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Friday, 1 May 2020

I acknowledge the strong participation of workers in the people's efforts to respond to COVID-19 disease: President

President U Win Myint sends message on occasion of Workers' Day which falls on 1st May 2020

Dear esteemed workers,

Today is Workers' Day, highly regarded by workers all over the world, as well as by workers in Myanmar as a truly auspicious day. On this historic and significant day I send this Message of Greetings to all workers

in Myanmar as well as Myanmar migrant workers abroad good health and happiness, success in their work, peace in their workplaces and development of their socio-economic lives.

In this century, is it an undeniable fact that workers are enjoying rights and benefits more than ever before.

However, we also have to accept the fact that there are differences in the rights and benefits enjoyed by workers based on the country's geographical situation, economy, politics, government and the people.

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State Counsellor holds video conference with senior health officers fighting against COVID-19



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discusses situation of fighting the COVID-19 disease during the video conference with the health professionals. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of National Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, held a video conference yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay

Pyi Taw with senior health professionals who are combatting the pandemic.

Those who took part in the video conference were Deputy Director-General (Lab) of the National Health Laboratory Professor Dr Htay Htay Tin, Deputy

Director-General of Medical Department Dr Thida Hla and Associate Medical Officer of South Okkalapa People's Hospital and Professor/Dean of Tropical and Infectious Diseases Professor/Dean Dr Moe Moe San.

The State Counsellor made

some introductory remarks. Then Professor Dr Htay Htay Tin discussed the works in medical tests, lab diagnosis, providing related medical supplies, ways to increase the number of COVID-19 tests, biosecurity of medical doctors, the systematic taking of

samples for lab tests, and sending the samples to the labs safely.

Dr Thida Hla talked about preparations for COVID-19 treatments at the hospitals and management for containment of the disease.

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HONOURING THE WORKERS' DAY 2020

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Hluttaw meetings organizing committee holds second meeting for 16th regular session



Central Committee on Organizing Second Hluttaw Meetings holding the meeting for 16th regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Central Committee on Organizing Second Hluttaw Meetings held meeting 2/2020 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun

Myat first said the 16th regular session of the Second Hluttaws will commence on 18 May 2020. He said the meeting will focus on the essential 2019-2020 bill for additional Union budget allocation

and prioritized tasks of the Hluttaw process.

He said these tasks are estimated to be complete within the short term and the health protection and accommodation

will be cooperated by the Union government and relevant departments and organizations to be in line with directives and orders related to containing and treating COVID-19.

The Speaker said Hluttaw representatives will be subject to preliminary COVID-19 inspection before the meetings take place and thus Hluttaw representatives should arrive in Nay Pyi Taw no earlier than 9 May and no later than 10 May. He said relevant union ministry departments, state/regional governments will cooperate to ensure Hluttaw representatives arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on time.

Next, Central Committee Chairman and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said while the 16th regular session of the Second Hluttaws was slated to be held on 27 April 2020, it was postponed due to COVID-19. He said the Hluttaw meetings are held during the

restriction period and will be held with the best containment and protection action plans for COVID-19 and asked the meeting attendees for ideas to implement that.

Next, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers, directors-general and officials at the meeting explained their sector-wise processes, and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker responded to the working committees' discussions and delivered the closing speech.

The meeting was also attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers, directors of working committees and staff of the Hluttaw offices.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

THE ASEAN INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION (ASEAN-IPR) INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) based in Jakarta, Indonesia is seeking for an Executive Director to lead the Institute's efforts as ASEAN'S research institute for the term of three years from 19-10-2020 to 18-10-2023. Detail information including responsibilities and qualifications are available at <https://asean-aipr.org/resources/vacancy-executive-director/> and <https://asean.org/opportunities/vacancies-asec/>.

First batch of Myanmar nationals returns from South Korea

INTERNATIONAL flights have been suspended since the spread of COVID-19 but 96 Myanmar nationals returned from Incheon Airport in South Korea to Myanmar on a Myanmar Airways International (MAI) flight at 8:45 pm yesterday.

The Myanmar government is working to recall Myanmar nationals facing difficulties residing abroad for various reasons. The factor in the degree of difficulties they are facing, the situation of putting them in facility quarantine, the rules and regulations of the host nation including flight situation and cooperate with the host nation to send a special flight.

The 96 Myanmar nationals in South Korea were brought back in the first batch and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is



Myanmar nationals returned from South Korea to Myanmar seen at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

complying with National Central Committee on Protection, Containment and Treatment of Coronavirus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19) to cooperate with relevant ministries and the Myanmar Embassy in South Korea and the ROK government to negotiate to call them back.

When 96 Myanmar nationals arrive at Yangon International Airport, ensuring immigration processes are efficient, to comply with directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, to be quarantined for 21 days at their designated hotel which will be organized by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Myanmar nationals doing their immigration processes at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade Mark Ads

Call

Thin Thin May,
09251022355,
09974424848.

“People are the key”

State Counsellor holds video conference with senior health officers ...

FROM PAGE-1

Dr Moe Moe San briefed on the changing trends of COVID-19 symptoms, situations for possible infections, containment works, public participation, status of following guidelines, manageable treatments provided to COVID-19 patients at the hospital, exchange of knowledge on treatment with Myanmar doctors in foreign countries in finding the best ways for curing the disease.

In response to the discussions, the State Counsellor called for cooperation of the public by following the guidelines for fighting against the COVID-19, self-protection and preventing transmission and possible assistance of the government.

The State Counsellor added that although Myanmar was not a prosperous country, the government was doing its best to fight COVID-19 as much as possible, providing medical treatments to the patients in the hospital whether the infection is severe or not, strenuous efforts of the government in doing so, crucial role of public participation and firm determination of government to use all the possible resources to overcome the outbreak of the disease. She also said that cooperation of the public was as important as the efforts of health workers, the government's supports for the Ministry of Health and Sports and its departments, requirement of public participation in this critical time and when the country was facing a huge challenge and encountering a large number of infections.

The State Counsellor added that My-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discusses situation of fighting the COVID-19 disease during the video conference with the health professionals. **PHOTO: MNA**

anmar migrant workers were about to come back home as the government has requested to delay their return until 30 April; the number of returnees would be over 100,000 and most of them were from Thailand and Malaysia; the government will accept Myanmar migrant workers whether they went legally or not; public participation was highly expected with full awareness of possible infection to every person; unity, solidity and empathy were required. She also expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Ministry of

Health and Sports as she felt motivated for working together with other stakeholders to overcome the disease; it is auspicious to recognize the gratitude of others, and that all the front liners in fighting against the prevention, containment and measures against COVID-19 are thanked on behalf of the people and the Union Government.

The State Counsellor also emphasized the key role of the people; it is strongly believed that the participation of 55 million Myanmar people could overcome the huge COVID-19 challenge; the all-out efforts of

the Ministry of Health and Sports and the government were not enough; individual citizens needs to join hands with the government in a responsible manner.

In conclusion she prayed for the success of all endeavours. She said “may all those who are providing health care to the people reap the rewards of their good deeds in abundance”. She ended by sending “metta” and good wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Tatmadaw, fire brigades carry out disinfections at 165 sites for COVID-19 prevention



Fire Services personnel carrying out disinfections in Bahan Township, downtown areas of Yangon.

MEMBERS of Defence Services and Fire Brigade have used 637.5 gallon of disinfectants and 25,500 gallons of water in respective

regions and states.

Disinfections were carried in Nay Pyi Taw and 165 places of 78 townships, with the participa-

tion of civil service employees, in measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoHS postpones regular vaccination programme amid COVID-19

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has announced postponement of the regular vaccination programme, which was scheduled in May, amid the threats of COVID-19.

The delay was aimed to prevent infection of COVID-19 to the infants, parents and health workers at the vaccination centres.

However, the vaccinations for Hepatitis B virus for infants, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin BCG for infants and diphtheria-tetanus (DTP-HepB-Hib) for pregnant women will be normally given at the hospitals. Infants will be vaccinated before they are discharged from the hospital.

The ministry will inform the restart of regular vaccination programme as soon as possible, and at that time people need to go for vaccination of their children without fail, and follow the guidelines. *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,
09251022355

I acknowledge the strong participation of workers in the people's efforts to respond to COVID-19 disease: President

FROM PAGE-1

However this may be, our Union Government has the duty to continuously monitor, assess and take action by taking into consideration international labour standards and ensure that workers are getting the rights and benefits they are entitled to get in accordance with the country's internal labour laws, rules, regulations and instructions; furthermore to make sure that they will get better benefits and rights, that their socio-economic lives will improve and that their standard of living will be elevated.

While Myanmar is working together with ASEAN countries on regional labour issues, we are also working on international labour matters in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO). We are working to implement the Decent Work Country Programme in Myanmar 2018-2019 and have conducted the National Tripartite Dialogue Forums – NTDFs beginning from 2014. As a result, during the ninth session held in January 2018, we were able to adopt the Decent Work Country Programme in a tripartite manner.

