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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 19, 14th Waxing of Kasone 1382 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 5 May 2020

Condolences Message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, to the family members of General Saw Htay Maung, Chairman of the Peace Council of KNU/KNLA, and the Peace Council of KNU/KNLA.

4 May 2020

It was learnt that General Saw Htay Maung, Chairman of the Peace Council of KNU/KNLA, who took part in signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, fell asleep in Jesus at 6:20 pm on 3 May 2020 (Sunday). I feel the same grief and loss as those who have lost their leader, their comrade, and their family member.

I firmly believe that the KNU/KNLA Peace Council leaders would carry on, together with the Union Government, the ongoing peace process for building a Democratic Federal Union, which was the aspiration of General Saw Htay Maung.

I send this message of condolences with prayers

of good blessings to the bereaved family, members of the Peace Council of KNU/KNLA, and all their family members.

Sd/-

Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor



Two important points to keep in mind - making sure there is no infection spread among those from reopened factories after health inspections and those returning home from the border areas: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that there were two important points to keep in mind at the moment in trying to contain the COVID: among those from the workplaces and factories which have been allowed to reopen after health inspections and those who will be returning home from the border areas, efforts must be made to ensure that there is no spread of COVID. This is what she wrote:

There has been no one found to be COVID positive among tests made on 1st and 2nd May 2020. On 3rd May, there were four persons who tested positive. That is why I have to keep reminding that we absolutely cannot let our guard down, to the point of boredom, for those

who are reading this or listening to me.

I also use to say that some research psychologists have found out you need to repeat about 200 times to make a certain point stick in the brain. I often wonder whether we really need to repeat that much.

After entering the world of politics, instead of viewing people as clever people and simpletons, or good and bad persons, I now view people as those who are easily taught and those who are difficult to teach. I don't think I would need to repeat 200 times for those who can be easily taught.

At the present moment, there are two important points we need to keep in mind in our efforts to contain COVID. Among those from factories and work estab-

lishments which have been allowed to reopen after health inspections and those who will be returning home from the border areas, efforts must be made to ensure that there is no spread of COVID.

The Ministry of Health and Sports have issued exact and specific rules and regulations for factories and work establishments and rules and programmes for migrant workers returning home. If all of them follow strictly to the letter, we will surely overcome COVID successfully.

I'm not going to write the above paragraph (200) times. Let me believe that our people are easy to teach.

(Translated by: Kyaw Myaing)

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SWRR Ministry coordinates IDP camp assistance in Paletwa



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and officials discuss latest situations of IDPs in Paletwa via video conferencing. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye discussed the latest situations of internally displaced persons in Paletwa Township, Chin State, cooperation between the ministry and Chin State government and continued assistance.

Those presented the meeting were Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, directors-general, Chin State government officials, Hluttaw representatives, members of the Khumi Affairs Coordination Council (KACC) assisting IDPs in Paletwa, and members of the Chin IDP Assistance and Reha-

bilitation Committee.

The Union Minister said the conflicts in Paletwa have forced the IDPs to flee not only to Paletwa, but also to Yangon City and Rakhine State as well. He said there are current short and long term processes for the IDPs and COVID-19 needs to be incorporat-

ed as an important topic.

Dr Win Myat Aye said they are implementing action plans for the five states that have IDP camps and national-level meetings are discussing additional food deliveries to IDPs in Paletwa. He said they regularly share COVID-19 news and information in the IDP camps and supply them woven face masks, soap, body thermometers, and wash basins as necessary.

The Union Minister said the 10 guidelines sent by the Ministry of Health and Sports through SMS are the main guidance for the public to follow and requested officials to assist IDP camp residents in following them.

The Union Minister said they are increasing hand-speaker and loudspeaker announcements, the social welfare department is providing regular support for the elderly and pregnant mothers fleeing from conflict and an additional support process will be done once, support for people living with disabilities will be done accordingly, cooperating to overcome challenges regarding

working in Paletwa and making providing support more efficient.

Next, meeting attendees discussed current processes for IDPs in Paletwa, challenges of providing food to IDPs in Paletwa, Sami and neighbouring villages, supporting destroyed buildings in 9 villages, acquiring ambulances and an administrative vehicle for people injured in conflicts, increasing health protection in Paletwa and Sami and constructing low-cost housing in the two towns for people from faraway regions that are facing difficulties in implementing rehabilitation, preparing to mitigate challenges in providing food to Paletwa residents during the rainy season, making the Matupi-Sami-Paletwa road accessible in the rainy season, and acquiring necessary items to protect against COVID-19.

The local government officials then discussed fulfilling the requirements as quickly as possible and the MoSWRR coordinated cooperation. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Tatmadaw offers to use COBAS 6800 machines for COVID-19 tests

TATMADAW has offered to use its two COBAS 6800 machines for COVID-19 laboratory tests, according to the Facebook Page of Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of State Counsellor Office.

One of the machines at the No.2 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bedded) will be used for testing Hluttaw representatives of Defence

Services and those who are at the community-based facility quarantines in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Nay Pyi Taw Council and nearby Regions and States.

Another analyzer at No.1 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bedded) in Yangon will be used for testing the returnees who are at the community-based facility

quarantines in Kayin and Mon states after coming back from Thailand.

According to the report of Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services on 24 April, the COBAS 6800 machines are in fully automatic system, and lowest risk of infections to the users although the results are the most accurate. —Htet Hlyan



COBAS 6800 machines of Defence Services. **PHOTO: CINCD5**

Notification on fishing prohibition

THE Department of Fisheries has issued official orders and notifications prohibiting the fishing, purchasing and stocking of aquatic species during their mating and spawning seasons.

This is aimed at preserving the fish/prawn species in the freshwater and saltwater regions of Myanmar, to increase fish/prawn production, sustainability of good species, and conserving fishery resources.

The following species are prohibited from being captured, collected, sold, purchased and traded and failure to comply will result in legal consequences:

- Lobster, bay lobster, long-finned eel. - 1st June to 31st August
- Stonefish. - 1st July to 30th September
- All freshwater fish species. - 1st May to 31st July
- Freshwater prawns. - 1st April to 30th June
- Saltwater shrimps. - 1st June to 31st August

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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“People are the key”

Total Covid-19 case reach 161

COVID-19 Situation Report released at 8:00 pm on 4 May

Laboratory tests of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on the 95 samples and 119 samples by the Department of Medical Research, totalling 214, on 4 May afternoon have showed that 5 new cases, and ONE new case was tested at No.2 Defence Services Hospital (1,000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw, totalling 6 new cases.

There are a total of 161 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 4 May.

6 positive patients have died until now.

There are a total of 61 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 4 May.

COVID-19 Laboratory results at 8: 00 pm, 4 May 2020

	New	Total
Total COVID-19 confirmed cases	6	161
Recovered patient after treatments	6	49
Death	0	6

COVID-19 laboratory cases on 4 April, 8 am update

Patient No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact record with COVID-19 patient	Overseas Travel History	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
156	33	Male	Zeyarthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw	No	No	No.2 Defence Services Hospital (1,000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw	Positive	PUI
157	23	Female	Insein, Yangon	Yes (with Case 151)	No	South Okkalapa Special Hospital	Positive	Isolated person
158	24	Female	North Dagon Township, Yangon	Yes (with Case 101,107)	No	South Okkalapa Special Hospital	Positive	
159	27	Female	North Dagon Township, Yangon	Yes (with Case 101, 107)	No	South Okkalapa Special Hospital	Positive	
160	20	Female	Mayangone Township, Yangon	Yes (with Case 98)	No	South Okkalapa Special Hospital	Positive	
161	62	Male	Insein Township, Yangon	Still investigation	No	South Okkalapa Special Hospital	Positive	

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Govt, private entities discuss COVID-19 measures, trade with China



Hluttaw representatives, and officials holding the meeting to discuss future processes to combat COVID-19 in Muse, Shan State. **PHOTO: SALAI BAN YOE HTAN (IPRD)**

HLUTTAW representatives, Muse District/Township officials, businesspersons and donors convened at the Muse District hall on 4 May to discuss ongoing and fu-

ture processes on prevention of COVID-19 in Muse, northern Shan State.

