” the leader of the well-wisher group said.

So far there are 10 laboratory-confirmed patients, 21 quarantined patients, and 17 patients who were previously in contact with Covid-19-positive patients in the Waibargi Specialist Hospital, according to the hospital’s medical superintendent Dr Aye Aye Aung. —Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Officials receive donation of well-wishers for Covid-19 patients. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

## Union Construction Minister holds meetings on project implementations

UNION MINISTER for Construction U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin, the Permanent Secretary and departmental heads organized a meeting with regional officers in video conferencing yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the Covid-19 awareness measures, spread of false news, directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports on the pandemic and preventive measures not to cause losses and damages of state-owned vehicles and machinery when the workers left their projects.

The directors of regional projects presented their works and difficulties.

In conclusion remark, the Union Minister coordinated the discussions and advised his local officers to coordinate with respective regional governments in Covid-19 measures.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Thailand to shut down Phuket airport for 20 days amid COVID-19 outbreak

BANGKOK—Thailand’s Phuket International Airport will be shut from April 10 to 30 after Phuket Province sealed its entry points by land and sea amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana told the media on Tuesday that he ordered the closure of the airport as the total number of COVID-19 cases in the province rose to 62 on Monday with infections mostly found related to entertainment venues near Patong beach, nor-

mally packed with foreign tourists.

Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) Chula Sukmanop also confirmed on Tuesday that the Phuket airport shutdown will take effect at midnight on 10 April until 30 April.

Chula said that all governors are empowered to issue the shutdown order to prevent the spread of the outbreak under a state of emergency and no approval is required from the CAAT.

“CAAT will give full cooperation with the governor and find measures to relieve impacts on tourists and public members,” said Chula.

“The tourist island of Phuket has closed all entry and exit points in the province, except for air travel until 30 April. The airport closure will put the province under the full lockdown,” Chula added.

Exceptions to the closure are vehicles transporting food and essential goods. —Xinhua ■

## Nineteen killed in massive China forest fire



Firefighters battle a forest blaze in Xichang in China’s southwestern Sichuan province early on 31 March, 2020. Eighteen firefighters and one forestry guide died while fighting a huge forest fire in southwestern China, the local government said on 31 March. PHOTO: AFP

BEIJING (China) — Eighteen firefighters and one forestry guide died while fighting a huge forest fire in southwestern China, the local government said Tuesday.

State television footage showed large flames shooting into the sky from the mountains above the city of Xichang in Sichuan province, turning the sky orange. Heavy clouds of smoke billowed above the buildings and roads of the city, which has a population of some 700,000 people.

The blaze started near Xichang in the southwestern province’s mountainous Liangshan prefecture at 3:00 pm (0700 GMT) on Monday, “directly threatening the safety of Xichang city”, the city government said in

a Weibo statement on Tuesday morning. More than 140 fire engines, four helicopters and nearly 900 firefighters have been sent to tackle the blaze, according to local officials.

In total over two thousand emergency workers are involved in rescue efforts to contain the blaze and more than 1,200 local people have been evacuated.

Helicopters were still battling the blaze Tuesday morning.

Several forest fires have broken out in the same prefecture in recent days, reported state news agency Xinhua. Last April, twenty-seven firefighters were killed in a huge forest fire in Muli County in the same prefecture. Authorities deployed 700 firefighters to the scene.— AFP ■



Thaketa Township’s Ward-8 is being disinfected by the Garunaranthi Philanthropic Society and Thaketa Township’s Ward-8 Administrative Office in efforts to prevention Coronavirus infection on 30 March, 2020. PHOTO: PHOE KHWA



# Huawei posts strong growth but warns 'most difficult year' ahead

SHANGHAI (China) — Huawei said Tuesday it had sustained solid growth in its global businesses in 2019 despite a US campaign to isolate the Chinese tech giant, but warned of its "most difficult year" ahead.

The stark warning came as a result of stringent US sanctions, with their impact worsened by the fallout from the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

Huawei — the world's top supplier of telecom networking equipment and number-two smartphone



A photograph shows the logo of Chinese company Huawei at their main UK offices in Reading, west of London, on 28 January, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

maker behind Samsung — to 858 billion yuan (\$120 billion), a nearly identical growth rate to that seen in

2018. Net profit last year, however, grew 5.6 per cent, compared with 25 per cent in 2018, as a result of the US sanctions.