We will be implementing the Decent Work Country Programme to ensure that more decent, sustainable, innovative, economic job opportunities will come within the reach of all those who are able to work; by having better management at the work places, to ensure that the practice of basic rules and benefits becomes stronger; and to ensure that social security coverage is expanded for vulnerable workers and people. We will thus be implementing the Decent Work Country Programme in these three priority areas.

Dear esteemed workers,

In order to develop better job opportunities, the Government, Employers, and Workers need to cooperate in a tripartite manner and this is an important mode of work. I am very pleased and satisfied to note that there have been more tripartite discussions, negotiations and efforts to seek solutions.

In addition, in order to provide better rights and benefits for workers, we are in the process of amending and enacting new labour laws. For the amendment of laws, we are reviewing these laws again to ensure that they based on international standards and are in accordance with the real country situation, only after they have been negotiated and discussed in a tripartite manner. Next, this draft law is circulated and informed to the public to ascertain their views and opinions and submitted to the Hluttaw. We are working according to this process. In collaboration with the ILO and with the assistance of development partners, we have initiated the Stakeholder Forum beginning from 2015 for Labour Law Reform. At the Third Stakeholder Forum held in January 2018, future work programmes were adopted the work process for labour law reform was intensified.

To upgrade the skills of workers and to build up capacity, more technical and vocational schools have been opened. We are also striving to produce ASEAN-level skilled workers. We are allowing the private sector to cooperate with the Union Government to produce more skilled workers. The NSSA – National Skills Standard Authority has been formed on the PPP (Public, Private, Partnership) model with the Labour, Immigration and Population Department taking the lead. We are now working to supervise, manage and establish skills standards according to priority areas; to register and

provide accreditation to training departments, assessment and inspection departments including the private sector according to sectors; and to produce systems for inspection and accreditation in accordance with national level skills standard frameworks.

Furthermore, to create job opportunities at home and abroad, we have established policies for labour and migration matters. We have established all over the country a total of 83 labour offices to assist in job searches. For those in remote areas we are operating mobile teams for labour registration for providing service at the ground level; in addition we have organized job fairs for job seekers within the country.

For workers to work in foreign countries and to ensure that they get rights and benefits in accordance with the law, we have signed MOUs relating to migrant workers with the host countries. We are working with them in close consultation. We are working in close cooperation with the IOM – International Organization for Migration, concerned Ministries, NGOs, to ensure

The Union Government will continue to strive hard to make sure that workers can enjoy the fruits of their labour to the fullest, achieve a suitable level of social life without having to worry about their future.

that our migrant workers can travel and work free from danger. We are doing this in countries which have a high population of our migrant workers such as Thailand, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. We have appointed Labour Attaches and they are making sure that our workers are getting the full rights and benefits. We have also opened free training courses for providing assistance and guidance to prospective migrant workers in Yangon and Mandalay. We have opened Migrant Resource Centres in all big cities all over the country. These centres are working in collaboration with relevant organizations to ensure that migrant workers get the information they need.

Dear esteemed workers,

Labour inspection officers are working to make sure that workers who are working in factories, shops and offices are getting benefits and rights in accordance with the law with respect to pay, workdays and holidays, work hours, workplace safety, and health. In addition we are conducting educative seminars to promote the awareness of labour laws. We are also working to enact a new law for safety and health of workers at the worksite.

Furthermore, we are working to review the minimum wage every two years the minimum wage that was fixed in 2015 according to the 2013 Minimum Wage Law. Soon, we will be able to announce a new minimum wage that has been fixed according to the findings of the tripartite committees for fixing minimum wage that have been established in all regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw.

We have given instructions to use the EC – Employment Contract to ensure a peaceful and harmonious

workplace, increased production, good employer-employee relations, reduce labour disputes, enjoyment of labour rights and benefits prescribed by law, observance of worksite rules by workers, settlement of labour disputes systematically and quickly without adopting wrong procedures, and a sense of unity and friendship between employers and workers.

In addition, we have enacted the 2012 Law for settlement of labour disputes to ensure that disputes are settled fairly. This is to make sure that rights and benefits enjoyed fairly, correctly and expeditiously. We have also formed the labour coordination committees and for cases where agreement could not be reached, we have formed township committees for settlement of labour disputes composed of representatives from government, employer, and workers. At the region/state level we have formed labour arbitration committees and councils. They are resolving the labour disputes through negotiations, compromise and making judgements.

We are using the newly enacted 2012 Social Security Law to ensure the social security of workers. We are also working to ensure greater social security coverage. Myanmar is now a member of the ASSA – ASEAN Social Security Association and ISSA – International Social Security Association. We will thus be able to get information and keep abreast about social security matters at the regional as well as the international level.

Dear esteemed workers,

In order to improve the social life of workers, let them enjoy more health care benefits, and to increase production to provide a positive impact on the economic development of the country, we have been implementing the 2012 Social Security Law. In this regard, up to January 2020, the number of workers under the Social Security Scheme stands at over 1.46 million. The Social Security Board with the technical assistance of ILO (International Labour Organization) and partner organizations has been implementing a series of reforms in the following areas to ensure that workers can enjoy their benefits effectively and speedily: information technology, health care, administration, and legal.

For workers whose work establishments had to close due to COVID-19 or other impacts, we have made arrangements so that workers who have been contributing to the Social Security Scheme, health care, medical expenses, and travel allowance benefits have been extended for up to one year from the date they lost their jobs. For Myanmar owned CMP factories, hotel and tourism companies and SME's, Kyats 50 billion from the Social Security Fund has been allocated for the COVID-19 Fund with the approval of the Union Government, to provide low interest loans to the above-mentioned enterprises.

At a time when the State is working for the all-round development of the country with increasing momentum, when the whole country is facing many challenges, especially the present difficulties being faced due to the impact of the COVID-19 disease, all of us, the Government, employers, workers, professionals, civil society organizations, need to work with collective strength, alertness, determination, and wisdom to meet and overcome these challenges. I wish to say that I acknowledge the strong participation of the workers in the people's efforts to respond to and overcome the dreaded COVID-19 disease.

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I acknowledge the strong participation of workers in the people's efforts to respond to COVID-19 disease: President

FROM PAGE-4

Dear esteemed workers,

As for the workers, they can now participate freely in labour unions in accordance with the Labour Organizations Law by drawing up constitutions and work plans by themselves. These unions are your unions, your community and established for the benefit of your members. You also need to be especially aware that outside instigations can occur for personal or political gain to incite unlawful demonstrations and unrest.

In a market-oriented economy, just as the strength of the workers is an important factor for the country's

development, employers who create jobs for workers are essential partners for workers. That is why workers and employers can cooperate harmoniously not only for their benefit but also for the benefit of the country. Furthermore, only by creating a community of good human capital characterized by safe and secure work establishments and fully skilled and qualified workers, will we be able to create good and stable conditions for a market economy. Only then will we see strong investments. Only then will we see the emergence of good and sustainable job opportunities; in this way the workers will be able to earn good salaries commensurate with their abilities.

The Union Government will continue to strive hard to make sure that workers can enjoy the fruits of their labour to the fullest, achieve a suitable level of social life without having to worry about their future.

I send this message of greetings with the hope that the workers and employers who are partners in the economic sphere, who mutually benefit each other, would cooperate with the Union Government in harmony to face and overcome the obstacles and difficulties we are facing with unflagging zeal. Let us participate and perform our assigned duties for our country's development and progress and establishment of a democratic federal union.

AA attack WFP's relief aid convoy for locals in Paletwa

A CONVOY transporting relief aid donated by Chin government, the World Food Programme and the Tatmadaw to the local people in Paletwa Township in Chin State on 29

April amid bad weathers is attacked by AA terrorists.

Depending on the road conditions and security purposes, the 31 commercial vehicles led the

five six-wheeled trucks of WFP, guarded by security forces and the traffic security unit.

About 10,000 metre west of Sami Town, the AA terrorists followed and



The vehicle of the World Food Programme destroyed by AA terrorists. PHOTO: MNA



The windshield of the World Food Programme's vehicle shot by AA terrorists.

PHOTO: MNA

opened fire on the WFP aid convoy by heavy and small arms.

After an exchange fire of security forces, the AA terrorists run away from the scene.

Due to the attacks, U Win Ko Aung, the driver of WFP living in Pakokku Township, was wounded on his face by pieces of wind screen, and fuel tank

and wind screen of his car were damaged by small arms.

The remaining five trucks were also spoiled on some parts.

With the protection of security forces, the relief items arrived in the area of local military command in Paletwa at 4 pm yesterday.

The injured driver

was given medical treatment by a medic of security force which is now performing duties for restoration of peace and security in the area.

Relief aid and commodities will also be distributed to the locals, according to the report of Office of Commander in Chief.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Ayeyawady Foundation honours frontline health workers, donates rice to regions, states

AYEYAWADY Foundation and its associated business groups have donated 17,500 bags of rice worth over K470 million to regions and states through respective regional governments amid COVID-19

spread.

