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Saturday, 11 April 2020

State Counsellor discusses ground situation with COVID-19 fighters from Shan State



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with the people taking part in battling with COVID-19 disease in Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, made a video conference call from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw with people working on the front lines com-

bating COVID-19 in Shan State yesterday.

The State Counsellor first extended her greetings, and U Aung Myint Than, administrator for 100-houses, from Kengtong Township presented difficulties in the public awareness programme, and assistance in

... the State Counsellor talked about three new cases; the possibility of more cases emerging in the next two to three weeks; not to feel serious anxiety about more cases and to strictly follow directives and orders.

providing medical tests to the returnees from foreign countries.

Ma Hnin Nway Aye, a volunteer of Our Lovely World and Programme Team, from Taunggyi Township, shared her experiences about public concerns regarding the COVID-19 outbreak,

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Five more confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Friday, total cases reach 28

Update of COVID-19 cases in Myanmar till 10:15 pm on 10 April

1. The National Health Laboratory (Yangon) took laboratory tests on the specimens of 79 persons under the investigations and quarantined persons at the hospitals and designated sites on 10 April 2020. The laboratory tests on 1 patient showed positive, while the remaining 78 persons were tested negative.
2. The confirmed case (Case-028) is a 63-year-old man living in Bahan Township, Yangon. He had close contact with a positive patient (Case-008) as a family member. He was kept under home quarantine beginning 28 March. As he began suffering
3. fever, sore throat and cough on 7 April, his specimens was taken on 8 April for laboratory tests. As he has already been diagnosed with hypertension and diabetes, he will be admitted to the Waibargi Specialist Hospital for intensive care.
4. There are a total of 28 confirmed cases for COVID-19 in Myanmar from 23 March to 10 April (8:30 pm).
5. Among these cases, 2 are at Tiddim hospital in Chin State, 14 at Waibargi hospital, 1 at Lashio People's Hospital, 1 from North Okkalapa General Hospital to Waibargi Hospital, 2 from Yangon General Hos-
6. pital referred to Waibargi hospital, 1 at Mawlamyine People's Hospital transferred from Kyaikmaraw People's Hospital. One patient will be transferred to the Waibargi Special Hospital, totaling 22 patients. One patient at the Waibargi hospital is receiving medical treatments at the intensive care unit.
7. Those who had close contact with these positive patients will be investigated for quarantines. And, they are advised to identify themselves to the nearby healthcare centres.

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National COVID-19 committee receives public donations

DONORS presented cash, 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 meeting hall of MoHS in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On behalf of donors, the Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism U Maung Maung Kyaw and Phulilite Group of Company, Laukkai Township, Kokant Self-Administered Zone Director U Sein Myint explained their donations.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe then expressed his appreciations on the donations which will also be used for the upgrade of intensive care units for COVID-19 patients. He added that the medical equipment will be beneficial even after COVID-19. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said this collective support gives great encouragement to combatting COVID-19 across the nation.

Next, the Union Minister accepted the donations and gave certificates of honour in return.

The contributions of cash and medical supplies at the ceremony were K100 million from 11 associations of Myanmar Tourism Federation, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and FID Hotels; K115 million from Chairman of Fulilight Group of Company, Laukkai Township, Kokant Self-Administered Zone Thirithudhamma Manijawtadara U Li Kyein Chan (a) U Hlo Arr Pauk, director Thirithudhamma Manijawtadara U Maung Maung; K100 million from Kokant Social Development Association; face masks, N 95 masks, PPEs, goggles, gloves and thermometers worth of US\$61,000 from SPIC Yunnan International Power Investment Co Ltd; US\$30,000 from Eight-Japan Engineering Consultants Inc (Japan); US\$10,000 from Multi World Company Ltd; PPEs, masks, gloves, goggles and shoe covers worth of 8.57 million; K7.6 million from Myanmar families from Australia;



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe accepts the donation for National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). **PHOTO: MNA**

K3.635 million from Mitaus Co Ltd; K2 million from Independence Lawer Association, Myanmar; K1 million, and Coffeemix and hand sanitizer worth of 0.3 million from Ever Sunny Indus-

trial Co Ltd; K1.16 million from basic lab Technician-3 in the whole country; K1 million from Ma May Myo Lwin now in Japan, K1 million from U Aung Ko Naing and Daw Hnin Phyu Phyu Aung

and family, Yangon; K1 million from Myanmar Volleyball Social Association and K770,000 from Department of Higher Education.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

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

THE government is increasing its momentum for measures against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. For the successful implementation of these measures, the following companies, organizations and individuals have contributed medicines, hospital supplies / equipment and food donations from 29 March to 9 April 2020, 4:30 pm.

Sr.	Donor's name	Kind	Quantity	Estimated value (million)
1.	Jack Ma & Alibaba Foundation	KN 95	100,000	471.513
		Test Kits	20,000	
2.	Unilever	Personal cleaning materials		220.00
3.	Royal Club Beverages	PPE	4,200	171.30
		PPE Accessories	900	
4.	DKSH	PPE set	705	108.50
5.	Zeya & Associated	Thermal scanner	2	50.00
6.	Trillion Ocean	Surgical mask	79,950	33.00
		Goggles	4,800	
7.	Panhlaing Hosp	PPE	995	33.00
8.	Korea Embassy	Surgical Gown	2,600	26.00
9.	Temasek Foundation	Ventilators	1	20.00
10.	U Aik Htun	Surgical mask	50,000	20.00
11.	Huawei Tech (Yunan) Co Ltd	Surgical mask	10,000	15.157
		N 95	240	
		Goggles	300	
		PPE	300	
12.	Yunan	Surgical mask	32,000	12.80
13.	AA Group Limited	Oxygen concentrator	20	12.70
14.	J Mr Yan Changzi ZTE Co Ltd	Test Kits	8,000	11.20

15.	People's Party	PPE set	100	10.00
16.	RVK	Medicines		10.00
17.	AP proficient Co Ltd	Hand Sanitizer (4L)	250	7.50
18.	MBE	PPE	200	6.60
19.	Nebula Co Ltd	Surgical Mask	15,000	6.00
20.	Grand Royal	Hand Sanitizer	1,900	4.75
21.	U Kyu wheat mill	Surgical Mask	11,000	4.40
22.	Mya Htake Co ltd	Mask & Hand Sanitizer		3.06
23.	Moe Yan General Services	Surgical Mask	4,000	1.60
24.	Singapore Embassy	Goggles	1,000	1.59
25.	Sawbwalay Bo Bo Maung	PPE	40	1.50
		Hand Sanitizer	25	
26.	Miniso Co Ltd	Surgical mask	1,500	1.275
		N 95	200	
27.	Jum Jel Co Ltd	Juice	480	1.06
28.	Uni Energy Co Ltd	Surgical mask	2,500	1.00
29.	U Aung Zaw Win	Surgical mask	2,000	0.70
30.	U Aung Htaik and Dr Kyi Pyar Moe for immemorial of father U Thein Hla	PPE	20	0.60
31.	Ever Sunny Industrial Co Ltd	Coffee & Tea mix	60	0.30
		Hand sanitizer (5L)	15	
Total				1276.105

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) (Translated by TTN)

“People are the key”

State Counsellor discusses ground situation with COVID-19 fighters...

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her activities as a volunteer leader in the COVID-19 Prevention Volunteer Group (Southern Shan), conducting training courses after attending the COVID-19 Basic Health Education Training course of the Shan State Health Department, programmes to entertain people at the quarantine camps and other volunteer activities.

U Sai Se Han Khay from Panlong Township briefed on public concerns about the pandemic from the returnees



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with the people taking part in battling with COVID-19 disease in Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The State Counsellor take about the needs of more public awareness programmes, advantage of facility quarantine for close monitoring on the people rather than home quarantine, immediate report on the COVID-19 symptoms to avoid loss of lives due to delay and the extensive efforts of local government to ensure effective use of public donations.

and experiences on facility quarantine of their family at the Computer University in Loilin Township.

In her discussions, the State Counsellor talked about three new cases; the possibility of more cases emerging in the next two to three weeks; not to feel serious anxiety about more cases and to strictly

follow directives and orders.

She added the needs of more public awareness programmes, advantage of facility quarantine for close monitoring on the people rather than home quarantine, immediate report on the COVID-19 symptoms to avoid loss of lives due to delay and the extensive efforts of local government

to ensure effective use of public donations.

The State Counsellor concluded the video conference call with wishes for good health and happiness during the Thingyan period. She also advised the people to help each other and keep a strong resolve to overcome the pandemic.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Aries Elan Co., Ltd donates safety equipment for COVID-19



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives the medical products for civil servants and members of civil society organizations. **PHOTO: MNA**

Aries Elan Co Ltd donated 5,000 surgical masks, four units of hand gel 5 litre containers and 20 boxes of surgical gloves for civil servants and members of civil society organizations who are engaged in combatting COVID-19 across Nay Pyi Taw Council area and

the states and regions.

The donation was handed over to Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, who gave certificates of honour in return. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Viet Nam donates US\$ 50,000 to Myanmar COVID-19 prevention



Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Win receives the cash donation presented by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Nguyen Quoc Dung in Hanoi yesterday. **PHOTO: MOFA**

Viet Nam donated US\$ 50,000 to Myanmar as support against COVID-19 and Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister MR Nguyen Quoc Dung handed over the donation to Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Win in Hanoi yesterday.

The Deputy Foreign Minister said they appreciated the Myanmar government's efforts in responding to COVID-19.