Eric Xu, the firm's rotating chairman, said: "After Huawei was added to the US entity list on May 16... we had to step up investment in research and development to fix the gaps."

"All of a sudden, a large number of suppliers could not supply to us, and we had to rebuild our supply chain," he told a press conference Tuesday.

reference Tuesday.

"Under such circumstances, it was impossible for us to continue maintaining as high a growth rate in our net profit as in 2017 and 2018."

But he noted the company turned in a strong performance "despite enormous outside pressure".

He warned, however, that 2020 would be Huawei's "most difficult year", given that it would be subject to entity-listing for the full year. While the firm had

substantial stockpiles to respond to customer needs last year, these are running low and 2020 would be a "test of Huawei's supply continuity programme".

On top of that, the company has to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, which has brought about global economic decline, financial turmoil and slowing market demand, Xu said.

He added it would be tough to make a forecast on the company's full-year outlook for now. —AFP ■

## NATO names 'reflection' group after Macron criticism

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — NATO named a panel of 10 experts Tuesday to study the alliance's political direction after French President Emmanuel Macron warned starkly that it was undergoing

"brain death".

The group of five men and five women will be co-chaired by former German defence minister Thomas de Maziere and Washington's former top diplomat for Europe, Wess Mitchell.

NATO said the panel "will offer recommendations to reinforce alliance unity, increase political consultation and coordination between allies, and strengthen NATO's political role."

Macron caused uproar last year with an explosive Economist interview in which he despaired of what he said was the lack of strategic and political thinking at NATO. —AFP ■

## Four missing after fishing boats capsize off south China coast

NANNING — Nineteen people have been rescued and four are still missing after strong winds hit four fishing boats off the coast of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, local sources said Tuesday.

Crew members on two fishing boats made distress calls after being caught by storms near a drilling platform in the Beibu Gulf in the early hours of Monday. A third boat made an emergency call soon after.

Four vessels in the surrounding seas were sent to the rescue, and all 19 crew members were saved before dawn, the Guangxi Maritime Safety Administration said.

The local maritime search and rescue center

received another call at around 6 am from families of four missing fishermen, who went to sea on Sunday but failed to return. Vessels have been sent and the search for the missing people is still underway. —Xinhua ■

## Poland tightens measures to curb virus spread

WARSAW (Poland) — Poland's government on Tuesday further tightened measures taken to curb the spread of coronavirus, notably restricting the freedom of movement of youths, closing parks and hotels and limiting the number of shoppers.

"With every reckless, unnecessary instance of leaving the house, the pandemic drags on... We have to strictly adhere to social distancing rules," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told reporters.

"They are crucial here so that the light at the end

of the tunnel can in fact be ever more visible for us all eventually." To crack down on youth social gatherings, children under the age of 18 will now only be able to leave the house in the presence of an adult. Hair and beauty salons, tattoo parlours, parks, beaches

and most hotels will now be closed and city bicycle systems will be unavailable. A maximum of three people per cash register will be allowed inside grocery stores and pharmacies at one time to help maintain a social distance of two metres (about six feet). —AFP

### Manufacturer Change

All of manufacturing processes for the below products are produced by ACI Formulation Limited are transferring to new Manufacturer (ITMG SINGAPORE PTE LTD). Any Rrgarding for that can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Types	Registration No.
1	Pin Sein Hexa 5 EC	Hexaconazole 5% EC	Full	F2018-1501

Bloom Trading & Manufacturing Group Limitd.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (085N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (085N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (012S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (012S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**Trade Mark Ads**

**Call**

Thin Thin May,  
09251022355,  
09974424848.

### Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to Agro Green Land Chemical Co.,Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type/ No
1. Bigrole 200 SC	Ethiprole 200 g/l SC	Provisional: 2015 - 2519

**RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD**  
Add: Building No. (C), Room No. (402), Level-4, Dagon Center (1), Bargayar Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.  
Phone : 09456060160, 09456060180



# Managing Brand Reputation amid the COVID-19 Crisis

**A**S the COVID-19 virus (AKA novel coronavirus) has spread around the world, both organizations and individuals have had to make adaptations large and small. And with virus stories dominating the news cycle, if your company is affected directly or indirectly by the virus, the eyes of the world are on your response. That means that any mistakes you make could easily be amplified, but so can positive behaviour.

