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State Counsellor discusses managing market places during COVID-19 period



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds video conference on management of market places with officials and Hluttaw MP yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a video conference yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, to discuss managing the market places during the COVID-19 period.

After the introductory remarks by the State Counsellor, Myaing Township Administrative Officer (General Affairs Department) U Thant Zin Khaing discussed arrangement of market stalls for vendors, preparation of

quarantine centres and intensive care units, conducting awareness campaigns in his township, making transportation arrangements to send returnees to quarantine centres in their respective villages and making accommodation

arrangements for them in a systematic manner. Pyithu Hluttaw MP Daw Pyone Kay Thi Naing from Kalaw Township constituency presented COVID-19 measures at the markets in Kalaw, Heho and Aungban townships

and opening temporary market places, the willingness of the people to abide by the health regulations, enforcements of rules and difficulties encountered in managing market places.

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Myanmar govt informs foreign missions, delegations about ongoing works

AN information briefing on current developments of Myanmar was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre-NRPC in Yangon at 2 pm yesterday.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe of the Office of the State

Counsellor, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin of the Ministry of International Cooperation, and Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were leading the briefing.

Yangon-based diplomatic

corps, who are exclusively invited, comprising of ambassadors and embassy officials from ASEAN countries, the Republic of Korea, Japan, India, People's Republic of China, Timor Leste, Russia, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, the Unit-

ed States of America, Germany, the European Union and the UN Resident Coordinator Myanmar were present on the occasion.

First, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe explained the matters of the Government's strenuous efforts to prevent and control

the COVID-19 pandemic, and to mitigate the socio-economic impacts upon the people, the collaborative endeavours with the EAOs to contain the COVID-19 in ethnic armed conflict areas,

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein chaired the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting to discuss the bill sent by Union Government on drawing up and submitting budgets of local governments at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Joint Bill Committee and Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung

(a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win, deputy chairman and joint secretary, and members of Joint Bill Committee and deputy chairman, secretary and members of Joint Public Accounts Committee and officials from Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA

(Translated by Ye Htut Tin)

SEA human rights institutions forum convenes 1st work group meeting



The 1st work group meeting of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) was held on video conferencing. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) is holding its 1st work group meeting under the 2020 rotating chairmanship of Indonesia from 12 to 14 May.

The meeting through video conferencing was taken part by the chairman, the vice chairman and members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, together with repre-

sentatives of those commissions from Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor Leste.

The meeting of forum was held through video conferencing for the first time due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

In the discussions of member countries on their works in human rights after the 16th Annual Conference of SEANF, U Paw Lwin Sein, member of My-

anmar National Human Rights Commission, made discussions on the progress of tasks carried out by the MNHRC.

Regarding the role and actions of human rights commissions, Dr Than Myint, member of MNHRC, presented Myanmar's measures against the COVID-19 and the works of the commission.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

67 Myanmar citizens arrive back home from Thailand by second relief flight

MYANMAR government has brought back its 67 citizens in the second group who were stranded in Thailand due to suspension of international flights although they wanted to come back home amid COVID-19 outbreak.

The second relief flight of Myanmar International Airlines landed with them at the Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon.

On arrival at the airport, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period

at the designated places and the respective hotels in line with the guidelines of immigration and healthcare processes.

In accordance with the directives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok and other relevant ministries in Myanmar, arranged the first relief flight for 135 citizens on 6 May, totalling 202 persons from the Kingdom.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Second group of Myanmar citizens from Thailand arrived at Yangon International Airport by a relief flight yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tatmadaw transit centres receiving COVID-19 quarantined persons

THE Transit Centres of Defence Services in Nay Pyi Taw and Hline Township in Yangon are providing healthcare services to the COVID-19 quarantined persons by the medic teams of respective commands.

On 11 May, 5 men who re-

turned from China, 5 men and 5 women who arrived back from the border towns Selu and Tachileik were received at the Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, 6 men and 3 women who returned from China, 1 man from Thailand and 1 man

from North Okkalapa Township, Yangon, arrived at the Transit Centre in Hline Township, Yangon.

A total of 27 persons from Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre and 2 persons from Hline Transit Centre have spent the 21-day

quarantines and they were sent back to the respective areas by the cars arranged by the Tatmadaw. They were also presented documents for completing the quarantines.

The Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services re-

ported that there are 296 people at the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre and 235 people at the Hline Transit Centre up to 7 pm on 11 May. They all are in good health conditions.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

State Counsellor discusses managing market places ...

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Deputy Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area U Ye Min Oo briefed on the systematic management on operating markets in the capital territory, the conduct of awareness campaigns for the sellers and shoppers, disinfection works, regular cleaning activities and systematic promotion of mobile vendors. In her response, the State Counsellor gave advice on skill-buildings for volunteers, mandatory wearing of face masks for the public, pragmatic ways of adapting to the new way of living in homes and schools (for the short-term as well as for the long-term), and measures for preventing COVID-19.

In her concluding remarks the State Counsellor said she wanted everyone to think of pragmatic ways to adapt to a new way of living for the long-term; those new ways could be found from experiences; endurance was the main factor to enter a long-term battle; to have endurance hope



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds video conference on management of market places with officials and Hluttaw MP yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

was essential; in the same way, determination and unflagging zeal was also needed; hope and hard work was also required; for the fulfillment of one's aspirations strenuous efforts

were needed; endurance and the courage to carry on was also needed. She added that in her opinion, the people already had the above-mentioned qualities to a certain extent

and that she would like to request the people to train and upgrade these qualities from day by day. She ended by expressing her thanks to everyone. —MNA (Translated by Aung Kin)

MoHT, Luxembourg agency discuss tourism development project MYA/001

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism held a video conference yesterday with the Luxembourg development agency which is providing technical assistance to Myanmar.

The meeting discussed the LuxDev Code MYA/001 for the development of human resources in the hotels and tourism sector of Myanmar.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung made discussions about conducting online train-

ing course on tourism sector amid the outbreak of COVID-19, supports of the project on establishments of language labs at the offices of ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, online courses of ecotourism from foreign countries, quick restoration of tourism sector in post COVID-19, and an online training courses on the topics of crisis management and resilience after conducting Myanmar MSME Tourism Survey.

Deputy Minister U Tin Latt presented the progress of COVID-19 Myanmar Tourism Survey, norms for joining online ecotourism course, technical and fundamental needs for language labs, the Myanmar Tourism COVID-19 Relief Strategy Roadmap and the Myanmar Tourism Master Plan.

Officials from the agency Luxembourg discussed and advised on the topics.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Ohn Maung discusses the tourism development on video conferencing. **PHOTO: MNA**

No new COVID-19 case on Tuesday National tally remains at 180

Situation Report of Myanmar at 8:00 pm on 12 May

1. Laboratory tests of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on the 94 samples and 103 samples by the Department of Medical Research, totalling 197, on 12 May afternoon have showed no new case.
2. There are a total of 180 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 12 May.
3. Two old cases (Case 82 and 102) were tested negative two consecutive times, and that a total of 76 persons have recovered up to 12 May. Among them, 64 persons have been discharged from the hospital and they will be kept isolation at the designated places.
4. Six positive patients have died until now.
5. There are a total of 67 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 12 May.

COVID-19 Laboratory results at 8: 00 pm, 12 May 2020

Samples tested at National Health Laboratory on 12 May	94
Samples tested at Medical Research Department on 12 May	103
COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2)	0

COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm 12 May

	New	Total
Confirmed Cases	0	180
Recovered Cases	2	76
Death	0	6

Myanmar govt informs foreign missions, delegations about ongoing works



Union Ministers met with foreign missions and delegations at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yestersay to inform the ongoing works of Myanmar government. Photo:MNA

FROM PAGE-1

the peace efforts to sign the NCA with all ethnic armed organizations including AA, the issue of terrorist acts by AA and ARSA groups, the AA's disruptive actions to the government mechanism in Rakhine State, the efforts to raise humanitarian aids to the IDPs, and the Tatmadaw

statement on the ceasefire and eternal peace.