He said the Vietnamese government and people are providing this assistance in the spirit of being good neighbors. The donation will be handed over to the National Central Committee for Protection, Containment and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). —Htet Hlian

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

People with irregular income in Pyinmana, Lewei receive foodstuffs for Thingyan period

OFFICIALS and Hluttaw representatives distributed food rations yesterday for the unemployed people and those who have no regular income in the Thingyan holiday amid the outbreak of COVID-19.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, officials and local Hluttaw representatives shared the five fundamental foodstuff supplied by the State at the office of General Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw through the administrators of respective wards and villages.

The Chairman and officials witnessed the distributions of

food rations by the Soe Electrics Foundation to the homes of families with no regular income.

Under this food supply programme, a total of 1,080 families in Leiwei Township received rice, cooking oil, sale, onions and beans yesterday. Such foodstuffs will also be distributed to more than 38,000 families of Leiwei Township.—Han Lin Naing (Translated by Aung Khin)

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung and officials donate the essential foodstuffs to the local people in Lewei yesterday. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN**



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

Mental health tips for community-based facility, other quarantines

The public and people in quarantine for 14 days may be experiencing significant stress and worries which may include concerns on health, employment, the future and family members.

During the quarantine, they may experience loneliness, boredom, depression, helplessness and other extreme feelings.

During the quarantine, they should not bottle up these feelings and discuss this with officials for any possible assistance. Preparations for this are also complete.

The following measures can be taken to reduce these feelings:

- Communicate with families, friends and loved ones by telephone, email, social media and other communication channels.
- Continue doing daily chores and hobbies that do not affect the environment during this period.
- Sleep and eat well for good health and avoid cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs.
- Regularly perform stress-relief and physical activities.
- Meditate or perform religious activities appropriate to one's faith.
- Spending all the time on COVID-19 news can cause stress and worries, so follow the virus information in moderation.
- Avoid rumours and fake news.
- Keep up-to-date on news and directives from verified and authentic sources.
- Read beneficial books.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Mental Health Education Group, Myanmar Medical Association.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Chinese well-wishers present medical supplies to Myanmar

WELL-wishers from the People's Republic of China are donating the medical supplies to Myanmar that is facing against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

The medical items arrived in Myanmar Embassy in Beijing were 100,000 medical masks from Chongqing municipality government, 10,000 disposable protective masks from foreign affairs office of Sichuan province, 50,000 disposable protective mask from the China-Myanmar Cultur-

al and Exchange Centre (CM-CEEC), 50,000 medical masks and 1,020 goggles from the China Communications Construction Company and 1,000 test kits from ZTE company. The reports said that more medical mask will be sent from China to Myanmar in coming days. Officials from the two countries are discussing to carry the donation items to Myanmar through land route and flights.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar leaves no one behind in its fight against COVID-19 in Rakhine State

As the COVID-19 global pandemic has reached every corner of the world, Myanmar, like many other countries, is making rigorous efforts within its limited capacity and resources, to contain the outbreak of the new virus, to protect lives and to mitigate the impacts on the socio-economic life of the people under the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee headed by the State Counsellor. The Government has taken a whole-of-government approach to respond to the challenges, mobilizing the strength of the people and educating the public about the virus and seeking the public participation which is pivotal to the success of the national efforts to fight COVID-19.

With a view to ensuring that no one is left uncared for, the government is launching an intensive public awareness campaign about the virus, and disseminating health guidelines and directives prepared by the Ministry of Health and Sports for all communities throughout the country, including Rakhine and Muslim villages and IDP camps. In the areas where internet data access had to be suspended, the Government, in co-operation with the mobile operators, has arranged to disseminate COVID-19 information via mobile SMS services and vocal announcements. In addition, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has already put in place an Action Plan for the Control of possible COVID-19 outbreak at the IDP camps which will be implemented with the assistance of relevant United Nations Agencies

and international organisations.

The intensity of armed clashes since early 2019 has presented considerable challenges to the delivering of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected areas. In light of the threats of COVID-19 which could exacerbate the current humanitarian challenges in Rakhine State, the Government has scaled up its efforts to enhance the provision of humanitarian assistance in coordination with the United Nations and international organizations such as WFP and ICRC.

The Government has granted access to ICRC to provide regular food assistance to Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships in Rakhine State. In addition, WFP was also granted access to deliver food to the people affected by armed conflict in Samee Town of Paletwa Township in Chin State during the first week of April 2020.

The Government is also looking at a possible streamlining of travel authorization procedures for humanitarian organizations to enable them to respond effectively in times of COVID-19 outbreak in conflict-affected areas.

Consultations are underway among concerned ministries to grant enhanced access to international humanitarian partners, including ICRC. Despite unavailability of internet data services in some parts of Rakhine State, the United Nations and international organisations are in a position to communicate with the local people by utilizing mobile and SMS

services which remain operational in those areas.

The main reason for internet suspension in some parts of Rakhine State is to prevent the misuse of the internet by the Arakan Army (AA) for their political and military agenda. The AA exploited internet services and social media as a tool for planned attacks, detonating land mines, recruitment and incitement of hatred among different national races which could seriously disrupt the national harmony and the Government's efforts to restore peace and stability in Rakhine State.

Since taking office, the Government has made strenuous efforts to advance its national reconciliation and peace process with numerous ethnic armed organisations to end conflicts that have been ongoing for several decades. Despite destructive acts committed by the AA, the Government held a series of discussions with the AA on 30 April 2019 at Nanhkan, on 31 August 2019 and 17 September 2019 at Kyaing Tone, and in Kunming, China on 14 December 2019 respectively. However, the AA only responded with violence.

The Three Brotherhood Alliance including the AA has recently announced an extension of a unilateral ceasefire from 1 to 30 April 2020 citing the spread of COVID-19. This serves nothing but for their own political interests. Even though the AA has made similar unilateral ceasefire announcements since early January 2020, their actions failed to match their statements. During the cease-

fire period, they mounted massive attacks on security outposts and military columns and has blocked access to Meewa outpost, a major stronghold of the Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) since December 2019.

The AA continues to threaten and incite fear to local people in northern Rakhine State. It has attacked members of the Myanmar Police Force and security outposts disguised as civilians and using them as cover. They also arrested, killed and tortured village administrators, civil service staff and innocent civilians, in addition to armed attacks and use of landmines with the aim of breaking down the administrative mechanism of the Government.

These acts committed by the AA have caused serious losses of public security, lives and property, important infrastructures and state-owned properties and amount to terrorism. Therefore, the Central Committee for Counter-Terrorism declared the AA a terrorist group on 23 March 2020. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also declared the AA an unlawful organization. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations must be condemned. The international community, including domestic and international organizations, should therefore refrain from providing material or moral support to any terrorist group including the AA. Ending this armed conflict will bring an end to the ongoing humanitarian situation of the local population in Rakhine State, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— MNA

Five more confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Friday, total cases reach 28

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Sr	Age	Gender	Travel History in the previous 14 days	Hospital for medical treatment	Admission Date to hospital	Lab result on COVID-19
24	32 yrs	Male	No*	North Okkalapa General Hospital	8 April 2020	Positive
25	55 yrs	Male	No	Yangon General Hospital	9 April 2020	Positive
26	56 yrs	Female	No	Yangon General Hospital	8 April 2020	Positive
27	24 yrs	Female	No **	People's Hospital in Kyaikmaraw Township	30 March 2020	Positive
28	63 yrs	Male	No **	Waibargi Specialist Hospital in Yangon	28 March 2020	Positive

* Remaining 78 are tested negative in Covid-19 lab results.

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Kayah State gov't starts household supply distribution in Loikaw Tsp

THE Kayah State COVID-19 Containment and Emergency Response Committee distributed the instructed five household supplies of rice, cooking oil, lentils, salt and onions starting from yesterday. According to a survey by the Kayah State government, Loikaw Township has the highest number of people with no regular incomes and Mingalar Ward in Loikaw Township received the supplies on 10 April first.

Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, the state ministers for security and border affairs, city development and social affairs, and officials arrived at the Mingalar Ward Administrator's Office. They looked around the office and handed over the supplies to the people.

The Kayah State government's survey found that there are 6,831 households in Loikaw Township without regular income, 5,741 households in Demawso Township, 1,173 in Fu-



Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho and officials hand over the foodstuffs to local people in Loikaw yesterday. **PHOTO : TUN LAY (IPRD)**

ruso Township, 224 households in Shartaw Township, 478 households in Bawlake Township, 1,083 households in Parsaung Township, and 971 households

in Maese Township.

In total, there are 16,521 households in Kayah State without regular income and 5506.8 bags of rice, 8260.5 viss of cooking

oil, 8260.5 viss of salt, 16521 viss of onions and 16521 viss of lentils will be distributed to them.—Tun Lay (IPRD) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Govt' food ration subsidy scheme launched in Mandalay

MANDALAY gov't is distributing free food kits to the grassroots with irregular income, who would be faced with unemployment in the Thingyan holiday due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Each food kit include 5 items with 8 pyi of rice, 50 ticals of cooking oil, 50 ticals of salt, one viss of beans and one viss of onion.

The distributions were car-

ried out by local authorities, civil organizations and members of Fire Services Department, according to U Aung San Linn, the officer of West Thiri Marlar Ward in Aungmyaethazan Township.

“Out of 9,720 residents from 1,852 households in this ward, the food supplies will be distributed to 4,980 persons from 990 families who are eligible for the rations,” he added.