The foundation also has donated K1.6 billion for providing food to the people receiving facility quarantines and health workers up to 30 April.

The foundation donated cash and food to the health workers at the National Health Laboratory, health workers and patients at the Waibargi Specialist Hospital and South Okkalapa Hospital.

—Phoe Thaw Zin (Translated Kyaw Zin Lin)

Members of the Ayeyawady Foundation donate the cash fund for Tiddim Hospital. PHOTO: KO MOE



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COVID-19 protection aids worth K48 mln donated in Muse



Well-wishers donating COVID-19 prevention aids in Muse. **PHOTO: MAI BA NYAUNG (KUTKAI)**

Charity organizations such as Blue Sky from Shweli, Mi Hsaung Pone foundation and Hsaung Chin Link foundation from China donated COVID-19 prevention aids worth K48 mil-

lion to Kutkai, Namkham and Muse townships in Shan State (North) on 29 April through the Muse border (Nandaw crossing).

The charity organizations handed over their donations worth K48 million including 66,000 face masks and 3,480 hand sanitizers. From Myanmar side, district administrator U Hlaing Soe Than and officials from the related townships received the donations. Then, the officials with the Myanmar-China bilateral friendship association gave them certificates of honour.

Moreover, the charity organizations have also donated 15 boxes of face masks to Daw Khin Kyi foundation. —Mai Ba Nyaung (Kutkai)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Some businesses in Mandalay permitted to operate after 30 April

MANDALAY Region government allows operating essential businesses through scrutiny in May as the previous order for suspension of these commercial firms has expired at the end of April.

However, some highway passenger buses, hotels and guesthouses will remain closed until mid-May.

The new order has allowed

reopening of businesses for foodstuffs, medicines and medical supplies, private hospitals, fuel oil stations, electricity supply and banks. If they failed to resume these businesses, they will face legal action taken.

Under the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the factories, workplaces and construction sites will be granted to resume their

operations after scrutinizing by the inspection teams comprising the experts of the Mandalay region government.

Except for these above-mentioned businesses, the hotels, motels, guesthouses, inns, fashion shops and the other businesses must remain closed until 15 May. If they don't follow the instruction, action will be taken

against them.

Moreover, the passenger buses and home used cars (with more than four people onboard) are not allowed to come into and go out of Mandalay region until 15 May, except the cargo trucks to ensure smooth flow of trade in Mandalay region. —Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

No new case of COVID-19 on Thursday

COVID-19 Situation Report

- Laboratory tests of the Department of Medical Research have shown NO positive case (No new confirmed case) of COVID-19 in testing 29 samples on 30 April.
- There are a total of 150 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 30 April.
- Out of old confirmed cases, one person (Case-22) was tested negative for two times, reaching the number to 28 in this group.
- One former patient (Case-1) has recovered and was allowed for leaving the hospital on 30 April. A total of 17 persons have been discharged from the hospital and are now staying
- under home quarantine.
- Six positive patients have died until now.
- A total of 127 confirmed cases are receiving medical treatments at the respective hospitals. Among them, TWO persons are at the intensive care units.
- There are a total of 60 new persons under investigation from 12 noon of 29 April to 12 noon of 30 April.
- Test results from the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on the samples of PUIs and isolated persons will be published.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

**COVID-19 Laboratory results of Department of Medical Research
8: 00 pm, 30 April 2020**

Samples tested at Department of Medical Research in first group on 30 April	29
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) (new positive case)	0

China's fumigation rule makes about 100,000 rice bags stuck in Kyalgaung town

By Nyein Nyein

THE absence of Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) blocked the rice trade between Myanmar and China, resulting in about 100,000 rice bags being stranded in Kyalgaung town, vice president U Min Thein of Muse Rice Depot told the Global New Light of Myanmar-GNLM yesterday.

"Rice trade is completely halted. Starting from 3 April, around 100,000 rice bags are stuck in Kyalgaung. This trade is legitimate. And, China asked for the PC. However, we still cannot seek for it on our side. Myanmar's Agriculture Department is still undergoing to issue them. The officials are now inspecting the warehouses in Muse to ensure the pest-free status," he said.

Starting from 3 April, China allowed the rice bags with the PC issued only by the Agriculture Department to enter the country. As a result of this, about 100,000

rice bags remained stuck in Kyalgaung area.

Earlier, China accepted the pest-free certificate issued at the Muse border. Now, they will allow the rice bags with the certificates issued only by the Agriculture Department. The traders are facing difficulties with seeking the certificates, according to Muse rice depot.

"As China tightened import regulations on 3 April, the rice bags cannot be unloaded about four to five days. Finally, they are kept in the go-downs, adding more costs such as storage fees and labour charges. It approximately costs about K300 per bag," he continued.

At present, the Agriculture Department is inspecting about 50,000 rice bags in Muse to issue the certificate. After that, the traders will get the certificate.

The Ministry of Commerce imposed an export quota of 100,000 tonnes of rice through sea



Workers loading the vehicle with sacks of rice at Botahtaung jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

trade and 50,000 tonnes through border trade for May 2020, as per the Myanmar Rice Federation's statement released on 28 April.

The exporters must sell 10 per cent of total export volume (well-milled and sorted rice), stated in the export declaration as country's reserved rice.

The reserved rice must be sent to the state's warehouse. Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized

organization of the State, will inspect and verify the quality and quantity.

The Yangon Region government will receive the reserved rice proportioned by sea trade, while some per cent of the border export will be stored at the Consumer Affairs Department in Mandalay Region.

Additionally, to ensure the self-sufficiency during the coronavirus pandemic, the govern-

ment will spend K38 billion to purchase foodstuffs (50,000 tonnes of rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil), said Union Minister Dr Than Myint of the Ministry of Commerce.

During the H1 of the current fiscal year 2019-2020, Myanmar exported 1.7 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign markets, whereas the country shipped over 2.3 million tonnes of rice in the previous fiscal.

(Translated by EMM)

Exports of cattle, animal products sharply plunge in current FY

Myanmar's exports of animal products between 1 October and 17 April in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 touched a low of US\$58.8 million, a sharp drop of \$220.35 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY when livestock trading was suspended by China.

In the previous fiscal, animal products exports were registered at \$279.15 million.

Animal products exports are solely driven by the private sector this year.

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

Normally, a large cow is valued at over K1.6-2.3 million, but last year, the suspension of trade led to Chinese traders resorting to price manipulation and offering a lower price of about K1 million.

Myanmar has held a series of negotiations with China at the Joint Border Trade Cooperation and Coordinating

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

While cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, livestock trading is still not permitted by China, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Myanmar, which allowed livestock trading in late 2017, is now exploring new export markets for cattle.

At present, to prevent from animal disease, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation issued a notification on 11 March 2020 that the cattle are subject to special goods and procedures for movement of the cattle in the regions and states were mentioned, posing difficulties to those livestock farmers working on a manageable scale.

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

regions or states.

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

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sino-Myanmar border trade down by \$43 mln as of 17 April

Sino-Myanmar border trade has registered a decrease of US\$43.13 million between 1 October and 17 April in the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Data from the Ministry of Commerce shows the value of Sino-Myanmar border trade touched \$3.345 billion in the current fiscal, which plunged from \$3.388 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

This FY, border trade values totalled \$2.72 billion at Muse, \$87.7 million at Lweje, \$312.7 million at Chinshwehaw, \$211.98 million at Kampaiti, and \$3.8 million at Kengtung. The Commerce Ministry's data showed a drop in trade value at those borders, except Chinshwehaw.

The decline in trade is attributed to the trade suspension during Thingyan Holiday amid coronavirus pandemic. At present, China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease. Therefore, Chinese buyers do not come to Myanmar border crossings in light of coronavirus fears, forcing Myanmar truck drivers to leave for Wanding area to sell the goods.

Next, the export of agricultural products is often halted, on account of China clamping down on illegal goods. Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China is too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation are occurring often at the border.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders through the border trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, relevant departments and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with China counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade. Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from the neighbouring country. — Htet Myat

(Translated by EMM)

Proper measures should be put in place to cope with disasters during rainy season

AS WEATHER is transitioning from summer to winter, cumulus clouds have formed in Myanmar, and we can expect gale-force winds and lightning strikes in this season.

Incidents in which houses have been damaged or destroyed by gale-force winds have been reported almost daily in the newspapers in April.

Strong winds hit parts of Myanmar from 9th to 30th April, destroying about 230 houses and some religious buildings, blowing off roofs from about 4200 houses and 75 religious buildings.

The Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided over K223 million to the victims of the disaster.

In the same period, news of lightning strikes which kill cattle and people indiscriminately have been appearing in the media.

Residents living in the delta and coastal areas are urged to adhere to weather warnings and advice.

It has been found that most of the victims killed by lightning strikes were farmers and they were struck by lightning while working in the fields.

