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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 9 April 2020

## State Counsellor holds meeting with COVID-19 frontline warriors from Magway Region



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with healthcare workers from Magway Region working to prevent, control and treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). **PHOTO: MNA**

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who chairs the National Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, held a video conference from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw with persons concerned who were combatting COVID-19 in Magway Region yesterday.

The discussion was participated by Dr Khin Mar

Lwin from Salay station hospital in Chauk Township, Joint Secretary U Aye Ko Ko from the Shwe Parami Education Foundation and Village-tract Administrator U Tint Lwin from Aunglan Township.

The participants presented awareness programmes— especially in the villages with returnees from foreign countries, healthcare services for 91 returnees at the five community based facility quarantine

sites in the area of Salay station hospital and spraying of disinfectants.

They also discussed about donations of cash assistance and medical equipment provided by the private business firms at the Magway People's Hospital and Minbu People's Hospital for health workers.

They also talked about the return of 150 migrant

**SEE PAGE-3**

## MoHS confirms two deaths on Wednesday, no new infection of COVID-19

### Updated information about COVID-19 surveillance at 8:00 pm, 8 April 2020

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring and conducting surveillance on the COVID-19, medical tests and effective treatments, identifying closed persons with positive patients for quarantines, hospital admission if necessary, getting information about the returnees from foreign countries by contacting with local authorities and relevant departments, releasing news about the disease for the public.
2. There were 44 new persons under investigation between 6 pm on 7 April and 6 pm on 8 April.
3. Laboratory results of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on specimens from a total of 33 persons under investigation and the persons under the quarantines of hospitals on 8 April 2020 have shown negative.
4. Out of 19 positive cases, 1 is at Tiddim hospital in Chin State, 12 at Waibargi hospital, 1 at Kandawnadi hospital in Mandalay, 1 at Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital,

1 at Lashio People's Hospital, and 3 who will be transferred from Pyay Hospital to Waibargi hospital. Health conditions of 19 positive patients are stable. However, one patient (Case 17) at Pyay People's Hospital and one patient (Case 16) at Waibargi hospital died on 8 April morning. Their deaths have been publicized.

5. The 58-year-old woman (Case 7) from Switzerland who was admitted to the Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital was tested positive of COVID-19 on 27 March. Her condition become better, and found negative in the second and third laboratory tests on 4 and 7 April. She was discharged from the hospital yesterday afternoon, and will stay a designated site for the 14 day quarantine.
6. Myanmar has found a total of 22 cases of COVID-19 from 23 March to 8 April. People are advised to strictly follow the awareness of the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent transmission of disease to the family members and communities.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Directive No 1/2020

1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Tagu 1381 ME  
(8 April 2020)

Compliance with the Convention on the Prevention  
and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed on 30 December 1949 and ratified on 14 March 1956 the Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (“Genocide Convention”).
2. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar respects its obligations arising under the Genocide Convention and other sources of international law to prevent and punish the crime of genocide.
3. This Directive is addressed to all Ministries and all Regions and States Governments to ensure that its personnel, officers, staff—whether military or other security forces, or civil services—and local people, under its control or direction do not commit the acts mentioned in Articles II and III of the Genocide Convention, the text of which is set out in full in the attached Annex.
4. If anyone obtains credible information that one or more persons have violated paragraph 3 above—by commission of any of the acts mentioned there, or by attempting, aspiring to or inciting the commission of, or by being complicit in, any such acts—he or she shall inform the Office of President either through his or her superiors or directly or through other appropriate mechanisms that may be established.
5. Each Ministry and each Region and State Government shall transmit any credible information that it may receive from subordinates about possible acts referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above to the Office of the President. Each Ministry and each Region and State Government shall also provide a quarterly report on relevant developments to the Office of the President.

By order,

Khin Latt  
Permanent Secretary

**Annex**

**Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**

**Article II**

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

**Article III**

The following acts shall be punishable:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
- (d) Attempt to commit genocide;
- (e) Complicity in genocide.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Directive No 2/2020

1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Tagu 1381 ME  
(8 April 2020)

Preservation of evidence and property in areas of  
northern Rakhine State

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar established the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) on 30th July 2018 as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine. The Independent Commission was tasked to investigate the allegations of human rights violations and related issues, following the terrorist attacks by ARSA. The Commission submitted its final report to the President on 20th January 2020.
2. The Government of Myanmar has forwarded the final report of ICOE to the Commander in Chief of the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Defence Services) and to the Union Attorney General. The Union Attorney General’s Office and the Office of Judge Advocate General have announced that they are undertaking criminal investigations of incidents mentioned in the ICOE’s report.
3. The Government of Myanmar took necessary steps, on the ground as well as through the use of satellite imagery, to document and inventory the current state of the sites in question.
4. To assist and ensure that criminal investigations can be undertaken, all Ministries and the Rakhine State government, their agencies, departments, offices, and personnel are prohibited from destroying, or removing or permitting the destruction, or removal of:
  - i. any property, immovable or movable, in any area of northern Rakhine State, that may provide evidence of events referred to in the ICOE’s final report;
  - ii. anything that may provide evidence of:
    - a. killing members of a group;
    - b. causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of a group;
    - c. deliberately inflicting on a group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
    - d. imposing measures intended to prevent births within a group;
    - e. forcibly transferring children of a group to another group.
5. In paragraph 4 (ii) above, “group” means any national, ethnical, racial or religious group.
6. All ministries and Rakhine State government are further directed to preserve documents, images, videos, audios and other media related to the events that occurred in northern Rakhine State referred to in the ICOE’s final report.
7. Any person suspected of violating this directive shall be referred to the appropriate national criminal justice system for necessary action and action may also be taken against them under section 201 of the Penal Code.
8. Each ministry and Rakhine State Government shall report to the Office of the President on the measures it has taken to abide with the directive.

By Order,

Khin Latt  
Permanent Secretary

## COVID-19 positive patient’s family transferred to Waibargi Hospital in Yangon

FAMILY members of the COVID-19 positive person in Paukkaung Township have gotten medical checkups on 8 April to be transferred from Pyay Hospital to Waibargi Specialist Hospital in Yangon, said Director-General U Zaw Htay of Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor.

He said the mother (the COVID-19 patient) wished for her family to be transferred to Yangon and the State Counsellor said if the family was in good health

and travel could be warranted then they will be transported to Waibargi Hospital from a humanitarian perspective.

U Zaw Htay said the two children and niece are in good health and the ambulance with nurses and medical equipment are all ready and they are estimated to arrive in Yangon on the evening of 8 April. —Htet Hlian

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Correction

Please read “12 at Waibargi hospital,” instead of “21 at Waibargi hospital,” in the announcement “Updated information about COVID-19 surveillance at 8:00 pm, 7 April 2020” on page-4 of 8 April 2020 issue of *the Global New Light of Myanmar*. — Ed



# State Counsellor holds meeting with COVID-19 frontline warriors from Magway Region

**FROM PAGE-1**

workers from Aunglan Township and Sinpaungwe Township, who were stranded at the Chinese factories. These workers were welcomed at the Chinshwehaw border crossing station. They received medical tests and were accommodated at the facility quarantine centre in Bolukone village school.

In her discussions, the State Counsellor expressed her concerns about home quarantine as it needs to strictly follow the rules to prevent transmission of disease to other family members and communities.

The last death was due to domestic infection.

She added that rural development was fundamental to



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with frontline health workers from Magway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

national development.

The State Counsellor discussed the needs of hand speakers for COVID-19 aware-

ness campaigns and latest information, public criticism to the administrative sector, and efforts to acquire their support.

She emphasized possible challenges for those who will complete their quarantine period in the coming weeks. They

need to continue living according to healthcare guidelines, as some of them will begin to show symptoms of infection.

The State Counsellor suggested safety measures for health workers, the role of civil society organizations to serve as go-betweens the administration and common people, and the need for coordinated efforts to overcome COVID-19 crisis.

She highlighted to practice the motto 'All for One and One for All', the death of a 63-year-old patient at the North Okkalapa Hospital in Yangon, who had chronic diseases of high blood pressure and diabetes. -MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Well-wishers contribute donations to national COVID-19 committee, MoHS



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presents certificate of honour to donors. **PHOTO: MNA**

DONORS presented cash funds, medicines and pharmaceuticals to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Ministry of Health and Sports at the Public Health and Medical Services Department of Yangon Region yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe expressed his appreciations on the donations which will also be used for the upgrade of intensive care units.

The Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs Association explained the donation, and the General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation talked on allowing its facilities for quarantine sites.

Well-wishers and their contributions at the ceremony were K50 million from Yarzahtani (Joint Venture) Gems Company, K 50 million from Nan Htike Pyae Paing Gems Company, K 50 million from Ayeyadana Gems Company, K 50 million from Htun Taut Zabu Gems Company, K33.5 million from Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Association and K7 million from the Committee for Healthcare Services and Multi Development for retired teachers of B.E.H.S (6) (St. Paul alumni)—MNA(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Announcement on free motivation services for people in Community Based Facility Quarantine, other quarantine

WHEN the 14-day quarantine programme is carried out nationwide in efforts to prevent the COVID-19 disease spread, the people in the quarantine might be under stress due to the restrictions brought by the quarantine. Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is performing the motivation services, and those wishing to have consolation with the ministry may contact it with confidence. The Social Welfare Department's employees from Nay Pyi Taw Council, Union Territory, regions and states who received a special consoling training will provide the services from

9:30 am to 4:30 pm every day.