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin briefed on the status of the Government's efforts to mobilize the people's strength to fight against the COVID-19 for all strata of life nationwide inclusive of IDPs, prisons, and persons with disabilities based

on the principle of 'Leaving no one behind', the measures to carry out work programmes in cooperation with the ICRC in the prevention and control of the COVID19 at the displaced people camps, and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan to address the economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye then explained the matters relating to the COVID-19 preventive measures at the displaced people camps and IDP camps, the dissemination of health information, the provision of hand gels, soaps, hand washing basins, face masks and thermometers, the nutrition and

funds assistance to the elder persons, pregnant mothers and infants.

Afterwards, the Union Ministers answered the questions raised by the attendees.

The briefing was reportedly held in line with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. — MNA

Mon party agrees to fully coordinate in measures against COVID-19



Government coordination committee holds discussions with New Mon State Party on COVID-19 measures Photo: Phoe Htaung

THE New Mon State Party made an agreement to work together with the government on the

prevention and containment of COVID-19 in their area.

The government's com-

mittee to coordinate with ethnic armed groups on fighting against the pandemic held an

online meeting from National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday, and it was attended by Chairman of the Committee Dr Tin Myo Win, its Vice Chairman Lt-Gen (retired) Khin Zaw Oo, committee members, NMSP's CEC member Nai Banyar Lal and its members.

The discussions were based on 7 points of agreement reached at the meeting of 10-members NCA-S EAOs on 8 May.

U Hla Maung Shwe, member of Advisory Board of Peace Commission, said, "The New Mon State Party will carry out preventive measures against COVID-19 at its 18 screen points and will work together with the government. The meeting also discussed possible repercussions on social economic sector in the post COVID-19 disease. We

could make good results in the discussions of social, economic, health and education sectors."

The follow-up meeting between the two sides will be convened in the third week of May.

U Hla Maung Shwe added, "They also agreed to work on the issues of returnees from foreign countries in their area while only border crossing in Myawady Township of Kayin State is allowed for entry.

A total of 15 ethnic armed groups have contacted the coordination committee to implement COVID-19 measures, and the committee will hold discussions with the Chin National Front on 14 May, the Pa-O National Liberation Organization on 15 May respectively.

—Ye Gaung Nyunt
(Translated by Aung Khin)

COVID-19: Authorities help foreigners stranded in Myawady

OFFICIALS from the relevant ministries have checked the licenced hotels in Myawady Town on 10 May and helped foreigners stranded in Myanmar due to suspension of airlines and closures of border crossings amid COVID-19.

"We have investigated the quarantined hotels. When we found foreigners at the hotels, we facilitated their Visa renewal and other needs," said Daw Chaw

Kyi Kyi, an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

A total of 36 foreigners were found stranded in the investigation. Of them, 26 persons' visas have already expired. Township Immigration Department helped them renew their visas.

The officials also explained the directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports to these foreigners. The investiga-

tion team comprised with officials from Myawady District's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Township General Administration Department, Township Police Force, Township immigration department, District Information and Public Relations Department. —Htien Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Officials inspect a hotel in Myawady on 10 May and found foreigners stranded at the border town due to suspension of airlines and closure of border checkpoints amid COVID-19. PHOTO: HTIEN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

No one injured in AA landmine attack to security forces near Kyauktaw

AA terrorists launched landmine attacks to security forces near Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, on 11 May.

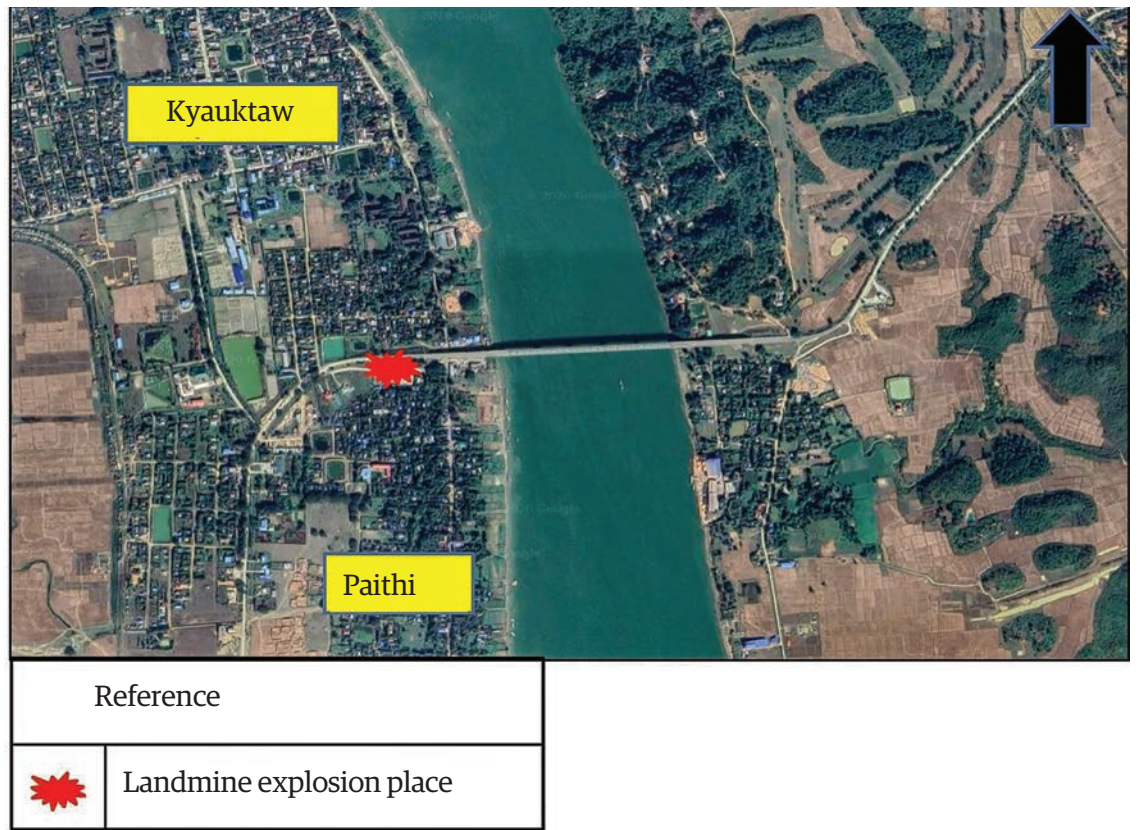
Defence Services personnel sent COVID-19 medical supplies to the People's Hospital in Kyauktaw Township and the Maha Kangyi Shin pagoda, and the Tatmadaw medic team performed medical checkups to the locals, conducted awareness campaigns and carried out disinfections on that day.

After departing from the

township, the security forces were attacked by the two remote landmines planted at the roadside of Yangon-Sittway Union Highway by AA terrorists about 300 metre west of Kissapanadi Bridge at 5 pm.

The Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services has reported that no one was injured in the attacks, and security columns are doing mine clearance works.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Volunteer Invitation to COVID-19 National Volunteer Steering Unit

THE Community Based Facility Quarantine process is a key role for containment of COVID-19 spread. Those who had close contacts with the positive patients and the returnees from foreign countries need to take part in this programme. Despite no symptoms, they need to stay under surveillance for a total of 28 days during incubation period — 21 days facility quarantine and the 7-day home quarantine.

Those in community based facility quarantine will require assistance of well-trained volunteers. For the specific process and time frame, the volunteers will have to perform their daily duties in inner circle or outer circle depending on the requirement and available services. They are required to work for the whole period of 21 days. They will also have to live at specific places for the 7-day recreation. They will have to do this work for a total of 28 days at least one time. They may offer their services for the next round.