Dr Myint Myint Than, aged 58, who lives in Mayangyan Ward of Aungmyaethazan Township commented on receiving the food kit said, “We never expected to receive such food subsidy in the crisis. Most of the people in this area are hard labourers. They will become unemployed about 15 days due to restrictions amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We really appreciate the government subsidy.”

Out of 290 households, a total of 191 families received the food kits.

To prevent large gatherings, the rations were delivered to three persons each time in the residential wards.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



People receiving the essential goods in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO:MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Motorcyclist dies in road accident in Pwintbyu Township

A motorcyclist was killed in a road accident at 7:35 am on 10 April between Mileposts 121 and 122 on Myaung Mone Myaung Ma Gyi Myaung road, near Sipinthayar village in Pwintbyu township in Magway region.

According to the witnesses, the police from Pwintbyu township assumed that a vehicle driven by Nay Min Hlaing with three males on board en route to Thayettaw village from Gonaung sideswiped a motorbike

from the same direction driven by Than Lin Aung with a woman aboard.

The motorcyclist died on the spot of the injuries resulting from the crash while the woman on the motorbike was injured in

the accident. Regarding the road accident, both drivers — Than Lin Aung and Nay Min Hlaing — were charged under Section 304 (A)/337/338 of the Penal Code.—Ye Win Naing (Nyaung U)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Submission of investment proposals to MIC unaffected by COVID-19

By Nyein Nyein

SUBMISSION of investment proposals to MIC is not affected by the outbreak of Covid19, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin on 10 April.

“Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has granted priority to the investment proposals which can create job opportunities for local residents because MIC believes that the job opportunities and investment have a direct impact upon the country's economy. There is no decrease in the submission of the investment proposals to MIC because of the pandemic

and the recent business crisis,” he said.

Among the investment proposals, the industry and labour based businesses are given priority over other sectors. The permitted businesses intend to implement their ventures amidst the Covid19 outbreak. So, MIC has granted the permit to these businesses as soon as possible, he added.

“According to the MIC press release, the new investment proposals are being received despite this situation, and we are also issuing the permits for the implementation of the investment proposals.

Recently, MIC has granted new permissions to 18 enterprises worth over US\$ 294 million. It is known that the new investments include the housing sector which will cause over \$260 million of capital to flow into the country,” he added.

Besides, the new proposals submitted to MIC include the garment enterprises and CMP. Currently, some of these businesses are having difficulty solving commercial disputes between the employers and the employees.

However, investors are still investing in this garment sector.

MIC is also preparing to accept the projects regarding the manufacturing of masks and pharmaceuticals in participation in the activities of prevention, containment and treatment of Covid19 as well as other projects which can support the health-related sector.

Besides, a committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the Covid19 led by MIC chairperson was formed with nine members on 13 March. The committee has been taking measures to provide loans and to relax the strict procedures of the respective departments.

“At present, we have re-

ceived 796 loan applications as of 7 April, and the entrepreneurs have hunted Ks 127 billion of loans,” he added.

Regarding the loans, the respective evaluation team and the lending team will conduct the process in conformity with the prescribed procedures. They are implementing tasks to be able to grant loans as soon as possible.

Concerted efforts exerted by the State and the respective associations will remedy the economic impacts hit by Covid19 to a certain extent, MIC stated.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 1000 YBS buses to operate during Thingyan holidays

MORE than 1,000 YBS buses will be operational during Thingyan holiday period to enable those who really need to go outside to do so amidst imposition of home-stay restriction during the holiday period to prevent further spreading of Covid19, according to Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

“Most people who don't need to go outside will be staying at home during this holiday period. But some who really need to go outside will need public transportation. In order to enable these people to travel safely and conveniently, Yangon regional government asked YRTA to take this responsibility,” said YRTA Joint Secretary U Hla Aung.

To ensure safety and convenience of the passengers who really need to go outside during Thingyan holidays, a total

of 1,086 buses from 83 bus lines will be operated in coordination with one another.

For those operational YBS buses during the holidays, YRTA will provide subsidies of CNG for the buses, which are using CNG. Moreover, out of more than 8,000 YBS drivers who are registered with YRTA, those who will be working during Thingyan will be provided with eight baskets of rice and one viss of edible oil each. YRTA will also provide masks, gloves and hand gels to the YBS drivers for their safety.

With the declining number of passengers amid the Covid19 crisis, the management fund of K4,000 per day that the bus lines have to give to YRTA won't need to pay in from 16 March to 30 April. — Htin Paw Win(Kamayut)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Local cabbage growers in Wuntho Tsp enjoy handsome profit



A field of cabbage plantation seen in Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MYINT TUN MIN (KAWLIN)

LOCAL cabbage growers from some villages in Wuntho township, Sagaing region are reported to get a good price for their product, according to a local Chinese cabbage grower.

In our village, only two of us are growing the Chinese cabbage. I grow half an acre of the Chinese cabbage, involving 6,000 plants.

Also, the Chinese cabbage does not need to spray the pesticides. The production of Chinese cabbage costs K60,000

including labour charges and fertilizers. Each plant weighs between 1.20 and 1.50 visses. The price of Chinese cabbage is K350 per viss. The selling of Chinese cabbage earned me a K1.5 million profit. So, we are happy with the selling of Chinese cabbage this year, said U Aung Win, a Chinese cabbage grower.

This year sees only a few people growing Chinese cabbages. So, the wholesalers come and buy all the cabbages

in the field. People are fond of eating the Chinese cabbages because of it being delicious, said Ma Tin Tin Hla from Tayza village in Wuntho township.

The villagers are growing different kinds of vegetables but they grow only two acres of vegetables. If one vegetable market is not good, the other vegetable markets may earn the growers the profit. —Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Fear is as harmful as the disease

THE number of cases of Coronavirus reached 28 yesterday, and the number of cases is expected to grow in the coming weeks after the 14-day incubation period for the people in quarantine.

When cases are rising, people are advised not to be extremely fearful and anxious about the disease. Why? Hand washing and staying at home, not hysteria, will prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While in quarantine or staying at home, we should give each other moral support and friendly advice to continue going about our daily lives while taking proper and prudent precautions. It is the appropriate response to COVID-19.

To manage the fear and anxiety in the time of COVID-19, limit media exposure especially with social media, maintain normal sleeping and eating patterns, and most importantly, get your information from credible experts and sources.

mouth when coughing and sneezing, and avoiding crowds or visiting others homes. All of these can accentuate the COVID-19 spread.

The World Health Organization's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said recently that fear is almost as great a threat as the disease.

In this time of crisis, we are facing two pandemics. One is the Coronavirus. One is threatening, that's societal panic causing fear and anxiety. The second could do more harm, and last longer than the first if we don't well manage it.

To manage the fear and anxiety in the time of COVID-19, limit media exposure especially with social media, maintain normal sleeping and eating patterns, and most importantly, get your information from credible experts and sources.

These are the best ways we should use to try to protect ourselves and our communities from the infectious disease during our days of staying at home.

How to be alone but not lonely in a distant coronavirus world

The government and media should keep people safe and informed during these scary times by providing access to accurate information from the World Health Organization's COVID-19 mental health resources.

Coronavirus anxiety is real.

With restrictions tied to the coronavirus outbreak leaving millions confined to their homes, even those who call themselves introverts are feeling the effects of quarantine on the body and mind.

Does someone feeling edgy, constantly or obsessively checking news updates, losing sleep, or waking in the early hours of the morning feeling anxious indicate they are experiencing or developing mental health issues?

"No. These are completely normal, human reactions to a

completely abnormal situation," says Masaki Nishida, a psychiatrist and associate professor at Waseda University.

"If you feel lonely, talk to friends and family on the phone or any tech-enabled form of communication. It's good to limit how much information you consume about the coronavirus outbreak and not respond impulsively to social media feeds," he says.

Although Nishida understands the government is trying to deal with a public health crisis, he is not impressed with its mes-

saging so far and thinks the way it has chosen to communicate about the crisis has done more harm than good to the mental health of the Japanese population. For example, the government has implemented measures like school closures and has promised to distribute two free face masks per family, but to him, it appears the lack of information and reassurance has exacerbated the situation in an already anxious nation.

The media, filled with self-proclaimed coronavirus experts giving their own advice, is just as guilty, Nishida says.

He thinks the government and media should keep people safe and informed during these scary times by providing access to accurate information from the World Health Organization's COVID-19 mental health resources. Japan's emergency declaration will allow

governors to call on people to stay at home and businesses to close, and more people will experience lack of human connection as social distancing becomes the new norm.

For those who are lucky enough to have unlimited access to the internet and lots of free time, watching movies, taking online courses and playing video games are ways to stay distracted and entertained.

Even older people who are vulnerable to loneliness as well as the disease are enjoying the benefits of technology like video chat, virtual karaoke, and livestreaming church services.

There are enough virtual escapes and strategies that help us feel less alone, but some time in solitude is not in itself a bad thing for some. "Being alone isn't the same thing as being lonely," says yoga influencer Mae Yoshikawa,



Mae Yoshikawa, founder of yoga studio Veda, helps students cope with the coronavirus pandemic through live-streaming classes in a photo taken in March, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

who has been teaching her social media followers how to practice self-care in the midst of a global health crisis. Yoshikawa says this is a chance to "evolve into the next version of yourself" by allowing external sources of happiness — material objects, people, relationships — to take less of a

prominent place in life, now and in the future. "What makes me happy? What makes me feel whole? Try to answer those questions in a way that doesn't require external conditions. It might be showering or reading or cooking, it can be anything," she says.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Happy Geologists Day!