With the coordination of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the programme is sponsored by telecommunication operator: MPT, Mytel, Telenor and Ooredoo in this time of COVID-19 crisis.

Information related with those who receive consolation will be confidential, and will provide them with further assistance if necessary.

Contact numbers are as follow.

Sr	State/ Region	MPT	Mytel	Telenor	Ooredoo
1.	Kachin	09-889900011	09-661015555	09-770771000	09980000101
2.	Kayah	09-889900022	09-661025555	09-770772000	09980000102
3.	Kayin	09-889900033	09-661035555	09-770773000	09980000103
4.	Chin	09-889900044	09-661045555	09-770774000	09980000104
5.	Sagaing	09-889900055	09-661055555	09-770775000	09980000105
6.	Taninthayi	09-889900066	09-661065555	09-770776000	09980000106
7.	Bago	09-889900077	09-661075555	09-770777000	09980000107
8.	Magway	09-889900088	09-661085555	09-770778000	09980000108
9.	Mandalay	09-889900099	09-661095555	09-770779000	09980000109
10.	Mon	09-889911177	09-661105555	09-770771001	09980000117
11.	Rakhine	09-889911188	09-661115555	09-770771100	09980000118
12.	Yangon	09-889911122	09-661125555	09-770770001	09980000112
13.	Shan	09-889911133	09-661135555	09-770770010	09980000113
14.	Ayeyawady	09-889911144	09-661145555	09-770770011	09980000114
15.	Nay Pyi Taw	09-889911155	09-661155555	09-770770099	09980000115
	Head Office	09-889911166	09-661005555	09-770770100	09980000116

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement



## MoI has completed over 90 pc copies of textbooks, says Union Minister



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun hold the coordination meeting through video conferencing yesterday on the progress of textbook production for 2020-2021 academic year. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education held a coordination meeting through

video conferencing yesterday on the progress of textbook production for 2020-2021 academic year.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, in his capacity as the chairman of schoolbook

printing and distribution committee, said the MoI has completed over 90 per cent of textbook cop-

ies under the contract with the MoE.

He also put emphasis on finding solutions for the timely completion of textbook production as some private printing factories reported their difficulties amid the outbreak of COVID-19 although the majority has good timing. Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi stressed the importance of fixed schedule to hand over textbooks to teachers and students as the school opening date is set on 1 June.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun and senior officers discussed about ways to finalize the textbook productions in a timely manner.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## ASEAN health ministers hold special video conferences on COVID-19

THE Special Video Conferences of the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting and ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting on COVID-19 were convened on 7 April.

The Republic of Indonesia, in its capacity as the chair of the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting, led the Special Video Conference of the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting at 9 am, which was participated by ministers and deputy ministers for health, and officials.

At the video conference, Dr Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, delivered an opening speech, and representatives from respective countries reported on their countries' healthcare implementations.

They also discussed exchanging capacity-building train-

ings, development of human resource for health, establishment of the State of Art Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw, improving health information systems, rules and regulations for purchasing medicines, drugs administration and investments in export, import, and production of the medicine, medical equipment and cosmetics. Also present at the video conference were Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Sports Professor Dr Thet Khine Win, Director-General of the Minister's Office Dr Tha Tun Kyaw, Director General of Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management Dr Tin Tin Lay, Director-General of the Department of Medical Services Dr Thi Thi Hla, and officials. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



The Special Video Conferences of the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting and ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting on COVID-19 being held. **PHOTO: MNA**

### Newspapers to be published alternately for Myanmar New Year holidays

THE News and Periodicals Enterprise of Ministry of Information announced that daily newspapers will be published in turns during the Myanmar New Year holidays.

While the Myanmar Alinn newspapers will be published on 12, 13 and 14 April, and the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar will temporarily cease publishing operations during this period. While the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar newspapers will resume operations on 15,

16 and 17 April, the Myanmar Alinn will temporarily cease operations on those days.

Similarly, the extra pages in ethnic languages from the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will temporarily cease printing operations on 12 April, the Shwe Pyi Rakhine Ponyeik sector from Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will temporarily cease printing on 15 April, the Rakhine Shwe Myay sector from Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will temporarily cease printing on 16 April and the extra

pages in Shan ethnic language from the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi) will temporarily cease printing operations on 16 April and will resume normal production after Myanmar New Year holidays.

Advertisements will be received at the newspaper offices, which will remain open during these holidays. All newspapers will resume normal production starting 18 April. —News and Periodicals Enterprise

(Translated by TTN)

### MoE not under lock down

THE Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw is not under lock down, said Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of State Counsellor Office yesterday. The comment was referring to a rumour spreading on social media that the Ministry of Education is under lock down when a staff was found positive of COVID-19.

U Zaw Htay said a 65-year old male staff working at the ministry fell ill at his home in Zabuthiri Township at 10:05 pm on 7 April and was sent to the 1000-bed hospital in Nay Pyi Taw and receiving treatment. He said the patient had pneumonia and his swab test has been sent to

the National Health Laboratory. The NHL confirmed that the patient is negative to the COVID-19 disease.

U Zaw Htay said the Ministry of Education is currently working with the least number of staff, conducting meetings with video conferences and having staff working online. He said the ministry is endeavouring to ensure prevention and protection measures are in place. The Swab test report from the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) showed negative on the male staff's specimen. The test report was released on 8 April evening.—Htet Hlan (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



# Chinese medical team arrives in Yangon

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe welcomed 12 medical professionals from Yunnan Province, China, with Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The Union Minister first gave a welcome speech to the medical team and then took a group documentary photo with them. Next, the Union Minister inspected the medical supplies and laboratory equipment donated by China to the Ministry of Health and Sports, worth Yuan4,337,334.25. The medical team includes the head of Yunnan Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine,

a pulmonologist, communicable disease specialist, communicable disease prevention specialist, health administrator and senior nurse from the First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University, pandemic experts and laboratory professionals from Yunnan Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and traditional medicine experts from Yunnan Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The medical team will be in Yangon for 15 days to collaborate with the Ministry of Health and Sports on COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The Chinese medical team and Myanmar officials pose for a group photo at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, and Nay Pyi Taw and state/regional natural disaster management heads holding the video conference on COVID-19 prevention yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Natural disaster response plans incorporate COVID-19 precautions

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held a video conference with Nay Pyi Taw and state/regional natural disaster management heads concerning prevention of COVID-19 in disaster preparation, emergency response and rehabilitation.

In his speech, the Union Minister said COVID-19 guidelines need to be implemented in the preparations and emergency response plans for natural disasters such as fires, cyclones, hailstorms, droughts, hurricanes

and floods that are already in place. He asked attendees to discuss natural disasters in process in Nay Pyi Taw council and the states and regions.

This was followed by meeting attendees discussing processes necessary for natural disaster management, stocking up on protection equipment, and emergency response plans in place for natural disasters to which the deputy minister, directors-general and officials replied.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

### Public contributions to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) up to 4:30 pm on 8 April

Sr	Donor	Kyats (Million)
1	U Maung Kyu (OK Wheat) and Daw Than Than Htay families and employees	110
2.	U Win Myint Maung family and friend families	50
3.	U Aung Lin+ Daw San San Myint and son U Myo Thant Dr Zaya Linn's Min Htin Soya-bean sauce	20
4.	Han Sein Thant Company	15
5.	Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants	10
6.	Commerce Graduate's Association and well-wishers	10
7.	Staff members of Agricultural Department	5.4
8.	Ministry of Education	3.7
9.	Union Auditor-General Office and staff	1.9
10.	Director-General and staff of the Financial Regulatory Department	1.5
11.	1982 Batch of Geology students of the University of Yangon	1.5
12.	Mr Fahmid Bhulya (PGMF)	1
13.	Ko Tun Win Aung and Brother & Sisters from Light House	1
14.	Agriculture Graduate Students Association	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>

Further donations of cash and hospital supplies / equipment will be published.  
National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Music video for encouragement in production

'Ar Lone Atu', a music video aimed at supporting the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19, was filmed at Studio D in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The music is composed by Min Shin Tway and sung by Arti Chote, Saw Lar Htaw War and Ngwe Zin Hlaing. Acerbic Music Band and drummer Ko Vino Tun will be playing as well with recording done at May studio

in Tamwe Township, Yangon, on 4 and 5 April.

Administered by the Ministry of Information and Myanmar Music Association, the collaborators of the music video are volunteering in the production to encourage the public. The music video will soon be broadcast on MRTV and online media channels.—Ni Ni (FDC)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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

## Well-wishers donate trishaw pullers basic foodstuffs

A programme to donate basic foodstuffs for trishaw pullers was organized at the Insein Township's city development committee office yesterday.

The donation programme is aimed at giving the people with no regular income assistances during the Thingyan holidays, which is a very important period for controlling the COVID-19.

U Zaw Naing, an organizer of the donation programme, said "This is our own supporting for the basic persons. We, friends, organized the donation activity. We made donations for the trishaw pullers as it is easy to collect the population of trishaw pullers. We stated our donation programme in South Oakalapa Township on 7 April."