It is warmly invited to spend time, labour,

skills and expertise without getting any charge in this process of specific time. The list of volunteers at the local community based facility quarantine centre has been collected. The objective of the National Volunteer Steering Unit is to give training to the volunteers, to supply the quarantined persons with fundamental foods, to have sufficient relaxation and recognition of the government.

Those who want to join the volunteer programme as volunteers for a specific field, the registration can be made in the Facebook page of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement not later than 6:00 pm 5 May 2020.

The works of civil service societies and individual volunteers are well appreciated and they are requested for more cooperation.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

(Translated by Aung Khin)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

THE Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Containment and Emergency Response Committee has opened the COVID-19 Call Centre in Yangon. It is opened daily.

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical

Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 8 am to 8 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

AA attack private, public property in Rakhine, Chin states

AA terrorists used a mine in destroying a building of PSC machinery company between mile posts 108 and 109 on Yangon-Kyaukpyu motorway near Kalabar village in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State, on 8 May.

After the report of the building's security guard to Myinbyin police station at 9:30 pm on 8 May, security forces found some

damages at the building owned by the company and three small batteries and pipes nearby area.

The AA terrorists also destroyed a transmission tower of MRTV sub-station on a hill about 300 meter west to Paletwa Township in Chin State at 10 pm on 7 May, according to the report of the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

3 AA supporters arrested near Kyauktaw Township

SECURITY forces arrested three persons on 8 May as they were found with protection money for AA terrorists and documents related to this group.

While a combined security team inspected a Super Custom car en route from Kyauktaw to Sittway near Kansauk village at 12 noon on that day, and the two suspects, namely U San Kyi, 33, and U San Linn, 34, were

arrested.

After inspecting them, U Aung Kyar Zan, 58, in Ngapyawchaung village was also arrested for his relations to the AA terrorists.

The Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services has reported that legal actions will be taken against these three suspects.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Handmade mine explodes at Muse toll gate

A handmade mine exploded at the Asia World Toll Gate of Muse Township in northern Shan State at 8:30 pm on 11 May.

Two men on a motorbike dropped the mine at the gate and fled to Muse downtown.

The attack damaged the

ceiling of toll gate building, the weighing scale, mirrors and a monitor, causing a security guard to injure, according to the report of Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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RBE 21 coaches arrive in Yangon Thilawa Port

RBE 21 coaches are seen unloading from the ship at Yangon Thilawa Port. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

RBE 21 coaches, which were donated by Japan, arrived in Yangon Thilawa Port. These coaches, which had run in Japan, will operate on Yangon circular railway, according to Myanmar Railway (MR).

The officials from MR were having the coaches unloaded from the ship yesterday.

"These are RBE coaches. Japan has donated the reconditioned coaches to operate on Yangon circular railway. This is the first time the RBE coaches arrive. Japan has planned to send more coaches. But we are not sure how many coaches will be coming. We have purchased the coaches from Japan. However, Japan also donates RBE coaches for temporary use," said General Manager U Aung Thu Latt of MR lower Myanmar.

These RBE coaches will be handed over to Insein locomotive factory and Nay Pyi Taw for upgrading. At present, fourteen coaches are being upgraded to use soon," he added.

The cargo ships carrying RBE coaches docked Yangon Thilawa Port on 8 May. But, unloading of the coaches started only yesterday and continued on today.

Each RBE coach contains two engines and it can be driven with a single engine. RBE coaches are upgraded to be able to run on Yangon circular railway.

Although about 96 coaches are being operated on Yangon circular railway in regular period, only 26 coaches are being run during the time of coronavirus control and response. With the increased number of commuters, MR will operate with more trains for the passengers to be able to travel conveniently.

MR is upgrading the circular railway, railway stations, locomotives and coaches and railway overpasses/bridges for the passengers to be able to travel conveniently.

—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

More than 74,000 perennial plants grown in Mong Hpyak Township

THE Forest Department is growing a total of 74,200 perennial plants and decorating trees in Mong Hpyak Township in Shan State (East) to distribute them to the people and the relevant departments in the raining season, said the Township Forest Department yesterday.

To cultivate the plants in the raining season with distribution of the plantings free

of charge to the related department and the public, about 74,200 plants are being cultivated in the Forest Department garden in Mong Hpyak under the Shan State government plan.

Out of 74,200 plants, 7,700 are Senna siamea, also known as Siamese cassia, 16,500 are perennial crops including jack fruit and avocado, 8,500 are teak and the remaining 41,500

are other plantings.

In 2020, Township Forest Department will celebrate monsoon tree planting ceremony and State Counsellor's birthday commemorative planting ceremony in monsoon season. These nursery plants will be distributed to the respective departments and the public in the first week of June. —Than Tun Aye (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Planting of perennial crops and decorating trees are seen before being in Mong Hpyak Township.

PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

Fire destroys five houses in Yinmabin

KITCHEN fire destroyed five houses at 11 pm on 11 May in Min Ma Gone village, in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing region, according to Yinmabin Township Fire Services Department.

No one was injured in the accident. However, the fire devoured five houses. According to the witnesses, the fire started from an ember left in the kitchen of Daw Poe from Min Ma Gone village and spread to a nearby cowshed. Then, the fire spread to other neighbouring houses.

Firefighters with eight fire engines succeeded in bringing the fire under control. The fire was completely extinguished at 12:30 am.

Daw Poe has been charged with negligence of fire by the Yinmabin Myoma police station under Section 285 of the Penal Code. The victims, who lost their houses in fire, are currently living in their relative houses and the school in Min Ma Gone village. Those who wish to donate may contact Ko Aung Hsan dialing the following number 09400409394. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 18/2020
5th Waning of Kasone, 1382 ME
(11 May 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 9 May 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received that illegal drugs are being sold and distributed in Belu Myo Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.	On 9 May 2020, police searched the house of Daw Phyoe Ei Thwe, 34, daughter of U Kyaw Shwe, in Inn Kone Village in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, and arrested her together with stimulant tablets. Suspect Phyoe Ei Thwe said she had bought the drugs from Daw Khin Shwe, 56, daughter of U Aung Thein, in Belu Myo Village. Police made additional search at the house of Daw Khin Shwe and seized illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received that Than Win is using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Wayoutha Village, Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region.	On 7 May 2020, police searched the farm of Than Win, 47, son of Wae Maung, who lives in Warutha Village, Pinlebu Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received that Win San and wife Daw Tin Kyi distributing illegal drugs in Nat Chaung Village, Kalay Township in Sagaing Region.	On 8 May 2020, police arrested Aung Myo Hteik, 29, son of U Than Tun, on the street of Nat Chaung Village in Kalay Township. Aung Myo Hteik said he had purchased the drugs from Win San and wife Daw Tin Kyi. Therefore, police searched their house and arrested them with heroin. Cases have been opened against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received that illegal drugs are being used and distributed in Aung Thukha Ward, Kawthoung Town, Tanintharyi Region.	In previous week, a total of nine suspects, eight men and a woman, were arrested with stimulant tablets. On 4 May 2020, police searched the house of Aung Thu Paing, 27, son of U Myint Htay, in Aung Thukha Ward, Kawthoung Town, and seized stimulant tablets and speciosa powder. A case has been opened against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police arrested Naing Aung Htwe (a) Thar Gyi, 20, son of U Maung Naing, in Anawyatha Street (2) in the same ward, together with stimulant tablets. Naing Aung Htwe said he had bought the drugs from Min Ko Oo (a) Hu Sein, 20, son of U Aung Win, who lives in the same ward. Police searched the house of Min Ko Oo, and seized stimulant tablets. Cases have been opened against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 5 May, police searched the house of Har Nat (a) Than Myint Oo, 29, son of U Myint Aung, in Anawyatha Street (5) in the same ward, and seized stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Myo Aung (a) Yah Yar, 35, son of U Min Min, was also arrested with stimulant tablets between Anawyatha Street (4) and (5) in the same ward, together with stimulant tablets. Myo Aung said he had purchased the drugs from Phyoe Aung (a) Aung Lay, son of U Than Tun, in Chan Myae Street (2) in Aung Thukha Ward. Police searched the house of Phyoe Aung, and seized stimulant tablets. As Aung Lay said he had bought the drugs from Ma Htet Htet Mon (a) Htet Htet, 19, daughter of U Soe Myint, and Ma Ange Lay, 26, daughter of U Shwe Pan, police searched their houses. No illegal drug was found, but they were charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also searched the motorcycle driven by Nyi Nyi Htwe (a) Ko Par, 18, son of U Than Tun, in Chan Myae Tha Street (2) in the same ward, and seized stimulant tablets from him. A case has been filed against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