Other disasters which hit us in the monsoon season are flash floods and landslides caused by torrential rains.

A low-pressure area is forming in the Bay of Bengal, and it can intensify into a depression around 3rd May, and is expected to head towards Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Under its influence, heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected over some parts

of our country.

When torrential rain falls, people must remain on the alert for flash floods and landslides near hilly areas and also small rivers, according to the weather bureau.

Residents living in the delta and coastal areas are urged to adhere to weather warnings and advice.

During evacuations, local authorities would evacuate their coastal communities and move to safer higher ground or emergency shelters. Of course, mass evacuation would render social distancing impossible.

Local authorities and emergency responders will have initiated their protocols for flooding and storm during this time of the COVID-19 crisis.

We should put proper measures in place to cope with the disaster in the rainy season to ensure continuous power supply and utilities of the hospitals which are critical during this time of the COVID-19 crisis.

The two situations: rainy season and the COVID-19: will be a testing time for us.

We would like to urge people to take note of the weather reports issued by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, and contact the hotline numbers 067-3404666 and 067-3404777 in case of need.

The efforts of UCSB to bring out good service personnel during the fourth year

By Shin Min
Photo: Kay Kay, UCSB

Civil Service Personnel System was issued on 4 October 2019 for the improvement of the State administrative machinery and the consistency of the functions of service personnel amidst the changes in the administrations based on the election results.

THE improvement of honesty, enthusiasm, dutifulness and competency of the government employees is the goal of the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) which is producing good service personnel in accordance with the motto – good service personnel leads to a better nation.

As the competency of state service personnel is supportive to the national development, the



U Win Thein, Chairman of UCSB.

UCSB carried out reforms in connection with the government employees during the four years.

One of the significant reforms of UCSB is the issuance of the Civil Service Training Policy during the fourth year, with the aim of properly nurturing the service personnel in accordance with the set rules and ethics.

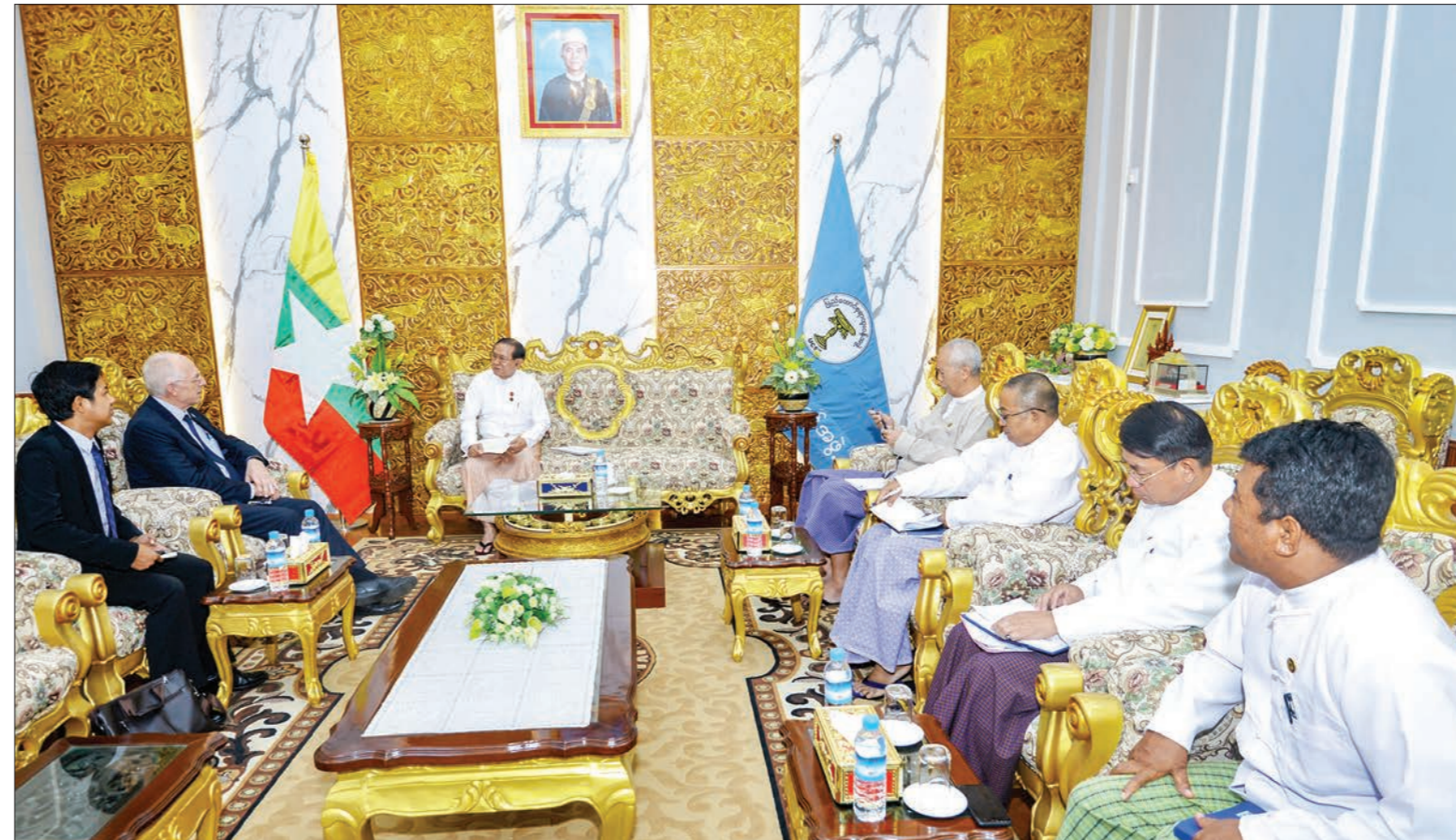
Civil Service Personnel Sys-

tem was issued on 4 October 2019 for the improvement of the State administrative machinery and the consistency of the functions of service personnel amidst the changes in the administrations based on the election results. UCSB is also preparing a uniformed office guidebook for the harmony and effectiveness of the service functions, and designated this year as the Myanmar Civil Service Training Year 2020.

“The stage one deals with the efficiency improvement of course instructors; the stage two, the replacement of the Knowledge-based Curriculum with the Competency-based Curriculum,” said U Win Thein, Chairman of UCSB.

The civil service reform strategy 2017-2018 was adopted and issued on 10 July 2017 as reinforcement for the civil service administration with the technical help of UNDP. UCSB held seminars, workshops and related meetings for ten times before drawing the strategy. The Union level body will organize an international conference this year where its progress in implementing the strategy will be made public.

A marking system for competency-based assignment for senior officials, leadership programme for civil servant advanced management and efficiency has already adopted with the help of UNDP.



Union Civil Service Board is strengthening relations with international organizations in an effort to foster professionalism in civil service.

UCSB has issued the public opinion on the State service personnel which was collected from 2520 households.

The Public Service Motivation Survey was conducted on 409 deputy directors general, directors and deputy directors of five departments, and the results will be announced and distributed at the relevant offices.



Officials discuss during the Foreign Study Committee meeting.

One of the significant reforms of UCSB is the issuance of the Civil Service Training Policy during the fourth year, with the aim of properly nurturing the service personnel in accordance with the set rules and ethics.

“Base of the results of the public opinion about the civil servants, we will improve the effectiveness of the public services, quickness of the response, broaden transparency and improve life of the service personnel. We have held a forum on policy development for implementing the civil service reforms in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 December 2019,” said UCSB Chairman U Win Thein.

UCSB held a forum of motivation of civil servants under the Work Plan of the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 and 19 November last year.

The Union level body is also implementing the Leadership, Effectiveness, Adaptability and Professionalism (LEAP) ANNU-

AL WORK PLAN 2020. It has already drawn the Code of Ethics for service personnel, apart from drawing the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) based on Human Resource Management (HRM) Policy.

“Under the strategy, the merit-based promotions, assignments and honors will become systematic. Moreover, vigorous learning methods will also enhance the service efficiency,” the UCSB chair assured. UCSB is planning a human resources management workshop as a Pilot Test in support of the merit-based system which will narrow the gender gap of the employment and promotion systems. The body is cooperating with UN agencies and regional and international organizations for continuous progress of civil

services.

“We have made contacts with UNDP, UNAPCICIT, EU (GOPA), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), ASEAN civil service organizations, KOICA, China National Academy of Governance (CNAG), Grant program of US Embassy in Yangon, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), State Services Commission of New Zealand, International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA), and ASEAN institutions for efficiency development of the service personnel. Foreign language courses and seminars with the involvement of foreign experts have been arranged at the Central Institutes of Civil Services,” said the UCSB chair.

The body has conducted reforms in selecting officers, opening five exam centres – Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Mawlamyine.

Unlike in the past, the tests are based on motivation-based thinking power. Myanmar, English and general knowledge tests are conducted.