BY THAN HTUN (MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)

(CONTINUED FROM APRIL 6 Article)

University of Yangon

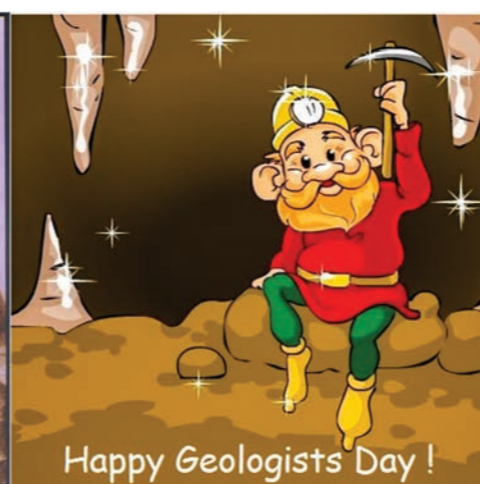
The University of Yangon was founded in 1920 and the first occupant in 1923 of its new Chair of Geology and Geography was L. Dudley Stamp who had been in Burma since 1921 exploring for oil on behalf of the Yomah Oil Company and Indo-Burma Petroleum Company. Professor Stamp was joined by H.L. Chhibber, Head of the Department of Geology and Geography, University College, University of Rangoon, prepared the two outstanding works on "The Geology of Burma" and "The Mineral Resources of Burma", both appearing in 1934. The GSI geologist E.L.G. Clegg compiled "The Mineral Deposits of Burma" in 1944. The famous geologists from Geological Survey of India, during colonial days, who contributed Myanmar Geology and Mineral Resources were R.B. Pemberton, 1837., W. Theobald, 1873., F. Noetling, 1891., R.D. Oldham, 1906., E.H. Pascoe, 1912., T.H.D. La Touche, 1913., G. de P. Cotter, 1918., N.M. Penzer, 1922., J. Coggin Brown, 1923., A.M. Heron, 1923., L.D. Stamp, 1923., E.L.G. Clegg, 1944., L. V. Dalton, 1908., H.L. Chhibber, 1934.etc. Subsequent to the official

separation of the British (Myanmar) from the British India in 1937, the Burma Geological Department (BGD) was established by the British Burma Government in 1938, with the loan of geologists from the Geological Survey of India. Dr. E.L.G. Clegg headed this group of geologists. Not long, the second World War broke out disturbing all activities. Soon after War, the BGD was reorganized with Dr. E.J. Bradshaw as its Director. The British and Indian geologists carried out the geological mapping on a regional scale. When Myanmar gained independence from the British in 1949, Dr. Ba Thi, a graduate of Munich University, Germany, became the Director. He was assisted by some Indian geologists for some time in the beginning. Later, Dr. Philip Kyaw Myint, a British University graduate and half a dozen graduates from the then Rangoon University joined him. These Myanmar geologists conducted the countrywide geological mapping and mineral prospecting until 1958.

In 1939 only U Soe Thein, U Tin Maung, U Sein Myint, Dr. P. Kyaw Myint and U Min Din were pre-war geology graduates with B.Sc. degree from Rangoon University. U Min Din, son of U Ba Hlaing (Loi Aik Kyi), was the fa-



Rector Dr. Tha Hla.



Happy Geologists Day!



Professor Dr. Nyi Nyi.

mous geologist. He studied geology during the war and he was sent to Japan as state scholar during Japanese colonial days. After the second World War he continued his study in United States and obtained M.Sc. (Geology) Degree. After he had returned Myanmar he joined MRDC and later he was appointed as Managing Director in MDC. U Saw Alaris, elder brother of Professor C. Thacpaw also received M.Sc. (Mining Geology) Degree from Colorado School of Mines in United States. He also joined Ministry of Mines and served as Managing Director in Myanmar Tin & Tungsten Corporation in 1970s.

An independent Department of Geology was established in 1948

after the independence from the British, with Dr. Tha Hla as Professor and Founder of the Geosciences Profession in Myanmar. Dr. Tha Hla graduated from the University of Yangon with B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in Chemistry with high marks in 1938. In 1939, he went to the United Kingdom (UK) as a State Scholar to study geology. He received B.Sc. (Special) equivalent to First Class Honours Degree in Geology in 1942 from the King's College, London University and Ph.D. Degree in geochemistry from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University in 1946. Due to outbreak of World War II

Saya Tha Hla was unable to return Myanmar and so he worked as Assistant Lecture in University College London from 1944 to 1946. As soon as he came back Yangon University in 1946 he served as Professor of Geology. After 15-year service as Professor of Geology, he was appointed as Rector of Yangon University in 1961. His appointment was the last appointment by the Yangon University Act (1920). We regretted that Dr. Tha Hla resigned prematurely in 1962.

Dr. Tha Hla had done many things for the University and the Geology Department in his capacity as a Professor, Varsity Councilor and senator, Dean of Science and Rector. Saya Tha Hla's unswerving love and protectiveness for his students and his dedicated

wish to teach them what he knew without discrimination singled him out as a true Saya for all of us. He was indeed an exceptionally brilliant academic, a man with a strict code of ethics and etiquette, a true Saya, a patriot, an intrepid leader; the Doyen of Myanmar Geology, a Myanmar with a superb command of English. Saya Tha Hla taught, trained and brought forth several able and competent geologists for both academia and the industry that keep the geological science and geoscience profession viable and sustainable in Myanmar. For this, he should be rightfully honoured with the matchless title: the "Father of Myanmar Geology". So far as I know, only Saya Nyi Nyi and Saya Thein received First Class B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in geology while Saya Tha Hla was the Professor of Geology. (Maung Than Htay, 2016).

Dr. Tha Hla's 1946 intake of geology students were Nyi Nyi, Ba Than Haq, Soe Win (Edwin), Than Maung, Aung Kyaing, C. Thacpaw, Sein Myint, B.P. Day, Khin Nu Nu, Khin Maung Lay, Thein Aung and U Aung Myint. They all are prominent geologists in their respective fields. Dr. Nyi Nyi is an exceptionally brilliant academic with versatile proficiency next to the late Saya Tha Hla.

SEE PAGE-10

Girl dies of heart failure on board flight

A girl was coming from Sittway to Yangon to receive medical treatment for her heart disease and died of heart attack as the plane is landing at the Yangon International Airport yesterday, according to the Myanmar National Airlines.

The 13-year old girl from Alesu Ward, Punnagyun Town-

ship, Rakhine State, was coming to Yangon yesterday and the crew members of the UB 412 of the MNA rushed to provide medical assistance to her. The girl had a pacemaker and died on board while the flight was landing at 5.35 pm.—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 10th April, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 11th April, 2020: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Nay-Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (60%). 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 Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th April, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th April, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th April, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Region.

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Happy Geologists Day!

FROM PAGE-9

He has been Saya Tha Hla's top student, a First Class Honours Graduate in Geology and also a Rangoon University's Gold Medalist. Saya Nyi Nyi went to the UK and attended the most prestigious British University, the Imperial College of Science and Technology of London University, also Saya Tha Hla's Alma Mater as well. He always stood first in all of his class examinations beating the cream of the British academics and he earned his Ph.D. Degree in micropaleontology in 1956 at the age of 25. Saya Nyi Nyi also distinguished himself throughout his professional career as Director of Universities Administration, Deputy Minister of Education, Minister of Mines, Myanmar Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand, Director of UNICEF at New York Head Quarters successively (Win Swe, 2016). After they have studied in Europe and United States Saya U Ba Than Haq and Saya C. Thacpaw became Professor of Geology in RASU and MASU respectively.

Saya Tha Hla's 1951 batch of geology (Hons) students were Than Htay, Ni Ni, Win Sein, Maung Maung Khin and Khine Man Chan etc. Dr. Tha Hla's most brilliant geology (Hons) students of 1957 batch were Myint Lwin Thein, Maung Thein, Than Nyunt, Thaw Tint, Sarup Singh Pathayja and U Chit Saing. Saya Tha Hla, during his term, fully recommended Dr. Myint Lwin Thein, Dr. Maung Thein, U Thaw Tint and Dr. Win Swe for further study in United States. Dr. Myint Lwin Thein joined the Department of Geology, University of Yangon, his alma mater, as a demonstrator in 1958, after receiving B.Sc. (Hons) degree in geology. He received M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree in 1962 and 1965 respectively, both from the University of Chicago. In 1966 he was promoted to Lecturer and finally rose to the post to an Associated Professor in 1986. In 1975 he had served as the most prestigious Director of Department of Applied Geology (D.A.G.). Dr. Win Htein received Ph.D. degree in Gemology from UK in 1971 and he served at DAG too.

Dr. Maung Thein had studied geology in Yangon University under Prof. Tha Hla, Prof. Nyi Nyi and Prof. U Ba Than Haq from 1953 to 1958. Just after he had received Geology (Hons)

degree with credit, he was appointed as demonstrator at the Geology Department in 1958. Then he received M.S degree in 1963 and Ph.D. with sedimentology in Northwestern University, Chicago, USA in 1966. He was promoted as lecturer in 1966 and Professor in 1978. He served as lecturer in Mandalay University from 1967 to 1969 and served as Professor from 1978 to 1989. Then he served as Professor of Geology in Yangon University from 1989 to 1994. Dr. Maung Thein, we use to call Saya Thein, is also an exceptionally brilliant academic himself as his mentors Dr. Tha Hla and Dr. Nyi Nyi. His judgement of a student's academic excellence is always fair and free from prejudice. We are proud of mentioning that Saya Thein is the founder of Myanmar Geosciences Society.