Yesterday's programme donated basic foodstuffs including rice, cooking oil, onion, eggs, and canned fishes, and medicines for 600 trishaw pullers in Insein Township.

Hluttaw representatives and departmental officials



The well-wishers giving a donation of foodstuffs to the trishaw pullers in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

helped the donors not to become a public gathering.

A similar event was held in North Oakalapa Township in the evening.

On 9 April, similar donation programmes will be organized in Hline, Hlinethaya, and Dala townships.

The donation programmes

in Thakayta and Thingyangyun townships will be organized.—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## MADB cuts interest rates on agro loans amid Covid-19

MYANMAR Agriculture Development Bank (MADB) has reduced its interest rates on agricultural loans, a bank announcement stated.

MADB announced the reduction of interest rates included the agricultural loans, the JICA loans and the loans provided for the agricultural sector by Myanma Economic Bank (MEB) to the local farmers so that the agricultural loans can be obtained at lower

interest rates.

The interest rate for the agricultural loans provided by MADB is reduced to 7 from 8 per cent. Similarly, the interest rate for JICA's agricultural and rural development loans are lowered to 6.5 from 8 per cent. And the project interest rate for MEB is decreased to 8 from 9 per cent.

MADB has also changed the interest rate for the saving accounts of the farmers. The

rate will be 6.5 from 8 per cent.

The changes in the interest rates for both loans and saving accounts will be effective from April 2020, the MADB's announcement stated.

Since 2017, the agricultural and rural development loans have been provided by JICA in cooperation with MADB. The government has approved that a maximum amount of K50 million was lent to each local farmer. They have already ad-

vanced over K80 billion to more than 2,000 local farmers from 155 townships as of March 2019.

The loans for the agriculture and livestock businesses provided by MEB in partnership with MADB were started in April 2018. They have already provided more than K6 billion to more than 600 businesspersons from 100 townships as of April 2019.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Masks to be produced in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha industrial zones

AN arrangement is underway to produce Covid-19 protective masks in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha industrial zones at a price affordable for all people.

The masks will be manufactured in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha with an additional aim to create job opportunities for the workers from the garment factories who lost their jobs because of the short supply of raw materials. The dual purpose of manufacturing of the masks will be made known to the public through the media.

Previously, the masks

were manufactured from the Shwepyitha industrial zone. The raw materials are now scarce because of the outbreak of Covid-19, and so, the masks and PPE suits are entering via borders at extremely high prices.

To be able to manufacture the masks domestically, the insecticide cotton rolls have to be imported. With the arrival of the cotton rolls, the masks will be produced in Myanmar with the necessary equipment and supplies ordered from China.

Yangon region chief min-

ister has already told business persons of the industrial zones to produce the masks in Shwepyitha industrial zone-1 for the public to be able to use the masks cheaper, according to the Shwepyitha industrial zone-1.

Previously, a mask cost around K150, but now the price has risen up to K1,000 per piece in the market. The price will fall if enough masks can be produced domestically.

This arrangement is intended to substitute the imported masks with the domestically produced ones at a time when

the import is unavailable.

Currently, two more people have died in Myanmar after contracting Coronavirus, bringing the number of total deaths to three, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. The country has reported that 22 cases of Coronavirus have been confirmed as of today.

There are more than 1.4 million confirmed infections worldwide and more than 82,100 deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).—Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)



# FDI exceeds \$3.36 bln as of 3 April



Thilawa Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: KYAW KYAW

MYANMAR has attracted foreign direct investment of more than US\$3.36 billion between 1 October and 3 April in the 2019-2020 financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The total figure includes investments of \$91.85 million in the Special Economic Zones, under the Special Economic Zone Law.

Myanmar has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the current fiscal, but we cannot measure the impact of Covid-19 at present, said MIC Secretary and DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

“The enterprises operating with imported raw materials could be affected to a certain

extent. Sure, enterprises with a bigger number of labour forces will have to struggle amid the Covid-19 outbreak,” he stated.

According to a press statement issued recently by the DICA, 154 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the MIC and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal and brought in the capital of over \$2.35 billion. Those enterprises will execute electricity, manufacturing, agriculture, livestock and fishery, transport and communications, real estate development, hotels and tourism, and other services businesses.

“Myanmar has been trying to attract foreign investment by providing tax relief, tax incentives, investment opportunities, and fast processing of propos-

als. However, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting only responsible businesses to the country,” he added.

“The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) has been drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and is in the process of being implemented. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to attract FDI of \$200 billion in 20 years,” said Union Minister U Thaung Tun of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

In the 2018-2019FY, FDI of \$4.5 billion has flowed into Myanmar, falling short of the \$5.8-billion target by around \$1.3 billion. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Domestic investments touch K1,211.89 bln, \$252.9 mln in 2019-2020FY H1

DOMESTIC investments by Myanmar citizens, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises, have reached K1,211.89 billion and US\$252.9 million over the half of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to a press statement issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Between 1 October and 3 April in the current fiscal, 69 local enterprises were allowed to invest in various sectors, with estimated capitals of over K946.5 billion and \$159.5 million.

Domestic investments have flowed into the real estate, manufacturing, hotels and

tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

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

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the government require the

permit from the commission. Besides, those businesses that have large capital investments exceeding \$5 million and that may have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be approved by the DICA’s proposal assessment team.

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Only 3 factories notify closure but over 120 shutters: MIC

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) has received the official notification of the closure from three factories, even though there are over 120 factories’ shutdown, DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin said on 7 April.

MIC has formed the monitoring group and the working group to address the possible economic impacts caused by Covid-19. The monitoring group is led by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). They found layoffs and temporary and permanent closure in the factories, he added.

“What an unusual case is downsizing in the factories and temporary and permanent shutdown, although only three factories have notified MIC of their closures. The remaining carried out depending on the situations of the relevant factories and industrial zones. As of 1 April, 124 factories are reported to close down the operations. Of them, 36 are permanently closed, while five carry out temporary suspension, three downsize the workers, as per the report of the Yangon Region government”, he stated.

At present, MIC is proceeding with the factories having official notification of its closures by linking with the related departments.

Additionally, a committee

to remedy the economic impacts caused by the Covid-19, led by MIC’s president, was formed with nine members on 13 March. The working committee has been taking measure to give loans and to relax the process and procedure of the respective departments.

“The DICA offices in the regions and states have been receiving loan applications by the businesses hit by Covid-19,” he noted.

“We have received 796 loan applications as of 7 April, and the entrepreneurs have sought K127 billion of loans,” he said.

Regarding the loans, the respective evaluation group and the lending group will conduct the process in line with the procedures. They are attempting to give loans as soon as possible.

The factory operators can face legal actions under the Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) if they fail to comply with notification requirements for the closure of factories. However, no one faces legal actions under the MIL so far.

Some CMP factories have shut down due to the lack of raw materials, resulting from the Covid-19 negative impacts. Some investors are fleeing. Those factories without official notification of closure will be inspected by a ground field inspection team, the DICA stated.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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# We're All In This Together

**Y**ESTERDAY'S death of a COVID-19 patient infected by a family member has rung alarm bells, warning that those who are in home quarantine have an enormous responsibility to protect their family members.

The death of the 45-year old man has brought into focus the need for all who are in home quarantine and facility quarantine to protect their loved ones, their neighbours and fellow citizens.

Or, there needs to be an understanding that a lack of discipline in following the regulations, and any citizen acting irresponsibly, can bring danger to their families and their communities.

The health authorities and volunteers must repeatedly remind those people who are quarantined and finish quarantine that they should pride themselves on their independent spirit, which comes from responsibility to themselves and their neighbours.

It will be challenging for local authorities to enforce health guidelines on those who will complete their facility quarantine next week. At the same time, next week is when those who returned from a neighbouring country will begin to show symptoms.

We should not be anxious nor fearful. Our awareness and readiness are the key in protecting us from possible infection from the COVID-19 disease.

Health authorities, administrative authorities and philanthropic organizations are to step up their coordinated efforts by communicating with each other, in an effort to prevent the global pandemic.

On the other side, local authorities are obliged to inform the public with updated information on the COVID-19 outbreak in our country, to ease the public's fear and anxiety.

Also, the time has come to increase our efforts in raising awareness about the COVID-19 disease, to ensure that local communities understand that they can protect themselves from the infection by following health guidelines and social distancing.

Staying at home when possible, practicing proper hygiene, including hand washing, and following social distancing regulations protects yourself, but also protects your loved ones, your neighbors and your fellow citizens.

"We're All In This Together" because we are all in this together and only together, since only by looking out for one another, can we come out of this COVID-19 outbreak onto the other side.

If we each take responsibility for our actions and do what is asked then, with certainty, we can all come out of this together.

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## Reform Activities of the Central Bank of Myanmar

Fourth-year performance

By Shin Minn  
Photo Kay Kay

**D**URING the 4<sup>th</sup> year period, the Central Bank of Myanmar has carried out reform activities, and that an interview was conducted on Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung for the esteemed readers.