So the big question for PR and marketing professionals is: How can companies, brands, and organizations respond positively to the COVID-19 crisis?

1. Formulate a comprehensive crisis communications plan

The credibility and reputation of organizations depend on identifying risks and making informed decisions, with the impact on the public at the forefront of the decision making process. The ideal time to do this is before the crisis begins. Predicting and preparing for potential crises can dramatically ease the pain of dealing with them – or even prevent them from escalating in the first place.

To do so, companies should identify risk factors in an organization. For example, what activity might cause social harm or result in reputational damage? How can a company protect its customers,

employees, and other stakeholders? And how can it communicate in ways that make them feel that sense of safety?

Clearly all crises are unique to the individual or company experiencing them, and there is no single solution that meets the needs of all companies.

“Some organizations are very resilient and capable of weathering most issues before they become crises, while others are very sensitive,” Vero COO PattaneeJeeriphab says. “Each company defines ‘crisis’ differently, but we consider them to be in a crisis once an issue becomes big enough that their business cannot operate normally or the issue reaches the public consciousness.”

Despite the particularities, there are four key elements to enacting any crisis management plan:

- Put a dedicated team in place to manage the crisis. Companies should create a preparation deck with roles in place for each person who would take part in the crisis war room. For some companies facing potential complexity and severity of the crisis, it might even be a good idea to do simulation training.

- Determine the facts. It’s important to talk to people involved and understand exactly what happened, so that you can share accurate information

with stakeholders, counter any misleading rumors, and seek an appropriate solution.

- Share the company’s story. Take control of the narrative by explaining clearly and transparently how the crisis happened and what you are doing — and plan to do — to solve it and prevent it from recurring.

- Go to the root of the problem and fix it. Actions speak louder than words in this case. It’s important to make whatever changes are necessary to end the crisis and prevent future ones, even if that means suspending some operations, taking losses, or altering fundamental aspects of your business model.

2. Put safety and transparency first

In a public health crisis, one thing will hurt your business more than any other: appearing unconcerned about the safety of either your customers or your employees. Income and profits are important, but safety for oneself and others is paramount.

And when it comes to the risk of infection, transparency is key. Organizations should be clear about the risks posed to their stakeholders, as well as ways to mitigate them.

Regular updates of credible information grant a brand voice legitimacy and authority, both of which come in handy when rumours and misinformation



File photo taken on 12 April, 2019, shows Honda Motor Co.’s plant in Wuhan, China. The Japanese automaker said on 11 March, 2020, that it has resumed production at the factory, which was closed due to the spread of the new coronavirus. **PHOTO: KYODO**

begin spreading as fast as the virus itself. And if a viral infection occurs, it’s far better to be take strong and transparent measures than ones that may be deemed insufficient.

For instance, ride-sharing service Grab closed both its Sin-

gapore and Bangkok offices for 5 days after a Singapore-based employee who had recently visited Bangkok tested positive. (Reference Link: <https://bit.ly/2UydxBc>)

While there’s no going back and preventing the COVID-19 outbreak, companies have a



A worker checks on an automatic glass production line in Shahe City, north China’s Hebei Province on 28 March, 2020. Glass enterprises in Shahe have resumed production following epidemic prevention and control rules. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



Labourers work at the construction site of a metro project in Wuhan, central China’s Hubei Province on 30 March, 2020. Wuhan’s 12 metro projects under construction resumed work up to Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**





A screen photographed in Tokyo shows the Nikkei Stock Average plunging nearly 700 points on 30 March, 2020, amid growing fears over coronavirus infections. PHOTO: KYODO

role to play in preventing it from spreading further. One way that the illness has changed marketing involves the kinds of events that companies hold.

“In Thailand, we’re currently advising our clients not to organize press or public events,” PattaneeJeeriphab says. “It’s better to reduce exposure, and try alternatives like online events rather than in-person ones.”