5	Information received that Bu Khoe, who lives in Thamada beach in Dala Township, Yangon Region, is distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 May 2020, police searched the house of Bu Khoe (a) Tay Zar Aung, 32, son of U Chit Than, and arrested him together with his wife Ma Zin Wai Wai, 18, daughter of U Aung Myint, and WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received that Yan Naing Lin, who lives in Mingala Aung Myay Ward in Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State, is distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 3 May, police searched the house of Yan Naing Lin, 33, son of U Than Maung, in Mingala Aung Myay Ward No.1, in Nyaungshwe Town, and seized stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received that illegal drugs are being sold and distributed in Taunggyi Town, southern Shan State.	In previous week, a total of 41 suspects, 41 men and three women, were arrested with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 5 May 2020, acting on a tip-off, police searched Kyaw Soe Hlaing (a) Moe Di (a) Kyaw Myo Hlaing, 21, son of U Win Soe in a street in Shwe Taung Ward, and seized stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 7 May 2020, police searched the house of Htet Arkar, 23, son of U Myint Tun, who lives in Sein Pan Ward, and arrested him together with stimulant tablets. A case has been filed against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received that illegal drugs are being sold and distributed in No. 5 Ward in Lashio Town, northern Shan State.	In previous weeks, a total of five cases have been filed. Seven men were arrested with heroin, and stimulant tablets. On 7 May 2020, police searched the motorcycle driven by Aung Kyaw Thu, 35, son of U Kyaw Kyaw, in No.5 Ward in Cherry Street in Lashio Town, and seized stimulant tablets from him. A case has been filed against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 8 May 2020, police raided the house of Sauk Chin (a) Ar Wu, 50, son of U Shauk Sein, and arrested him together with Yan Saung (a) U Laung A, who lives in the same ward, as they were found in possession of heroin and stimulant tablets. Police also searched the house of Yan Saung and confiscated heroin. Cases have been opened against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,102 cases have been opened files up to 9 May 2020. A total of 1,689 people, including 1,412 men and 277 women had been arrested with 8,958.2514 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 42,850.73886 g of opium, 665.27 g of low-quality opium, 53, 263.76 g of speciosa powder, 12,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 538,239 stimulant tablets, 10,312.37 g of marijuana, 0.1 litre of opium tincture, 596.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.95 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking have been stepped up and the department will report on further cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200

Fax Phone No. — 067-590233

Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Careful planning called key to overcoming both climate disasters and COVID-19

WE HAVE seen reports of gale-force winds and lightning strikes across the country these days, with daily fatalities and damages of buildings.

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has warned the public to stay indoors, mostly in the evenings of the pre-monsoon season on preparedness for gale-force winds and lightning strikes.

With the formation of cumulus clouds in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon season, there has been an increase in the number of lightning strikes, hailstorms, and gale-force winds.

Apart from thunderstorms, gusty winds are likely to hit areas where cumulus clouds are formed this month.

The number of deaths from lightning has also increased, reaching over 100 during some years. It has been found that a majority of victims were farmers, and they were struck by lightning while working in the farms.

The death toll from lightning strikes is expected to continue rising year by year.

Like other countries, Myanmar struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, is likely to also battle weather-related crises, from heat waves to gale-force winds and lightning, in the coming months.

While raising awareness about the COVID-19, the authorities should advise people to follow the instructions sent by the department and stay in safe places to avoid such tragedies which are preventable.

There are ways in which people can protect themselves and reduce the risk of death.

We must switch off electrical appliances such as televisions and mobile phones during rainstorms accompanied by thunder and lightning. We must avoid staying or working in the field and must heed to lightning strike alerts.

Particularly the farmers, farmhands and cattle-grazers should get back to safer places whenever there is a thunderstorm or lightning. This will prevent tragedies.

Gale-force winds, which tend to follow heavy rainfall, hit parts of Myanmar every year, destroying homes and toppling trees.

We could expect more lightning strikes rather than a gradual increase as the world warms up due to climate change.

To handle extreme weather and virus outbreaks at the same time, careful planning is needed while marshalling resources to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Performances of Yangon Region Government in Fourth-Year Period

By Thi Thi Min
Photo: Nay Lin

Yangon Region works hand-in-hand with public for urban development

THE Yangon Region government has reached its 4th year under the incumbent government administration while endeavouring for sustained urban development and the development of its economy, healthcare, education and other essential sectors on their path to make the city of Yangon a comfortable and pleasant place to live in.

Floods & overflows

There used to be a major flooding issue during the rainy season every year but the regional government managed to contain the situation to a degree beginning between 2017-2018.

“There are two parts to the flood issue,” explained Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. “The first part are the floods caused by water overflowing from rivers and streams and the second part are the backed up sewers around the city causing floods when it rains. We worked to contain the situation given the budget we were allotted.”

Yangon Region is located at the intersection of the Yangon River, Bago River and Nga Moe Yeik River. An initial survey is being conducted to install a pump system to drain the rising tide and in-



The aerial view of Kanaung low-cost housing in Yangon.

flux of water from the confluence of the three rivers. Calls for tender and formation of advisory groups will also follow shortly.

Awareness raising programmes are in place to promote efficient water currents and cleaning programmes for waste-free canals and sewers. A USD 70 million loan from the World Bank will

be used to install an appropriate number of sewers corresponding to the population living in Yangon.

The Yangon Region government is collaborating with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to assess septic tanks in back alleys, working together with Clean Yangon and Doh Eain enterprise in restora-



The Thanlyin-Thilawa Road in Yangon.

tion and city development matters. Eventually, Yangon’s back alleys are now free of trash and have become clean, safe public recreational areas.

“Public cooperation is essential for these to be a success,” says U Phyo Min Thein. He says they are still raising awareness while simultaneously taking care of the trash. “We’re trying to generate electricity from burning the trash and we are looking into it from all angles,” says the chief minister. “We have made an agreement with Poland for assistance regarding Htein Bin landfill and this system may come into play soon.”

Basic infrastructure

The Yangon Region government is improving transportation for more efficient public transportation by upgrading the circular train, hiring skilled engineers to design and upgrade major city streets, installing modern traffic lights and improving the YBS system.

During the fourth-year period, the implementation of international online taxi services offering safe and secure transportation has significantly improved the

urban transportation sector.

“There’s about 2.5 million people using public transport in Yangon,” says U Phyo Min Thein adding that, “Daily commuters are using one form of public transport or the other. This is why we are systematically linking the circular train, YBS and taxi service systems to improve the overall transportation sector.”

The regional government is also improving roads linking towns and villages to make travel more efficient in all weather for people living in urban and rural areas. The regional government has also been upgrading public parks and recreational areas and forming clean and safe night markets that incorporates urban features. They had become peaceful places for relaxing and buying or selling wares.

“We finished upgrading the parks to offer a place for people to take a break and relax and we are working to upgrade the night market as well,” explains the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

In addition, the regional government is implementing balanced strategies to bridge the difference between urban and

rural development among the 33 townships within the municipal territory and the 12 townships outside it.

Electrification

The regional government is working hard to implement 100 per cent electrification across Yangon Region in 2020 and improve the socioeconomic situation of rural areas. The self-help electrification programme was



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

scrapped earlier this year and as a result, local residents will not be required to pay for power cables or power stations as the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) will assume responsibility for all of them.