U Kyaw Kyaw Maung

**Question: Kindly explain us over the reduced bank interest rate by the Central Bank of Myanmar.**

**Answer:** We made the announcement after the World Health Organization defined the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on 12 March 2020 to counter the negative impact and ease the state economy with the intent to help assist the economy. According to our directive, beginning 12 March 2020 the interest rate of Central Bank has been changed from (10) per cent to (9 point 5 per cent) by reducing down (0 point 5) per cent.

The minimum bank deposit rate will be lowered to (7.5) per cent from (8) per cent while the maximum lending rate will be lowered to (12 point 5) per cent for collateralized loans. It is to fix (15 point 5) per cent for non-collateralized loans. These changes are to take effect on 16 March 2020. For immediate support to stimulate the state economy, Myanmar Central Bank interest rate has been pulled down from (9 point 5) per cent to (8 point 5) per cent additional cut of (1) per cent.

With the interest rate re-



The CBM has issued the new 15cm by 7cm 1,000-kyat notes displaying the independence leader Bogyoke Aung San.

duced, the minimum bank deposit rate and the maximum lending rate would be reduced to (1) per cent compared to earlier bank rate. In other words, the minimum bank deposit rate would be (6 point 5), and that the maximum lending rate would be (11 point 5) per cent.

The maximum lending rate would not be more than (14 point 5) per cent either collateralized or non-collateralized. The changes take effect on 1 April 2020. The reduced bank interest rate is tantamount to easing "borrowing

cost" and elevates the investment by pumping goods and services in the market, resulting with strong "economic activities.

**Q: Kindly tell us about new bill of 1000-kyat note with Bogyoke Aung San portrait.**

**A:** We have planned to print new bill with Bogyoke Aung San portrait since a long time. The Central Bank of Myanmar introduced a 1,000-kyat note on 4 January 2020, the independence day of My-

ansia. The new banknotes are carried out. The main foreign exchange policy instrument of the many banks is foreign exchange auctions through which the central bank purchases or sells foreign exchange to commercial banks. The aim is to stabilize the exchange rate.

During a short term period, with intent to prevent the sharp and acute foreign exchange rate fluctuations, the deed of "Intervention Auction" is being exercised in selling as well as

Supervision and scrutiny is being systematically carried out whether on the part of the banks abide by the existing laws, rules and regulations, and directives.

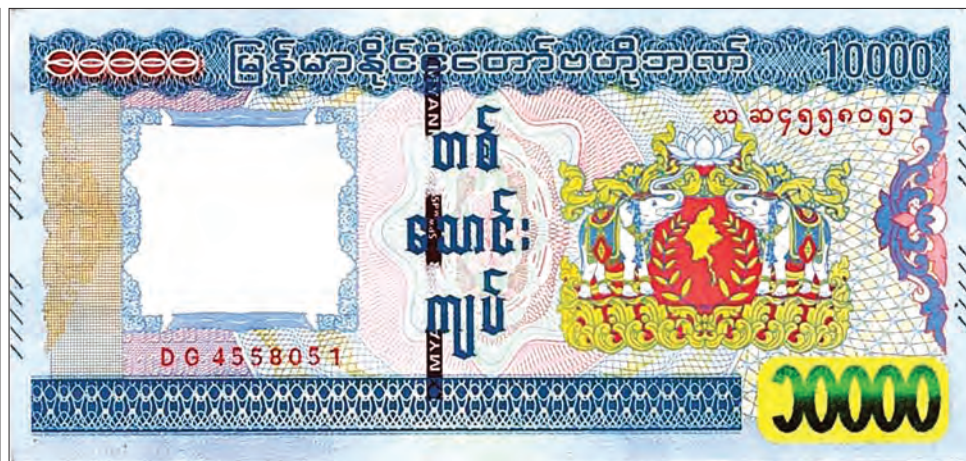
In offering better banking services to the general public, the private banks have been permitted to operate, and that (27) private banks and (2,000) branches are now functioning.

When it is not possible in establishing a bank branch or banking office, their representatives

are along with their subsidiaries. Moreover, the local banks will have the opportunity to engage in foreign banking business for "Equity Participation" for those who intend to share more than (35) per cent investment contribution. The approval would be considered case by case.

**Q: Please express on the aspect of supervision and scrutiny for the stability of financial sector.**

**A:** After giving approval to mone-



10,000-Kyat note

in buying.

In replenishing the state owned foreign reserved funds, "Accumulation Auction" such as that of single buying method is being practiced. [In plain words, an auction is usually a process of buying and selling goods or services by offering them up for bid, taking bids, and then selling the item to the highest bidder.]

The Central Bank of Myanmar is carrying out in its daily routine deeds such as that of the "Intervention Auction" and "Accumulation Auction" in accordance with the stipulated rules and regulations. The sole aim and objective of Myanmar Central Bank is to reduce the deep and rapid fluctuations of foreign exchange rate in the country, easing the cash flow in the foreign currency market. It is not with the intention to put a certain foreign exchange rate in terms of pegging or benchmark.

**Q: Please explain the development of banking sector.**

**A:** The stability of fiscal system is vital for the economic development of a nation. The Central Bank is regularly issuing rules and regulations in conjunction with the necessary directives in strengthening the banking sector, in accordance with the 2016 Financial Regulations for improving financial inclusion.

are allowed to perform banking services through Mobile Banking system. [Mobile banking refers to the use of a Smartphone or other cellular device to perform online banking tasks while away from your home computer, such as monitoring account balances, transferring funds between accounts, bill payment and locating an ATM.] So far (12) private banks have been permitted to do Mobile Banking business.

For the advantage and benefit of the people residing in remote areas, where regular banking service is not accessible, permission has been given to (4) Mobile Network Operators and (1) Non-Bank Financial Institution - NBFIs.

In facilitating the business people who need to get loans, the Central Bank has allowed the operation of Non-Bank Financial Institutions that caters "Financial Inclusion". So far (29) NBFIs have been established.

As the import and export is surging in the country being undertaken by Myanmar citizens, the situation calls to ease foreign banking process. Therefore, (13) foreign banks and its branches are now functioning.

On the third opportune time, the selection of foreign banks is in process. It has been considering in providing permission to foreign banks and their branch-

ary organizations to do banking business in the country, the necessary inspection and scrutiny are being carried out, whether they complied the rules and regulations or otherwise. Under the watchful eyes, the task is done through "Risk-Based Supervision". [Risk-Based Supervision (RBS) is gradually becoming the dominant approach to regulatory supervision of financial institutions around the world. It is a comprehensive, formally structured system that assesses risks within the financial system, giving priority to the resolution of those risks.]

Keeping the banks to be financially strong, the Central Bank closely watched whether the prescribed ratios are actually maintained or not.

With a view to prevent the bank from collapsing, the likelihood of risk is being classified with the status of high, medium and low. Step by step scrutiny has been carried out and necessary inspection tasks have been assigned over the management. Timeline has been dotted to remedy and to fix the drawbacks and faults.

The Banks, the financial companies, and the Mobile Bankings are being hooked up with the external auditing teams to upkeep the necessary data.

SEE PAGE-10



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Naypyitaw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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# Reform Activities of the Central Bank of Myanmar

**FROM PAGE-9**

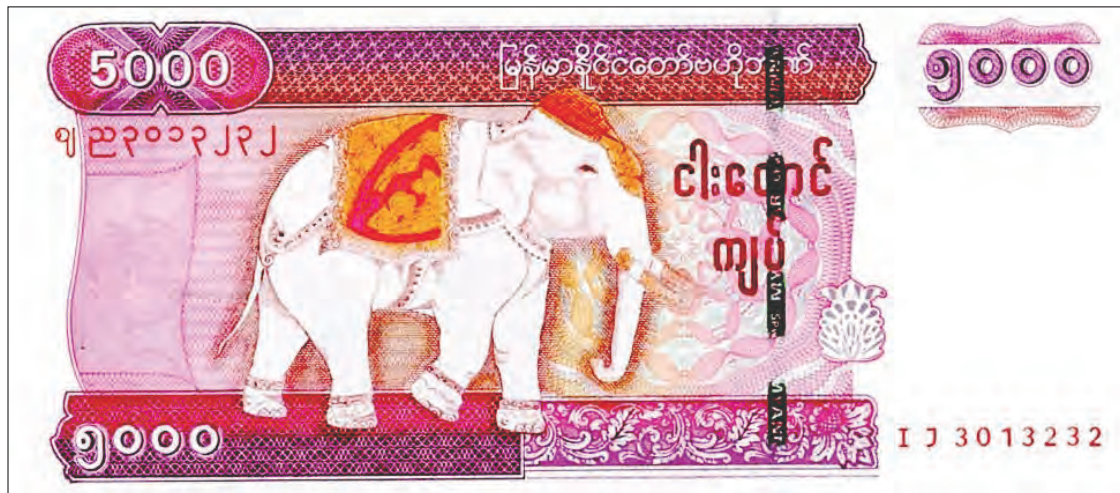
**Q: Tell us about anti-money laundering.**

**A:** Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism is termed as (AML/CFT). Money laundering and the financing of terrorism are financial crimes with economic effects. Whether the banks follow the rules and regulation have been checked in accordance with the international standards and norms. AML/CFT controls, when effectively implemented, mitigate the adverse effects of criminal economic activity and promote integrity and stability in financial markets. The main checklist to apply has (12) basic criteria as follows.