Muse District Administrator U Hlaing Soe Thant discussed preparations for COVID-19 in

Muse, sending persons who have completed 21-days quarantine to relevant departments, transporting people arriving from China and other regions of Myanmar in fac-

ility quarantines, and the purpose of the meeting.

The attendees also discussed locking down the house and surrounding community of the positive case in Muse, negotiating with Chinese officials for cargo waiting for a prolong period to transport to China soon, discussing with officials from Shweli-Kyelkaung on difficulties faced by corn cultivators in shipping their goods in Namhkam and Manhero, difficulties in Muse border region and Myanmar-China trade situation, and matters pertaining to COVID-19 in Muse.—Salai Ban Yoe Htan (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Teachers contribute cash fund for measures against COVID-19 in Dala Township

SCHOOL teachers donated K1,105,500 for COVID-19 containment and prevention measures in Dala Township, the outskirts of Yangon, yesterday.

Daw Myint Myint Aye, the Township Education Officer, and teachers presented the cash fund to the township administrative officer at the latter's office.—Naing Linn Kyaw (Dala)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



School teachers donating the fund for COVID-19 containment and prevention measures in Dala. Photo: Naing Linn Kyaw (Dala)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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About 8,500 baskets of paddy seeds distributed to 26 townships in Magway Region

THE Agricultural Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has distributed about 8,500 baskets of quality paddy seeds namely Manawthuka, Hsinthuka and Yadanartoe from the quality strain farm in Pwintphyu township—to 26 townships in Magway

region, said U Aung Chit, the in-charge of its farm.

The department is aiming for the people and local farmers to have a sufficiency of food, to raise the income from the crops and to develop their life.

Pwintphyu township has fair nature and weather condi-

tion, with highest production of crops, compared to its nearby townships. "Our pure strain farm in Pwintphyu township is distributing the quality paddy species to 26 townships in order to ensure sufficiency of the food, and for the local farmers to earn an income from the farming. We

are selling 8,500 baskets of good quality paddy seeds at a reasonable price per year. Moreover, around 750-800 baskets of good quality chickpea are also being distributed per year. Regarding the import of the paddy species, our quality strain farm is planting those species on our farmland on a trial basis to find out whether the species suit our country's soil and weather condition or not. Then, we gave the result to the head office, he added. We have 15 permanent workers planting high-quality products. If we need more workers, they will ask for assistance from the local farmers around the villages. So, our quality strain farm can create job opportunities for the local villagers. The workers and farmers are also conducting the prevention and control of COVID-19 activities under the guideline of the Ministry of Health and Sports with the supervision of their farmland in charge, said U Aung Chit.—Ye Win Naing (Nyaung U) (Translated by Hay Mar)



Workers carrying the sacks of paddy seeds in a warehouse in Nyaung U. **PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNG U)**

Plan underway for fish trucks to enter market via land route

WITH the delayed trade flow into the Central Sanpya fish market, the plan is underway for the fish trucks to enter the fish market via land route systematically, said Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative U Khin Win.

Previously, only those fish entering via sea routes were allowed to sell in the Central Sanpya fish market to prevent people from being crowded so that coronavirus spreading can be prevented and controlled.

A coordination meeting was held at the National League for Democracy office in Kyimyint-dine Township on 2 May with the regional Hluttaw representatives and the Central Sanpya fish market committee members in attendance.

"To prevent people from being crowded in coronavirus

spread, half of the supply of the fish to the Central Sanpya fish market was sent to Shwe Padauk fish market as this half entered via land routes. This being so, Sanpya Fish Market is being faced with the shortage of fish supply. Thus, a total of 146 fish traders from Central Sanpya fish market are being faced with difficulties. The rising of the fish prices affected the flow of trade. So, a proposal is to be submitted to the municipal in order to allow the fish trucks to enter via land routes systematically," he said.

Around 400,000 or 500,000 visses of fish are entering the market daily. Among them, 80 per cent of the fish are entering by the frozen container trucks via land route while the remaining 20 per cent are entering by vessels via sea routes.

During the coronavirus prevention and control period, the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has restricted the purchasing vehicles and the container vehicles from en-

tering the market before 5 am on 24 April to reduce the crowding and to control shortage of the cargos.—Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Trucks carrying fishes seen in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

Nearly 9,000 people from Sagaing affected by strong wind in April

NEARLY 9,000 people from Sagaing region were affected by the strong wind in April, according to the official statistics of Sagaing Region Disaster Management Department.

Strong winds hit Wuntho, Katha, Indaw, Htigyaing, Wetlet, Kawlin, Kyunhla, Kani, Kalewa,

Bamauk and Pinlebu townships. in April.

Fortunately, the strong wind did not injure both people and animals. However, around 40 religious edifices are damaged.

A total of 8,730 people from 1,801 households were affect-

ed and 1,775 houses destroyed by the strong winds sweeping through those townships of Sagaing Region.

Sagaing Region Disaster Management Department provided some relief items such as rice, cash and other necessary items to the strong wind affected

family. Some townships from Sagaing Region are affected by the strong winds and lightning and thunder occur nearly every year with humans and animals being killed every year.—Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade deficit widens, exceeds \$1.4 bln as of 17 April

Myanmar's trade gap significantly increased over the half of the current financial year to more than US\$1.4 billion from \$422.29 million registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 17 April in the current fiscal, Myanmar's external trade has increased to over \$2155 billion from \$18.74 billion recorded in the year-ago period. While exports were estimated at \$9.86 billion, imports were valued at \$11.29 billion. Compared to the previous fiscal, exports showed an increase of \$703.7 million, while imports climbed up by \$1.7 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods,

intermediate goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is dwindling. The government is trying to cut the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, \$1.3 billion in the previous mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.—Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Containers placed at the Hteedan Port. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Domestic gold priced only K1.18 mln per tical despite global market upturn



The jewellery and gold displaying at a gold shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of the yellow metal in the domestic market stands only K1.18 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) in spite of the rise in global market, said general secretary U Ohn Myaing of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

“Last April, the local gold price would have touched a high of K1.3 million per tical if it has risen amid global rally. However, it was priced at only K1.16-1.17 million per tical. That means the price is unaffected by global market,” said U Ohn Myaing.

Although the domestic gold price seems to be positively related to global gold prices, the domestic gold prices cross K1,180,000 per tical at the present time. But, global gold price stood at \$1,700 per ounce.

In early September last year, the price of pure gold reached an all-time record of above K1,300,000 per tical in the domestic market, while the price of gold was pegged at US\$1,550 per ounce in the global market, as per market data.

Currently, Yangon and Mandalay gold markets are temporarily closed, yet some gold and jewellery shops are still open for trade to help those gold traders who want to sell and buy the gold during coronavirus pandemic, according to the MGEA. “The gold market is not officially opened yet. However, it depends on the sellers and buyers.

Small trading is seen in their own ways. The shops temporarily shutter the door to help contain the spread of coronavirus disease,” he continued.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a fresh peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September.

According to gold traders, during the past three months, the local gold price moved in the range of, K1,214,100 on 5 February and K1,234,200 on 28 February. In March, it reached the lowest level of K1,148,000 (31 March) and the highest level of K1,218,600 (4 March). Last month, the coronavirus risks shut down the gold market, according to gold traders.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 66,500 companies register at MyCO in April-end: DICA

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, has touched 66,558 in April 2020 since the establishment of the online platform, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Since then, more than 20,000 new companies and 40,000 existing companies have registered and re-registered on

MyCO, bringing the total number of registered companies to 66,558 by April-end. At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, indicated in the DICA data.