Agriculture & livestock

The Yangon Region government has long-term plans to develop local agriculture and livestock sectors to ensure food security and improving Nyaung Napin agriculture zone to increase plantations. They are promoting the livestock industry to produce poultry, fishery and meat products that can be exported internationally.

Industrial sector

The regional government is expanding industrial zones and upgrading existing industrial zones. They are replacing self-help administration groups with administrative bodies formed by the government to ensure there is proper management, employment opportunities, increasing national export value and attracting foreign revenue.

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 12th May, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 13th May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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: Likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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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Performances of Yangon Region Government in Four-Year Period



The view of the new Thanlyin-Thilawa Road in Yangon Region.

FROM PAGE-9

“When the Foreign Investment Law was amended, the regional investment committee was formed to attract more foreign investment,” said U Phyo Min Thein. “The regional committee has permission for businesses at USD 5 million and under, so business processes have been more efficient.”

Garment factories increased from 200 to 500 in the region and increased jobs in the garment industry, a major job producer in Yangon, has provided employment to the region’s growing population which has in turn increased foreign exports.

Investment forums

The regional government organized investment forums between 2018 to 2019 and will organize new ones in 2020. “Future investors seeking to do business in Yangon will be equipped with more

information by the Yangon investment committee soon,” said U Phyo Min Thein. “When Yangon’s investment value increases, it will have a beneficial effect on national revenue and tax and increase employment opportunities as well.”

Housing projects

The biggest challenge in upgrading industrial zones in the region is dealing with the squatter phenomenon. Attempts to systematically relocate them are underway in the form of housing projects in Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and Dagon Myothit townships.

The regional chief minister said systematically relocating squatters helps to fulfill the labour pool requirements in industrial zones and preserve the integrity of fire safety and water safety there as well. He said dense populations of squatters are a fire hazard and they also clog up the sewers, responsible for creating floods in the rainy season.



Yangon City Development Committee’s workers laying water pipeline to the Eco Green City.

Mangroves

Yangon is situated near the Gulf of Martaban and is susceptible to cyclones and other natural disasters. To counter this, nearly 30,000 mangrove plantations have been grown around the townships on the outer perimeter of Yangon. The mangroves also provide economic support to local residents in coastal regions.

The regional government has also issued rules and regulations for businesses from multiple sectors to invest in environmental conservation. They have cooperated with Singapore, Germany and Japan to open vocational training institutes for youths in order for them to secure a professional career with stable and appropriate income in the future.

The regional government also endeavoured to create reasonable job op-

portunities for local university graduates. project located near the 4th milepost on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw highway which will incorporate urban elements.

Other projects include implementing 24-hour electrification, roads and infrastructures, and better ferry services in Kokogyun Township and establishing industrial zones 11 townships outside the municipal territory, which also includes collaborating with Singapore to construct Hlegu industrial zone. A petition to construct an industrial zone in Htantabin Township has been submitted to the Hluttaw.

In addition, construction on Bago River Bridge (3) has begun and will connect Yangon and Thanlyin to support Thilawa Special Economic Zone. An important bridge to Dala is also being constructed in order to simultaneously implement regional development in Dala Township.



The aerial view of the Bago River-crossing Bridge.

opportunities for local university graduates. “We reopened the Government Technical Institute (GTI) in Insein and collaborated with Japan to remodel Aung San Technical High School (THS),” said U Phyo Min Thein.

The regional government formed the regional travel committee to improve the hotels and tourism sector, upgrade the service industry, and construct additional hotels. There are currently 400 hotels in Yangon.

In addition, Yangon International Airport was upgraded and services have been improved for seaports and airports for international travellers as well. “These processes were carried over the course of four years. It hasn’t all been smooth for us. There were challenges as well,” remarked U Phyo Min Thein.

Future projects

The regional government has future projects in store for continuing regional development and this involves upgrading the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and 29 other industrial zones and establishing new industrial zones as well.

There is also the Eco Green City

The regional government will soon call tender applications for the New Yangon City Project on the opposite bank from Kyeemyindine and to gradually relocate Yangon port towards the opening to the sea.

U Phyo Min Thein said they are working hard to implement the Smart City project for multi-sector development in the region and to implement the Yangon Payment Service (YPS) for efficient transportation using the YBS public transport system. Citizens can now also pay their electricity bills through online payment.

The Yangon Region Chief Minister said the biggest challenge during their 4-year tenure so far is handling the land confiscation cases. He said they reviewed about 5,000 cases during that period and effectively responded to all of them.

“All of us will have to struggle together to drive further development moving forward,” said U Phyo Min Thein. “If we can effectively collaborate with the public, then Yangon can become ever more developed then it is now and become a major commercial capital.”

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Yangon gold market to reopen on 16 May

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON gold market is slated to reopen on 16 May after a long coronavirus break, said Chairperson U Myo Myint of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

At present, the association has been discussing with the officials of the relevant departments to reopen the market, he added.

"We met with the Bureau of Special Investigation, township administrator and director of the related departments. For now, the market is expected to reopen on 16 May after extended precautionary restriction period until 15 May by the Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of New Coronavirus 2019 will ease. The association will call for the executive meeting on the morning of 16 May. We will ensure mandatory health



The gold necklaces being displayed at a gold shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

guidelines such as six-foot physical distancing, wearing masks and washing hands to reopen the market," he stated.

At present, the domestic gold prices fetch only above

K1,170,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms), while global gold price touches a high of above \$1,700 per ounce, he continued.

"Local market remains closed amid coronavirus pandemic. Earlier, Myanmar has conducted gold trade with India and China through border areas. Now, the market has been cool due to trade suspension at border areas," he stressed.

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 crisis.

There are over 10,000 gold shops in Yangon Region, with daily trading of about 50 visses. The market has been closed amid coronavirus crisis.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Lack of foreign demand drives pigeon pea price to fall

THE pigeon pea price in Monywa market, Sagaing Region has been decreasing as India has not purchased them amid coronavirus pandemic.

"Normally, the pigeon peas produced in Monywa are sent only to the India market. So far, there is no direct link between Monywa and India markets although the Sagaing Region shares border with India. The peas are exported through traders from Yangon. It moved in the range of K19,500-22,000 per basket at the opening time of the market," said U Tin Maung Kyaw, Aung Chan Thar pigeon pea depot owner from Monywa.

"The prevailing price this year is lower than last year's price amid the coronavirus impacts. India will purchase pigeon peas depending on import quota. Having said that, the price is possible to rise," he added.

At present, the peas touched the minimum price of K23,600 per basket and the maximum of K23,800 per basket in Monywa. Last year, it was priced above K30,000 per basket at least, traders said.

India has imposed a nationwide lockdown as of mid-April and extended the lockdown to slower the spread of corona-

virus infection. As a result of this, supply chain disruption affects trade.

For the current fiscal year 2018-2019, India increased the quota limit from 150,000 to 400,000 tonnes of mung bean to reach the market's demand, according to trade notice released by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade under India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 12 December 2019.

India earlier stated that the further increased quota of 250,000 tonnes has to arrive at India's port by 31 March 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic impacts, they made the extension two times.

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

India's Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified quota limit for the next FY on 28 March 2020, allowing the Indian millers to import 400,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, 150,000 tonnes of green peas and another 150,000 tonnes of yellow peas and other types of

beans.

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

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

Myanmar's pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India and also exported to Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK, and Malaysia. But, the export volume to other countries rather than to India is extremely small.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, over 160,000 tonnes of pigeon peas were shipped to foreign countries, while in the 2017-2018FY, exports crossed 220,000 tonnes.

Myanmar ships over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially mung beans, with an estimated worth of US\$1 billion, to other countries in the last fiscal year 2018-2019.—Win Oo, Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Govt buys 6,300 tonnes reserved rice within a half month

By Nyein Nyein

THE government has received about 6,300 tonnes of reserved rice within a half month, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April. The state has purchased about 6,300 tonnes of rice from 40 companies as of 11 May, in line with the set rules and regulations. 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. 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.