SEE PAGE-10

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has promoted Deputy Director-General (Admin) U Ye Min Zaw from the Building Department, Ministry of Construction, as the Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Committee to Investigate Shooting of WHO Vehicle holds its first meeting

THE first meeting of the Committee to Investigate the Shooting of WHO Vehicle, held on 30 April 2020 was attended by all committee members, discussing the methodology to be adopted in undertaking its responsibility.

In line with international standards and protocols, the committee agreed to ensure that its activities will be carried out with transparency. It will undertake field and site investigations as soon as possible.— MNA

May Day 1st May

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

INTERNATIONAL May Day on 1st May every year was originally known as Labour Day. Today it is well known as International Worker’s Day. This Day background history is as diverse as its extent is widespread. But its historical backgrounds have amazing similarities. In Myanmar Workers’ Day (အလုပ်သမားနေ့) goes back to the oil fields strike led by Thakhin Pho Hla Gyi who led a long protest march from Yenangaung to Yangon in 1938.

But in western countries May Day originated in Pre Christian and Christian Times. In pre-Christian Times beliefs in cultures of Europe were derived from ancient Greek-Roman countries. Gods and goddesses were celebrated by believers. Later Christianity adopted these Pagan gods and goddesses as Patron saints. Thus, goddess May became Patron Saint May of Spring. Throughout European countries Patron Saint May was celebrated by May pole dances in country side. In early spring all natural environment is alive with a new lease of life springs, falls, streams, ponds, lakes, trees, plants, flowers, bees, butterfly flowers, came out.

Rural people went into the forest to cut straight tall tree trunk to plant it in the villages, The pole was decorated with festoons, flowers and merry-go-round Villages bell as in their fine clothes dance around the May pole singing on merry-go-rounds. Village’s boys join playing throwing flowers all dancing playing instruments and singing foK songs.

All Europe celebrated May Pole dance in their own way and style. It was a common agricultural festivals tinged with Pre-Yon and Xn cultures. After the First Industrial Revolution of the 19th century originated in Great Britain and spread to Europe and East Asia. This Day assumed social socio-political importance socialist and communist countries turned May Day 1st May into Workers Day instead of Labour Day. Myanmar joined and every year May Day 1st May is observed (အလုပ်သမားနေ့) Worker’s Day.

The efforts of UCSB to bring out good service personnel during the fourth year



Aiming to enrich workplaces with new ideas, Union Civil Service Board holding the Regional Workshop on Public Service Motivation with the support of UNDP in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 July 2019.



Graduation ceremony of the 5th Senior Level Official Management Course organized by the Central Institute of Civil Service.



Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman U Win Thein inspects the examination for entry level gazetted officer positions in Yangon.

FROM PAGE-9

The questions are centred on motivation to choose the right person for the right place. The questions of psychotest are modified to meet the

changing trends.

“During the four years, UCSB selected 1,760 officers for 1,953 vacant positions and 5,131 assistant health officers for 7,437 vacant positions of ministries and 28 institutions,”

said the UCSN chair.

UCSB introduced the Online Application System (OAS) on 14 September 2019. The Union level body approved the appointment of 7,183 employees who meet the requirements as



The Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) is currently undertaking a variety of reform activities in collaboration with international organizations. Various workshops discussed the support for civil service, improvement of international Exchanges.

officers this year. During the four years, the body approved the promotion of 31,440 staff as officers.

UCSB gave the remarks on the transfer of officers from one institution to another under the directives of Union Government, Civil Service Law and rules. It has coordinated with the relevant ministries the transfer of EA12 level Tatmadaw officers to civilian organizations.

UCSB is also looking into the requirements in making amendments or additions to the existing relevant laws, bylaws and rules to meet the age. It gave replies for 248 cases in 2019, and altogether 761 cases during the four years. The body has published the Civil Service Training Policy, the Myanmar Civil Service System, the relevant laws, bylaws and rules, guidebooks and codes of conduct. It has compiled the Project Proposal on the e-Recruitment and Integrated Civil Service System the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), and is expected to implement it in 2020-2021, with the goal of introducing an Automation system for civil service records. The body is conducting talks in regions and states for enhancing ICT awareness among the civil servants to ensure convenience in applying ICT in e-Services.

With the cooperation of the Victoria University of New Zealand, the Union Civil Service Board conducted the English Language Training for Govern-

ment Officials in three 35-member groups. It also joined the IASIA for the central institutes of civil service to become internationally acknowledged institutions. It is sending the instructors of the institutions to Ph.D, MPA, MBA, MPP and Diploma courses, Workshops, Seminars and Trainings abroad for enhancing their efficiency. The body conducted Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service course under the program of Fulbright Specialist Programme of the US and ToT Course for English Faculty and English Language Proficiency course under the arrangement of English Language Fellow Programme (ELFP) of the US. It also opened the Course Analysis and Curriculum Design conducted by State Services Commission of New Zealand, Capacity Building and Training of Trainers on Pedagogy course under the arrangement of domestic universities, and 2019 Training Course for Myanmar Trainers in Myanmar under the arrangement of CNAG of China. UNDP served as the coordinator. It also made necessary arrangements for the improvement of the curricular and teaching methods of the institutes. UCSB replace the Hall Type hostels with individual rooms at the institutes.

During the four years, UCSB was conducting reforms for producing good government employees that can fulfill the public needs and serve the public interest.

(Translated by TMT)

ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION

US govt reveals details of sunlight study on virus

THE US Department of Homeland Security revealed to AFP on Tuesday new technical details regarding its highly anticipated study into how ultraviolet radiation destroys the new coronavirus, saying that its experiment had accurately mimicked natural sunlight.

A summary of the research was presented last week at the White House, with some scientists calling for caution until a more comprehensive report was made public.

US President Donald Trump raised eyebrows last week when he used his daily live national press briefing to ask whether light could become a medical treatment.

“Supposing we hit the body with a tremendous -- whether it’s ultraviolet or just very powerful light,” he said. “Supposing you brought the light inside the body, which you can do either through the skin or in some other way.”

Trump continued on to suggest that people inject disinfectants to cure the virus, an idea that health experts quickly shot down.

DHS official William Bryan

had briefed the media that the amount of virus on a non-porous surface shrunk by half in just two minutes when sunlight was present, the temperature was 70-75 degrees Fahrenheit (21-24 Celsius) and humidity was 80 per cent.

The amount of virus suspended in air shrunk to half its amount in just 1.5 minutes at room temperature and 20 per cent humidity, he added.

These eye-catching results surprised experts because most of the UV light contained in natural sunlight belongs to a subtype called UVA, which causes human skin to tan and age but has not generally been proven harmful to viruses, David Brenner, director of the Centre for Radiological Research at Columbia University Medical Centre, told AFP.

On the other hand, a part of the spectrum called UVC is particularly adept at warping the genetic material of animal and virus cells and is widely used in sterilizing lamps, but it is not present in sunlight because it is filtered out by the Earth’s atmosphere.

Asked for further details on



A picture taken on July 6, 2018 shows the bright sun shining over a wheat field in Giesen, northern Germany. PHOTO: DPA/AFP/FILE

the type of UV light that was used, Lloyd Hough, a DHS scientist overseeing the test, said: “The spectrum of light that was used was designed to approximate natural sunlight that you would expect to see at noon at sea level at a mid-latitude location (e.g., mid-Atlantic, 40 degrees N) on the first day of

summer.

“More specifically, it approximates the wavelengths of light predicted by the National Centre for Atmospheric Research’s (NCAR) Tropospheric Ultraviolet and Visible (TUV) Radiation Model for noon at 40 degrees N latitude at sea level on June 21st in range of 280 and

400 nanometer wavelengths.” The wavelengths specified pertain only to long- and medium-wave ultraviolet, also known as UVA and UVB — the UV components of sunlight that penetrate the atmosphere — and not UVC.

SOURCE: AFP

NEW STUDY

Remdesivir shows ‘clear-cut’ effect in treating coronavirus: Fauci

A major new study proves that the antiviral drug remdesivir is effective in saving people with serious cases of COVID-19, top US doctor Anthony Fauci said Wednesday.

Fauci, speaking at the White House, said, “The data shows remdesivir has a clear-cut, significant, positive effect in diminishing the time to recovery.”

This proves “that a drug can block this virus,” he said, com-

paring the discovery to the fight for AIDS therapies four decades ago.

Fauci said a smaller Chinese study released separately on Wednesday showing no benefits from remdesivir was “not an adequate study.”

Fauci, the top US scientist for infectious diseases and a key advisor on President Donald Trump’s coronavirus task force, said US pharmaceutical

giant Gilead was in talks with the government to get an early release of remdesivir for the neediest cases.

That would mean seriously ill patients, because the study only examined people already hospitalized, rather than those with mild or early symptoms, he said.

As a veteran of the race to find therapies during the HIV/AIDS crisis starting in the 1980s, Fauci said the results reminded him of early breakthroughs during that era.

“It was reminiscent of 34 years ago in 1986 when we were struggling for drugs for HIV and we had nothing,” he said.

“It’s opening the door to the fact that we now have the capability of treating” patients.