Normally, MyCO is receiving more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month. This year, the figures of registered companies stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February and 1,015 in March, but only 348 companies were registered in April, as per data of the DICA.

In addition, all registered

companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within

28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

A total of 11,848 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the

notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for late filing of AR, K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Fire Brigade members spray disinfectants in Kyauktada village of Madaya Township, PyinOoLwin District in Mandalay Region on 28 April 2020.

Members of Defence Services and Fire Brigade carry out disinfections to prevent COVID-19

MEMBERS of Defence Services and Fire Brigade, together with civil service employees, carried out disinfections on 28 April to curb the spread of COVID-19 at 163 places of 82 townships in Nay Pyi Taw and States/Regions by using 1,202.8 gallons of disinfectants and 72,168 gallons of water.



Officers and other ranks of No.111 Infantry Division and members of Fire Brigade spray COVID-19 disinfectants at the facility quarantine centre of the State High School (Station) in Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, on 28 April 2020.



Officers and other ranks from No.8 Operations Control Command and the Fire Brigade members carry out disinfections at Tagu Market in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region on 28 April 2020.



Officers and other ranks from No.2 Transit Centre (Palace) and Fire Service personnel spray disinfectants at Sri Maria Mahn Church and Thanantana Church of Haymar Zala Ward in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, 28 April.



Members of Fire Brigade and departmental officials spray COVID-19 disinfectants at the facility quarantine centre of the State High School (Myay Lin) in Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region, on 28 April 2020.



Fire Brigade members conduct COVID-19 disinfection at the facility quarantine centre of Shwebo University in Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, COVID-19 on 28 April 2020.



Fire Service personnel conduct disinfections in Thahtay village of Thazi Township in Meiktila District, Mandalay Region on 28 April 2020.



Fire Brigade members spray disinfectants at the condensed milk factory in Shwe Pyi Yan Lon Ward of Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region, on 28 April 2020.

“URGENT MEASURES”

Brazil’s Salgado leads stars in Amazon COVID-19 appeal to president

BRAZILIAN photojournalist Sebastiao Salgado has sent an open letter to far-right President Jair Bolsonaro — signed by celebrities like Brad Pitt and Madonna — calling for “urgent measures” to save the indigenous peoples of the Amazon from the coronavirus pandemic.

“The indigenous peoples of Brazil face a serious threat to their own survival with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said the letter, backed by an online petition which has so far gathered around 50,000 signatures.

The 76-year-old photographer has won numerous international awards for his portrayal of the poor across the world, most recently turning his focus on the

peoples of the Amazon rainforest basin.

“Five centuries ago, these ethnic groups were decimated by diseases brought by European colonizers,” said the letter, signed by a list of celebrities including Paul McCartney, Richard Gere and Meryl Streep.

“Today with this new scourge spreading rapidly throughout Brazil,” the Amazon’s indigenous people “may disappear completely since they have no means of combating COVID-19.”

The stars appear in a video by Brazilian director Fernando Meireles, which features Salgado calling on Bolsonaro to put an end to economic intrusion into the lives of the Amazon peoples, and to “guarantee their protection.”



Brazilian Amazon rainforest tribal leaders held a protest demanding the demarcation of indigenous lands in Brasilia in March 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

“Brazil owes a debt to its first inhabitants. It is time to do what should have been done a long time ago,” says Salgado.

The Brazilian state of Amazonas, home to most of the country’s indigenous people, is one of the regions worst affected by the

pandemic, with more than 500 deaths to date according to the health ministry.

SOURCE: AFP

SPACEFLIGHT

NASA, SpaceX target historic spaceflight despite pandemic

NASA and SpaceX said Friday they were pressing ahead with plans to launch astronauts to space from US soil for the first time in nearly a decade later on this month, despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley, both veterans of the Space Shuttle programme that was shuttered in 2011, will blast off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on May 27.

Should the mission succeed, the US will have achieved its goal of no longer having to buy seats on Russian Soyuz rockets to give its astronauts rides to the International Space Station (ISS).

It is also an important stage in NASA’s new economic model: the space agency has spent billions on contracts with both SpaceX and Boeing to develop spaceships that will each have to make six round trips to the ISS.

The model is supposed to save taxpayers from financial black holes of past programmes, as well as some still to come — notably the giant Space Launch System rocket that is supposed to take NASA back to the Moon but is plagued by cost overrun and scheduling delays.

NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine told reporters that the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule will be only the fifth class of US spacecraft to take humans

into orbit, after the storied Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle programs.

“If you look globally, this will be the ninth time in history when we put humans on a brand new spacecraft,” said Bridenstine.

“We’re going to do it here in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. I’m going to tell you this is a high priority mission for the United States of America,” he added.

Behnken and Hurley, who have been training for the “Demo-2” mission for years, will dock with the International Space Station (ISS) and remain there for between one to four months, depending on when the next mission takes place, said NASA’s Steve Stich.

Crew Dragon is able to remain in orbit for around four months (119 days).

Hurley, who was the pilot on the last Space Shuttle mission, admitted it was “disappointing” that the launch won’t be a public affair, with crowds discouraged from gathering at Cape Canaveral to witness the spectacle.

“We won’t have the luxury of our family and friends being there at Kennedy to watch the launch but it’s obviously, the right thing to do in the current environment,” he said.

- Win for SpaceX -

The mission is a major milestone for SpaceX, the company founded by Elon Musk, who also leads and founded Tesla.

His firm, which was started in 2002, has now overtaken aerospace behemoth Boeing, which failed in the uncrewed demonstration mission of its Starliner spacecraft last year and will have to start over.

SpaceX, which has received billions of dollars from NASA since the late 2000s, has been supplying cargo to the ISS since 2012, and has established itself as the leader in the private space sector thanks to its reusable rocket, the Falcon 9.

“I’ll feel a little relief when they’re in orbit, I’ll feel more relief when they get to the station and then obviously, I will start sleeping again when they’re back safely on the planet Earth,” said Gwynne Shotwell, the company’s chief operating officer.

The pandemic has, naturally, impacted the programme, but Shotwell said all precautions were being taken to protect the astronauts.

“We are ensuring that only essential personnel are near them. They’re wearing masks and gloves. We’re cleaning the training facility twice daily.

SOURCE: AFP



The mission will be the first time astronauts have launched into space from US soil in a decade. PHOTO: NASA/AFP/FILE

Work and stay with intense mindfulness is key to overcoming COVID-19 challenges

WHILE balancing public health considerations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Government has granted permission to reopen factories after inspections for complying with health guidelines, along with accepting migrant workers returning from neighbouring countries through border checkpoints. In fact, these two issues are great challenges for the county, amidst the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Factory closures arising from the coronavirus have disrupted business activities and impacted on the socio-economic lives for workers around the world, including in Myanmar. Opening factories complying with health guidelines can help to bring about economic recovery.

Meanwhile, Myanmar migrant workers, whose numbers may be as great as 100,000, are returning home by crossing borders during the COVID-19 outbreak and rainy season, which always brings with it influenza and dengue fever.

Still, we can contain the coronavirus infection in our country, in which only 161 positive cases have been reported. However, after two days with no cases of infection, six positive cases were reported yesterday.

This reflects that we are not out of the woods yet, and people should not be negligent in protecting themselves from contracting the infection. People are urged to strictly follow all health guidelines.

It is uncertain whether we will be able to totally contain the disease within the next few months, but there is no place for complacency in the war against this very tricky virus, which is highly contagious, difficult to control and can spread before infected people show symptoms.