The country has the rice reserve scheme for emergency case beyond self-sufficiency in

the domestic market. Myanmar's rice export has returned to normal in May and it intends to ship over 2 million tonnes of rice in the current financial year, according to the MRF. The Federation has been negotiating with the government concerning the export depending on the situations of the coronavirus pandemic and local and foreign markets.

It is the harvest time of summer paddy and the federation is making efforts for the growers to get a decent price. Additionally, MRF, its subsidiary organizations and the rice traders are coordinating to have a much fairer price of rice for the consumers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Local market constitutes over 70 per cent of production, whereas some portion of the remaining is sent to the foreign market and some of them are left for rice reserve.

Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) have planned to export 100,000 tonnes of rice through sea trade and 50,000 tonnes through border trade in May. They are negotiating with ASEAN and the neighbouring countries to sell the rice through government (G to G) plan.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Pandemic politics costing lives in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro keeps saying coronavirus fears are overblown. Other officials at the federal, state and local levels insist the danger is all too real.

Brazil is torn by a deep political divide over how to respond to the pandemic, and it is taking a heavy human toll. On Saturday, even as the death toll in Brazil crossed the threshold of 10,000, Bolsonaro continued pressing to get the country back to work.

“The army of unem-

ployed keeps growing,” he tweeted.

“Is chaos coming?” added the far-right leader, who has compared the virus to a “little flu” and condemned the “hysteria” surrounding it.

Some argue the “chaos” is already here — at least as far as the Brazilian government’s response goes.

Bolsonaro’s criticism of stay-at-home measures to fight the virus has put him at odds with state and local authorities across Brazil, not to mention his

own former health minister. The president sacked the latter, Luiz Henrique Mandetta, last month after a long series of public spats.

Meanwhile, Brazil has emerged as the epicentre of the pandemic in Latin America, with 11,519 deaths so far. Experts say under-testing means the real figure is likely far higher, and that things stand to get a lot worse.

“We know from history that anytime there’s such a cacophony in a situation like this, such huge disagreement on



President Jair Bolsonaro has sometimes joined his supporters protesting against quarantine and social distancing measures to combat the new coronavirus outbreak.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

public policy among leaders, tragedy ensues,” said Brazilian historian Sidney Chalhoub, a professor at

Harvard University.

As an example, he cited the last major cholera outbreak in Europe, in

the late 19th century, that killed more than 10,000 people in Hamburg, Germany.—AFP ■

Putin lifts Russia’s stay-at-home orders as cases soar



Russia has the fourth highest number of coronavirus cases globally after the United States, Spain and the United Kingdom. PHOTO: AFP

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin on Monday said stay-at-home orders for most workers in Russia would end this week even as the country registered a record increase in new coronavirus infections.

With more than 220,000 confirmed cases and a steady surge of more than 10,000 new coronavirus cases every day,

Russia now ranks fourth in a global tally of total infections after the United States, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Despite virus figures that suggest the pandemic in Russia shows no sign of slowing, Putin announced that the country’s “non-working” period to slow the pandemic would end on Tuesday.

The Kremlin introduced the measures in late March, saying Russians not working in essential jobs would have to stay at home but still receive their salaries as part of sweeping efforts to contain the virus.

The move brought uncertainty to the economy already grappling with low oil prices, with business

owners struggling to pay full salaries to employees while shutting their doors to customers.

“Starting from tomorrow, May 12, the national period of non-working days will be over for all sectors of the economy,” Putin said during a meeting with officials responsible for the country’s virus response.—AFP ■

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UNLEASH THE BEAST!

Reg. Nos. 4419/2014, 3618/2017, 2923/2020



Reg. Nos. 4418/2014, 3617/2017, 2922/2020

In respect of **Class 32**: Non-alcoholic beverages.

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)

For **Monster Energy Company**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 13th May 2020.

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Reg. No. 3465/2017

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)

For **Chanaporn Electric Co., Ltd.**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 13th May, 2020.

Philippines to ease economic restrictions on Manila from Sat.

MANILA — The Philippines announced Tuesday an easing of restrictions on economic activities in the capital Manila from Saturday despite extending a lockdown on the main island of Luzon to stem the coronavirus outbreak.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said some manufacturing sectors in the capital will be allowed to restart at up to 50 per cent workforce capacity, with public transportation partially slated to start operating again.

The lockdown will also be scaled back to put other

areas on the Philippines' largest and most populous island under a more relaxed "general community quarantine," where quarantine protocols are less stringent.

Luzon has been in strict lockdown since March 16, the day President Rodrigo Duterte declared an islandwide lockdown amid rising virus cases in the Southeast Asian nation. The easing of the restrictions and the 15-day extension of the lockdown will be finalized by a national task force handling the containment

measures and be officially announced promptly, Roque said.

Duterte, in a statement issued earlier, cautioned that the envisioned easing would not mean COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus, has disappeared. The president also stressed that the nation could not afford another wave of infection. Roque said Tuesday that more movements of people will be allowed in the other areas of Luzon, where quarantine protocols will be relaxed.—Kyodo ■



SLASH LOADS: The government ordered buses, taxis and city trains to slash loads so each passenger would be a seat apart from the next, with people running fevers not allowed to board. PHOTO: AFP /FILE

S. Korea again urges Japan to lift trade restrictions



Citing security reasons, Japan last July placed new restrictions on exports of three key materials needed by South Korean companies to produce semiconductors and display panels. A file aerial photo of Samsung's new semiconductor plant in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. PHOTO: AFP

SEOUL — South Korea's Trade, Industry, and Energy Ministry on Tuesday renewed calls for Japan to lift trade restrictions it imposed last year against

Seoul and has given the country until the end of this month to respond.

Citing security reasons, Japan last July placed new restrictions on

exports of three key materials needed by South Korean companies to produce semiconductors and display panels.

Japan's tightening of export controls came as its relations with South Korea had already sunk to their lowest level in years, initially over war-time issues.

Japan also removed South Korea from its list of countries that enjoy minimum trade restrictions on goods that can be diverted for military use last August. It said the tighter export rules were adopted after discovering "inappropriate" cases of export controls related to South Korea.

In a tit-for-tat move, Seoul removed Japan

from its own "white list" of preferred trading partners, further escalating the Asian neighbors' feud.

At Tuesday's briefing, the ministry highlighted that it has revised its trade laws to clarify its full control over the trade of conventional weapons and has also hired more staff for monitoring export controls.

"Given that the reasons that Japan pointed out for imposing export curbs have been addressed, and therefore no problems remain in exporting to South Korea, all the necessary and sufficient conditions are right for Japan to step up and put an end to the issue," the ministry said.—Kyodo ■

Brazil's economy to shrink 4.11 pct in 2020: economists

BRASILIA — Brazilian financial analysts downgraded their economic forecast for the year from a 3.76-percent contraction in gross domestic product (GDP) to 4.11 per cent, the Central Bank of Brazil said on Monday.

The adjustment marked the 13th week in a row that economists had downgraded their projections for economic growth, according to the bank's weekly Focus poll of leading financial groups.

Their growth fore-

cast for 2021 remained steady at 3.2 per cent.

The Brazilian real is expected to trade at 5 to the U.S. dollar by year's end, as previously forecast. But 2021's projected exchange rate was modified from 4.75 to 4.83 reals to the U.S. dollar.

Brazil's trade balance will see a surplus of 42.5 billion U.S. dollars this year and 42 billion dollars the next, analysts estimated, with foreign direct investment reaching 70.75 billion dollars in 2020 and 79 billion dollars in 2021. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY. NO. (0205-645N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ACCORD VOY. NO. (0205-645N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-5-2020 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 EVERGREEN MARINE
(S'PORE) PTE., LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (898N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (898N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-5-2020 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (019W/020E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (019W/020E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-5-2020 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

ON recent days, I held discussions on the responsible investment together with those from Channel K. I considered not only business people but also officials of relevant government departments and citizens need to have knowledge about the responsible business conducts at a time when the government opens the door to invite businesses. It can be seen that many global countries encourage the responsible investment and the responsible business conducts in economic sector in the 21st century.