3. Find ways to provide social solutions.

There is opportunity in every crisis, and a public crisis creates a chance to show value as a corporate citizen. While some would exploit the crisis by jacking up prices or trying to cheat quarantines, companies

a time of crisis will gain positive reputations that benefit them in the long-term. (Reference Link: <https://bit.ly/2QLvnPX>)

Businesses in China have been involved in fighting the crisis for a while and similar pro-social practices will become essential in Southeast Asia as the crisis has reached the region today. For example, some insurance companies have begun offering free coverage for those who are diagnosed. And for those employees who exhibit symptoms or have been to high-risk areas, employers can allow them to self-quarantine for up to two weeks by granting leave or the ability to work at home. (Reference Link: <https://bit.ly/2WIQ9nf>)

staff and individuals suspected of being infected with the virus, and they’re even building a factory to produce more masks. Of course, a large-scale effort like this requires a global network like CP’s, but it’s an example of the type of activity that creates a lot of good will among the general public. (Reference Link: <https://bit.ly/2UBP65N> & <https://bit.ly/3aoWKY0>)

In Singapore, Grab’s GrabCare programme provides transportation and discounts to medical professionals traveling from hospitals housing COVID-19 victims, which otherwise might be difficult to obtain.

On a smaller scale, ABC Bakery in Viet Nam began buying excess dragon fruit and using it to add flavor and color to its baked goods after founder Kao Sieu Luc heard farmers bemoaning their unsold fruit due to the closure of Viet Nam’s border with China. To further support the farmers, Luc shared his dragon fruit banh mi recipe and welcomed other bakers to use it. The result has been a dragon fruit bread boom and a lot of positive buzz for ABC Bakery. (Reference Link: <https://bit.ly/2xmkT2X>)

4. Prepare for the post-crisis  
Even if the virus stays with us, in a business sense the COVID-19 crisis won’t last forever. Those companies who want to remain standing — and perhaps even come out stronger — must pay serious attention to their actions and the messages they send.

“Crises can reveal a business’s character and have a major impact on its reputation long after the crisis is over,” PattaneeJeeriphab says. “Those who have been caught off guard by COVID-19 should catch up now and learn from their mistakes.” — VERO



## 5BB will join hands with CANAL+

**5**BB Broadband, one of Myanmar’s leading +Broadband Internet service company, will cooperate with CANAL+, a leading company among France Pay TV services, on March 30th 2020 to provide the customers with far greater services. 5BB Broadband and CANAL+ has already prepared a 2 IN 1 service with Fiber Internet + Best Quality Movie Application like the neighboring countries.

have entertainment services will also have the benefit of not having to manage everything one by one as it is like a one-stop service. He continued that user will be able to experience the best possible quality in entertainment services and high speed internet without worries. Thus, 5BB subscribers will have access to CANAL+ entertainment services and variety of movies for free.

In celebration to the cooperation, current 5BB Broadband FTTx customers will be able to watch (11) channels via myCANAL App free of charge for one month and those who are subscribing 5BB Broadband FTTx will be able to enjoy free myCANAL packages according to their subscribed plan. As an example, subscribing to 5BB’s XXS Plus plan for three months which cost 40,000 Ks monthly will receive one-month free CANAL+ package.

CEO of CANAL+ MYANMAR FG, Mr. Erwan LUTHERNE also talked about the aim behind this cooperation as follows: “CANAL+ is very pleased to start cooperation with 5BB. CANAL+ aims to deliver CANAL+ contents to all people who are interesting to discover exiting and enjoying new contents. Therefore, by creating this partnership with 5BB, a major internet provider in the country, CANAL+ and 5BB are offering to customers a new opportunity to benefit from CANAL+ offer through myCANAL service. With this wonderful offer, 5BB is providing to all their customer a valuable solution of extending TV offer for their family”

U Myo Myint Nyunt, General Manager and spokesperson of 5BB said the aim of the cooperation is to provide customers with new offers and services thus making people lives better. As everyone around the world is encouraged to stay at home to have better control over spreading of COVID-19 virus and 5BB is going to launch a new online streaming service in cooperation with CANAL+ for the convenience of current 5BB customers and new ones. With mentioned cooperation, internet-ready homes will be able to access entertainment services and those who already

He also expressed his opinion regarding the future plans with 5BB as follows:

“CANAL+ and 5BB are both motivated to deliver the best service to their clients. Therefore, the two partners will keep going to propose always new services and always more exiting contents for all family. We have all the willingness to please the customers ... we hope that they will enjoy this new offer” — GNLM



and businesspersons who are willing to sacrifice short-term profits in order to help people in

In Thailand, Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group is donating food and face masks to hospital



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Call  
Thin Thin May,

● 09251022355

● 09974424848



## 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup to go ahead as planned

THE 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup, which was scheduled for November, will go ahead as planned, while the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) has postponed several other competitions.