Meanwhile, we have seen reports about officials taking actions against those who break the regional orders for containing COVID-19 in some townships.

This situation reflects that the disease also causes unnecessary social problems for the public.

COVID-19 is something we have not encountered before; although it is a fact that all of us have encountered problems before, in one form or the other. A critical need to solve a problem is the power of assessing and reviewing the situation in the correct way. That is called wisdom.

The workers' knowledge about the virus, and their cooperation with authorities, are of paramount importance in containing the coronavirus infection in our country. Not only workers, but each citizen is responsible to cooperate with the authorities and take appropriate measures, as their contribution is playing an important role in minimizing the risks to our health, as well as the socio-economic impact of the pandemic during this time of crisis.

We would like to urge all our people to remain locked down, or to return to work, with intense mindfulness not only to protect themselves from the disease but also to minimize the nationwide impacts from the pandemic.

Fourth-year performance of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

By Khin Yanana
Photo: May Oo Moe

Tourism industry moving onwards amidst many challenges

THE government had already passed through its fourth year in office, and it is still in the process of overcoming many challenges in building a democracy federal Union and creating a better future, in accord with the aspiration of all the national people.



Union Minister U Ohn Maung.

Of the government bodies that strove to improve the national image in their national economic development endeavours during the four year included the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MoHT).

A news team of the News and Periodicals Enterprise interviewed Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and the experts of the respective fields as follows:

U Ohn Maung, the Union Minister

Question: Please explain the endeavours of the MoHT during the fourth year.

Answer: Myanmar saw 18 per cent increase in the tourist arrivals in 2017, 1.15% increase in 2018 and 23% increase in 2019. So the tourism sector saw annual progress. Independent Daily of Britain and Forbes magazine of the US featured a news report saying that according to World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Myanmar was among the top countries enjoying rapid progress in the tourism sector.

Q: Please tell me about the Myanmar Tourism Law.

A: The Myanmar Tourism Law was enacted on 17 September 2018, and the orders in connection with the tourism industry and related businesses were issued on 14 March 2019. Powers were transferred to the tourism committees of Nay Pyi Taw and regions and states for the facilitation of the process in issuing permits and licenses in accord with the respective rules. The essence of the law is Decentralization. The National Tourism Development Central Committee was formed on 6 February 2019, and its 39 members include three experts of the private tourism sector and three representatives of tour guides association. Tourism Work Committee was

then formed on 19 March 2019 with 32 members including five experts of the private tourism sector and five representatives of tour guides association. The participation of those experts and representatives in the committees has facilitated the process of issuing license for the newly established tour companies.

Q: About the progress of community-based tourism.

A: Community-based tourism (CBT) was launched in 2015. Nineteen CBT sites have been set up at 42 villages in Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Shan State, Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Taninthayi Region and Sagaing Region. Seven more CBT sites will be established at 10 villages. The MOHT issued the Myanmar Community Based Tourism Standards on 27 September 2019. According to the records, over 50,000 foreign and local tourists visited the CBT sites till December 2019.

Q: What are the important points in promoting the tourism industry?

A: We permitted visa exemption for Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions in 2018, and Visa on Arrival (Tourist) for China and India. In 2019, Visa on Arrival (Tourist) was granted to Italy, Spain, Australia, Switzer-



Union Minister U Ohn Maung attends the Ministers and Private Sectors CEOs meeting in cooperation with UNWTO.

land, Germany and Russia.

Annual progress

The MoHT permitted Visa on Arrival (Tourist) for Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria, Luxembourg and New Zealand in 2020. Thanks to the visa relaxations, the number of Chinese tourist arrivals increased to 750,000 in 2019 from 180,000 in 2016; the number of Japanese tourist arrivals increased to 130,000 in 2019 from 100,700 in 2016; the number of South Korean tourist arrivals increased to 120,000 in 2019 from 65,000 in 2016; the number of Indian tourist arrivals increased to 49,000 in 2019 from 38,000 in 2016; the number of Hong Kong tourist arrivals increased to 30,000 in 2019 from 1,000 in 2016; and the number of Macao tourist arrivals increased to 3,000 in 2019 from 92 in 2016.

Q: Any relaxations for new destinations?

A: A permission tour was permitted for Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek route in 2017. In 2018, Tachilek-Golden Triangle Area-Wanpon Jetty-Mongpong Sayadaw Monastery route, Tachilek-Tarlay-Parhlyo-Kenglatt route, Mekong River cruise, Hsipaw visit, and Laship-Hsipaw route were permitted. Visits to Kaythala mountain in Bilin Township, Kyaukpi and Kyauktaga pagodas,

Myathabeil Pagoda in Thaton Township, a spring and salt field, the Death Railway Museum and Allied War Cemetery in Thanbyuzayet Township, Kyaikkhami Pagoda and Setsae beach were permitted in Mon State. Visits to Mogok were permitted under the supervision of Mandalay Region Government. Visits to restricted areas such as Dawtamagi village and Htaykho village in Kayah State were permitted in 2019.

Q: What about the human resources in developing the tourism industry?

A: Human resources development of government and private bodies and the respective areas is important. So trainings and other arrangements have been made for its development. Various kinds of courses including hospitality, services and language proficiency courses have been conducted by the ministry and private organizations. Center for Tourism Development (CTD) was opened in Pabedan Township, Yangon, and it is conducting theoretical and practical lessons on tourism and hotels, apart from cooking courses.

Q: Can you tell be the increase in the number of hotels and tour-guides.

A: There were 1984 hotels and over 80,000 rooms in 2019

in the country, up from 1,432 hotels and 56,000 rooms in 2016. The number of tour services increased from 2,453 to 3,188 during the period. The population of registered tour-guides increased from 7,000 to 9,000 during the same period.

Q: About the digital marketing under the leadership of MoHT.

A: The country introduced the digital marketing system for the whole world to notice the safety and exoticness of Myanmar destinations in a short time. Under the system, MoHT installed system the website www.tourism.gov.mm where necessary information can be received in 11 languages - Myanmar, English, Korean, Japan, German, Spanish, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Italy and Russian. Over 230,000 persons from 198 countries visited the website.

A Tourism Web Portal https://tourismmyanmar.com.mm has been posted as a medium between tour services and vacationers. Over 100,000 of 171 countries visited the Tourism Web Portal, where information will be also available in Korean, Japanese, German, Spanish, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian and Italian languages in the near future.

SEE PAGE-10

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 04th May, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 05th May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States, scattered in Taninthayi Region, Northern Shan State and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 05th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 05th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 05th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Fourth-year performance of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism



Union Minister U Ohn Maung meets with ethnic people to promote tourism sector in Myanmar.



Tourists enjoying their biking tour.

FROM PAGE-9

Attracting visitors through online

Information about the destinations in Myanmar is being posted on the social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and LinkedIn. The country posted 2,921 posts which were visit-

ed by nearly 2.7 million during the period from 2019 to 2020.

QR Code, Chat Bot and Digital Concierge are being used for the swiftness in distributing information and answers. Website Links in 11 languages are available at QR Code, dos and don'ts in four languages, travel advices in ten languages and maps of the most visited

places can also be downloaded in PDF files. The Beta Version of the Digital Concierge has been test installed at the information counters in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Bago, Heho and Kanpetlet.

Q: What about the tourism development undertakings through international engagements?

A: We have held the Sakura Festival for four times for cementing Japan-Myanmar relations and increasing the number of Japanese visitors to Myanmar. In 2021, over 200 cherries will be planted in Hpa-an of Kayin State. MoHT signed MoU with Thai Ministry of Tourism and Sports in 2017, an Action Plan with Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia in 2017, tourism cooperation agreement with Japan in 2018, and MoU with the ministry responsible for tourism of Nepal in 2019.