Responsible Investment

Although each country initiated the responsible investment in various forms in early 20th century, use of such word the responsible investment officially started in 2006 when the United Nations adopted the Principles for Responsible Investment. Later, all global organizations including the United Nations have been using the word of responsible investment on a wider scale.

Basically, the responsible investment is a way of approach to inserting the facts relating to environmental, social and management sectors into the management functions for respective investments. In so doing, it is an attempt to obtain greater profits by systematically managing the risks, particularly to increase the rights of investors through investment tactics.

With regard to the main points for taking basic facts on environs of the responsible investment into consideration, the business of investment has to make efforts for avoiding the acts of causing impacts on climate change and declining of natural resources, for practising the proper waste system and preventing environmental pollution and deforestation. To undertake the basic social facts, business people adopted the plans to prevent human rights violation, neo-enslavement and child labour and to focus on welfare at workplaces and good relations with employees. Basic management procedures comprise acts of avoiding bribery and corruption, pay scale of managers, formation of board of directors without discrimination of gender, racism and religion, without complication between political canvassing for votes and donations, and procedures for payment of tax system.

Today's global countries recognize the aforesaid basic



The Fifth Meeting of OECD-Southeast Asia Corporate Governance Initiative was held at Pan Pacific Yangon Hotel on 28 March 2018 with the collaboration of the Directorate of Investment & Company Administration, Ministry of Planning & Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM), OECD and the Government of Japan. **PHOTO: DICA**

Responsible Investment & Responsible Business Conduct

factors as basic requirements for following the points of assessing the businesses to be put with investment and the point of adopting the decisions. Based on changing the world situations, it is propulsion for those who can get benefits from the investments and customers in demanding transparency related to their businesses. Some countries enact and practise rules and regulations as well as laws on issues of responsible investments. Actually, the responsible investment in operating a business is a basic factor beneficial to investors, citizens and States.

Responsible Business Conduct

In respect of the responsible business conduct, the majority of countries follow the OECD-Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises approved by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-OECD on 25 May 2011. Not only OECD member countries but also non-member countries practise the OECD guidelines as their work guidelines. Such guidelines set aims for businesses to spread economic, natural environmental and social improvements across the world. The OECD guidelines mentioned

its fundamental perception that businesses must obey the laws of the investments accepted countries as their first obligation. In observing the guidelines, a restriction was adopted that these businesses shall not offend the laws and rules of the countries they operate their businesses. The multinational enterprises

of the guidelines were defined as inclusiveness of any businesses in more than one country. Likewise, the governments were urged not to abuse the guidelines of OECD for protecting the interest of those countries. The guidelines of the OECD were mentioned in brief as follows:-

- (1) The declaration is the

By Aung Naing Oo

first guideline. The OECD guidelines mentioned that enterprises should ensure that timely and accurate information is disclosed on all material matters regard-



The internal seminar on Responsible Investment was conducted at the office of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon at (14:00) pm on 14th July, 2016. That meeting was attended by officials led by Deputy Director-General. **PHOTO: DICA**

ing their activities, structure, financial situation, performance, ownership and governance. In so doing, the disclosure policies of enterprises should include the financial and operating results of the enterprise, enterprise objectives, major share ownership and voting rights, remuneration policy for members of the board and key executives, related party transactions and issues regarding workers.

(2) Enterprises should respect human rights, avoid infringing on the human rights of others and immediately address adverse human rights impacts. Within the context of their own activities, they should avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts and address such impacts. They should have a policy commitment to respect human rights and practise assessment over human rights.

(3) With regard to labour relations and employment practices, they should respect the right of workers employed by the multinational enterprises to have trade unions and representative organisations of their own choosing recognized for the purpose of collective bargaining. They should engage in constructive negotiations, elimination of child labour and various forms of forced labour and no discrimination among labour, render necessary assistance for such representatives with a view to reaching agreements on terms and conditions of employment, provide information to workers' representatives and hold discussions with labour.

(4) Enterprises should, within the framework of laws, regulations and administrative practices in the countries in which they operate, set up work procedures for environmental management, take into account concerns about cost, business confidentiality and the protection of intellectual property rights, provide the public and workers with adequate, measureable and verifiable and timely information on the potential environment, avoid health and safety impacts of the activities of the enterprise and seriously harmful acts for environment and strive for greater improvement of environmental development of the companies.

(5) Regarding the combating bribery, bribe solicitation and extortion, enterprises should not offer, promise, give, or demand a bribe or other undue advantage to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage. They should offer, promise or give undue pecuniary or other advantage to public officials or the employees of business partners. They should prohibit or discourage in internal company controls, ethics and compliance programmes or measures. They should to enhance the transparency of their activities in the fight against bribery, bribe solicitation and extortion and promote employee awareness of compliance programmes or measures against bribery, bribe solicitation and extortion.

(6) Consumer interest was inserted into the guidelines. When dealing with consumers, enterprises should act in accordance with fair business, marketing and advertising practices and should take all reasonable steps to ensure the quality and reliability of the goods and services and provide accurate, verifiable and clear information. They should provide consumers with access to fair, easy to use, timely and effective non-judicial dispute resolution, not make representations or omissions, nor engage in any other practices, that are deceptive, misleading, fraudulent or unfair; respect consumer privacy and co-operate fully with public authorities to prevent and combat deceptive marketing practices.

(7) Concerning science and technology, enterprises should endeavour to ensure that their activities are compatible with the science and technology policies and plans of the countries, practices that permit the transfer and rapid diffusion of technologies and know-how. They should

perform science and technology development work in host countries to address local market needs and grant licences for the use of intellectual property rights. The enterprises should contribute to the long term sustainable development prospects of the host country. They should develop ties with local universities, public research institutions, and participate in co-operative research projects.

(8) For competition, enterprises should carry out their activities in a manner consistent with all applicable competition laws and regulations, refrain from entering into or carrying out anti-competitive agreements among competitors, co-operate with investigating competition authorities and regularly promote employee awareness of the importance of compliance with all applicable competition laws and regulations.

(9) It is important that enterprises contribute to the public finances of host countries by making timely payment of their tax liabilities. Enterprises should comply with both the letter and the spirit of the tax laws and regulations in all countries in which they operate. The guidelines urged enterprises to insert tax management and tax payment to the tax governing system.

Myanmar and Responsible Investments

Myanmar mentioned provisions for development of responsible investments in the Investment Law enacted in 2016. Section 3 (a) states "to develop responsible investment businesses which do not cause harmful to the natural environment and the social environment for the interest of the Union and its citizens." Moreover, Section 25 mentions powers of the commission with necessary provisions. And, sections 36, 41, 46, 51, from 65 to 67 and 71 and rules carry provisions related to the responsible business conducts.

Likewise, as the Myanmar Companies Law enacted in 2017 comprises guidelines for responsible business conducts necessarily, the government has firmly adopted legal frameworks concerning the responsible investment and the responsible business conducts. As such, businesspersons, departmental staff and all citizens need to join hands for achieving greater development of responsible businesses in the Myanmar's economic arena.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

MYANMARKT.COM, Myanmar's premier and free online classified marketplace officially launches

MYANMARKT.COM announced recently the official launch of its online marketplace in Myanmar. The marketplace aims at connecting buyers and sellers through a classifieds' portal where sellers can post for free and buyers can buy without paying commission.

This is the first portal in the country that brings together items, electronics, real estate, cars, jobs, and services under one roof.