The AFF Suzuki Cup is set to take place from 23 November to 31 December, according to the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF).

The format of 2020 AFF Championship will remain the same as adopted in 2018.

In the group stage of the competition proper, ten teams will be drawn in two groups of five with each team playing home-and-away matches against each other.

Vietnam is the defending champions of the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup, beating Malaysia 3-2.—Kyaw Khin



Myanmar's defender Win Moe Kyaw (L) and Malaysia's forward Norshahrul Idlan Talaha fight for the ball during the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 football match between Malaysia and Myanmar at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **PHOTO: AFP**



The Premier League could be finished behind closed doors. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Scenarios for a potential return of the Premier League

LONDON (United Kingdom)—English football's major stakeholders will meet on Friday to discuss their options to rescue a season derailed by the coronavirus outbreak.

The Premier League campaign has been postponed until at least April 30 because of the pandemic, but the chances of a return in May look bleak.

AFP Sport takes a closer look at the various scenarios that are likely to be considered in the talks over if and how to finish the season: Go behind closed doors.

One option is for clubs to

converge on a neutral location in which all remaining games are played behind closed doors, with only essential personnel and broadcasters allowed to attend.

There is believed to be growing support among clubs for this plan, with nine rounds of matches potentially in line to be staged in June and July.

Fixtures would reportedly be played in one or two locations in the Midlands and London.

That could mean players and coaches being quarantined away from their families in World Cup-style camps to avoid infec-

tion, with stadiums, hotels and training facilities undergoing a deep clean.

A radical upturn in testing for the virus in the United Kingdom over the next two months is the key to this plan for a number of reasons.

Firstly, to ease players' concerns of contracting COVID-19 while playing, but also to avoid criticism of privileged professional players being tested with mild or no symptoms if that is not available to the general public and in particular frontline workers. — AFP ■

## Ex-NBA star Young sorry for China coronavirus quarantine row

SHANGHAI (China)—Former NBA player Joe Young apologised and pledged to abide by China's strict coronavirus quarantine rules after a "misunderstanding" at the hotel in which he is isolating.

Chinese media published a series of text messages that appeared to show the 27-year-old former Indiana Pacers guard and a friend demanding they be brought food and water in the early hours of the morning, threatening to fetch it themselves.

Young, who recently returned to China to complete the suspended Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) season with Nanjing Monkey Kings, provoked a backlash on Chinese social media as fans branded him arrogant and demanded he be sent back to the US.

"We are sincerely sorry and we apologise to the staff for asking them about a delivery at late night which affected people's sleep," the American said in a video posted on China's Twitter-like Weibo.

"In the future we (will) strictly abide by the Chinese epidemic prevention regulation rules and will improve our words and our deeds," added Young in the video, which was viewed more than

900,000 times in 14 hours.

"We will not cause any trouble with the people around us and cause any misunderstandings. I love China, I love Nanjing and this is the truth."

Young is among the foreign players who have returned to China -- where the coronavirus emerged in December -- in anticipation of the CBA season restarting.

Mid-April was touted at one point but that now looks highly unlikely despite infection rates slowing markedly in the country.

It is the second time in as many weeks that the Houston-born Young has sparked anger in China, having suggested in a tweet that he did not want to return to the country. He also called that a misunderstanding.

Addressing the latest controversy, the Monkey Kings said in a statement that Young, who played for Indiana in 2015-2018, was tired after long-haul travel and was missing his young family in the US.

Separately, Young tweeted Monday that he was donating to Houston 50,000 masks and 300 body suits for hospital workers in the battle against the coronavirus. —AFP ■