Q: What are the future mission and vision of the ministry?

A: The first step of the MoHT is the adoption of the Tourism Master Plan from 2020 to 2030. It is also developing the CBT villages to create new destinations and tours in regions and states through coordinated efforts. The ministry will cooperate with the relevant bodies in conserving the environment, serving the public interest and preventing the possible hazards against the industry, and will adopt a uniformed Hotel Guest List Management System to

overcome the difficulties faced in conducting Sport Tourism and Gastronomy Tourism.

Naw Pan Thinza Myo (Minister of Kayin Ethnic Affairs of Yangon Region Government) The uniqueness of Hotel Guest List Management System of Yangon Region

It is a paperless system that has reduced the cost from Ks 648 million to Ks 171 million. The system has reduced the staff cost by 74%. We can also decrease the expenditure for other matters from Ks 3185 million to 624 million. In the whole nation, we can save nearly Ks 4,000 million annually.

Challenges of the tourism industry

MoHT fetches over Ks 4000 million annually for the country. But the budget allotted for the industry's extension is too small when compared with the neighbouring countries. Peace is required in extending destinations, especially in the remote ethnic areas.

Hotel Guest List Management System

It has been a common knowledge that information about the number of guests stayed at Kandawyi Hotel could not be received immediately when the facility was on fire. Although rescuers did their job best, nobody was sure whether they were guests left inside the hotel. The Hotel Guest List Management System can

ensure greater safety for the guests. Under the system, authorities will collect the number of guests at the hotels in their jurisdiction.

U Hnaung Hnaung Han (Chairman of Union of Myanmar Travel Association-UMTA)

The association has organized a lot of fairs and exhibitions for the development of the industry.

In 2019, it held a tourism fair in Mandalay and organized the Myanmar tour exhibition Vietnam with the participation of the MoHT. The UMTA also held such fairs in Brunei and Mumbai of India. The association organizes talks on the industry, in addition to arranging loans for small and medium industries. We are going to rely more on the Digital Marketing in the coming years as Online Travel Agents have become more powerful.

Khon Tun Oo (Project Manager of PaO Region CBT)

We are trying to further improve the CBT we have started since 2015. CBT is an invaluable industry that is benefitting the villages much. Moreover, CBT has promoted the cultural conservation of the PaO area. It encourages young people to continue their studies. Moreover, local people have understood the importance of environmental conservation and sanitation and the systematic garbage disposal.

(Translated by TMT)



Union Minister U Ohn Maung attending the ASEAN Tourism Ministers Press Conference in Ha Long, Viet Nam on 18 January, 2019.



A cruise ship seen in the Yangon River.

COVID-19 BUSINESS DISRUPTION

How will COVID-19 crisis change world economy?

THE world has rarely seen, if ever, four market circuit breakers and negative oil prices during the same period, while numerous planes are grounded in some of the world's busiest airports and production has stopped in plants across the world.

The sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease, or COVID-19, has frozen the world economy and presented the toughest financial outlook in decades.

Can the world economy recover? Will there be a transformation in globalization and supply chains? What are the opportunities after the pandemic?

Those are questions concerning the well-being of humankind, and demand immediate answers.

HOPE AMID RECESSION

"It's just gut-wrenching," dairy farmer Jason Leedle from the U.S. state of Wisconsin, who has recently had to dump more than 10 tones of milk each day, told visiting Reuters reporters.

Mass closures of restaurants and bakeries have driven down demand, while logistics are not up and running as usual.

"All I can see is that line going down the drain," Leedle said.

The extraordinary picture reflects the obvious toll of COVID-19 on the economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that the global economy is on track to contract sharply by 3 per cent in 2020, making it the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

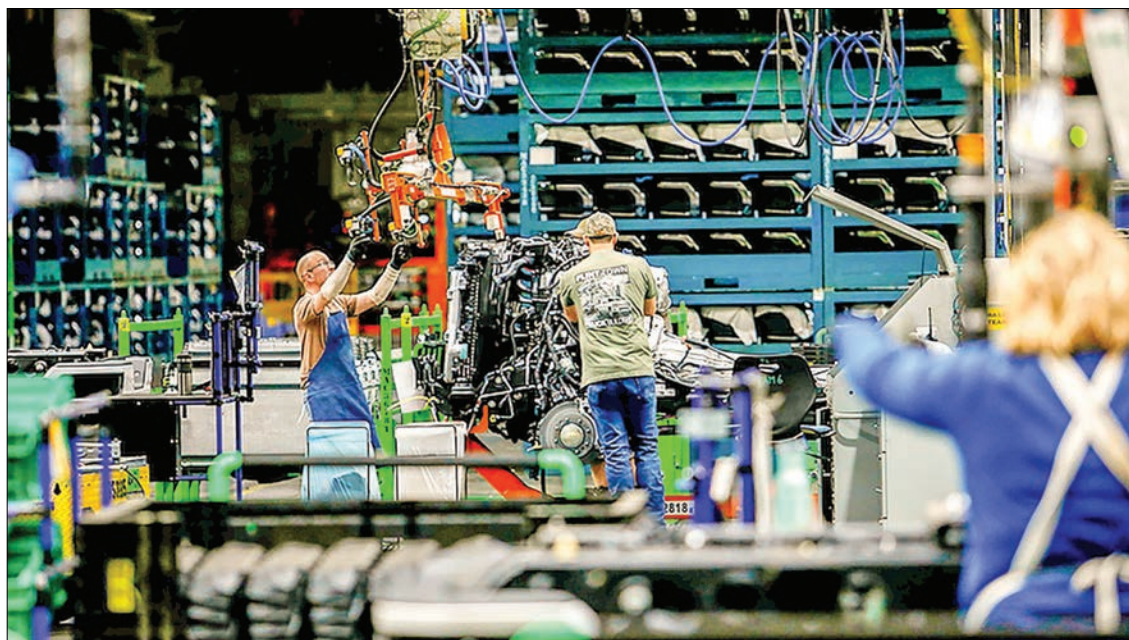
Cumulative loss to global GDP over 2020 and 2021 from the pandemic could be around 9 trillion U.S. dollars, greater than the economies of Japan and Germany combined, the IMF has also said.

One cannot help but asking: Is it going to be a long-term recession, or just a short-period contraction?

The IMF predicted in a report published in April that the COVID-19 outbreaks in most countries will peak in the second quarter and then subside in the second half of this year.

The report also expects that global growth in 2021 will rebound based on that assumption. But it also warns that the recession could go deeper and last longer for lack of global coordination.

Stephen Roach, a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, told Xinhua recently that unlike the financial crisis in 2008-2009,



The COVID-19 virus threatens to disrupt GM supply chains to factories in the US. PHOTO: AFP

when "a crisis began in the financial sector and spread to the real economy," today's crisis is one "that has begun in the real economy and spread back to the financial sector," as countries worldwide try to contain the spread at the expense of massive lockdowns and the halting of economic activities.

Unprecedented policies to resume production, ease financial pressure, boost market confidence and prevent debt risks have been rolling out in each country, while the world waits to

see if the measures work.

CHINA AND SUPPLY CHAINS

COVID-19 has disrupted global supply chains, particularly those among multinational corporations, making them rethink the relationship between interest and stability.

The epidemic will function as a catalyst to accelerate the shift of global supply chains, according to media outlets.

The idea for future supply chains is nothing but to strike

a new balance between cost savings and supply chain resilience, Gu Qingyang, an associate professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

A recent survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in China and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) showed that almost 70 per cent of U.S. companies say they have no plan to relocate production to outside of China due to COVID-19.