(1) Governance; (2) Customer Due Diligence; (3) Transactions and Account Monitoring; (4) Risk Assessment System and Procedures for Customers and Products/Services; (5) STR Reporting; (6) Threshold Transaction Reporting; (7) Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs); (8) Correspondent Banking; (9) Wire Transfers; (10) Record Keeping; (11) Internal Controls; and (12) Staff Training

The banks are being categorized into the large; the medium; and the small for inspection purpose. A total of five large banks have been inspected. A total of six medium banks have been verified in February 2020. The small banks would be inspected soon.

In making the banks strong and credible, they must be in conformity with the international norm and system. In preventing the illegal money from entering the fiscal main



5,000-kyat banknote with a new design aimed at increasing its security and prevention of forgery.

stream and system, the “source of funds” is to be mainly scrutinized.

With regards to the AML / CFT matters, Myanmar has already undergone the scrutiny through the “Mutual Evaluation” pattern among the nations in 2007 – 2008 financial year; and again in 2017 – 2018 financial year. Myanmar received (40) suggestions and recommendations which have been taken action and responded through “Mutual Evaluation”. In August 2019, the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering - - APG has issued (99) points suggestions and work programme that Myanmar needed to follow and comply.

At the APG meeting held in Beijing of PRC in January 2020, Myanmar responded with the progress report with regards to (99) points, thereby, only (14) points remain to be cleared by Myanmar. Again in February 2020, Myanmar explained the progress report at Paris Meeting in France, and only (8) points remained to be cleared.

Among the (8) points to be

taken up, the Central Bank of Myanmar has to shoulder (2) topics. The first priority of the Central Bank is to carry out such as that in scrutinizing more seriously over the current contact person; such as that of paying more attention over the most influential figures; such as that of high risk prone areas; such as that of suspected transfer along with the tip-off; such as that of high risk loss at some areas. The matters are to be taken up with “on-site examination” being evaluated in 2019 December for AML / CFT risk assessment. The medium size banks are to be evaluated for the final round during September 2020.

The second topic is that the official issuances of work licence for actual demonstration with regards to the implementation over the rules that was permitted to do business in foreign cash transfer performances. Moreover, these rules and regulations are to be spread out and also to supervise the processes. The tasks are to be completed in January 2021.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental policymaking body whose purpose is to establish international standards, and to develop and promote policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The FATF is monitoring the work carried out by Myanmar, and reported the progress to the Asia Pacific Joint Group - - APJG, once every four months.

**Q: Kindly explain the development plans being carried out for the accounts clearances system with regard to cash settlements.**

**A:** Draft bill in legal aspect with regard to payment and settlement systems is in the process with the assistance of the experts from the World Bank. The Central Bank Network System (CBM - - Net System) gradually upgrading for wider use. QR code payment is a contactless payment method where payment is performed by scanning a QR code from a mobile app. This is an alternative to doing electronic funds transfer at point of sale using a payment terminal. Work is underway to implement National Standard for QR Code - - MMQR in Myanmar.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) issued a directive on merchant acquiring services (notification 7/2020) on 13 March 2020. Merchant acquiring is an integral part of card payment transactions processing. International Cards such as the Master Card; the VISA Card; the JCB; and the UPI are already in the market. The Alipay and the WeChat Pay being introduced by e-wallet provider are also functioning. With regards to their Merchant Acquiring Services, it is to be regulated for smoother

functioning.

In connection with the Automatic Teller Machine - - ATM; it is vital and necessary to seek prior official approval from the Central Bank before installing Cash Recycling ATM/ Cash Recycler Machine - CRM. Necessary directive has been issued to the relevant banks on 24 March 2020.

For the ease and comfort of the bank clients, they are suggested to obtain the facilities such as that of mobile banking services; such as that of ATM; such as that of Cash Recycling ATM/Cash Recycler Machine - CRM; instead of taking the burden by appearing in person at the bank counters. All the banks have been advised and directed to upkeep the ATM with adequate supply of cash for the customers and clients, and maintain the ATM in proper functioning order.

**Q: Please add message from the Central Bank to the people.**

**A:** I would like to share some information with all seriousness to the people. Nowadays, the cybercrime is on the rise such as that of using the Telecommunication Network for misuse and embezzlement; that of financial misappropriation; that of accepting cash deposits and savings without authorization.

For example, some people started to contact innocent people through the online communication, and then varieties of ways are employed to deceive and exhort money from the victims; some cybercrime includes by offering enormous amount of interest rate, and asked the victim to deposit cash online; some wrong doers use Facebook Account in soliciting communal fund as main host with the fake promise to make income generation, eventually, absconding with the accumulated communal funds.

I would like to conclude that with the backdrops of cheating, deception and fraudulent, the people are advised and urged to study the information and communications technology, and to apply for beneficial results. On the other hand, the responsible persons in this domain must effectively contain, control and restrain the Cybercrime in the financial realm.

*Translated by UMT (Ahlon)*



Sophisticated money counting machines at the Central Bank of Myanmar.



# Medical, evacuation flights exempted from temporary flight bans

THE Department of Civil Aviation is coordinating for embassy personnel and expatriates in Myanmar to depart by flight and for international cargo flights of rescue and medical supplies to land in Myanmar.

Commercial flights have been suspended from 31 March to 13 April while emergency and medical cargo

flights have been permitted to enter and leave Myanmar. The Ministry of Health and Sports has notified all international airlines. The Department of Civil Aviation is managing all cargo relief flights, medical flights, evacuation flights and special flights.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo is working with the Civil

Aviation Department to send expatriates in Myanmar back to their country of origin through coordination with relevant embassy and airlines.

The Ministry of Health and Sports announced temporary measures to prevent importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through air travel on 29-3-2020, which suspends inter-

national commercial flights from 31-3-2020 to 13-4-2020.

All cargo flights, relief flights, medical evacuation flights and special flights are exempted, and 3,355 people and 194 tons of cargo on these types of flights have been transported between 31-3-2020 to 8-4-2020. —GNLM

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Department of Civil Aviation is coordinating for embassy personnel and expatriates in Myanmar to depart by flight. PHOTO: MNA

# Coronavirus PCR detection kits, viral transport medium kits donated to NHL

THE Good Neighbors and ACCESS TO HEALTH FUND handed 53 PCR detection kits for 5,088 reactions and 10,000 viral transport medium kits to National Health Labora-

tory (NHL) on 3 April in Yangon.

They are in the process of purchasing 153 PCR detection kits for 14,688 reactions and 10,000 viral transport

medium kits for National Health Laboratory (NHL), according to the Good Neighbors.

Myanmar has confirmed 22 cases on 8th April. —GNLM



Good Neighbors and Access to Health Fund donate 53 PCR detection kits to National Health Laboratory. PHOTO: MNA

# Japan's core private-sector machinery orders rise in February

TOKYO — Japan's core private-sector machinery orders rose in February from a month earlier, the government said in a report on Wednesday.

According to the Cabinet Office, the orders, excluding those for ships and utilities because of their volatility, increased 2.3 per cent in February from the previous month, marking the second successive month of increase.

The orders totaled 858.48 billion yen (7.88 billion US dollars), in the

reporting period, the Cabinet Office said, with weak orders in the iron and steel sectors propped up by demand for construction machinery and computers.

The Cabinet Office maintained its assessment of the orders that they were "stalling."

The current core orders in February came on the heels of a 2.9 per cent increase in January, but the increases were not enough to shift the government's view on machinery orders. "The second straight

monthly rise, averaging around 2 percent, is not enough for the government to lift its view from stalling," a Cabinet Office official was quoted as saying.

"We don't see any particular effect of the new coronavirus in the February results," the official added.

When the effects of the coronavirus pandemic are factored into the data series next month, Cabinet Office Officials warned of an almost certain contraction. — Xinhua

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# GAME OF THRONES

Reg. No. 4/1369/2020 (3-2-2020)