Myanmar Geosciences Society has been formed in December 2003 with the objectives of keeping progressive development of geosciences in Myanmar, exchange of ideas and sharing experiences, and promoting wider application of Geosciences for the welfare of the people. After striving against oppositions Myanmar Geoscience Council Law has been promulgated by the government on 31st March, 2020. I highly commend my Professors and Mentors for their historic achievement for Geoscience, able leadership and professionalism.

Dr. Win Swe studied geology at Mandalay University College from 1954 and he moved to Yangon University in 1956 and received B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Geology in 1959. He was fortunate that he was only student who attended B. Sc. (Hons) class under Dr. Tha Hla, Dr. Nyi Nyi and U Ba Than Haq. He did his further studies in geology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and at Stanford University, Palo Alto California, earning an M.S. and Ph.D. respectively. He served as demonstrator, assistant lecture and lecture in Yangon and Mandalay Universities from 1966 to 1974. He was appointed as Deputy Director of Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration under Ministry of Mines in 1974 and retired in 1987. U Than Htay mentioned that the most prominent and beneficial were the services of Dr. Win Swe, a very competent field geologist with a strong background in tec-

tonics, rendered to the DGSE. His endeavour to sharpen the professional edge of the DGSE geologist, mostly were his students, by providing appreciably up-to-date geological literature and occasional seminar talks with foreign geoscientists were truly laudable.

Professor Dr. Nyi Nyi's brilliant geology students of 1964 batch at Yangon Arts and Science University were Yin Yin New, Khaing Shin, Khin Zaw, Khin Win Kyi, Hla Hla Aung etc. Of all, Dr. Yin Yin Nwe is an exceptionally brilliant academic with versatile proficiency next to Saya Nyi Nyi and Saya Thein. She obtained a B.Sc. degree in Geology from the Rangoon Arts and Science University in 1969 and she earned Ph.D. Degree in mineralogy from Cambridge University, England in 1975. At that time she is the youngest Ph.D. Degree holder in Myanmar. She served for 19 years at the Geology Department of Yangon University. She also has a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from London University. In 1991, Dr. Yin Yin Nwe joined UNICEF and she has been worked 17 years for UNICEF in various countries, including Indonesia, some former Soviet Countries, Yugoslavia, Middle East and 23 countries from Africa. She became the UNICEF Representative to China on 1 December 2006 and retired in 2011.

One of the outstanding academics Dr. Sone Han, obtained his B.Sc. Degree in Geology in 1969 and M. Sc. Degree in Geophysics in 1976 from Rangoon University. In 1982, he obtained his Dr. rer. nat. in Geophysics from the Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg, one of Germany's top ten research universities. In 1970, Dr. Sone Han served in the Geology Department of Rangoon University and he retired in 1989. Subsequently, he became the Managing Director of Sittoung Geoservices Company. In 1997 he became General Manager of Myanmar V-Pile Company Ltd., and in August 2000 he was appointed the Managing Director of the Myanmar V-Pile Group of Companies. In 2020 he has been elected as President of Myanmar Geosciences Society.

Rectors who are honour to geology profession are Dr. Tha Hla (Rangoon University), Dr. Maung Thin (Dagon University), Dr. Myint Thein (University

of Education, Sagaing) Dr. Hla Htay (Dagon University), Dr. Win Naing (Dagon University), Dr. Thura Oo (Monywa University), Dr. Aung Win (Myitkyina University), Dr. Win Naing (Sit-twe University), Dr. Than Htut Lwin (Taunggyok University), Dr. Aung Naing Soe (Mandalay Distance University), Dr. Htay Aung (Bamaw), Dr. Maung Maung (Mingyan).

It is my honour to mention the Professors of Geology Department of Yangon University with their respective tenure. Dr. Tha Hla (1947-1961), Dr. Nyi Nyi (1961-1964), U Ba Than Haq (1964-1975) (1977-1989), Dr. Tin Aye (1975-1976), U C. Thacpaw (1976-1977), Dr. Maung Thein (1989-1994), Dr. Maung Thin (1994-1998), Dr. Pe Maung Than (1998-2000), Dr. Tin Thein (2000-2006), Dr. Thura Oo (2006-2007), Dr. Win Naing (2007-2009), Dr. Daywa Aung (2009 to present).

Mandalay University College

In the meanwhile, the Department of Geology was founded in the Mandalay University college (MUC) in 1953 with the initiative of the then College principal U Ko Lay, a non-geologist. He was helped by Dr. Tha Hla and U Thein Maung, Head of Geography Department, MUC, in the first year. In later years, Mr. D. Sarin, an Indian Lecturer on contract from the Rangoon University became the Head of the Geology Department. In 1959, the Mandalay University College was elevated to the full status of a University and thus became the University of Mandalay. Dr. Tin Aye, a graduate of University of Illinois, USA, was appointed as the Professor and Head of the Department.

In 1967, when I was attending first year geology at MASU, U C. Thacpaw was the Head and Professor of the Geology Department. U Thaw Tint and Saya Thein were lecturers. The assistant lecturers were U Ba Maw, U Kyaw Tint (Saya Lay), Dr. Win Swe, Dr. Kyaw Kyaw and Dr. Myint Thein. We are lucky enough to study various geology subjects from such a dynamic and qualified Professor and lecturers. Our demonstrators were U Kan Saw, Jimmy Than Tun, U Shwe Win, U Hla Wai, U Laja, U Theik Tun Thaw, U Than Bo, U Khin Mg Shwe, U Hla Thein, U Bo San, U Win Myint, U Khin Mg Myint, U Khin Mg Win, Daw Nay

Thaung Thaung, U Kyaw Nuynt, U Tun Aung, U Aye Ko Aung, U Mg Mg and U Kyaw Win.

It is my honour to mention the Professors of Geology Department of Mandalay University with their respective tenure. The first Professor was Dr. Tin Aye, Ph.D (Illinois, USA), 1961-64, a native of Mandalay; the second was Mr. D.D. Sarin, M.Sc. (Calcutta, India), 1965-66; the third U C. Thacpaw, M.Sc. (Arizona, USA) 1967-1976; the fourth Dr. Maung Thein, Ph.D. (Northwestern, USA) 1978-89, a native of Mawlamyaing Kyun; the fifth Dr. Myint Thein, D.Sc. (Romania) 1989-95, a native of Mandalay, the sixth U Kan Saw, M.Sc. (Mandalay) 1995-2000, a native of Mandalay; the seventh Dr. Khin Maung Myint, Ph.D. (Colorado, USA) 2000-2007, a native of Mandalay; Dr. Than Than Nu, Ph.D. (Mandalay) 2007 to present.

At present some 32 Universities are offering B.Sc. Geology degrees. Yangon and Mandalay Universities offer Master's and Doctorate Degrees in various branches of geoscience subjects. Geologists are now rendering their technical know-how and service in various public sectors that arrange from the mitigation of geohazards through environmental protection to international litigations involving territorial waters rights, in addition to mining, oil and gas exploration, engineering and construction, agriculture, forest and hydrological investigations. Thus the role and status of Myanmar geologists are now getting appreciably elevated (U Than Htay, 2013). May I most cordially commemorate the happy occasion of the World Geologists Day, to which I respect so much, with this humble article. This is also in commemoration of Yangon University's Centennial.

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Yangon COVID-19 committee discuss household supply distribution



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein receives the donation to purchase hospital supplies amid COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: MNA

Yangon Region Food Supply and Support Sub-Committee held a coordination meeting at the regional cabinet's office yesterday morning. At the meeting, Chairman of the Yangon Region Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Containment and Emergency Response Committee, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, and region-

al ministers and members of the regional food supply sub-committee discussed purchasing and distribution of the 5 basic household supplies to people without regular income.

In addition, Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association donated K58,733,080, Paing Family International Co Ltd donated

K142,944,578, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co Ltd donated K50,000,000 and Yangon Council of Churches donated K2,600,000 to the COVID-19 Containment and Emergency Response Committee for purchasing hospital supplies and funding other endeavours. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Rakhine State govt distributes household supplies to locals

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, state ministers and officials distributed 5 types of household supplies to people with no regular income in Sittway during the long Thingyan holidays.

The supplies include rice, cooking oil, salt, lentils and onions and the distribution aims to support people amid the spread of COVID-19.

The Chief Minister first met with the people in the religious building of Sittway's north ward and told

them to stay at their homes to mitigate the chances of spreading coronavirus. He urged them to follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports and said these supplies will support their time staying indoors.

The Chief Minister and entourage then went to distribute the supplies in Tayartisu Ward, Kyay Pin Gyi Ward and Ye Nwe Su Ward. Similar distributions of supplies were also made across townships, wards and villages of Rakhine State with 8 pyis of rice, 50

tical of cooking oil, 50 tical of salt, a tical of lentils and a viss of onions per household.

Afterwards, the Chief Ministers inspected the civil servant residential building in Magyeemyaing Ward where people who returned from abroad were being quarantined. He then visited the community hospital and also checked in on overseas returnees being quarantined. —Tin Tun (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu hands over household food to a local. PHOTO: MNA

Yangon gov't begins supplying foodstuffs to over 600,000 households

THE Yangon Region government began distributing the 5 basic household supplies to over 600,000 households in the region

yesterday.