SOURCE: Xinhua

REQUEST DENIED

France refuses coronavirus funds to Amazon in labour dispute



Following last month's court ruling, Amazon shut down its sites in France. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

FRANCE'S labour ministry said Monday that it denied a request by Amazon for emergency funds to pay employees during the coronavirus crisis, after the US giant shut its warehouses over a court order to sell only essential items.

The ministry said Amazon France asked last

Thursday to benefit from coronavirus crisis funds that cover about 84 per cent of net pay for workers facing temporary layoffs because of a drop in business.

Amazon France confirmed it sought the funds to cover salaries for some 10,000 employees at its six main distribution sites in

the country. The online retailer has been locked in a battle with labour unions which say not enough was done to mitigate contagion risk for staff working in close proximity to process a flood of orders amid the nationwide lockdown, which saw traditional shops shuttered. Last month, an appeals court upheld a ruling that sharply curtailed Amazon's operations and ordered management to review safety measures. The court said only digital products, office equipment, groceries, medical and personal care products could be delivered in the meantime.

But Amazon said it was impossible to comply with the order, and complete-

ly shut down the six sites from mid-April until May 5, though it maintained full pay for employees.

"The recent decision by the Court of Versailles has obviously had an impact on our French operations... As a result, we filed for the help that other companies in France have benefited from," the company said in a statement.

"Our logistics operations are technically complex and the court's fine of 100,000 euros (\$109,000) for any infraction means that even accidental shipping of non-authorized products, on the order of 0.1 per cent of the total, could lead to over one billion euros of fines per week," it said.

SOURCE: AFP

Expo 2020 Dubai postponed by one year to Oct 2021

THE Expo 2020 global trade fair, hosted by Dubai, has been postponed by a year due to the coronavirus outbreak and will be held from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, the Paris-based organizer said Monday.

The six-month, multibillion-dollar global innovation fair, set to be the largest event ever staged in the Arab world, was expected to attract some 24 million visitors starting October 20 this year.

But a two-thirds majority of member states of the Bureau International des Expositions

(BIE) voted in favour of a delay requested by the United Arab Emirates, which the body said "allows all participants to safely navigate the impact of COVID-19."

"Expo 2020 Dubai is gearing up to help shape a post-pandemic world and create a better future for all," the bureau said in a statement.

The delay "also allows the World Expo to focus on a collective desire for new thinking to identify solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our time."

SOURCE: AFP

EU approves 7 bln euros in French state aid to Air France

BRUSSELS — The European Commission on Monday gave the green light to 7.0 billion euros (\$7.7 billion) in French state aid to national carrier Air France to cushion the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

“The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a €7 billion French aid measure consisting of a state guarantee on loans and a shareholder loan to Air France to provide urgent liquidity to the company in the context of the coronavirus outbreak,” EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

The EU’s executive body, the bloc’s competition watchdog, loosened its rules on state subsidies in mid-March to make it easier for member countries



Air France has suffered a significant reduction of its services amid the coronavirus crisis.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

to come to the aid of companies in financial difficulty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the case of Air France, the aid consists of 4.0 billion euros in bank loans, 90 per cent guaranteed by the state, and 3.0 billion euros in direct state

loans in return for which the airline has committed to improving its profitability and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

“France has demonstrated that all other potential means to obtain liquidity on the markets have already been explored and

exhausted,” the Commission said.

“In the absence of the public support, Air France would likely face the risk of bankruptcy due to the sudden erosion of its business. This would likely cause severe harm to the French economy,” it said.—AFP ■

Westpac half-year profits tumble more than 60%

SYDNEY — Westpac announced Monday its half-year net profit had fallen 62 per cent, making it the latest Australian bank to see profits dive during the coronavirus crisis.

The bank reported a profit of Aus\$1.19 billion (\$760 million) in the first half of the financial year, down 62 per cent compared to the same period in 2019. Westpac Group CEO Peter King said the bank had set aside Aus\$2.24 billion in impairment charg-

es, including Aus\$1.6 billion to tackle the impact of the virus and Aus\$900 million for a potential penalty from financial intelligence agency AUSTRAC. The regulator has accused Westpac of committing 23 million breaches of money laundering and counterterrorism rules in “serious and systemic” law-breaking involving more than Aus\$11 billion. “This is the most difficult result Westpac has seen in many years,” King said.—AFP ■



Westpac deferred a decision on interim shareholder dividend payments due to ongoing economic uncertainty.
PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DOLPHIN VOY. NO. (18)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DOLPHIN VOY. NO. (18) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of OEA 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 RK SHIPPING & TDG PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACIFIC CEBU

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACIFIC CEBU VOY. NO. (97-L) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HELIO INTERNATIONAL SERVICES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (018S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (018S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2020 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1119 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1119 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (018W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (018W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2020 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (088N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (088N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2020 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Equities slide as Trump revives trade war fears

WASHINGTON — Global stock markets fell Monday after US President Donald Trump sparked fears of a renewed trade war with China over its role in the coronavirus pandemic.

From the outset, European equities kicked lower on simmering US-China tensions with Frankfurt and Paris playing catch-up with London after a long holiday weekend.

The region's losses came despite millions of Europeans emerging from lockdown on Monday, with hardest-hit Italy leading the way out of its two-month coronavirus

confinement.

Asian stocks also dipped into negative territory, tracking pre-weekend falls on Wall Street as investors returned from an extended weekend break to send Hong Kong stocks down 4.2 per cent, although Shanghai and Tokyo remained shut.

Oil prices declined from last week's surge while the US dollar was on the front foot against the European single currency.

"Risk sentiment is very fragile as we enter another critical week in terms of economic and corporate data. Tail risks are

rising and Donald Trump's attacks on China are really not helping," Swissquote Bank analyst Ipek Ozkardeskaya told AFP.

"Equities in Europe opened sharply lower, as expected. Losses in the FTSE were less than the rest of the European continent, but the investor mood points at further losses throughout the session."

Trump had hinted he could impose new tariffs on China over its handling of the virus outbreak, claiming he had seen evidence linking a Wuhan lab to the contagion.—AFP ■



A port in Lianyungang in China's eastern Jiangsu Province. China could match the United States tariff for tariff, but its exporters may be hit hard by an escalation in the trade war.
PHOTO: AFP

I.Coast sees \$500 mln export loss for cashew and cotton

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast's cashew and cotton industries will lose export sales worth nearly half a billion dollars this year because of the coronavirus pandemic,

their association said on Monday.

The head of the Cotton-Cashew Council (CCA), Adama Coulibaly, told AFP that Asian prices

for cashews had plummeted from \$1,400 to \$900 per tonne, representing an overall fall in export income of more than \$300 million.

Asian prices for Ivorian cotton have fallen from 1,007 CFA francs (\$1.66) a kilogram to 600 CFA francs, a loss of \$172 million.

"The coronavirus has

financially impacted our activities in Asia, our main outlet," he said.

"We have been faced with an absence of clients and contracts and lack of fi-

nance for buyers," he said.

The former French colony is the world's biggest producer of cashews, which go especially to Vietnam and India.—AFP ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ACCORD VOY. NO. (0204-644N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (072 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-5-2020 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.
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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.
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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (657 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-5-2020 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

Japan extends virus state of emergency until May 31



Japan has avoided the large-scale virus outbreaks seen in parts of Europe and the United States, but there have been concerns the healthcare system could be stretched. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday extended a state of emergency over the coronavirus until the end of May, warning it was too soon to begin relaxing restrictions.

But Abe said a review of the situation would be conducted in about two weeks, and the measures could be lifted before the end of the month if new infections slow sufficiently.

And he implied that there would be no further extension of the emergency, saying May would be when the country "presses towards the exit".

"I must be candid and ask you to continue your efforts for some time," Abe said at a press conference after announcing the extension.