Fauci stressed that the US study is reliable, unlike the “underpowered” version published in The Lancet after research in Wuhan, China.

“It is the first truly high-powered, randomized placebo control trial,” Fauci said.

He said the Food and Drug Administration would begin by making remdesivir “easily available to those who need it,” but a mass market release would need more complex approval.

“The FDA, literally as we speak, is working with Gilead to figure out mechanisms to make this easily available to those who need it,” he said.

The FDA will work “very expeditiously” on wider approval.

Trump called the study “a beginning” and “a very positive event.”

The study by China-Japan Friendship Hospital and Capital Medical University in China, published earlier in The Lancet, found that remdesivir “did not provide significant benefits over placebo.”

The Wuhan study was conducted in 237 COVID-19 patients, half of whom were given remdesivir. The other half were treated as a control group and given standard antibiotics.

SOURCE: AFP

Beijing city lowers COVID-19 emergency response level as infections wane

THE Chinese capital will lower its emergency response to the novel coronavirus epidemic from the top level to the second level starting April 30, the latest sign of social order restoration as the epidemic conditions have been eased.

The decision was made after the city had seen no new confirmed local or imported COVID-19 cases for 13 consecutive days, said Chen Bei, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing municipal government, at a press conference on Wednesday.

On Jan. 24, Beijing activated the highest level of public health emergency response to contain the outbreak of the epidemic.

SOURCE: Xinhua



The drug remdesivir appears to help treat those suffering from COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Twitter swings to loss as pandemic hits advertising

SAN FRANCISCO — Twitter swung to a loss in the past quarter as the global pandemic hit advertising revenue, even as the social platform saw a surge in new users.

In its quarterly update Thursday, Twitter saw an \$8 million loss as revenues edged up three per cent to \$808 million and its user base increased 24 per cent.

Chief executive Jack Dorsey said the platform was working to be a useful resource for people during the global lockdowns.

"I've never been more sure of the value Twitter brings to people around the world," Dorsey told analysts on a conference call.

He said Twitter's goal is to "serve the global conversation" and that the platform is "helping the world stay informed, and



Twitter saw a jump in new users in the past quarter amid a global pandemic but posted a net loss as ad revenue softened. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey. PHOTO BY PRAKASH SINGH/AFP

providing a unique way for people to come together to help or simply entertain and remind one another of our connections."

Twitter shares jumped as much as 10 per cent in pre-market trade, but later turned negative after expressing caution about prospects for a rebound. Shares opened down 6.4 per cent. Adver-

tising revenue was essentially flat in the period, but were hit by a huge slump in the final weeks of the quarter, Twitter said. It said ad revenues plummeted 27 per cent compared with a year ago between March 11 and 27, when many global events were canceled and US residents began sheltering in place.—AFP ■

Shell cuts dividend for first time since WWII on oil crisis

LONDON — Royal Dutch Shell on Thursday cut its dividend for the first time since the 1940s after a first-quarter loss — and warned virus-ravaged oil prices will take time to fully recover.

The Anglo-Dutch group sank into a \$24-million (\$29.5-million) net loss in the three months to March — when oil went into freefall on tumbling demand and a price war between producers Saudi Arabia and Russia.

That contrasted sharply with profit after tax of \$6.0 billion in the same period a year earlier, the London-listed giant added in a statement.

Earnings on a current cost-of-supplies (CCS) basis — stripping out changes to the value of oil and gas inventories — sank 46 per cent to \$2.9 billion in

the reporting period, Shell said.

The energy titan, which axed spending last month in response to the oil crash, said it had slashed its shareholder dividend by 65 per cent to 16 cents per share, from 47 cents in the fourth quarter.

"As a result of COVID-19, there is significant uncertainty in the expected macroeconomic conditions

with an expected negative impact on demand for oil, gas and related products," Shell said.

"Furthermore, recent global developments and uncertainty in oil supply have caused further volatility in commodity markets."

It warned that the pandemic would spark a difficult second quarter — with no price bounceback in prospect.—AFP ■



Royal Dutch Shell has cut its dividend for the first time since the 1940s. PHOTO: AFP/FILE (AFP PHOTO/CARL COURT)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (209N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (209N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRINCESS BOA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PRINCESS BOA VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-5-2020 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 CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO, LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Recruitment in Japan to be varied if Sept. school year introduced

TOKYO — Firms in Japan are likely to accelerate changes to their April recruitment schedules if the government decides to push the start of the academic year to September in the wake of school closures due to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

While most companies in Japan hire in line with graduations held in March, the government places restrictions on their schedules to prevent them from recruiting early in an attempt to get all the best students.

Companies can only hold information sessions

from March of a student's third year in university, interviews from June of their fourth year, and make offers from October that same year.

Should the start of the academic year be pushed back to September, company officials say they are prepared to take a more flexible approach, such as recruiting throughout the year.

Other firms, which say all graduates should be recruited at the same time to maintain balance in the age of their employees, consider the change to simply be a readjust-

ment in schedule.

Many expect the move will also result in

an increase in the recruitment of global talent.—Tokyo ■



Newly enrolled students of the University of Tokyo, Japan's most prestigious national university, pose for a photo before the start of the school's entrance ceremony at Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo on April 12, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO

Help wanted: Jobless China workers await relief

BEIJING — Life is never easy for China's nearly 300 million migrant workers, but with the coronavirus zapping jobs at a historic clip, unemployed factory labourer Wei Guikun is at his wits' end.

Since March, Wei has wandered in search

of work from his home in eastern Shandong province — where virus lockdowns stranded him for weeks — to factories in China's southern coastal regions, and now back north to Shanghai.

But the pandemic has paralysed overseas export

demand and the 29-year-old has faced only rejection or low-ball pay on his roughly 3,500-kilometre (2,200-mile) odyssey.

The global pandemic will force millions worldwide to spend Friday's International Workers Day in unemployment and un-

certainty. But perhaps nowhere is the pressure felt as keenly as in the world's second-largest economy, where the Communist Party has long staked its legitimacy on delivering jobs and prosperity in return for public acquiescence to its political monopoly.—AFP ■

ECB says ready to reload in fight against virus impact

FRANKFURT — The European Central Bank said Thursday it could step up a massive bond-buying scheme launched last month to cushion the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, as data showed the eurozone economy stumbled in the first quarter.

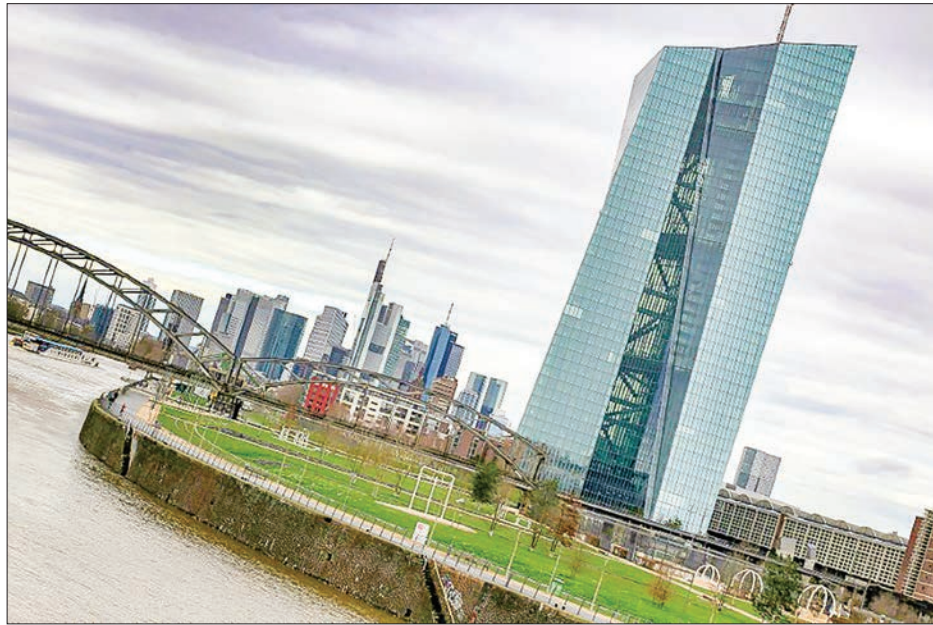
The ECB “is fully prepared to increase the size of the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP) and adjust its composition, by as much as is necessary and for as long as needed,” a spokesman said following a policymakers’ meeting.

Earlier Thursday, data from the EU’s offi-

cial statistics agency Eurostat showed eurozone gross domestic product contracted by 3.8 per cent in January-March — the worst quarterly drop since Eurostat records began in 1995.

At present, PEPP provides for 750 billion euros of government and corporate bonds by the end of 2020, bringing the ECB’s arsenal of “quantitative easing” (QE) asset purchases to around 1.1 trillion euros (\$1.2 trillion) this year.