"We began distributing the supplies of rice, cooking oil, salt, lentils and onions in Hlinethaya

Township and we continue to other townships soon," said the regional social affairs minister, U Naing Ngan Lin.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials offering the essential foodstuffs to public in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO

He added that the distribution will be carried out by the Hluttaw representatives, general administration department staff, elders, municipal development staff, ward or village administrator and volunteer groups of each township in order to mitigate chances of spreading COVID-19.

"Administrative officials and volunteers in North Dagon Township will divide into teams to distribute the supplies so that the people don't need to leave their houses," said Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Nyi Nyi.

He added, "Ward administration will also announce on loudspeakers for when people in the list can come collect the supplies at the ward office. Each group coming to collect will have only ten people, wearing face masks and maintaining six-foot distance from each other."

When the list of people with-

out regular income was compiled, the Yangon Region was found to have 208,649 households that meet the criteria in the Eastern District, 37,233 households in the Western District, 247,163 households in the Southern District and 182,081 households in the Northern District, adding up to 675,227 households with 2,742,233 citizens.

Each household will receive the 5 basic supplies of rice, cooking oil, salt, lentil and onion and the Yangon Region government is also cooperating with interfaith groups and businesses to donate these basic supplies to monasteries, nunneries, homes for the aged, orphanages and other religious institutions in the region as well. In addition, the charity organization 'We Love Yangon' and other civil society organizations and generous donors are donating similar essentials as well. — Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UN chief calls for Security Council unity over pandemic

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged the Security Council on Thursday to display unity as it met to discuss what he called the “fight of a generation” — the global coronavirus pandemic.

“A signal of unity and resolve from the Council would count for a lot at this anxious time,” Guterres told the divided body holding its first meeting about the crisis.

The meeting of the 15-member Security Council is being held behind closed doors by videoconference but the UN released a copy of the secretary general’s remarks.

“The engagement of the Security Council will be critical to mitigate the peace and security implications of the COVID-19

pandemic,” Guterres said.

“To prevail against the pandemic today, we will need to work together,” he said. “That means heightened solidarity.

“This is the fight of a generation — and the *raison d’être* of the United Nations itself,” he said, while acknowledging that “the threat of terrorism remains alive.”

Security Council members gathered after weeks of disagreement — especially between the United States and China, where the coronavirus outbreak began in December.

Led by Germany, the meeting was requested last week by nine of the council’s 10 non-permanent members who were fed up with the body’s inaction over the unprecedented global crisis.



“A signal of unity and resolve from the Council would count for a lot at this anxious time,” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said. **PHOTO: AFP**

Though the council meeting was closed-door, several ambassadors taking part released extracts of their remarks on Twitter or to reporters.

German Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, whose remarks were published by his country, lamented the slow pace of international cooperation.

“From the Security Council up until now, there was deafening silence,” he said, acknowledging efforts by the five permanent members “to come to a conclu-

sion or resolution between them or to have a summit.”

“But we have to admit, it was not possible so far,” he said.

While Germany described the pandemic as an “international peace and security issue,” several other countries, notably Russia, China and South Africa, said health matters were not part of the Security Council’s brief.

France, meanwhile, confirmed that it would provide 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) to fight the virus in Africa. — AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Virus mars Easter holidays as death toll nears 100,000

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of millions of people around the world will spend the Easter holiday at home as lockdown measures intensify to combat the coronavirus, a pandemic with a global death toll rapidly approaching 100,000.

Governments have forced businesses to close and limited the movement of half the world’s population, halting economic activity and prompting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to warn that the world faces its worst downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Some 17 million Americans have so far lost their jobs, prompting the US government to launch a \$2.3 trillion rescue package, while the European Union late Thursday struck a 500-billion euro deal to help hard-hit member states.

The United States is now emerging as the global hotspot of the virus. More than 1,700 people died on Thursday from almost 500,000 cases, the second highest death toll of any country and the largest number of cases anywhere in the world. — AFP

Virus fears hit world’s oldest profession

NEW YORK — “Being a prostitute has always been a good option in times of crisis... until this one,” says Bruno, a sex worker who fears catching the deadly coronavirus at a time when those in his trade are more vulnerable than ever.

One of approximately a million sex workers in the United States, Bruno — not his real name — has stopped taking clients in the past month as the once-in-a-century pandemic arrived in America.

Like most legal trades, demand for the 33-year-old’s services has plummeted with much of the country staying home under lockdown.

But Bruno, who is based in the Los Angeles area, started in this business about two years ago precisely because he couldn’t get a steady job that paid well. Now his savings are rapidly dwindling — and unlike most unemployed workers, Bruno is not eligible for federally approved relief. — AFP ■

South Pacific disease threat follows destructive cyclone



Tropical Cyclone Harold flattened tourist resorts in Tonga and left a trail of destruction across Pacific island nations. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUVA — Tropical Cyclone Harold’s trail of destruction through four Pacific nations could threaten a rise in disease, authorities warned Friday, as stretched health services struggled under the added burden of the coronavirus.

Speedy repairs and recovery were needed to prevent malaria and dengue outbreaks following the cyclone which killed 29 and left thousands homeless, officials said.

Over a seven-day period, Harold developed from a category one cyclone into a category five super storm as it slammed

into the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga.

Homes and crops were destroyed, plantations felled, and roads were covered in debris including several wrecked boats.

Sami Mafi told AFP the storm had forced waves directly into his home, near Fanga’uta Lagoon in Tonga, as his family hauled sodden mattresses, clothes and belongings from inside.

“It wasn’t the rain, it was the sea came in. The water hit the house, the door opened, my family were swimming inside,” Mafi said. — AFP ■

Turkey sends medical aid to Britain, Libya for fight against COVID-19

ANKARA — Turkey delivered medical aid to Britain and Libya to help fight COVID-19, Turkish Defense Ministry said on Friday.

“At the direction of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish Armed Forces aircraft, which will transport to the United Kingdom the medical aid supplies prepared by Turkey’s Health Ministry to be used in the fight against COVID-19, has departed Ankara,” the Turkish Defense Ministry tweeted.

The medical aid cargo included protective masks and overalls.

On Friday, the Defense Ministry also announced that Turkey has sent medical aid to Libya. The medical supplies were sent to “our Libyan brothers and our military training cooperation and consultancy teams who are on duty in the region,” the ministry tweeted.

Turkey has also sent medical aid to Italy and Spain. —Xinhua ■



Libya: Fishermen and women fish off the port Tripoli: the scale of the outbreak in the war-torn country, where many essential services cannot function, is still unknown 11 March 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

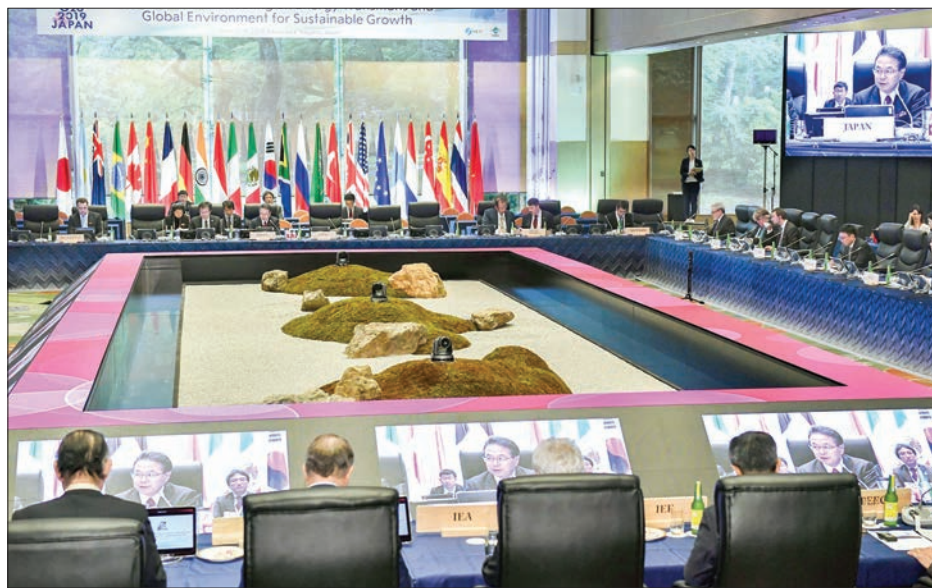
G-20 energy ministers hold teleconference after output cut agreement

TOKYO — Energy ministers from the Group of 20 major economies held a teleconference Friday to discuss ways to ensure stability in the oil market even as the coronavirus pandemic puts a damper on global demand.

The extraordinary meeting comes a day after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia reached a historic agreement to cut production to stop a sharp fall in oil prices over concerns of a severe glut.

Saudi Arabia, this year's G-20 chair and the de facto leader of OPEC, said it called the teleconference to "foster global dialogue and cooperation to ensure stable energy markets and enable a stronger global economy."

Representing Japan



Environment and energy ministers from the Group of 20 countries begin the final day of a two-day meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture, central Japan, on 16 June, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

is Hiroshi Kajiyama, minister of economy, trade and industry.

OPEC and non-OPEC countries, collectively known as OPEC+, agreed Thursday to reduce overall

production by 10 million barrels per day in May and June, and to cut output by 8 million barrels per day from July to December and by 6 million barrels per day from January 2021

to April 2022.