"At this point, the decrease in people infected is still not at a sufficient level."

Abe had declared a month-long state of emergency that initially covered Tokyo and six other regions on April 7, later expanding it to cover the entire country.

It had been due to expire on May 6, and Abe said the measures had reduced new infections from around 700 a day to a third of that.

But he said the number of new cases was still outpacing the approximately 100 people discharged from hospital nationwide each day.

"We must decrease the number of newly infected people to below that level" to reduce pressure on the country's healthcare system, he added.

Japan's virus outbreak remains small compared with those seen in parts of Europe and the United States, with over 15,000 infections recorded and 510 deaths.—AFP ■

S. Korea shifts virus policy to "everyday life quarantine" from Wed.

SEOUL — The South Korean government said Monday it will ease social restrictions and shift to "everyday life quarantine" on Wednesday, calling on the public to cooperate in its new campaign against the coronavirus pandemic.

Primary and secondary school pupils and students will gradually return to school, and museums and sports facilities will be reopened in phases, after growing public weariness with prolonged social distancing.

South Korea saw coronavirus cases surge in late February, prompting the government to set social distancing guidelines in March to slow the spread of the virus. Sport-

ing events and concerts were subsequently canceled, while classes went online.

The government will no longer call for these social distancing measures from Wednesday. South Korea has reported 10,801 virus cases but has seen the number of daily new cases whittled down to roughly 10, with zero domestic infections recorded on some days. There have been no confirmed cases in the capital, Seoul, for two weeks. The government has found it necessary to bring economic activities back to normal quickly, on concerns a slump in consumption could worsen the slowdown.—Kyodo ■



General view of Seoul Museum of History as blue lights to show support for healthcare workers and first responders on the frontlines of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and send messages of hope to the people on May 01, 2020 in Seoul, South Korea. **PHOTO: KYODO**

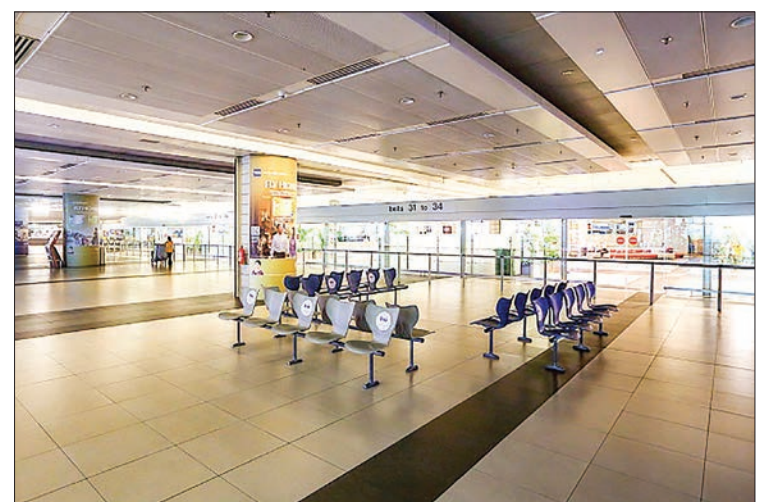
Singapore to ease lockdown, let businesses reopen from May 12

SINGAPORE — Singapore will allow companies to resume business operations gradually from May 12 while maintaining a partial lockdown until June 1 to curb the spread of the new coronavirus.

"We are asking the various companies to put in place the various measures and they will start to prepare now...As soon as they are ready by 12 May, they can resume work," Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing said at a virtual press conference on Sunday.

Singapore imposed a month-long partial lockdown which it called a "Circuit Breaker" on April 7 and it has since been extended by another four weeks until June 1.

Chan said the reopening of the economy will be gradual and progressive with some sectors given priority in resuming operations. "There is a phased plan whereby different sectors will



A general view of an empty arrival hall at Changi Airport Terminal 2 on April 30, 2020 in Singapore. **PHOTO: KYODO**

progressively be able to restart their operations once they put in place" the necessary safety measures.

"We will not be able to open some of the social entertainment outlets, but we are focused on our manufacturing capacities and production capabilities," he said.

For example, priority will be given to sectors that are closely linked with global supply chains in fields such as biopharma, petrochemicals and precision manufacturing. Many of these sectors have been allowed to maintain a certain level of operations even during the partial lockdown.—Kyodo ■

China sees sharp increase of registered import, export enterprises in March

BEIJING — Chinese customs authorities recorded 26,709 new registered import and export enterprises in March, up 53.12 percent year on year, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

The GAC saw 39,442 new registered import and export enterprises in the first quarter of 2020.

The total import and export value in March increased 57.42 per cent from February.

With the notable growth in March, the number of the registered enterprises and the import and export value is gradually recovering to the normal level before the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic.—Xinhua ■

Forty years on, Tito's legacy still contentious

BELGRADE — A benevolent unifier or power-hungry dictator? On the 40th anniversary of his death, the legacy of the late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito remains a subject of debate in the Balkan lands once united by his grip.

Though coronavirus restrictions put on a damper on mass gatherings Monday, small groups of faithful devotees still paid tribute at various sites honouring Tito in the countries that emerged from Yugoslavia's bloody unravelling.

"If everything was as it should have been, now there would be a big gathering here. From Macedonia, Croatia, from

the whole of ex-Yugoslavia," lamented Vladimir Vignjevic, one of about 15 people who visited Tito's marble grave in Belgrade, normally a site of pilgrimage for fans from the region.

Across the border in Tito's native Croatian village of Kumrovec, sirens were set to wail at 13:05 GMT — the exact time of his passing — while supporters will lay a wreath.

"This is a modest commemoration for a great man. We will do what we can in current circumstances," Franjo Habulin, whose anti-fascist association is organizing the ceremony, told AFP.

With a mix of charisma and

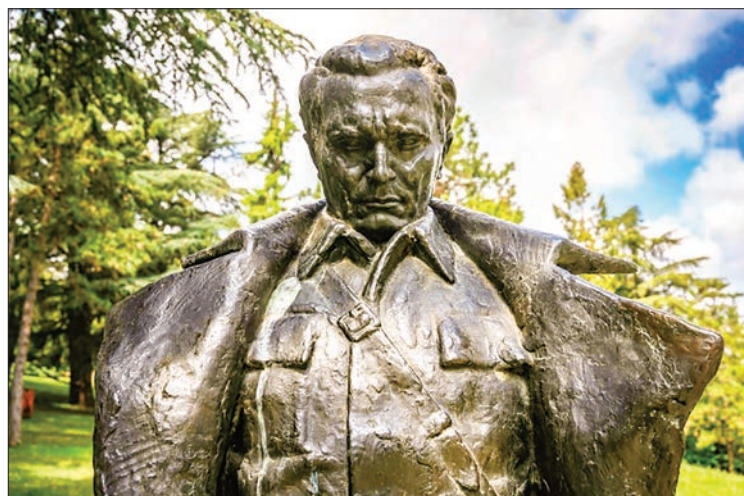
coercion, Tito held Yugoslavia's diverse peoples together for almost 40 years until his death at age 87 on May 4, 1980.

Without him, the federation lasted only a decade longer before fracturing along ethnic lines in a series of wars that claimed more than 130,000 lives.

Today, the Marshal's shadow falls unevenly across the countries that still bear the scars of those conflicts.

Critics highlight his jailing of political opponents, while some argue his suppression of nationalist sentiments created the pressure cooker that exploded into bloodshed.

But strains of Yugo-nostal-



Tito held Yugoslavia's diverse patchwork of peoples together for almost four decades until his death aged 87 on May 4, 1980. PHOTO: AFP

gia, as it is known, are still found across the region among those who remember — or have heard

stories about — the open borders and prosperity that elude the Balkans today.—AFP ■

Masks mandatory on Spain public transport as easing begins



Finally, the end of a bad-hair season. PHOTO: AFP

MADRID — Masks became mandatory on public transport Monday as Spain took its first tentative steps towards a commercial reopening with small businesses accepting customers by appointment and restaurants prepping food for takeaway.