"As Myanmar is growing, so do the needs of people and companies. And we all find ourselves in need to sell items or look for something to buy, whether it is a new pair of shoes, a used cell phone, or a car. That is why we decided to develop an online marketplace specifically for the needs of the country to connect buyers with sellers" said Ma Kyawt Sandi, Chief Operating Officer of Myanmar.com. "And we worked hard to make sure MYANMARKT.COM is easy to use, fast, and free", she added.

As the country deals with the current health crisis from the coronavirus and people are asked to isolate themselves, MYANMARKT.COM steps in to help by offering a platform for companies to stay in business and people to continue searching and finding what they are looking for.

"We are very pleased to be able to offer our premium high-quality and free service to companies and consumers during those difficult times. While physical movement may be restricted, our online marketplace offers a superior and safe way for consumers to find what they

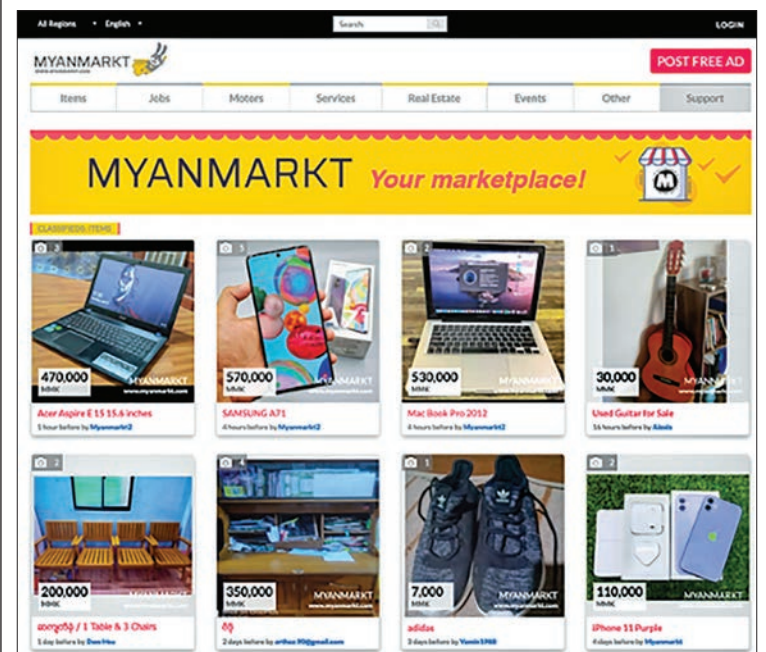
are looking for," Ma Kyawt Sandi pointed out.

Unlike e-commerce stores, MYANMARKT.COM does not have any products to sell, does not charge commission, and does not interfere between buyers and sellers. Instead, it offers an online portal for those having things to sell. The process takes just two minutes and three simple steps: (1) Upload product photos; (2) add product info; and (3) add contact information so that potential buyers can reach out.

According to Ma Kyawt Sandi, "Our mission is to facilitate interaction and to support the country, companies, and people during the current health crisis. I am pleased to announce that to further assist we have decided to offer free delivery on items as we understand how helpful that would be for sellers and buyers. Our free delivery service removes the need for buyers to visit stores, and our specially trained delivery associates follow strict protocols to ensure the safety of the sellers, the buyers, and their families."

While the focus on MYANMARKT.COM during the current conditions is to facilitate the exchange of information on items, motors, and real estate, users and companies will also be able to use the site to post events, jobs, services, and press releases.

Myanmar.com has already organized a luncheon with industry leaders for the telecom, banking, and retail sector to discuss best practices for promoting internships and job opportunities for young professionals. —GNLM



Website Summary of MyanmarKT

Yangon United conduct disinfection process

YANGON United, one of the most successful teams of the Myanmar National League, disinfected player's dormitory, function room, Gym and stadium as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus yesterday, according to the statement with the football club.

With the supervision of the Yangon Region Health Department, the disinfection

processes were assisted by the Golden Middle Way Group led by its leader Ko Aung Thaw for the football club, according to the source.

And Yangon United FC have expressed their heartfelt thanks for the assistance made by the Golden Middle Way Group.

"We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the Golden Middle Way Group led

by Ko Aung Thaw who were eagerly assisted our football club's disinfection.

"We are also preparing our best to participate in the Myanmar National League at the time of post-pandemic.

"We wish all our fans could overcome the world threatening COVID-19 disease," the Yangon United stated.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

(Translated by KZL)

FIFA to allow five substitutes in post Covid-19 fixtures

FIFA will allow five substitutes for the players of international football matches in the post COVID-19 fixtures, according to the statement with the FIFA.

Most international competitions formerly allowed each team to make a maximum of three substitutions during a game and a fourth substitute during extra time, but players need more rest in the post COVID-19 fixtures and the decision was reached by the FIFA.

Unused substitutions and

opportunities are carried forward into extra time, the FIFA stated.

Where competition rules allow an additional substitution in extra time, teams will have one additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time.

The use of return substitutes is not an option for senior competitions, the FIFA added.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

'Stay away' - German fans warned ahead of Bundesliga restart

BERLIN — The Bundesliga returns on Saturday in empty stadiums, but German fans are being warned to stay away and authorities have warned matches could be halted if too many supporters gather outside the grounds.

German football will be blazing a trail among Europe's top leagues by resuming two months after it was halted by the spread of coronavirus, but its strategy is fraught with risks.

In a football-mad country which boasts the highest average attendances in the world, will supporters banished from stadiums be able to stay away?

In Saxony, where third-placed RB Leipzig will host mid-table Freiburg on Saturday afternoon, the state's Interior Minister Roland Woeller has is-

sued a clear threat.

"Fans must not use matches behind closed doors as an excuse to gather in front of the stadiums or elsewhere," he said.

"This could lead to matches being stopped."

His concerns are justified. Several hundred fans gathered in Moenchengladbach when the hosts beat 2-1 Cologne on March 11 -- the only previous German league game played behind locked doors, just days before the shutdown.

Eintracht Frankfurt have appealed to their supporters before they resume their season against Gladbach on Saturday.

"We've talked a lot with our fans and said: 'listen guys, don't show up at the stadium'," Frankfurt's sports director Fredi Bobic told ESPN.

Under German league rules put in place to resume the season, the home side is responsible for ensuring fans do not try to approach the stadium to support their team from a distance.

After weeks of meticulous planning and mass testing of players and backroom staff, it would be a nightmare for the Bundesliga if the fans were to derail the fragile recovery attempt.

Christian Seifert, CEO of the Bundesliga, does not expect fans to play into the hands of critics who fear they will mass outside grounds despite large public events being banned in Germany.

Seifert accused the critics predicting that football fans would fail to respect the pleas for restraint of making "sweeping statements". — AFP



A spectator (right) who emerged on the pitch comes face to face with Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo (left) during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Sassuolo and Juventus at the Mapei Stadium-Citta del Tricolore stadium in Reggio Emilia, Italy on Feb. 10. PHOTO: AFP

Serie A set for team training on May 18 with adjusted protocol: Government

MILAN — Serie A clubs can return to team training from May 18 if they make adjustments to medical protocols, the Italian government announced on Monday.

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) met with the government's technical scientific committee (CTS) last week to discuss details for a return to group training as the country emerges from a two-month coronavirus lockdown.

And Italy's sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora and health minister Roberto Speranza said in a joint statement on Monday that the CTS had largely accepted the FIGC protocol for a resumption of group sessions.

"The opinion requested by the government from the Technical Scientific Committee

confirms the line of prudence," the ministers' statement said.

"The indications of the CTS, which are to be considered stringent and binding, will be sent to the Federation for the necessary adjustments of the protocol in order to allow for the safe resumption of team training starting from May 18."

Football has been suspended in Italy since March 9 amid the pandemic which has killed nearly 31,000 people in the country.

The Italian government has allowed squads to return to individual training sessions in team facilities from May 4.

But there remain issues to be decided such as the quarantine of players in case of positive tests for coronavirus. —AFP



German fans are being warned to stay away and authorities have warned matches could be halted if too many supporters gather outside the grounds. PHOTO: AFP