In respect of "Pre-recorded DVD's featuring a television series; downloadable screensaver software for use on personal computers; pre-recorded audio clips, video clips and promotional spots on CDs, video tapes and DVDS; prerecorded video shorts and promotional spots on CDs, video tapes and DVDS; digital materials, namely, downloadable pre-recorded audio files, video files and graphics files for use in handheld wireless devices; games; headphones, earphones, ear buds; mouse pads; sunglasses; all the aforementioned goods featuring content from or related to a television series; Scientific, nautical, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, checking (supervision), life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling electricity; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carries, recording discs; automatic vending machines and mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating machines, data processing equipment and computers; fire-extinguishing apparatus" in **International Class 9**; "Printed matter and paper goods; pens, pencils; all the aforementioned goods featuring content from or related to a television series; Paper, cardboard and goods made from these materials, not included in other classes; printed matter; book binding material; photographs; stationery; adhesives for stationery or household purposes; artists' materials; paint brushes; typewriters and office requisites (except furniture); instructional and teaching material (except apparatus); plastic materials for packaging (not included in other classes); printers' type; printing blocks; lottery tickets" in **International Class 16**; "Bags, travel bags and cases, toe bags, carrying bags, shoulder bags, backpacks; umbrellas; travel gear; pet products and accessories; all the aforementioned goods featuring content from or related to a television series; Leather and imitations of leather, and goods of these materials and not included in other classes; animal skins, hides; trunks and travelling bags; umbrellas, parasols and walking sticks; whips, harness and saddlery" in **International Class 18**; "Beverageware; barware; dishware; serveware; mugs; household goods made of glassware, porcelain, ceramic or earthenware; figurines; cosmetic brushes; cosmetic accessories; household utensils; kitchen utensils; Household or kitchen utensils and containers; combs and sponges; brushes (except paint brushes); brush-making materials; articles for cleaning purposes; steelwool; unworked or semi-worked glass (except glass used in building); glassware, porcelain and earthenware not included in other classes" in **International Class 21**; "Clothing, namely, casual wear, outerwear, sleepwear, undergarments, hosiery, robes, t-shirts, sportswear, sweat shirts, sweat pants, shirts, swimwear, bathrobes; headgear; footwear; costumes" in **International Class 25**; "Toys, figurines, games, sporting equipment, costume masks; all the aforementioned goods featuring content from or relating to a television series; Games and playthings; gymnastic and sporting articles not included in other classes; decorations for Christmas trees; gaming devices, namely gaming machines, slot machines, bingo machines with and without video output, machines for playing games of chance" in **International Class 28** and "Entertainment services in the nature of an ongoing television series; interactive online entertainment in the nature of photographic, video and prose presentations, video clips, interactive games and other multimedia materials accessible on the internet featuring content from or related to a television series; Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities" in **International Class 41**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P  
For Home Box Office, Inc.,  
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,  
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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,  
Botataung Township, Yangon,  
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Dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020



# Virus-hit Iran urges IMF to approve its loan request

TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani urged the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday to give the sanctions-hit country a \$5 billion emergency loan to combat its novel coronavirus outbreak.

The Islamic republic is battling one of the world's deadliest coronavirus outbreaks which it says has killed more than 3,800 people and infected more than 62,500.

There has been speculation abroad that the real number of deaths and infections could be higher.

Iran has said it needs the funds to continue fighting the virus.

But its arch enemy the United States, which effectively holds a veto at the IMF, is reportedly set to block the loan, arguing Iran will use the funds for military purposes.

"I urge all international organisations to fulfil their duties," Rouhani said during a cabinet meeting.

"We are a member of the IMF... if there's going to be any discrimination between Iran and others in giving loans, neither we nor world opinion will tolerate it."

Iran announced on 12 March that it had requested the loan.

The country has not received assistance from



A Tehran municipality worker cleans a bus to avoid the spread of COVID-19. PHOTO: AFP

the IMF since a "standby credit" issued between 1960 and 1962, according to IMF figures.

According to the IMF's website, a Rapid Financial Instrument "is available to all member countries fac-

ing an urgent balance of payments need".

"If they do not act on their duties in this difficult

situation, the world will judge them in a different way," Rouhani said.

## 'Maximum pressure'

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a recent interview that Iran would use any economic relief to pursue nuclear weapons and back Shiite militias in Iraq that the administration blames for a wave of attacks on bases used by US troops.

"You see the way... the regime is treating their people in this time of enormous crisis. You see the way that they continue to spend money," Pompeo told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt.— AFP ■

## New car sales of Japan major automakers bottom out in China in March

BEIJING — New car sales of Japan's major automakers in China plunged in March, industry data showed Wednesday, but the pace of decrease slowed compared to February with fears about the new coronavirus somewhat receding in the country.

Sales for Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automaker, fell 15.9 per cent from a year earlier to 101,800 units last month, after plummeting 70.2 per cent in February, when the spread of the pneumonia-causing virus stifled economic activities in China.

Nissan Motor Co. saw a drop of 44.9 per cent in new car sales to 73,297 units in China in March, while Honda Motor Co. recorded a fall of 50.8 per cent to 60,441 units.

Sales for Nissan and Honda posted the biggest decline of 80.3 per cent and 85.1 per cent in February, respectively. — Kyodo News ■

### TRADEMARK CAUTION

Home Box Office, Inc., a company incorporated under the law of Delaware and having its registered office at 30 Hudson Yards, New York, New York 10001, USA is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:



Reg No.4/1884/2006  
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Reg No. 4/1886/2006  
(20-3-2006)



Reg No. 4/979/2014  
(31-1-2014)

All in respect of "education and entertainment services, namely, cable television programming services, premium or pay television programming services and television programming services; inter-active online services, namely, providing information and graphic images via a global computer network" in **International Class 41**.

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Reg No. 4/2151/1993 & 4/2152/1993



Reg No. 4/2153/1993 & 4/2154/1993



Reg No. 4/2743/1996

All in respect of "Motion pictures, films and video-cassettes" in **International Class 9** and "Entertainment services, namely, cable television programming services, premium or pay television programming services, and television programming distribution services" in **International Class 41**.



Reg. No. 4/13077/2016 (11-10-2016)

In respect of "Computer software; computer software for use in processing, transmitting, receiving, organizing, manipulating, playing, reviewing, reproduction and streaming audio, video and multimedia content music, images, video and films and downloadable from the Internet; electronic publications" in **International Class 9**; "telecommunications; networks transmission of audio, video and multimedia entertainment content including text, data, images, audio, video and audiovisual files by means of the internet, wireless communication, electronic communications networks and computer networks" in **International Class 38** and "entertainment services; networks providing programs and entertainment information in the fields of comedy, drama, action, variety, adventure, sports, musicals, current events and entertainment news, documentary and animation, via the Internet, electronic communications networks, computer networks and wireless communications networks for online enjoyment" in **International Class 41**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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## Monkeys, elephants and dogs reclaim India's streets in virus lockdown

NEW DELHI — Hundreds of monkeys have taken over the streets around India's presidential palace, leading an animal offensive taking advantage of deserted streets as the country remains under a coronavirus lockdown.

With India's 1.3 billion population and tens of millions of cars conspicuous by their absence, stray domestic animals and wildlife has moved to fill the void, while also suffering from the pandemic fallout.

In the financial capital Mumbai, peacocks have been seen perched on top of parked cars, displaying their spectacular trains.

In Delhi, troops of monkeys now scamper over the walls of the Rashtrapati Bhawan presidential compound, past military guards and into the grounds of ministries and other official buildings.



Monkeys scramble for food from a lone motorist in Ahmedabad, India. **PHOTO: AFP**

"They are stealing a lot more, but not yet threatening humans," said one officer on duty at the palace entrance.

The Rhesus macaque monkeys — who often snatch food from shoppers' bags — have long been a problem in the capital,

but there have been reports of some getting into office buildings during the lockdown.

Other animals have also been emboldened by the coronavirus restrictions on humans, who are only allowed out for food and essential items.—AFP ■

## Monster Pacific cyclone Harold batters Fiji

SUVA — A deadly Pacific storm slammed into Fiji on Wednesday, tearing off roofs and flooding towns, after leaving a trail of destruction in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Tropical Cyclone Harold weakened slightly overnight from a scale-topping Category Five to a Four, but was still lashing Fiji with winds of up to 240 kilometres per hour (150 miles per hour), forecasters said.

The official NaDraki weather service said the cyclone was offshore south of Fiji's main island Viti Levu, but passing closer to land than initially expected.

Despite the downgrade, it said Harold remained "extremely dangerous" and advised residents in the island's south to shelter in churches, schools or other substantial buildings.

Images on social media showed extensive damage at

Nausori, just outside Suva, with corrugated iron roofs peeled back by the ferocious winds.

The main street of Ba, in the island's north, was submerged after the local river burst its banks.

The National Disaster Management Office said residents along much of the south coast, home to many of the country's major tourist resorts, should evacuate. "We are expecting a significant storm surge to be very dangerous for those living in coastal areas, we urge you to move to higher ground," it said.

NDMO director Vasiti Soko said evacuation centres had been set up and officials were attempting to maintain social distancing to ensure COVID-19 did not spread among those fleeing the cyclone. Fiji has 15 cases of the coronavirus, with all known sufferers in quarantine before the cyclone hit.—AFP ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DMC JUPITER V.2004

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DMC JUPITER VOY. NO. (2004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-1 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 INFINITTE PROSPERITY  
SHIPPING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V LAGRANGE V.2003C

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LAGRANGE VOY. NO. (2003C) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT  
SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

### Invitation for Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible firm to submit the proposal for "Spectrum Analyzer" as part of the Telecom Sector Reform Project supported by the World Bank's Loan. The deadline for submission of RFQ is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by 13:30 PM (Myanmar Standard Time).

Attention:

Director General  
Posts and Telecommunications Department,  
Ministry of Transport and Communications  
Office Building Number (2),  
Nay Pyi Taw,  
Myanmar.  
Telephone: +95 67 3407225  
Facsimile number: +95 67 3407216  
Electronic mail address: dg.ptd@mptmail.net.mm

The detailed information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) and it can be downloaded at PTD Website: <https://www.ptd.gov.mm>.

Tender Committee

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

09251022355, 09974424848

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (014N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (014N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-4-2020 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 SEA LAND MAERSK ASIA  
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (063N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (063N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-4-2020 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 INTER ASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (038N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (038N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT/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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING  
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185



## Major cities in Japan appear quiet on 1<sup>st</sup> day in state of emergency

TOKYO — Major Japanese cities including the capital of Tokyo became unusually quiet on Wednesday, with many shops closed and fewer people on streets on the first day after a state of emergency was declared to contain the fast spread of COVID-19 infections across the country.