The Frankfurt institution left key interest rates unchanged, but said it would make conditions on a massive programme of cheap loans to banks



The ECB stands ready to step up the fight against the coronavirus impact.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

— known as TLTROs — more favourable to encourage lending to the

real economy.

At their most generous, variable interest rates

on the loans will reach -1.0 percent — meaning the ECB is effectively paying

banks to take cash.

And it will add a new series of credit to lenders over the coming months to further buttress the financial system through the worst of the pandemic, dubbing them Pandemic Emergency Longer-Term Refinancing Operations (PELTROs).

The new loan programme will also include the possibility of negative interest rates for borrowers.

Thursday’s changes showed the ECB would do “whatever it takes, but for banks to fund the recovery,” tweeted Pictet Wealth Management strategist Frederik Ducrozet.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanon approves economic rescue plan

THE Lebanese government on Thursday approved a long-awaited plan to rescue the debt-saddled economy from its worst crisis in decades, following a fresh wave of angry streets protests.

A lockdown to fight the coronavirus pandemic has added to the economic woes besetting the country, which include soaring inflation, a liquidity crunch and a plummeting currency.

Demonstrators in northern Lebanon have attacked banks and clashed with security forces for

three consecutive nights, re-energizing a protest movement launched in October against a political class the activists deem inept and corrupt.

Lockdown measures hammer EU economy

The EU economy shrank by 3.5 per cent in the first quarter, official data showed Thursday, the first major indication of the devastation facing the bloc as a result of coronavirus.

As lockdown measures imposed from March began to bite, the eurozone suffered an even bigger

contraction — of 3.8 percent — in the first three months of the year, the EU’s official statistics agency Eurostat said.

Countries across the EU have drastically curtailed everyday life — and economic activity — in a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19, which has killed more than 135,000 people across Europe.

Eurostat said it was the sharpest quarter-on-quarter drop in gross domestic product since it began compiling the figures in 1995.—AFP ■

France GDP down by 5.8 pct in Q1 2020, sharpest fall since 1949

PARIS — France’s gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 5.8 per cent in the first quarter this year, the deepest drop on a quarterly basis since the evaluations began in 1949, official data showed on Thursday.

“GDP’s negative evolution in Q1 2020 is primarily linked to the shutdown of ‘non-essential’ activities in the context of the im-

plementation of the lockdown since mid-March,” national statistics institute Insee said.

Overall production of goods and services declined sharply by 5.5 per cent. The sharpest fall was seen in construction with -12.6 per cent. Output in goods and manufactured goods declined by 4.8 per cent and 5.6 per cent, respectively. Out-

put in market services declined by 5.7 per cent overall, showed the Insee data.

The stats agency added consumer spending and business investment, the country’s main growth engines, declined by 6.1 per cent and 11.8 per cent respectively in the first quarter compared with the previous three-month period.—Xinhua ■

First National Insurance Public Company Limited (Under Members’ Voluntary Winding-up)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM DEBTS

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their attorneys, if any, to the undersigned Liquidator at address mentioned below in person or by their attorneys to come in and prove their said debts or claims on or before 1st June, 2020 or in default thereof they will be excluded from the settlement of such debts and claims.

Daw Hnin Su Mon
B.Com (Q), CPA, DBL, ACCA
Liquidator
Room No. (2D), Rose Condominium,
No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law and First National Insurance Public Company Limited [Under Sections 345 & 348]

The Special General Meeting of First National Insurance Public Company Limited duly held and convened on (30-4-2020), at 2:00 p.m. at No. 400/406, Merchant Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, the following resolutions were passed unanimously as Special Resolutions:

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- (1) Resolved that First National Insurance Public Company Limited, established to carry out both Life and Non-Life insurance, be and is hereby wound up voluntarily under Members’ Voluntary Winding up as in its stead two separate companies: First National Insurance (Life) Company Limited and First National Insurance (General) Company Limited had been established on (1-4-2019) for selling Life and Non-Life insurance respectively pursuant to the instruction of the Insurance Business Regulatory Board.
- (2) Resolved that Daw Hnin Su Mon (B.Com (Q), CPA, DBL, ACCA) holder of Citizenship Scrutiny Card No. 12/Ma Ya Ka (N) 114749, Senior Manager of WIN Consulting Limited of Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up and be authorized her to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be necessary for the beneficial winding up thereof and be granted such other powers as may be deemed fit or proper.

U Aung Ko Ko Tin Win
Deputy Managing Director
First National Insurance Public Company Limited

China cancels Boao regional economic forum amid pandemic

BEIJING — The Boao Forum for Asia, the regional economic forum China likes promoting as Asia's alternative to the World Economic Forum in Davos, will be canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, organizers said Thursday. The forum, which has been held annually since 2002, sees government officials and business leaders from China and abroad gather on the southern island province of Hainan. But this year's conference, originally scheduled for March 24 to 27, was postponed indefinitely in late March due to the outbreak.

"In response to international efforts to contain the disease and prioritizing the health and safety of all participants, the forum's Board of Directors made the difficult decision of not holding this year's annual conference," organizers said in a statement.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers a speech during the Boao Forum for Asia in the southernmost Chinese province of Hainan on March 28, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO

The forum will still continue to prepare for three conferences scheduled for the latter half of this year, they added.

Since the new coronavirus was first detected in the central city of Wuhan late last year, China has reported more than 82,000 infection cases on the mainland, with over 4,600 deaths linked to COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus.—Kyodo ■

S. Korea logs no new local virus cases for 1st time since outbreak

SEOUL — South Korea on Thursday reported no new cases of local coronavirus transmission for the first time since a large outbreak was detected in February.

The country's health authorities confirmed four new cases of coronavirus infection over a one-day period through Wednesday, all found in people arriving from overseas.

South Korea now has 10,765 confirmed cases and 247 deaths stemming from the virus that

causes the respiratory disease called COVID-19.

The authorities also said they have seen no infection cases linked to the April 15 general election, and that no such case is likely to emerge now that a two-week incubation period has passed since tens of millions of voters went to the polls. The country saw a surge in daily new cases in late February due to mass transmissions among people linked to a minor religious



A man puts disposable gloves on at a polling station in Seoul before voting in South Korea's general election on April 15, 2020, amid the ongoing fight against the novel coronavirus. PHOTO: KYODO

sect. But it has since managed to suppress cases of the virus through ramped-up testing and contact tracing.—Kyodo ■

Japan unlikely to lift virus state of emergency next week: Abe

TOKYO — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Thursday it was "hard" to lift a nationwide

state of emergency imposed over the coronavirus next week as local media reported he plans

for an extension — possibly by another month.

The measure was initially declared on April 7 across seven regions experiencing a spike in infections, but was later expanded to cover the entire country.

With the original month-long period coming to an end next week after the country's annual Golden Week holidays, local media reported that Abe was now expected to extend the measure, either until the end of May or for another full month until June 6.

"Considering the burden carried by medical officials, I recognise the present situation as very severe," Abe told reporters.

"It's hard to return to the days of the past, starting on May 7," the premier said.

"I openly have to say that we must prepare for a battle of patience for a certain period," he said, adding that he will decide how long it should be extended after hearing from experts.

Local media, including the Nikkei newspaper, reported the government would convene a panel of experts on Friday to discuss the virus and the state of emergency, adding that the experts had already informally backed a move to extend the measures.

It was not yet clear when any extension would be announced, but Abe has said he will not wait until the last minute, to allow business and institutions including schools time to prepare accordingly.—AFP ■



With the initial month-long period coming to an end next week, local media reported that Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was now expected to extend the measure, either until the end of May or early June. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia's coronavirus infections surpass 10,000

JAKARTA — The number of people infected with the novel coronavirus has topped 10,000 in Indonesia, a government spokesman dealing with the COVID-19 disease said Thursday.

Achmad Yurianto told a press conference that Indonesia recorded 347 new coronavirus cases over the previous day, bringing the country's total to 10,118. Of that number, 792 patients have died and 1,522 recovered, Yurianto said.

Still, considering Indonesia is one of the world's most populous countries, the low number of confirmed cases is seen by some health experts as a result of under-testing, partly due to resource constraints.

As of Thursday, Indonesia had only tested 72,351 patients.

Wiku Adisasmito, head of the expert team of the country's Task Force to Accelerate the COVID-19 Mitigation, told a virtual press conference with foreign journalists, "We are doing our best to increase the capacity of tests by laboratories."—Kyodo ■

Thai gov't launches multi language COVID-19 hotline after illegal migrant workers found with COVID-19 infections

BANGKOK — Thailand's Ministry of Public Health on Wednesday launched a brand new COVID-19 hotline number in three different languages for migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia in Thailand.

The move came after 42 detained migrants were found infected with COVID-19 in Thailand's Southern Province of Songkhla a few days ago.

"From May 1 onward, 2.7 million migrant workers can access health guidelines in Burmese, Laotian and Cambodian by dialing the COVID-19 Migrant Hotline at 1422," Dr. Suwanachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, director of the ministry's Disease Control Department, said in a press conference on Wednesday.—Xinhua ■

Los Angeles becomes first U.S. city to test all of its residents for COVID-19

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles will begin offering coronavirus testing for free to all citizens regardless of whether they have symptoms, Mayor Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday, adding that LA is the first major US city to take such an initiative.