The agreement, however, still needs the approval of Mexico, which has expressed dissatisfaction with its share of the cuts.—Kyodo News ■

US threatens to block China Telecom from American market

WASHINGTON — The United States has threatened to cut off Beijing-controlled China Telecom from serving the US market because of legal and security risks, announced the Justice Department. A recommendation by the government's top departments, including Defence, State and Homeland Security, said the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should "revoke and terminate" all authorizations for the Chinese giant's US subsidiary, China Telecom (Americas), to provide international telecommunications services to and from the United States.

"The Executive Branch agencies identified substantial and unacceptable national security and law

enforcement risks associated with China Telecom's operations, which render the FCC authorizations inconsistent with the public interest," the Justice Department said in a statement Thursday.

If approved, the move could mean China Telecom's hundreds of millions of phone and internet customers — it is China's second largest mobile phone operator — could lose connectivity with or through the United States. The agencies making the recommendation — which also included the Justice Department, the Commerce Department, and the US Trade Representative — said China Telecom is vulnerable to "exploitation, influence and control" by Beijing.—AFP ■

Nigerians struggle as virus lockdown hits supply chains

LAGOS — At a market on the outskirts of Nigeria's megacity Lagos, yam trader Olatunji Okesanya is scrambling for produce as measures to halt the coronavirus cut him off from suppliers.

"The restriction in movement has disrupted supply -- the farmers are finding it difficult to get their produce to Lagos," he told AFP.

"The few who are able are bribing the security agents and this is making the price to rise." Authorities in Africa's most populous nation are battling to stop the spread of a virus that has led to 288 confirmed infections and seven deaths.

Lagos, an economic hub of 20 million, is deep into the second week of a lockdown that has left it a shadow of its usually frenetic self.

The capital Abuja is also shut down and other states around the country

have imposed their own restrictions.

Officials insist that the measures are needed to contain a disease that threatens to wreak havoc on the weak health system.

But farmers, sellers, and consumers complain the fight against the virus has turned Nigeria into a patchwork of roadblocks and regulations that have ruptured business links.

'Losses are piling up'

Wale Oni has seen the lockdown in Lagos and neighbouring Ogun state hit his fish farm hard.

Travel restrictions have prevented him from feeding his stock properly and blocked customers from picking up their orders.

"Profits are being wiped off and losses are piling up," he lamented.

"Feed prices and transportation costs have gone up."—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (008S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (008S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1135W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1135W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-4-2020 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (655 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (655 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-4-2020 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (036W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (036W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA
SHIPPING PTE., LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

Pyetkhaywe Hill, the centre of Myanmar

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

PYETKHAYWE Hill, which has been famous among local and international travellers in Myanmar since recent years, takes its position near Myathukha Village in Myittha Township of Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region. All experts designated the apex of Pyetkhaywe Hill as the centre of Myanmar. In British colonial era, the land survey department erected a bronze plaque on the apex of the 3,733 feet high hill designated as the centre of Myanmar. Although the bronze plaque was lost, there remains a stone post as the centre of country with a position behind the tooth relic pagoda on the apex.

Pyetkhaywe Hill is located at the point of 21° 12' north latitude and 96° 14' east longitude according to the map reference.

Historic Myittha

It is an ancient city named Mlittha Kharon included in 11

Letwin districts established by King Anawrahta of Bagan. In the reign of King Badon (1782-1819 AD), nine Letwin districts were constituted with Myaung-hla, Myinkhontaing, Panan, Myinsoe and Makhaya of Zawgyi District and Sawhla, Myittha and Pyimana of Panlaung District.

Kyaukse plain, the granary of the State, crossed by Samon, Samar, Zawgyi, Panlaung and Dokhtawadt rivers, was famous as 11 Letwin districts in the Bagan era. 11 Letwin districts is a common name for combination of 11 guard cities—Panan, Tamok, Myinkhontaing, Ywamone and Thintaung in Kyaukse Township, Pinle, Pyimana and Myittha in Myittha Township and Makhaya, Tapyettha and Khanlu in Singaing Township.

The records of the Ministry of Home Affairs mentioned the title of Myittha (Mlittha) was given by King Anawrahta. The king reclaimed 800,000 pei of

farmlands by building Kinta, Ngalaithei, Pyaungpya, Kyimei, Natet, Thintwe and Minye dams based on Pinlaung and Zawgyi rivers. The records expressed that Kyimei Dam was built as the latest one on Panlaung River. Meanwhile, King Anawrahta pointed to the site for construction of the latest dam on Panlaung River. The area is now called Myittha.

In the time of the government of the Revolutionary Council, the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs established current Myittha on 31 August 1972 and its wards and village-tracts on 16 June 1973. As such, Myittha Township comprises six wards and 233 villages in 82 village-tracts.

Myittha is 16 miles south of Kyaukse and 48 miles south of Mandalay. The town is 20 miles long from the east to the west and 17.5 miles wide from the south to the north. Myittha Township on 342.63 square miles



Pyetkhaywe Maha stupa.

of land is sharing border with Ywangan Township in the east, Natogyi Township in the west, Wundwin Township in the southwest, Kyaukse Township in the north and TadaU Township in the northwest.

Panlaung River crosses the township from the east to the west and Samon River from the south to the north. The township is teeming with Pyetkhaywe, Palingu, Shweminwun and Mone hills. Two forest reserves—13,700.52 acres of Pyetkhaywe forest reserve and 8,320 acres of Mounkway forest reserve—take positions in the township area.

The tooth relic pagoda on

the apex of Pyetkhaywe Hill is one of 10 eminent pagodas including Shwemuhtaw Pagoda in Myittha Township.

Pyetkhaywe

Pyetkhaywe is a name combined with Pyat Hill and Khaywe Hill. It is famous as Taungtaggyi. Local people call Pyetkhaywe as East Taunggyi and West Taunggyi as well as East Pyetkhaywe Hill and West Pyetkhaywe Hill. Khaywe, the east hill is 3,559 feet higher than the sea level and Pyat, the west one, 3,733 feet higher.

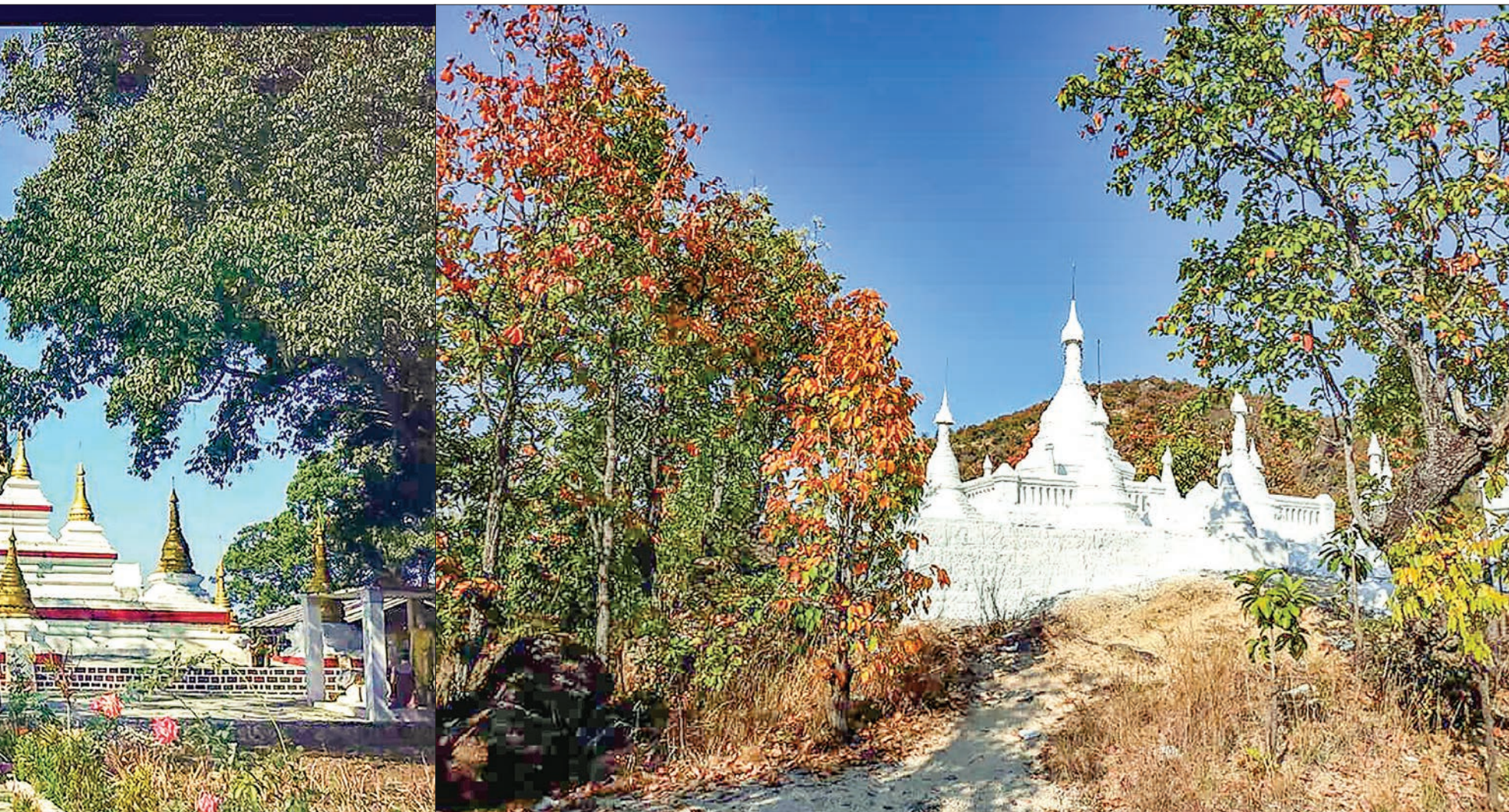
Travellers need to turn right from Kume on Yangon-Mandalay highway and then go along a



Entrance of Pyetkhaywe Maha Stupa.



Mawna monastery.



Baungdawkya Stupa.

nine-mile road to Kinta Dam. After passing through Khawephyu and Thebyu bridges, southeast of Kume, they need to turn right and then go along the road close to the left main canal of Kinta Dam. They will then reach the bridge of the coffee farm. Afterwards, they should turn left and will reach the foot of Pyetkhaywe Hill. A car park can be seen at the foot of hill.

Travellers have to climb the hill along the jungle route via Mawna monastery starting from the foot of hill near Pyetkhaywe Village by taking about three hours. Bikers can drive along a half mile section of the uphill road and then must climb the

hill on foot.

A circular brick stake designated as the centre of Myanmar can be seen on the apex of hill. Likewise, the pagoda assumed as the fifth tooth relic pagoda built by King Anawrahta can be paid homage. Four tooth relic pagodas in Bagan are famous among local and foreign travellers for many years. Now, the tooth relic pagoda on Pyetkhaywe Hill becomes the fifth one.

Mawna and Baungdawkya

Mawna monastery at an altitude of 1,058 feet is a half mile from the foot of Pyetkhaywe Hill. Local people assume that King Anawrahta of Bagan sent an elephant conveying the sacred tooth relic of the Lord Buddha with a vow onto Pyetkhaywe Hill but the elephant took a break due to exhaustion. The site where the elephant took a break was called the place of Mawna monastery.

Mawna monastery takes a position in the place between the east and west Pyetkhaywe hills. The travellers leading onto the hill take a break at Mawna monastery.

Travellers can pay homage to Baungdawkya Pagoda on the route to the hill. Local people believe that in looking up the elephant climbing the hill King's Anawrahta's turban fell on the ground. A pagoda built on the venue was named Baungdawkya Pagoda.

The abbot of Mawna mon-

astery explained two two-storey brick buildings near the monastery were assumed as residences of land surveyors in the British colonial era.

Four sacred tooth relics

Four pagodas enshrined with sacred tooth relics of the Lord Buddha built by King Anawrahta were Shwezigon, Lawkananda, Tantkyi Hill pagoda and Tuyin Hill pagoda. Myanmar Buddhists believe if they could pay homage to four sacred tooth relic pagodas within a day and donate offerings in equal term, they would gain great merits.

Compilers of histories and records wrote a sacred tooth relic each of the Lord Buddha was enshrined at four pagodas. Shwezigon and Lawkananda pagodas are located in NyaungU and Bagan whereas another pagoda takes position on Tuyin Hill between NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung and last one on Tantkyi Hill on the western bank of Ayeyawady River.

In fact, King Anawrahta gave treatises of Tri Pitakat, members of the Sangha and a white elephant requested by King Vijayabahu I of Ceylon Island. The king of Ceylon donated a duplicate tooth relic as Dhamma gift to King Anawrahta.

King Anawrahta enshrined the duplicate tooth relic at Shwezigon Pagoda and another one on the elephant sent to the



A stone post as the centre of the Country, erected in British Colonial era.

deserved place for building the pagoda with a vow. The elephant took a break at Tantkyi Hill and on the highland near the jetty of Ayeyawady River. For the last one, the elephant stopped on Tuyin Hill.

King Anawrahta built four pagodas enshrined with a tooth relic each in four places where the elephant took a break. These pagodas are famous as four tooth relics.

Among four tooth relic pagodas, Lawkananda Pagoda was built in 1059 AD and Shwezigon Pagoda in 1060 AD. Both pagodas are now about 1,000 years old. The tooth relic pagodas on Tantkyi and Tuyin hills have been renovated as new ones losing original styles.

The fifth tooth relic pagoda
King Anawrahta made a vow and sent an elephant car-

rying a lower left tooth relic of the Lord Buddha so as to build a pagoda enshrined with such tooth relic.

The Buddha Pujaniya festival of Pyetkhaywe tooth relic pagoda is held from 13th waxing to the full moon day of Thadingyut yearly. It is a famous festival in Myittha Township.

Despite finding firm evidences related to the tooth relic pagoda, number of tourist arrivals at Pyetkhaywe Hill which is centre of Myanmar is on the increase year by year. The travellers leading to Pyetkhaywe Hill prefer to climb onto more than 3,000 feet high hill along the jungle routes and are satisfied with paying homage to the tooth relic pagoda on the apex of hill.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)



Yangon United donate medical supplies for Yangon Region

YANGON United, champions of the General Aung San Shield 2020 and former champions of the Myanmar National League have recently donated essential medical products for the Yangon Region through the regional gov-

ernment to assist in fighting the global pandemic disease COVID-19, according to the team statement issued yesterday.

Team officials led by Yangon United President U Pyae Phyo Tay Za and players from

the football club were present at the donation ceremony and they donated 16 million worth medical aids to the Yangon Region Government.

The donation included 40 air-conditioners, 200 pairs of Personal Protective Equip-

ment (PPE) suits and 300 pieces of mask for healthcare providers and quarantined persons and patients during the pandemic period.

Football clubs from the Myanmar National League are currently assisting to

combat the global pandemic and the fans of the football clubs also raising funds and donating essential things and medical aids to the daily wage workers, healthcare volunteers and quarantined persons.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Virus blow for Japan's sumo as wrestler tests positive

TOKYO—Japan's sumo association on Friday confirmed its first coronavirus case, in a new blow for the ancient sport, which has already been forced to move one tournament behind closed doors and postpone others.

One low-ranking wrestler who had a fever last week has tested positive for the virus, the association said, declining to name the man or give details of his stable.

The association said no other wrestlers or officials had symptoms and those who belong to the infected wrestler's stable will stay home or at the stable and follow advice from health officials.

The outbreak in Japan has been smaller than in many countries, with more than 5,300 cases and 88 deaths confirmed so far, but the government this week declared a state of emergency in seven regions, and the sumo association said it was adapting too.

The association has not called off daily training but new instructions include requiring wrestlers to take their temperatures twice a day.

The "tokoyama" responsible for styling wrestlers' hair into their signature oiled topknots have been asked to avoid public transportation when coming to stables, a spokesman said.

A young wrestler at a Tokyo stable confirmed daily training was continuing as usual but said activities were limited.

"We wear masks where possible, wash hands, disinfect hands... We have been taking normal prevention measures," he told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We don't visit other stables



Sumo stables have cut back training and put in place other restrictions to limit the spread of the coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

to practice. We have been practising in our stable only."

"We go out only for (grocery) shopping... Stress is building up in many people," he added.

News of the infected wrestler came a week after the association postponed two sumo tournaments scheduled for later this year.

The next sumo "basho" or tournament, scheduled to open on May 10 in Tokyo, has been delayed by two weeks. The July basho in Nagoya suffered the same fate.

Tokyo's basho is expected to begin on May 24 but tickets have yet to go on sale over concerns

about a further postponement or cancellation.

The spring basho, held last month in Osaka, took place without spectators, with wrestlers surrounded by just a handful of judges in the empty arena.

But it was broadcast live on national TV, where viewers could hear sounds normally drowned out by the crowd, including wrestlers slapping their bellies and scraping their feet on the clay ring.

Some rituals were amended, including the traditional ladle of water that a winning wrestler offers to the next in the ring.—**AFP** ■

Serie A: There's no place like Rome to try and conclude the season

ROME—As coronavirus continues to halt sports, Serie A is looking at several options going into the summer. One of them involves playing games all in one city.

As the coronavirus pandemic persists around the world, sports leagues continue to ponder when and how they will resume games once this all subsides. Soccer leagues across Europe are trying to figure this all out after UEFA gave all of them an edict that abandoning the 2019-20 season isn't an option.

That means games could be played into the summer, and possibly even the fall, as leagues scramble to come up with amended schedules and venues. A plan is being floated in Italy to play the remaining Serie A schedule in Rome, far from the virus hotspots of northern Italy, in an effort to finish the season.

The plan resembles that of Major League Baseball, which is considering starting the season next month by playing games only in Arizona be-

fore the contagion subsides nationally over the coming weeks.

The Serie A plan calls for all 20 teams to be quarantined in the Italian capitol and play the remaining 12 matchdays over a 45-day period in empty stadiums. Juventus are in first place with 63 points, followed by Lazio at 62 in what remains a tight two-team title race.

There are several stadiums in Rome and neighboring suburbs that could host games, including the Stadio Flaminio, Stadio Stadio Olimpico, which both Roma and Lazio call home. The ability to have all the teams and their staffs in one location would allow for authorities to routinely test them for COVID-19 while they remained quarantined during training and games.

This could very well be the solution for league officials, who have been pondering for weeks how to conclude the season, determine a champion and which three clubs are relegated to the second division.—**AFP** ■



As the coronavirus pandemic persists around the world, sports leagues continue to ponder when and how they will resume games once this all subsides. **PHOTO: AFP**