The state of emergency will be in place until 6 May and covers Tokyo and other major prefectures including Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka. Aside from supermarkets, drugstores and others which provide essential services, many businesses in those areas were closed following the government's request for people to stay at home and limit social contact.

Isetan Mitsukoshi Holdings Ltd. closed all of its six Mitsukoshi and Isetan department stores in the metropolitan area, while Matsuya Co.'s store in Tokyo's Ginza shopping area was also closed. However, sections selling food continued to open at some other department stores.

Meanwhile, movie theaters, bowling alleys and shops inside station buildings were also among closed businesses.

Train and bus companies in the Tokyo area said they are operating as usual on Wednesday, adding that they may reduce or suspend services if the government makes a request or if they face a significant decline in users.

Airlines in Japan have already reduced their flights drastically before the state of emergency was declared, but they may further slash flights if the number of travelers continues

to drop.

In some stations in central Tokyo, the number of people was apparently less than usual.

A 59-year-old company executive told local media in front of a station, "On a usual morning, traffic is very busy here, but I feel there are significantly fewer commuters (today)."

"We have employees working from home, but there are tasks that force me to come to the office, such as dealing with documents that need to be signed with a seal," he added.

Some restaurant chains are staying open, but with shorter service hours. McDonald's Co. has continued to operate most of its outlets except those inside closed commercial facilities, while some locations stopped providing around-the-clock service. Starbucks Coffee Japan, Ltd. will close some 850 shops



The state of emergency will be in place until 6 May and covers Tokyo and other major prefectures including Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

located in the seven prefectures targeted by the declaration from Thursday, while shops in other areas will close earlier than usual at 7 pm. The Japan Sport Council said on Wednesday that it will

close two major Olympic training facilities until 6 May. During the period, athletes will be unable to use the National Training Center and Japan Institute of Sports Sciences, both in Tokyo. —Xinhua ■



The separation by sex for shopping was decided to protect public health, said Canonica d'Adda mayor Gianmaria Ceria. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Italy commune bans mixed-sex shopping to stem virus

CANONICA D'ADDA — Men and women have the same rights in the small municipality of Canonica d'Adda in Italy's north - except when it comes to shopping for food.

To lower the number of people in supermarkets and reduce the risk of coronavirus contagion, the mayor has decreed that men and women will not shop together.

"Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays you can go to the bread store," a policewoman told a woman waiting in line outside a big supermarket on Tuesday.

"Your husband can go on the other days, however."

Those breaking the rule face a fine of up to 400 euros (\$435).

Canonica d'Adda is not far from Bergamo, considered the

most affected area in the region of Lombardy, where more than 9,000 people have died of coronavirus — more than half of the total deaths in the country.

Canonica d'Adda's mayor, Gianmaria Ceria, said coronavirus had killed about 20 people in the commune of about 4,400 inhabitants. The separation by sex for shopping was decided "to protect public health", he said.

"I have to guarantee public safety even if that may bring criticism." Some 60 million Italians have been under quarantine for over a month — in Lombardy, people have been under restrictions for even longer, with some areas considered "red zones" where movements were restricted.—AFP ■

## Spaniards able to recover normal lives after April 26: minister

MADRID — Spanish people "will be able to get back to their normal lives" after April 26, Minister of Finance Maria Jesus Montero said Wednesday.

Speaking in an interview on Spanish TV network Antena 3, Montero, who also serves as the spokesperson for Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government, said she hoped 26 April would mark a turning point.

"From 26 April, citizens will be able to get back to their normal lives," said Montero, although she added that it would be a gradual return to normality.

"The occupation of plazas

and streets will be controlled and will depend on the directions of the government," she commented. "We will gradually get back to normality."

The minister also explained that the government has still not decided what measures would be imposed from 26 April.

"We are working with different possibilities for the restrictions," she said.

Montero's words echoed those of Sanchez on Saturday when he confirmed he was looking to extend the State of Alarm, which was imposed on March 14 to curb the spread of COVID-19

until midnight on 25 April.

The extension is expected to be approved by the Congress of Deputies, the lower house of the Spanish parliament, on Thursday.

The total number of COVID-19 cases in Spain rose by 6,180 to 146,690 on Wednesday, according to the daily data published by the Ministry for Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Services. Health Minister Salvador Illa, on the same day, said Spain has "reached the peak of contagion," although the country recorded a rise of new cases and deaths for a second day after four straight days of decline. — Xinhua



Picture taken at the border post of Dancharia near Ainhoa, southwestern France, shows a Spanish police cordon preventing the access to Spanish territory to the vehicles in the context of measures taken by the Spanish state against the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). **PHOTO: AFP**



## Latest updates on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Fresh doubts were hanging over the coronavirus-hit Cannes film festival Wednesday after its director said holding it online would go against its "soul".

### Man jailed for stealing hospital face masks

A man who stole three face masks from a London hospital during the coronavirus crisis has been jailed for three months.

Lerun Hussain, 34, pleaded guilty to the theft at a London magistrates' court on Tuesday after the theft from King's College Hospital late on Sunday.

Hussain, from south London, was arrested on suspicion of theft and also detained for being in breach of a court order.

Meanwhile, a doctors' surgery in Kidderminster, in the English midlands, has urged thieves to return its only box of face masks after it was stolen.

Police said they were aware of a reported theft and would be visiting the surgery on Wednesday.

There have been several coronavirus-related arrests in Britain during the pandemic, including a man held in north London for threatening to give police officers the virus by spitting on them.

### Spain daily virus deaths 757

Spain recorded Wednesday a second successive daily rise in coronavirus-related deaths with 757 fatalities, lifting the total toll in Europe's second-hardest-hit country after Italy by 5.5 per cent to 14,555.

The number of new infections rose by 4.4 per cent to 146,690, the health ministry said, as Spain has ramped up its testing for the disease.

The number of daily deaths, which peaked on Thursday at 950,

rose for the first time on Tuesday after falling for four straight days.

But the rate of increase in both deaths and new infections on Wednesday was largely in line with that recorded the previous day, and half of what was recorded just a week ago.

### German economy to shrink

The German economy, Europe's biggest, is expected to shrink by nearly 10 per cent in the second quarter as the coronavirus paralyses the country, leading research institutes warned Wednesday.

"The corona pandemic will trigger a serious recession in Germany," the six think tanks including Ifo, DIW and RWI said in their annual spring report.

Gross domestic product likely contracted by 1.9 per cent in the first three months of 2020, and is set to shrink by a whopping 9.8 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter as companies feel the pain from widespread shutdowns.

The second-quarter plunge is twice as big as seen during the 2008-2009 financial crisis and marks the steepest fall since the institutes' records began in 1970, the report noted.

### Cannes and Venice film festivals rule out going virtual

Fresh doubts were hanging over the coronavirus-hit Cannes film festival Wednesday after its director said holding it online would go against its "soul".

The world's biggest film festival has already been postponed until the end of June because of the virus.

Thierry Fremaux said it would tear the heart out of the festival to go virtual, after the world's biggest animation festival at Annecy, also in France, said on Tuesday that it was looking at going online on 15 June.

Cannes main rival, the Venice film festival, which happens in September, also said it was strongly against such a move to get around restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

"Films by Wes Anderson or Paul Verhoeven on a computer?" Fremaux said, hinting that the festival was to premiere Anderson's starry comedy "French Dispatch" as well as Verhoeven's "Benedetta", about the erotic visions of a 17th-century nun.

### Moscow doctors are video-calling

A grey-haired Muscovite speaks via video link from his flat. Diagnosed with the coronavirus late last month, he tells a doctor he doesn't feel too bad but is still wheezing.

This is a consultation via Moscow's new telemedicine centre, where doctors treat those who have tested positive but are well enough to stay at home.

They are monitored remotely by medical workers looking out for any signs of their condition deteriorating — the doctors call the patients regularly and the patients call in when they feel the need.

### Netherlands blocks virus compromise

EU finance ministers failed on Wednesday to agree on a res-



Travellers, who would like to enter French territory, will now need a certificate allowing them to do so. This new measure has been adopted as a result of the growing corona crisis. PHOTO: AFP

cue plan to help hard hit member states face the coronavirus outbreak, after the Netherlands blocked the deal over bailout conditions.

"After 16 hours of discussions, we came close to a deal but we are not there yet. I suspended the Eurogroup and (we will) continue tomorrow Thursday," said Eurogroup chief Mario Centeno.

Bickering EU finance ministers were unable to bridge differences on how to rebuild their economies after coronavirus, with a North versus South split that recalled the worst days of the eurozone debt crisis.

### Mayor of London warns on infections peak

Sadiq Khan says "we're nowhere near lifting lockdown" and that the peak of infections is still "a week-and-a-half away".

London is a coronavirus hotspot with a further 224 people dying with the virus on Tuesday. Eight bus workers have died in the capital after contracting coronavirus since the outbreak began.