During the press conference, Garcetti announced that all county residents can now get free coronavirus testing. He said the announcement will only apply to city residents for now, but that a similar plan is in development for Los Angeles County. Garcetti also took to Twitter to announce the same.

“Announcing that L.A. is now the first major city in America to offer free COVID-19 testing to

all residents. While priority will still be given to those with symptoms, individuals without symptoms can also be tested. Sign up at [Coronavirus.LACity.org/Testing](https://www.coronavirus.lacity.org/testing),” he said under the new guidelines, priority for the same or next-day testing will still be given to people with symptoms, such as a fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The free testing will also be prioritised for certain critical frontline workers who interact with the public.

Until now, only residents with symptoms as well as essential workers and those in institutional settings like nursing homes could be tested.

On Wednesday, the LA County reported 1,541 new cas-



People walk by an apocalyptic mural by Hijackhart, where soldiers wearing face masks fight Covid-19 with disinfectant and hand sanitizers during the coronavirus pandemic in Los Angeles. **IMAGE CREDIT: AFP**

es, bringing the total to 22,485 – a seven per cent increase since yesterday.

This includes a backlog of cases that were processed. In the city, there were 683 new cas-

es on Wednesday, bringing the total to 10,380 – a 7 percent increase since yesterday.—ANI ■

U.S. Navy starts broader inquiry into coronavirus outbreak aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt

WASHINGTON — The US Navy said on Wednesday it is launching a broader inquiry into the coronavirus outbreak aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier, effectively delaying its recommendation to reinstate Captain Brett Crozier as commanding officer of the warship.

“After carefully reviewing

the preliminary inquiry into the events surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Gilday, provided me with his recommendations. Following our discussion, I have unanswered questions that the preliminary inquiry has identified and that can only

be answered by a deeper review,” acting Navy Secretary James McPherson said in a statement.

“Therefore, I am directing Adm. Gilday to conduct a follow-on command investigation. This investigation will build on the good work of the initial inquiry to provide a more fulsome understanding of the sequence of events, actions, and decisions of the chain of command surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt,” McPherson said.

The new inquiry is expected to be led by the Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Robert Burke who will have until May 27 to complete it, according to a CNN report.

Also on Wednesday, sailors from the Roosevelt began returning to the aircraft carrier for the first time since they were moved ashore because of COVID-19, said the report.

—Xinhua ■



The Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier is docked in Guam. **PHOTO: AFP**

German lockdown ‘snitches’ spark hot debate

BERLIN — On a sunny Sunday in April, 20 people were enjoying a barbecue in the city of Schwerin in northern Germany.

The police promptly intervened, slapping them with a fine for breaking new social distancing rules to limit the spread of COVID-19.

They were alerted to the festivities by a neighbour, “outraged by such behaviour”, who also proceeded to boast about her efforts on social media, opening up a heated debate about the return of denunciation to Germany and whether it is acceptable in the current crisis.

Telling on your neighbours is a highly sensitive subject in a country still haunted by memories of Nazism and the former communist dictatorship in East Germany, two regimes under which informing on others was practically a national policy.

The term “Denunziant” (“snitch”) has been trending

on Twitter, fuelling a surge in references to the Third Reich and the Stasi secret police.

“All of this appears to confirm a deep-seated prejudice that Germans have against themselves: That when in doubt, a part of the population is willing to become an extension of state power,” psychology professor Christian Stoecker told Der Spiegel weekly.

But Germany is not the only country to have seen a rise in the number of people reporting fellow citizens to the authorities for breaching virus-related social distancing rules.

Similar observations have been made in countries around the world where lockdowns have been imposed: In New Zealand, a dedicated website was deluged with reports; in South Africa, a wedding was interrupted after an anonymous call; and in France, the emergency number 17 has been overrun with calls.—AFP ■

Debris of missing Canadian NATO helicopter ‘found off Greece’

ATHENS — Debris from a Canadian military helicopter that went missing during a NATO operation has been found in the sea between Greece and Italy, a Greek military officer and public television said Thursday.

Canada’s armed forces said the helicopter had been involved

in an accident after taking off from the Canadian frigate *Fredericton* on Wednesday.

“Debris has been found in Italy’s zone of control and intervention” in the Ionian Sea, the Greek military officer told AFP, specifying the wreckage belonged to the Canadian helicopter.

Six crew were aboard the helicopter when it disappeared, the officer said on condition of anonymity.

Greek public television reported that a body had been found amid the wreckage in international waters off the Greek island of Kefalonia.

But the military officer did not immediately confirm a body had been found, saying only that Greece has sent a marine helicopter to take part in the rescue operation.

Greek public television ERT said Italian and NATO vessels were also taking part in the

search while Turkish said one of its frigates was also involved.

The Canadian Armed Forces has not confirmed any debris has been found. It said on Twitter that it contacted the family members of those who were on board the missing CH-148 Cyclone helicopter.—AFP ■

Shan United extends contract with David Htan



Shan United's defender David Htan. PHOTO: SUFC

SHAN United football club, reigning champion of the Myanmar National League, has recently

extended two-and-a-half-year contract with the team's reliable defender David Htan.

The contract will encompass until October 2022, according to the statement with the Shan United.

Upon extending his contract, defender David Htan said, "I have been offered for quite a while by the team's president for the renewal of the contract. I just came up with the idea of extending my contract period only when the current contract concluded. And now, I've received the offer from Shan United, which is very appreciative and thus I have decided to extend my contract. I will be a Shan United player until I take rest from my footballer's career."

David Htan, who is also a defender of Myanmar National Football Team, joined Shan United in 2018 MNL season from Yangon United.

Thirty-year-old defender learnt football education at the Institute of Sports and Physical Education in Mandalay in 2005.

From there, he was selected by the Myanmar U-15 football team within a year. Next, David was selected by Myanmar U-17 team and Myanmar U-19 team and he was then chosen as a Myanmar National Football Team player.

David also started national league player's life in Air Bagan FC, a former name of Yangon United in 2007 and he played for Yangon United up to the first round of 2018. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

FIFA to help worldwide football associations

AS a relief plan to assist football communities affected by the global pandemic COVID-19, FIFA will disburse up to USD 500,000 to each of Member Associations in the coming week, according to the statement with the FIFA. FIFA will use around USD 150 million for 211 national football governing bodies across the globe, said the source with the FIFA.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said, "The pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges for the entire football community and, as the world governing body, FIFA must be there and support the ones that are

facing acute needs."

"This starts by providing immediate financial assistance to our member associations, many of which are experiencing severe financial distress.

"This is the first step of a far-reaching financial relief plan we are developing to respond to the emergency across the whole football community. Together with our stakeholders, we are assessing the losses and we are working on the most appropriate and effective tools to implement the other stages of this relief plan," FIFA president added. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Former US gymnastics coach Haney suspended for eight years

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Former US Olympic gymnastics coach Maggie Haney has been suspended for eight years for verbal abuse and mistreatment of athletes, media reports said. On its online list of suspended and restricted persons, USA Gymnastics said Haney, 42, was "suspended from all contact" from Thursday until April 30, 2028. Haney was accused of verbally abusing and mistreating gymnasts, forcing them to train even if injured, media reports said. Haney owns the MG Elite

Gymnastics in Morganville, New Jersey, where she trained Laurie Hernandez, who won gold at the 2016 Rio Games, and Riley McCusker, who was on the US team that won gold at the 2018 Doha World Championships.

The suspension was handed down by an independent panel after hearings into complaints of abuse against her, The New York Times said Wednesday. Hernandez testified against Haney and McCusker wrote a letter critical of the coach, The Orange County Register reported.—AFP



Former US Olympic gymnastics coach Maggie Haney (R, with Riley McCusker) has been suspended for eight years. PHOTO: AFP

NHL hopes to reopen some practice facilities in May



Fans watch as the Chicago Blackhawks take on the San Jose Sharks in a NHL game at the United Center in Chicago on March 11 a day before the league shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

LOS ANGELES (United States) — The NHL plans to reopen some of its team training facilities as early as mid-May in areas where stay-at-home and social-distancing restrictions are trending favourably, the league said on Wednesday.

"The precise date of transition to Phase 2, during which Players might return to small group activities in NHL Club

training facilities, remains undetermined," a spokesman for the league said in a statement.

"However, provided that conditions continue to trend favorably we believe we may be able to move to Phase 2 at some point in the mid-to-later portion of May." Wednesday's statement followed a meeting of the NHL's Return To Play Committee which is made up of

representatives from the players' union and the clubs.

The plan is to allow just small group workouts at practice facilities at the beginning.

The league added that the plan would be subject to "potential competitive concerns as between disparately situated markets," but did not explain or go into any detail about what that meant.—AFP