Spain's population of nearly 47 million have been confined to their homes for more than 50 days as the country sought to curb the spread of the deadly virus which has so far claimed 25,428 lives according to official figures.

But the daily death rate has been steadily falling, with the

country on Monday counting another 164 deaths in 24 hours, an identical number to Sunday which was the lowest figure in nearly seven weeks.

And on Monday, the number of new cases fell to 545, the lowest figure since the country shut down on March 14 to slow the spread of the deadly virus.

Health chiefs believe the epidemic peaked on April 2 when 950 people died in one 24-hour period.

Spain began transitioning out of its strict virus lockdown on April 26 when it allowed children outside for an hour a day with the

measure extended this weekend to adults who can now go out for a brief walk or exercise alone.

The government has said the restrictions will be gradually lifted in a four-phase process which will be completed by the end of June, with the country already engaged in the first preparatory stage.

On Monday, new rules went into effect on public transport, with police and civil protection officers handing out millions of masks at stations across the country to ensure commuters complied with the now-compulsory requirement.—AFP ■

Europe stirs back to life as lockdowns ease

ROME — Workers banged away at construction sites in Rome, police handed out masks in Madrid and older children returned to school in Vienna as Europe on Monday gingerly stepped out of its coronavirus lockdown.

With their death and infection rates slowing and their economies in ruins, some of Europe's biggest countries decided it was time to test whether something resembling the old way of life can resume.

"It appears that the initial wave of transmissions has passed its peak," Andrea Ammon, the director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, told the European Parliament.

- Italy -

The piercing sounds of hammer drills echoed across a radiantly sunny Rome as 4.4 million

blue collar workers -- an estimated 72 percent of them men -- picked up their tools again.

"We can hear more noise now," Rome grocery store owner Daniela observed. "It's better than this frightening silence."

The big excitement across the country of 60 million was that people were finally free to take strolls in parks and visit relatives for the first time in nine weeks.

In Milan, Italy's once-buzzing fashion and finance capital, workers in overalls sprayed down commuter trains with disinfectant.

Red round stickers with white outlines of footprints showed commuters where they could stand on platforms and in train cars while respecting the new social distancing rules.

Restaurants that had been

shuttered since March 12 were doing basic cleanups as they prepared to resume takeout service.

Germany

"We have a lot of appointments for today — actually, for the whole week," said Ramazan

Uzun, a 27-year-old barber in Berlin whose business was allowed to reopen on Monday.

But Uzun said he did not necessarily agree with the easing of restrictions, which has allowed museums, places of worship, playgrounds and zoos to reopen as well.—AFP ■



The streets remained largely deserted in Spain. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

S. African gov't sets out strict measures for workplaces

CAPE TOWN — The South African government on Sunday announced strict measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at workplaces before the partial resumption of business.

Employers must take measures to protect the health and safety of everyone in their workplaces, Minister of Employment and Labour Thulas Nxesi said. With regard to social distancing, workplaces must be arranged to ensure a minimum of 1.5 metres between workers, Nxesi said. "If this is not practicable, physical barriers must be erected and workers must be supplied free of charge with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)," he said.—Xinhua ■

Phone Myint Kyaw faces World's 8 Ball Champion today

MYANMAR pool player Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ar Ti will play against World's 8 Ball Champion Zheng Yu Bo, in the Chinese 8 Ball Tournament in Chao Yang, China today.

Myanmar's pool star had won consecutive victories in the tourney and today's match will be a decisive one for his big celebration.

Phone Myint Kyaw defeated two world-class Chinese players in separate matches on April 28.

Also, Phone Myint Kyaw played with former world champion Yu Hai Tao and defeated him 21-17.

He then defeated former China Open champion Li Bo by 21-17.

The Myanmar pool star also grabbed his sweet success by beating former world pool champion Lui Hai Tao with a decisive 21-15 result on 3 March.

Phone Myint Kyaw also stated on his social media page

that he want to bring a win for all his fans from Myanmar during the time of COVID-19 and the match with the World's number one, Zheng Yu Bo is an exciting one for him.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar's pool player Phone Myint Kyaw celebrating his victory in the Chinese 8 Ball Tournament being held in Chao Yang, China.
PHOTO: PHONE MYINT KYAW'S FACEBOOK PAGE



Harding Park, 2020 PGA host course, set to reopen Monday



Brvooks Koepka hopes to win a third consecutive PGA Championship title in August at TPC Harding Park, which will reopen to public golfers on Monday after being shut down since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAN FRANCISCO — TPC Harding Park, scheduled to host the PGA Championship in August as the year's first major, will reopen on Monday, the course announced on its website, but cups will be filled with tubing while rakes have been removed and flagsticks deemed off limits.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health permitted the course to book tee times starting Monday and allow public rounds with precautions to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus that shut down sports.

"We still have a need to make sure we are protecting public health," San Francisco Mayor London Breed said Sunday.

Harding Park was closed March 16 when stay-at-home measures were imposed in the San Francisco Bay Area.

This year's PGA Champion-

ship was originally to be staged May 14-17 at the San Francisco layout, but was postponed to August 6-9 because of the deadly virus pandemic.

The Masters, traditionally the first major tournament each year, was postponed from April to November by the coronavirus outbreak while the US Open was moved from June to September and the British Open was canceled.

World number three Brooks Koepka, the top-ranked American golfer, has won the past two PGA Championships, beating Tiger Woods by two strokes in 2018 at Bellerive and Dustin Johnson by the same margin last year at Bethpage Black.

Koepka could become the first golfer to win the same major title three years in a row since Australian Peter Thomson at the 1954-56 British Opens.—AFP

MFF president donates foodstuffs, fund for veteran players

MYANMAR Football Federation president and Ayeyarwady Foundation chairman, U Zaw Zaw donated K 100,000 as fund and foodstuffs for over 160 veteran players and former referees through the Ayeyarwady Foundation, according to the yesterday's statement with the

Myanmar Football Federation. The donation ceremony was held yesterday at the headquarters of the Myanmar Football Federation and over sixty-years old former Myanmar national football players and referees, officials from Max Myanmar, Ayeyarwady Foundation and

Myanmar Football Federation attended the ceremony. Ayeyarwady Foundation is currently assisting prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic and had already donated funds, pharmaceuticals and essential foodstuffs to the hospitals and quarantined centres.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Kyrgios tells bitter rival Nadal: 'Let's do Insta'

PARIS — Australian tennis maverick Nick Kyrgios invited Rafael Nadal to take part in a cosy video chat on Sunday (May 3) despite their stormy on-court relationship.

As the coronavirus has sent the tennis season into hibernation until Jul 13 at the earliest, a host of players have recently taken to social media for face-to-face exchanges.

So, on Sunday, after the BBC had asked for suggestions as to the most sought-after face-times, Kyrgios was quick to respond. "Rafa lets do Instagram live together. I am down with it. Rafael Nadal let's do it," wrote the Australian on Instagram.

Kyrgios and Nadal have endured a bitter relationship on court. Last year, the 19-time Grand Slam winner accused the

Australian of "lacking respect" after Kyrgios won a stormy encounter in Mexico.

Advertisement

Kyrgios responded by claiming the Spanish world number two was "super-salty".

They met again at Wimbledon last summer when Nadal won but fumed after the Australian appeared to spear a ball directly at him.— AFP



File photo of Rafael Nadal shaking hands with Nick Kyrgios after his victory at the Australian Open this year. **PHOTO: AFP**