Speaking on BBC Breakfast, Khan said: "I speak to experts regularly. After this interview I will have another call with Public Health England and National Health Service London. We think the peak, which is the worst part of the virus, is still probably a week-and-a-half away.

### Certification will be needed to enter France

The ministry of internal affairs announced that travellers, who would like to enter French territory, will now need a certificate allowing them to do so. This new measure has been adopted as a result of the growing corona crisis.

Three different kinds of attestations have been put online by the government: one for travels

from abroad towards the mainland, one for travels from abroad towards Overseas France, and one for travels from the mainland regions to the ones overseas.

People circulating between the French territories will be submitted to sanitary controls and put under quarantine if necessary.

The permits by the authorities are divided further into national citizens, members of the European Union, and foreigners.

Those in possession of a French passport will not need explain their reason for travelling to their home country. For all others, only a selection of justifications, as for instance the fight against COVID-19, can be enlisted to receive a travel certification.

### Hong Kong rolls out 17-billion USD package

China's Hong Kong announced Wednesday a basket of relief measures worth 137.5 billion Hong Kong dollars in total (17.74 billion US dollars) to prop up businesses and residents struggling amid the COVID-19 epidemic.

As a key part of the package, the government will allocate 80 billion Hong Kong dollars pay up to half of the wages of workers from coronavirus-hit sectors for six months, capped at 9,000 Hong Kong dollars for every beneficiary each month, Carrie Lam, chief executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said at a press conference.

The programme will benefit about 1.5 million workers across Hong Kong, with the first batch to be distributed as early as in June in a two-phase arrangement. Besides, 215,000 self-employed people will be granted one-off subsidies.

SOURCE: AFP; Xinhua News Updates



The world's biggest film festival has already been postponed until the end of June because of the virus. PHOTO: AFP PHOTO



## Ayeyarwady United donate medical supplies for Ayeyarwady Region

AYEYARWADY UNITED, one of the most successful teams of the Myanmar National League has donated essential medical products for the Ayeyarwady Region via the regional government on Tuesday to collaborate to combat the world-threatening Coronavirus COVID-19 disease in the region.

Team officials and players from the football club were present at the donation ceremony and they donated one ventilator, ten non-contact IR laser infrared digital

thermometers, 100 personal protective equipment (PPE) suits, 130 pieces of N-95 mask, 480 surgical masks, five boxes of 20-litre hand sanitizer in the total amount worth K4,738,000 according to the statement with the football club.

The donations were accepted by the governmental officials from the Ayeyarwady Region government office and certificate of honour was given by the officials.

Also, fans club of the Ayeyarwady United donat-

ed K50000 for 10 pairs of surgical gowns to use in the facility quarantine centre in the compound of the Patheingyi University in Patheingyi on Monday.

Currently Myanmar Football Federation, Myanmar National League and its clubs are striving to combat the world-threatening disease by assisting funds and medical supplies for the quarantined persons to point out football is not only for the sport but for the community.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Paraguay court releases Ronaldinho into house arrest in Asuncion hotel

ASUNCION — A Paraguayan judge on Tuesday ordered the release of Brazilian football great Ronaldinho and his brother into house arrest while they await trial on charges of using false passports to enter the country.

Judge Gustavo Amarilla told reporters that he had ordered the “continuation of house arrest in a hotel for Ronaldinho and his brother.”

The pair were jailed one month ago to await trial, but their lawyers have posted bail of \$1.6 million.

Ronaldinho, considered one of the greatest footballers of all time, was a star of Brazil’s 2002

World Cup win and played for European giants Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan, among others.

The ruling means the brothers can swap their grim police cell block — which has also housed Paraguay’s former soccer federation chief and the ex-speaker of the lower house of parliament — for a plush colonial-style hotel in downtown Asuncion.

The brochure of the refurbished 107-room Palmaroga Hotel, located in the capital’s historic center, describes it as offering “a seamless blend of early 1900s Renaissance grace and modern comfort as well as luxury.”—AFP

## Tottenham issue warning after Mourinho and players seen training



Social distancing row: Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur have reminded players of their responsibilities during Britain’s coronavirus lockdown after pictures and video on social media emerged of manager Jose Mourinho and several members of his squad that appeared to show them flouting social-distancing rules.

Portuguese boss Mourinho was pictured training with Tanguy Ndombele on Hadley Common, while Davinson Sanchez and Ryan Sessegnon were seen running side by side in the same public park in north London.

Spurs full-back Serge Aurier also posted a video of himself jogging alongside another person on Instagram.

The Premier League has been suspended since mid-March due to the spread of COVID-19.

The outbreak has seen the British government introduce a strict series of measures which, while they allow individuals to go out for a walk or exercise once a day, state they must remain at least two metres apart unless they are with a member of the same household.

“All of our players have been reminded to respect social distancing when exercising outdoors,” said a Tottenham spokesperson on Tuesday.

**“We shall continue to reinforce this message.”**

Tottenham had already been criticised during the outbreak for applying to the British government’s furlough financial assistance programme for company wage bills last week on the same day it was revealed Spurs chairman Daniel Levy was paid £7 million (\$8.7 million) last season.

Although Levy is among the Spurs staff members taking a 20 per cent pay cut, the north London club have come under pressure to follow European champions and Premier League leaders Liverpool in reversing their decision to use public money to pay employees.—AFP ■

## Virus prevents play at Trump-opened world’s biggest cricket stadium

ADMEDABAD — There is no larger symbol of the global sports shutdown than cricket’s 110,000-seater Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, opened by US President Donald Trump, but yet to see a ball bowled.

India’s newest and the world’s biggest cricket stadium lies empty because of the coronavirus pandemic. Where there should be the sound of leather on willow and the roar of the crowd, there is only silence.

Just a few weeks ago, it had been packed to capacity as Trump and India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood side-by-side in a show of pomp and ceremony for

the 24 February inauguration.

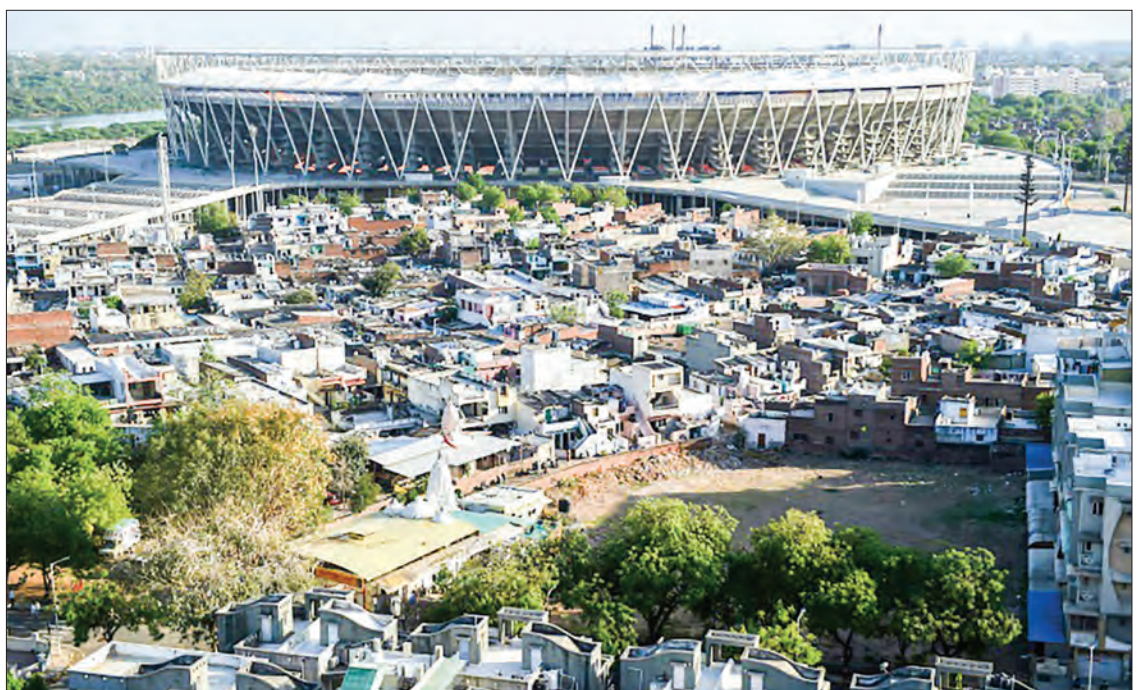
Eclipsing Australia’s 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground, it was rumoured to be in line to host the final of this year’s Indian Premier League, the world’s richest Twenty 20 tournament, watched by millions worldwide.

But then came COVID-19. The pandemic has brought the sporting world to a grinding halt with massive events including the Tokyo Olympics, football’s European Championships, golf and tennis majors, and the glitzy IPL postponed.

“There was hardly any time between the Trump event and

the pandemic,” a senior Gujarat Cricket Association official told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that once cricket resumes, the stadium could be ready “in double-quick time.”

“Just five percent work is remaining and it just needs the finishing touches,” the official added. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has pushed back the IPL from its original start date of 29 March to 15 April, but with the number of coronavirus cases in India exceeding 5,000 and still rising, pressure is growing for it to be shifted again, truncated or scrapped.—AFP ■



The Sardar Patel Stadium, the world’s biggest cricket venue in Ahmedabad, has been empty since its opening in February after during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP