

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 14 May 2020

145 Myanmar citizens arrive back home from Singapore by 3rd relief flight

MYANMAR citizens who wanted to come back from Singapore arrived at the Yangon International Airport at 3:15 pm yesterday.

The Myanmar National Airlines carried 145 persons in the third relief flight arranged by the government.

On arrival at the airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports 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 Singapore and other relevant ministries in Myanmar, arranged the first relief flight for 144 citizens on 7 May and 144 persons on 9 May and 145 persons on 13 May, totalling 433 persons.

The 4th relief flight is scheduled to bring back about 146 Myanmar citizens from Singapore on 16 May. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar citizens landed at Yangon International Airport by 3rd relief flight from Singapore yesterday afternoon. **PHOTO: MNA**

One new case of COVID-19 at 8 pm on 13 May: National tally stands at 181

- Laboratory tests of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on the 67 samples and 87 samples by the Department of Medical Research, totalling 154, in the first group on 13 May afternoon have tested ONE new case for COVID-19
- There are a total of 181 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 13 May.
- THREE old cases (Case 35, 147 and 150) were tested negative two consecutive times, and that a total of 79 persons have recovered up to 13 May. Among them, 66 persons have been discharged from the hospital and they will be kept isolation at the designated places.
- Six positive patients have died until now.
- There are a total of 83 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 13 May.

COVID-19 Laboratory results at 8:00 pm, 13 May 2020

| | |
|---|----|
| Samples tested at National Health Laboratory on 13 May | 67 |
| Samples tested at Medical Research Department on 13 May | 87 |
| COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2) | 1 |

COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm 13 May

| | New | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-------|
| Confirmed Cases | 1 | 181 |
| Recovered Cases | 3 | 79 |
| Death | 0 | 6 |

Laboratory test for COVID-19 at 8 pm, 13 May

| Case No | Age | Gender | Address | Contact with positive patient | Overseas travel history | Hospital for medical treatment | Lab result | Remark |
|---------|-----|--------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 181 | 52 | Female | Ahlon Township, Yangon | Yes with Case 179 | No | Waibargi Specialist Hospital | Positive | Held under quarantine |

Ministry of Health and Sports *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

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Medical supplies donated to Bago government

BAGO REGION Chief Minister U Win Thein received medical supplies donated by the MGS Breweries Co.,Ltd. yesterday morning.

During the donation ceremony, the chief minister expressed thanks for the donations and explained the measures of his government to fight COVID-19.

The company donated

150 sets of PPE, 150 educational books of COVID-19 and 50 bags of rice.—Hein Htet (Bago)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein presents back certificate of honour to the donor. **PHOTO: HEIN HTET (BAGO)**



Chinese PLA donates 10,000 sets of PPE to Myanmar Tatmadaw



Photo shows the boxes of PPE donated by Chinese People's Liberation Army to Myanmar Tatmadaw to fight against COVID-19. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

A special flight of Chinese People's Liberation Army carried 10,000 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the Myanmar Tatmadaw on 12 May evening.

Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Xiong Shaowei

handed over the PPE sets to Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon.

In the same evening, the return flight brought back the medical experts of Chinese PLA, led by Dr Bai Chong, who stayed in Yangon for exchange

of medical experiences on prevention, control and treatments of COVID-19 with their counterparts of Myanmar Defence Services, according to the report of Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Korea INNO Group gives 2,000 kits of Level D PPE to Myanmar

THE INNO Group in the Republic of Korea donated 2,000 kits of Level D PPE made by the Du-Pont Company for Myanmar to fight COVID-19 disease.

Mr Seog-Chang Son, chairman of company, handed over the kits worth of K100 million to

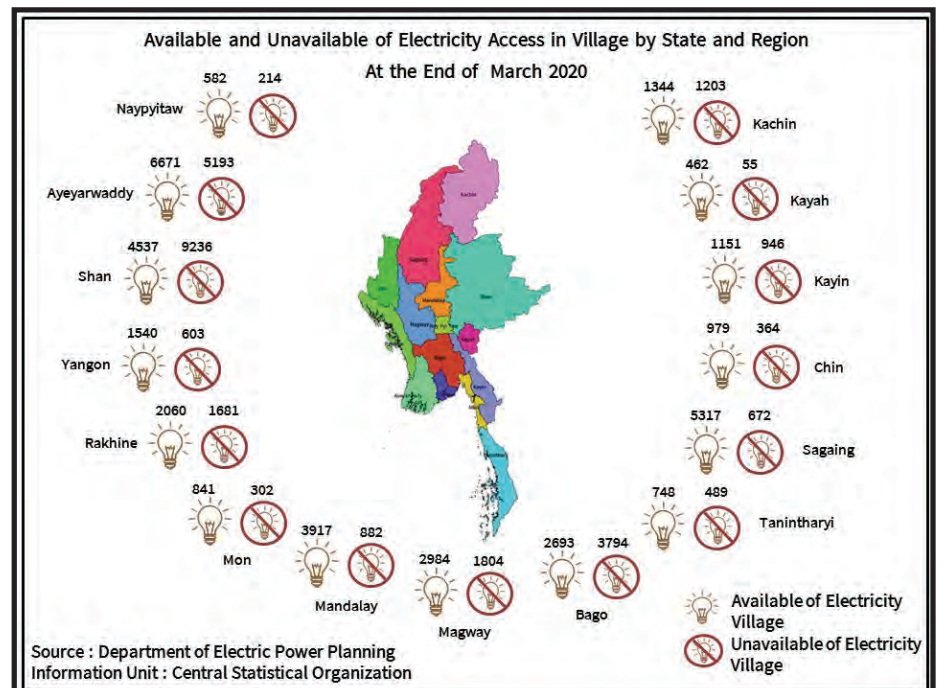
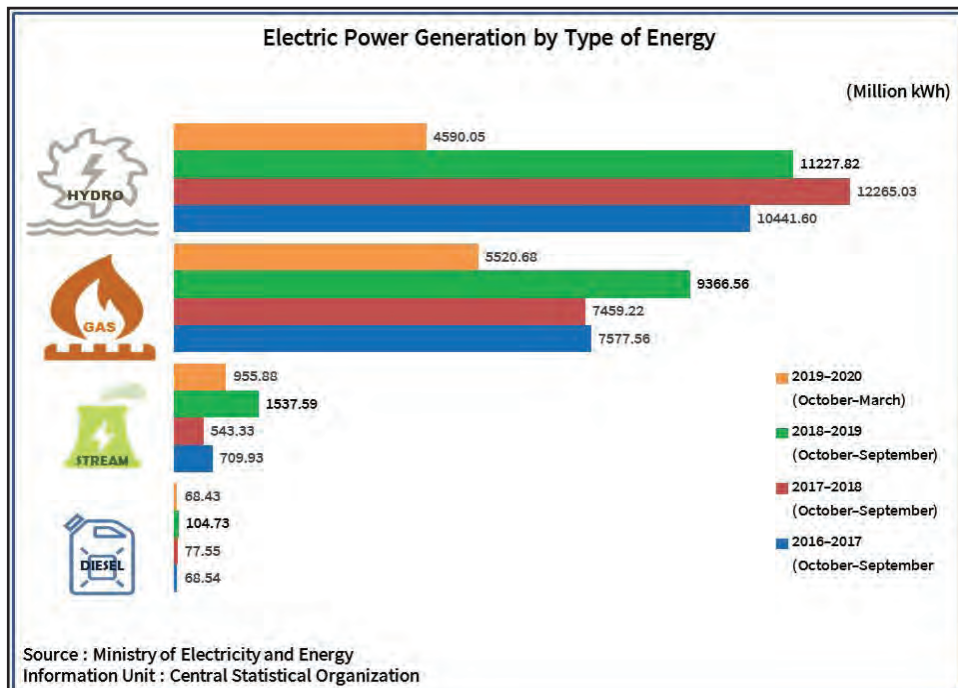
U Thant Sin, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK on 13 May.

These protective items will be sent to Myanmar by the Myanmar Airways International (MAI) soon.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Korea INNO Group gives 2,000 kits of Level D PPE to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**



“People are the key”

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discussed the Road Safety and Vehicle Management Bill sent back by the President with his recommendation, at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

The meeting were attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Vice Chairmen, joint secretary and members and officials from Office of the Chief Justice of the Union, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office.—MNA

(Translated by Ye Htut Tin)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung chairs meeting of Joint Bill Committee yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

PWD rights working committee holds 5th edition meeting

THE Working Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities organized the 5th edition of its meeting through video conferencing at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

The Vice Chairman of committee and the Deputy Minister for SWRR, U Soe Aung, its members Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein, permanent secretaries, directors-general, deputy directors-general, representatives of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the Myanmar Federation of PWDs and civil organizations for the rights of PWDs.

In his opening remark, the



PWDs working committee discusses progress of works in the 5th meeting through video conferencing yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Vice Chairman explained 19 resolutions in the 4th meeting of working committee, the com-

pletion of 12 points, 5 ongoing points and 2 remaining points to be done.

The committee will also publish annual report, expand working on grading and registra-

tion of disabilities as this process is very supportive of sustainable development for PWDs.

The Deputy Minister talked on educative programmes for PWDs, financial support for 665 families of PWDs, cash fund for two PWDs infected by the COVID-19, early adopting of the 5-year term of National Strategic Plan in Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, publication of IEC materials, relief aid for the IDPs in line with the policy of ‘no one is left behind’.

The directors-general and members of committees briefed on the progress in implementing the resolutions of 4th edition meeting and future plans.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

China donates medical supplies to Myanmar

THE government of People’s Republic of China donated third batch of medical supplies to aid the containment and treatment of COVID-19 in a ceremony at the office of Ministry of Health and Sports, Yangon yesterday.

The medical supplies donation, including COVID-19 test kits for 150,000 persons and 18,000 sets of personal protective equipment, were handed over by Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai to Director-General from Department of Medical Research Prof Dr Zaw Than Htun. Prof Dr Zaw Than Htun, on behalf of Myanmar government, returned document of honour to Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Chinese Ambassador hands over medical supplies for COVID-19 to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

Hlinethaya, Tamway townships to conduct coronavirus survey

A health survey over coronavirus will be conducted in Hlinethaya and Tamway townships to prevent and control coronavirus disease in Yangon Region, it is learnt from a work coordinating meeting.

The coordination meeting was held in Hall 3 of Yangon regional government office on 11 May attended by Yangon Regional Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials and the committee members of New Coronavirus Control and Emergency Response Committee.

More than 1 million people including the employees from the Hlinethaya Township work establishments and factories will have to undergo a medical check-up to find out whether they are infected with coronavirus or not on 16 May in cooperation with the regional health team, according to U Myat Min Thu, Hlinethaya Township Hlutaw representative.

“There are more than one million people here in our township. According to the commission’s official data, there will be around 730,000 people. But, we could not check those who are currently staying in this area. We need to check the factories as well. So, there will be more than 1 million people when mobile people are counted. The most important thing is we need to check the places where there are coronavirus positive patients,” he said.

All individuals will be checked whether they meet the norms such as sick, high temperature, cough, sore throat and diarrhoea etc.

Moreover, the regional health team is making a detailed plan to be able to check the whole of Hlinethaya Township on 16 May.

There are 29 wards in Hlinethaya Township. Over 700,000 people are living in these wards



Health workers conduct medical tests in a suburban area of Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE

and over 300,000 people are working in the factories in Hlinethaya. May 6 saw the health survey on coronavirus infection being

conducted for the first time in four wards of Insein Township in Yangon Region. This is the second time for making arrange-

ment to conduct the surveys in Hlinethaya and Tamway Townships. —Myint Maung Soe
(Translated by Hay Mar)

MoSWRR distributes healthcare items at IDP camps in Kachin, Rakhine states

THE MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided healthcare items to the camps of internally displaced persons in Kachin and Rakhine states.

The five IDP camps in Myitkyina and Mogaung townships of Kachin State received 742 bottles of hand sanitizer, 1,762 soaps, 292 cloth face masks, two sets of hand washing basin, five thermometers, two hand speakers, two memory sticks with audio files of COVID-19 awareness campaign and two vinyl sheets printed COVID-19 awareness campaign.

Similarly, 25 temporary IDP camps in Sittway, Buthidaung, MraukU and An townships of Rakhine State received 6,552 cloth face masks, 845 soaps, nine sets of hand washing basin, 187 bottles of hand sanitizer, two thermometers, 45 bags of lime powder and seven awareness campaign vinyl sheets.

The ministry is providing both material and immaterial supports in Nay Pyi Taw Council area, regions and states to prevent and control of COVID-19 diseases. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



An official from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement distributes a hand washing basin to a person at an IDP camp. PHOTO: MNA

Thai authorities hand over 16 Myanmar citizens



Myanmar citizens returned from Thailand to Myanmar queue for immigration processes in Myawady yesterday. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

MYANMAR officials reaccepted 16 Myanmar citizens who have served jail terms in Thailand for various offences.

Handover of these persons and their medical check-ups were supervised by Kayin State Hlutaw Representative U Thant Zin Aung, Police Lt-Col Thet Lin Oo, Myawady

District Immigration Officer U Aung Khaing Swe and officials.

“Myanmar officials visited Thailand to inspect the citizenship of these 16 persons and their health conditions on 7 May,” said U Thant Zin Aung.

They are 14 persons from

Kayin State and 2 from Bago Region.

“Among 396 returnees from Thailand from 1 to 13 May, this is the first group of former detainees in Thailand,” he added.—Htein Linn Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Rambutan, pomelo prices fall due to slower trade amid coronavirus

LOCAL seasonal fruits such as pomelo and rambutan are highly produced in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, yet they fetched only a bargain price during the coronavirus pandemic.

Normally, the market is relying on local and foreign travellers. Following the coronavirus crisis, tourism industry halted. Having said that, the rambutan is priced lower than the previous years due to the decline in demand, said a grower.

The rambutan fetched K8,000-7,000 per 100-fruits bag in the previous years. The price this year drastically plunged to

K4,000 per bag. The growers are facing low market price, said Daw Myint Maw, a rambutan farm owner from Natsan village.

Pomelo and rambutan from Kyaikmaraw Township are popular. They are harvested in April-end and the growers usually earn a healthy profit every year.

At the present time, the fruits cannot be sent to other towns owing to transportation difficulties and trade suspension, resulting in a severe drop in price.

Myanmar exports agro products and a number of fruits to China, which accounts for



Rambutan are highly produced in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State. PHOTO: CHO MYAT MYAT HTWE (KYAIKMAYAW)

95 per cent of Myanmar's fruit exports. China's food safety inspection mechanism, the General Administration of Quality

Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ), has allowed imports of Myanmar's mangosteen, rambutan, lychee,

watermelon, and muskmelon. — Cho Myat Myat Htwe (Kyaikmayaw)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Dollar exchange rates slip by K10 over a week

By Nyein Nyein

THE US dollar exchange rate dropped to K1,410 on 13 May, which is a slump of K10 from K1,420 registered on 1 May, said money exchangers.

The lower demand for dollar, tracking the weak sentiment in the global market and slower trade with the main partner China amid the coronavirus outbreak, brings down dollar value in the local forex market, said exporters.

The Central Bank of Myanmar purchased US\$3 million in the auction market at K1,408 per dollar on 4 May, and then, US\$3 million at K1,397 on 5 May, to govern

the falling market.

The move is aimed to keep the exchange rate stable, said an official of the CBM.

In October last year, the dollar exchange rate had hit a high of K1,600. Starting from 25 December 2019, the US dollar exchange rate against Kyat dipped to below K1,500 and it even touched a low of K1,320 in early 2020.

At present, the exchange is pegged at K1,410 for selling price and K1,425 for buying price, while Thailand Baht to Myanmar Kyat is K42-39, a Euro is valued at K1,480-1,430 and a Singapore dollar is worth at K990-950.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A clerk checks US hundred dollars bills at a foreign currency exchange counter in Yangon. FILE PHOTO

Manufacturing exports slide to \$5.63 bln in current fiscal

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods slightly fell to US\$5.634 billion between 1 October and 1 May in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, a decrease of \$36 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totalled \$5.67 billion during the same period in the 2018-2019FY.

Additionally, the manufacturing sector has attracted the foreign investments of \$432.74 million in the H1 of current fiscal, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed. Even worse, some foreign entrepreneurs are also running away from their businesses.

Those factories without official notification of closure will be inspected by a ground field inspection team. And, the factory operators can face legal actions under the Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) if they fail to comply with notification requirements for the closure of factories, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

The labour-intensive enterprises are badly battered by the coronavirus pandemic, he added.

To deal with the shortage of raw materials for the CMP garment factories in Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association and Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, China Enterprise Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM) have jointly imported raw materials through border trade channels and air-lines.

However, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses dropped by \$54.9 million compared with a year-ago period.

The CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries.

It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out.

The CMP industry has emerged as very promising in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY. During the last fiscal year 2018-2019, incomes from garment exports were over \$1 billion higher than the previous fiscal year, according to the Ministry's data.

Since an outbreak like coronavirus infection might happen in the future it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our own sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

About 100 acres of commercial teak grown in Seikpyu

ABOUT 100 acres of land were put under cultivation of commercial teak in Seikpyu Township. The growing started from No 78 and No 79 plots in the extended forest reserve in 2019-2020 financial year in Seikpyu Township, Magway region in conjunction with farming system.

The Forest Department grew 1,500 acres of commercial teak in conjunction with farming system starting from 2008 in the state-owned forest in Seikpyu. In 2019-2020FY, about 100 acres were planned to grow.

With the decline in the quality of the natural forest in this modern time, the local

Commercial teak is seen under cultivation in Seikpyu Township. **PHOTO: KO ZWE (AH NYAR MYAY)**

farmers are being faced with the rising of the farming costs in addition to the lower yield of

the crops because of the climate change, the erratic rainfall and the decline in the soil quality. The

supply of teak and forest products tends to decline.

The local farmers can earn some from the natural forest clearance, growing and maintenance as well as from growing of paddy and other crops for three years without having to pay the land rent for cultivation on commercial teak farmland. Moreover, they can earn some income from selling paddy and crops. On the other hand, the government is promoting the forest quality, and teak and forest products from the state-owned forests can develop in quality, said U Htet Lin, Forest Department head from Seikpyu township. —Ko Zwe (Ah Nyar Myay)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***State-owned pontoon jetty to be built in Kawthoung**Construction of state-owned pontoon jetty is underway in Kawthoung district. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

A state-owned pontoon jetty will be constructed in Kawthoung district in order to inspect the fisheries products onboard the ships and also to load and unload the fish from the fishing vessels.

A Free on Board (FOB) pontoon jetty is being constructed in the fisheries business zone in Shwehintha Ward in Kawthoung Town commencing from the first week of May 2020.

Upon completion of the pontoon jetty, the team can inspect the fishing boats in a shorter period in order to export high-quality fisheries products to Thailand fish market.

Kawthoung is earning foreign currency for the country by selling the fisheries products annually. Previously, the township did not have a jetty to load and unload the fishery products and inspect the state-owned fisheries products. So, the state-owned fishing

vessels were docked at the private pontoon jetties to be able to receive an inspection.

This year, the jetty is being constructed by the Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction with spending of K 1 billion from the regional government's allocated fund. The jetty is targeted to complete in September.

Kawthoung exports more than 1,000 tonnes of fish in 31 fishing vessels daily, earning US\$0.895 million, said Deputy Director U Thant Zin of Kawthoung District Fisheries Department.

Upon completion of the project, Kawthoung can export better quality products and earn more foreign currency. It can also create job opportunities for the farmers engaged in manageable scale fishing. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***Old bomb found in Dala Township**

AN old bomb was found yesterday during a ground digging work for drinking water in Pyawbwegyi Sanpya village of Dala Township in Yangon region, according to the locals.

The old bomb is rusted and assumed to be left during the war.

It is 12 inches in length, 1 inch in diameter and 15 inches in circumference.

For the safety of the people, a team led by Inspector Aye Kyaw from Pyawbwegyi police station with personnel from the village administrator's office and the officers from No. 905 army engineering as team members handed over the old bomb to the respective department. —Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

(Translated by Hay Mar)Military personnel and police members are inspecting an old bomb found in Pyawbwegyi Sanpya Village of Dala township. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

Coronavirus: latest global developments

Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis.

At least 292,000 dead

At least 292,000 coronavirus deaths have been recorded since the epidemic surfaced in China late last year, according to an AFP tally at 1300 GMT on Wednesday based on official sources.

There have been more than 4,272,880 officially recorded cases around the world.

The United States has recorded most deaths at 82,389. It is followed by Britain (33,186), Italy (30,911), Spain (27,104) and France (26,991).

Lesotho, the last African country to have been unaffected, announces it has detected its first case.

Europe's summer holidays

Desperate to save millions of tourism jobs, the European Union sets out plans for a phased restart of travel this summer, with EU border controls eventually lifted and

measures to minimize the risks of infection, like wearing face-masks on shared transport.

Russia: more than 10,000 new cases

Health officials in Russia report 10,028 new cases over the last 24 hours, bringing the country's total number of infections to 242,271, the second highest in the world.

Germany eyes lifting border controls

Germany says it wants to end by the middle of next month checks at land borders introduced to fight the virus.

Interior Minister Horst Seehofer tells reporters the country has "set the clear goal of free travel in Europe by mid-June".

England eases measures

People living in England are now allowed to leave their homes, including to go to work, as part of the first stage of an easing the lockdown.

Under the new guidelines, which do not apply in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged millions unable to work from home to return to their jobs.

The public is also now able to drive to the countryside, play tennis or golf, see one friend in a public space or visit a garden centre.

But people must at all times remain two metres (six feet) away from other people, risking a £100 (\$123, 113-euro) fine if they break the rules.

UK economy massive slump

Britain's economy shrank in the first quarter at the fastest pace since 2008, data shows, prompting the government to warn of a "significant" recession. Gross domestic product contracted by two per cent in the January-March period after zero growth in the three months to December, the Office for National Statistics says.

The nation's second-quarter



This combination of pictures created on 13 May, 2020 shows passengers standing on a circle painted on the ground with their luggages to maintain social distancing while waiting to board train to Assam at New Jalpaiguri railway station after the government eased a nationwide lockdown imposed as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus, on the outskirts of Siliguri on 13 May, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

ter contraction is meanwhile expected to be far steeper than the first. And adding to the grim news, UK output dived by a record 5.8 per cent in March from the previous month.

Perils of normal

Top US infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci issues a

stark warning about the dangers of resuming normal life too soon, saying a run of 14 days with falling cases is a vital first step. "If a community or a state or region doesn't go by those guidelines and reopens... the consequences could be really serious," he says. — AFP ■

CORONAVIRUS HEADLINES

Coronavirus Updates

Tensions mount as Scotland goes its own way on virus lockdown

EDINBURGH (United Kingdom) — First independence. Then Brexit. Now Scotland's handling of the coronavirus outbreak has stirred up fresh tensions with the UK government, despite an initial unified approach.

The leader of the Scottish government, Nicola Sturgeon, has put clear water between

Edinburgh and London by refusing to implement the same easing of lockdown measures.

Japan plans to lift coronavirus emergency in 39 prefectures

The Japanese government plans to lift the state of emergency declared over the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in 39 of the country's 47 prefectures, officials said Wednesday, a move that could lead to the gradual

resumption of restricted social and economic activities.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will finalize the plan on Thursday after hearing opinions from a panel of experts, according to the officials.

COVID-19 cases in Saudi Arabia rise to 44,830, death toll at 273

Saudi Arabia confirmed 1,905 new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, bringing the total

number of infections in the kingdom to 44,830. The Saudi Health Ministry also reported 2,365 new recovered cases to increase the tally of recoveries to 17,622. And the death toll of the pandemic rose by nine to 273.

Pakistan sees sharp spike in COVID-19 cases

Pakistan on Wednesday reported a sharp spike in new coronavirus infections, with a single-day record of 2,255 fresh cases as the country's total crossed the 34,000 mark.

The number of new cases was almost double that of the previous day's 1,140, according to the figures reported by the Ministry of National Health Services.

100-year-old Russian beats coronavirus

Russia celebrated a rare bit of good news on Wednesday as a 100-year-old woman left a Moscow hospital after fully recovering from the coronavirus.

In the country's first reported case of a survivor that old, the woman, Pelageya Poyarkova, was discharged on her 100th birthday, the Moscow clin-

ic treating her said.

Sweden extends virus no-travel recommendation to 15 July

Sweden on Wednesday extended its recommendation against all non-necessary travel abroad until July due to the novel coronavirus, but loosened its stance on travel within the country.

The extension to the guidelines, which will now remain in place until July 15 and include travel to all foreign countries, was announced as the country reported more than 3,400 dead from COVID-19.

Work and exercise restrictions ease in England

People living in England were allowed on Wednesday to leave their homes, including to go to work, in the first stage of an easing of the seven-week coronavirus lockdown.

The partial lifting of restrictions comes despite concern over Britain's death toll from the virus — the second highest in the world — and confusion about the new rules.



A woman and two girls ride kick scooters beside a deserted road ahead country shift to COVID-19 alert level 2, in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 13 May, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Prepare for tackling heat waves and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic – in tandem

THE COVID-19 outbreak is colliding with another public health threat: extreme heat, which causes heat strokes that kill people.

Now we are in the middle of the hottest period of the year. Heat waves are common in Myanmar during the months of March, April, and May, in the daytime as well as at night.

The record mercury level of 47.5 degrees centigrade in Chauk on 8th March, the highest temperature in history, has rung the alarm bell to take precautions against heat waves.

The previous record temperature was 47.2 degrees centigrade in 2010 in Myinmu, a town located in upper Myanmar.

Our country has experienced record high temperatures 22 times since the beginning of this year, which is alarming, since the temperature has increased year by year without EL Nino and La Nina, due to global warming.

People are advised to be on the alert to prevent any losses arising from soaring temperatures. The high temperature, which has persisted for weeks, poses a risk to children and older people.

The Ministry of Health has issued an advisory for people, urging them to drink water frequently and take measures to prevent heat-stroke.

The public has also been advised to stay indoors, while returnees from foreign countries and those who had close contacts with the patients testing positive for coronavirus are receiving facility quarantine to stop the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

In our country, only a small percentage of the population has air conditioning. People who need to stay home the most and receive facility quarantine during the pandemic are highly advised to seek advice from health workers to cope with heat waves.

Heat-related illness can begin with mild symptoms, such as a headache and muscle cramps, and can progress to confusion, dizziness, vomiting, and losing consciousness. Once the body reaches a point where it can no longer cool itself by sweating, heat stroke can lead to organ failure and

eventual death.

Those most at risk are often the poor and elderly, groups that are similarly hard-hit by the novel coronavirus. Heat-related deaths can be prevented by checking in on people who might be isolated indoors, and providing public places for them to get out and cool down. But those strategies contradict efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, which mostly focuses on keeping people apart.

Public health experts are beginning to put their heads together to figure out how they may need to tackle two crises — heat waves and the ongoing pandemic — in tandem.

Today is the time to take early measures to address the combination of threats, while complying with COVID-19 health guidelines.

Fourth-Year Performances of Sagaing Region Government

By Shin Min
Photo: Kay Kay of Region Government

Meet the people, so we can resolve the difficulties of the people:
Sagaing Region Government

IN full force, the Sagaing Region Government is implementing policy in three pronged strategies such as that of concentrating on agriculture and animal breeding for socio-economic development of the region; that of working for better communication in conjunction with the adequate supply of electricity; and that of expanding tourism industry in the region, for the overall socio-economic development of the people.

An interview was called on Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing, and the performances of the region government are submitted to the esteemed readers and the people.

Q: Kindly share us with the development tasks being carried out for the people.

A: In the past four years, the Sagaing Region Government worked on the policy with three strategies, and that the positive results are achieved. The drawbacks are rectified and remedied through consultation with the Regional Government, the Hluttaw members, and the people.

Q: Please tell us the prioritized everyday jobs during the fourth-year period.

A: During the fourth-year period, we continued the three guiding policy such as that of the agriculture and the animal breeding sectors being given priority for more development; that of the communication and electricity supply; and that of the development of



Sagaing Region authorities inspect digging drainage channel through a field.

tourism industry. In accordance with the first guiding policy, the Sagaing Region Government has explored (952) acres of cultivable waste land and (1,230) acres of superior farm land.

In transforming from manual cultivation to mechanized farming, the activities are being carried out such as that of selling (1,955) tractors; that of repairing (43) small dams, lakes, reservoirs; and that of (363) rural small dams and lakes. The facilities could provide water for (780,000) acres of monsoon paddy and summer paddy, and (890,000) acres of for other crops. Three river water pumping stations were constructed and distributed water for (1,400) acres.

Moreover, quality seeds for paddy and other crops have been produced and distributed to the farmers. Certificates on “Good

Agriculture Practise (GAP)” have been issued to cultivators of mango, sweet cucumber and winter sesame with the aim and objective for safe fruits production and market penetration.

With the assistance of JICA, the “Agriculture Income Improvement Project” is under construction on (6) years project to distribute water through “Tha Hpan Seik Dam”. The project intends to supply water to (500,000) acres and also create job opportunities.

In saving water, the “Water Saving Agriculture Technology (WSAT)” is ongoing in (10) townships in the dry zone areas. Moreover, the drip irrigation system and the sprinkling water system are used for vegetables and flowers on (71) acres.

Laboratories have been constructed for the testing seed, the

completed, the Sagaing Region could be connected to India border easily. “Sagaing – Shwebo – Ye U – Kaleywa – Tamu Road” is part of the “Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Corridor”. Moreover, “Muse – Mandalay – Shwebo – Ye U – Kaleywa – Tamu Road” is part of “Northern Corridor”. As these road areas are crucial and important for the socio-economic development, necessary funds are being requested from the Union Government.

After building “Chindwin Bridge”, (93) miles stretch of “Kalaywa – Tamu Road” is upgraded with the assistant of Indian side with (18) feet wide asphalt / concrete road.

Total of (69) Bailey bridges would be transformed into RC bridges with the help of Indian side.

“Tamu – Kaleywa – Yar Gyi – Chaung Ma – Linka Jungle Road” is linking “India – Myanmar – Thailand Trilateral Highway”. The road is being upgraded with the assistance of India side, and that would be completed in 2020 – 2021. Staff housing of (20) buildings with (280) apartments for officers and government employees have been completed at the cost of MMK (6) billion.

For the pensioners and the people with no owned homes, total of (12) buildings with (552) apartments have been constructed in (5) townships. More housing projects are on the agenda.

In 2018 – 2019, MMK (634) million from Union Budget was spent for electricity supply projects. Moreover, the repair and replacement of electricity supply cables and post have been made by spending MMK (74) million.

“Namt Pa Nga Hydropower Project” in Homalin Township is under construction. In the meanwhile, at the request of the local people residing near the project at the western part of Chindwin River, (400) volts power supply lines have been established for (12) villages.

MMK (13) billion of Sagaing Region Government Fund was spent in power supply and extension projects including the construction of power sub-station.

Another MMK (6) billion was spent in replacing power lines and



Sagaing Region Chief Minister
Dr Myint Naing

posts. As of now, all the (50) towns in Sagaing Region is enjoying the electricity. Total of (5,302) villages out of (5,991) villages have been supplied with electricity, covering (88) per cent of the region.

Over (35,000) SMEs are being registered, and the remaining enterprises are urged to register. The people from MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) have been provided with necessary training courses. For market expansion, local and foreign exhibitions were held and that the commercial advertisements were uploaded on the ASEAN SME Web Portal and also on MSMEs Myanmar Web Portal.

Regarding the third strategic policy of tourism development, the “Za Lone Taung Pagoda” pilgrimage areas have been equipped with pleasant resorts and convenient bus terminal, which created market for local foodstuffs.

In December 2018, “One Week Long Travel Promotion” was launched in the area.

In January 2019, the Myanmar Heritage Trail Tourism Rally (MHTTR) was successfully held and that the MRTV 4 covered the event.

Sagaing Region Travel Promotion Committee and the “Manjushaka International Cultural Organization of Japan” presented “Japan – Myanmar Friendship Show” in February 2019 in Sagaing and Monywa. In the private sector, the (36) hotels with (1,350) rooms have been expanded with (46) hotels with (1,710) rooms.

Due to the successful establishment of clean and user-friendly toilet at tourists attraction areas of Mingun and other tourist destinations; the Mingun area of Sagaing

SEE PAGE-10



The soil laboratory in Nandawun Ward in Monywa, Sagaing Region.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

| Name | Appointment |
|---|--|
| (1) Daw Naw Mutakapaw Deputy Director-General Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Ministry of Commerce | Director-General Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization Ministry of Commerce |
| (2) Professor Dr Khin Win Sein Professor/Head of Department Department of Biochemistry University of Medicine, Mandalay Department of Human Resources for Health, Ministry of Health and | Rector University of Nursing, Mandalay Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports |

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 13th May, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, a low pressure area over Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andaman Sea still persists and it may form into a Depression at (15.5.2020) and a Cyclonic Storm at (16.5.2020). It is very likely to move Northwest wards initially and then North -Northeast wards recurve after (17.5.2020). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14th May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin and Shan 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 and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Trade Mark Ads

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Fourth-Year Performances of Sagaing Region Government

FROM PAGE-9

Region was awarded with “ASEAN Public Toilet Standard Awards 2019-2021” at ATF-2019 forum held in Halong City of Vietnam.

Total of (109) business people have been issued with necessary “SMEs certificates”. It is to help assist in getting investment loans from the banks. Total of (32) business persons have received MMK (851) millions from SME loan; CGI loans; JICA Two-Step-Loans.

Moreover, (73) business persons have been awarded with MMK (2,360) millions from the “Responsible Business Fund (RBF)” from Denmark. In (25) Myanmar national investment projects, MMK (46,275) million [including US\$ (10) million]; and that another one foreign investment amounting US\$ (28) millions have been set up.

In the past, the investments are mainly in the sectors such as that of mineral extraction; the oil and gas drilling; and the timber trade. As of now, many expanded sectors on national interest have been taken up for investment.

Nowadays, more investors are taking interest in various industry and sectors of businesses in the Sagaing Region. The entrepreneurs have come up in line with the market requirement based on the local resources such as agriculture, animal breeding, and local production, creating job opportunities.

Most interestingly, the pattern of investment has been shifted into responsible investment.

The participation at the “Investment Myanmar Summit” and the “Myanmar Investment Forum” held in 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw have opened up the news investment landscape such as that of the Sagaing Jetty Project and Urban Development Project; that of the coal fuel powered Electricity Generating Project in Kaleywa; and that of Cement Factory in Kalay.

The stakeholders’ meeting was held for convening “Sagaing Region Investment Fair 2020” with a view to create more investment.

The investors in Sagaing, Monywa and Shwebo are being accorded with (5) years tax exemption; and that the investors in other (34) townships would be accorded with (7) years tax exemption.

Moreover, the imported machinery for the investment will



Kanthayar Lake in Monywa has been upgraded with scenic surrounding in the fourth-year period of the Sagaing Region Government.

be exempted from tax. Therefore, local and foreign investors are cordially invited to invest in Sagaing Region. Difficulty in connection with the investment, including the land plot matters, would be facilitated with necessary help and assistance.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), the Sagaing Region Government is allowing work permits for the basic small scale miners in the gem and jade exploration in the “Khamti Jewel Land” for the rule of law and also creation of job opportunities.

In two exploration sites of “Khamti Jewel Land” small exploration plots are being given out through the bidding of tender system for (5) times. Those who submitted cash as tender biddings have been issued with the working permits for exploration.

In the past, the MONREC had issued permits on (20) acres of lands for small scale gold production in the areas, where the Sagaing Region Government provided recommendations and remarks.

When the 2018 Myanmar Mines Rules was issued under Notification, the Sagaing Region Government is shouldering the task in handing out work permits for gold exploration to the small scale miners in accordance with the Mining Rules. In this connection one company is permitted (4) plots of mining sites covering (4) acres each. Each basic small scale miner/ worker is permitted with one plot covering (1) acre of plot in accordance with the rules. In accordance with the allocation of the MONREC the Sagaing

Region Government is granting small patch of gold exploration sites in (8) townships.

As revenue, MMK (3,001) million have been realized for the country in 2018 – 2019 fiscal years, and that MMK (3,046) millions are expected for 2019 – 2020 fiscal years.

Q: Please share us the most satisfactory achievement so far.

A: In the implementation of our strategic policy, the Sagaing Region Government is very much satisfied with the cooperation extended by other ministries, and the participation of Hluttaw Representatives, which resulted with the success of the urban development activities.

In water supply projects for the urban areas, total of (79) projects have been realized. Moreover, city development jobs are doing fine with the related machinery and vehicles.

Road construction on self-reliance basis between the Sagaing Region Government and the public is also satisfactory. Sagaing Regional Government provided materials while the people contributed labor.

In (8) townships, the news Town Halls are being constructed, and that the Town Halls in (5) townships have been upgraded. The new bus terminals are constructed and the existing terminals are being upgraded.

The double arms street lamp posts are being erected in (4) towns. Beautification of towns is also ongoing. The land leveling jobs are carried out with the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Sagaing Regional Government in collaboration

with the business people and the companies. In Shwebo, hotel, shopping mall and (30) separate housing are on the agenda with the joint cooperation on contract with “Global Biz Link Co., Ltd”.

Q: Since the Sagaing Region is the largest region in the country, please tell us the methods being carried for the balanced development of all sectors.

A: Sagaing Region is vast in areas, but the infrastructure is inadequate, and as a result, the invitation of investment experienced with some limitation, and that the border trade is also facing some inadequacy.

Therefore, the Sagaing Region Government is giving relaxations and concessions in inviting investment as much as possible. On the other hand, the SRG is laying out better strategic policy for communication. The tourist industry and the SMEs are expecting investment with the aim to uplift the socio-economic condition if the region to the best of our ability.

Q: Please tell us the tasks being done by the Sagaing Region Government after being heard suggestion and desire of the people.

A: In accordance with the instruction and directives of the State Counsellor such as that “Meet the people and resolve the difficulty of the people”, the persons for the Sagaing Region Government routinely made field trips to the grass root levels in various townships and convened public meetings.

At such meeting, the submissions of the people are being fulfilled immediately on sight, and that the cases that required

for scrutiny are being replied to the people with guarantee signed in written form by the ministers of the Sagaing Region Government, and handed over to the people.

The SRG always listened to the voice of the people and also replied to the people with deep regards. If the matters could be redressed immediately, we fulfilled the matters instantly. If the issue needs time, we replied decently in writing.

Q: Please tell us on the cooperation of the public.

A: In our Sagaing Region, the people are quite candid and honest. They would never hesitate to speak out over the fault and wrong doing. They would support the right things.

Q: Please explain the plans for this year.

A: Three strategic policies would be continued by our SRG for the development of the region. We have planned to construct an “Information Center” at the entry point of Sagaing. It is intended for the investors to have access on data and information of Sagaing Region through “Online and Website”. To be short, web-based tools are those which are fully dependant on web technologies, like HTTP, IP, etc. On the other hand, online tools are those other transfer protocols like VoIP, FTP, etc. plus web technologies. The SRG intends to develop the MSMEs; to raise human resources development; and to invite local and foreign investments.

Q: Please add messages to the public.

A: As we have been elected by the people, we are doing our best without deceit, dishonesty and deception. During four years time, the bad communication has been transformed into better communication.

In the past, we depended on the exploration of natural resources and timber extraction, and now, we are working on sustainable development. We are offering concessions as much as possible over the investment.

On the whole, we could offer such relaxation because of the support the people; the cooperation of the Hluttaw Representatives and the civil society organizations; the participation of the government employees in accord with the rules and regulations; and the trust of the investors.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Asia virus latest: China city in partial lockdown, Seoul sees test surge

SINGAPORE — Here are the latest developments in Asia related to the novel coronavirus pandemic:

Chinese city in partial lockdown over 'major risk' of virus spread

A northeastern Chinese city has partially shut its borders, cut off transport links and closed schools after the emergence of a local coronavirus cluster that has fuelled fears about a second wave of infections in China.

Jilin, with a population of more than four million, suspended bus services and said it will only allow residents to leave the city if they have tested negative for COVID-19 in the past 48 hours and complete an unspecified period of "strict self-isolation".

Seoul sees virus tests surge after promising anonymity

Coronavirus screening has surged in South Korea since authorities introduced anonymous testing, officials said, as they scrambled to tackle a nightclub cluster amid concerns anti-gay prejudice could impede the response.

The country has been held

up as a global model in how to curb the virus, but a spike of new cases, driven by the cluster in venues in Seoul's Itaewon district — including several gay clubs — forced authorities to delay this week's planned re-opening of schools.

Two new infections end Hong Kong's 24-day clean sheet

Two people in Hong Kong tested positive for coronavirus, officials said, ending a 24-day run of no new local cases that saw the city begin to ease social distancing regulations.

The financial hub was on course for 28 days of no local transmissions — a yardstick often used by epidemiologists to judge if an outbreak has been defeated.

Equities mixed with second wave fears in focus

Asian markets were mixed but investors remain on edge after Donald Trump's top virus adviser warned that easing lockdown measures too early could spark another dangerous wave of infections and batter the eco-

nomie recovery.

Australia church fined for selling bleach as virus cure

A church in Australia has been fined for unlawfully advertising a purported "miracle" coronavirus cure that contains a bleach product, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

The medical regulator said MMS Australia had received 12 fines totalling Aus\$151,200 (US\$98,000) for promoting its "Miracle Mineral Solution" (MMS), which the TGA said contained a high concentration of sodium chlorite — a chemical used as a textile bleaching agent and disinfectant.

Nepal sees biggest jump in cases

Nepal saw the highest single-day jump in its coronavirus tally, reporting 83 cases.

But the country's total number of confirmed infections remains relatively low at 217, with a majority of the cases recorded in the country's southern districts adjoining India.

Three of women's top 10 to star as golf returns to S. Korea

Leading professional golfers



People wait in line to take tests for the COVID-19 coronavirus at a virus testing station in the nightlife district of Itaewon in Seoul on 12 May 2020. PHOTO: AFP

will return to competitive action for the first time in months after the coronavirus shutdown when three of the world's top 10 women tee off in South Korea on Thursday.

The domestic showpiece KLPGA Championship will follow the country's football and baseball leagues in starting behind closed doors at the Lakewood Country Club in Yangju, northeast of Seoul.

Free beer heads to Aussie outback

Free beer is on its way to help

Australians in Queensland's outback celebrate the loosening of coronavirus restrictions, with a major brewer donating 3,000 litres to pubs as they prepare to reopen this weekend.

"I'm sure there's going to be a lot of happy patrons, a lot of happy families and let the XXXX Gold start flowing," Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk told media.

Queensland's outback pubs will be allowed to welcome up to 20 patrons from Saturday as the nation slowly rolls back virus restrictions. —AFP ■

28-year-old sumo wrestler dies after coronavirus infection

TOKYO — A 28-year-old sumo wrestler from the sport's fourth-highest division died early Wednesday morning due to multiple organ failure caused by the novel coronavirus, the Japan Sumo Association said.

Shobushi, whose real name was Kiyotaka Suetake, is the first sumo wrestler to die from the pneumonia-causing virus. He is also thought to be the first person in their 20s to die from the virus in Japan.

According to the JSA, Shobushi, who suffered from diabetes, recorded a fever of about 38 C on 4 April.

His Takadagawa stablemaster and others contacted hospitals and local health centers but were unable to find a facility able to take in the wrestler.

After coughing up blood, Shobushi was finally admitted to a university hospital on April 8 and transferred to a different facility the following day.

The Yamanashi Prefecture native became the first sumo wrestler to test positive for the



Sumo wrestler Shobushi is pictured on 11 February 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

virus on 10 April. His condition worsened on 19 April and he was treated at an intensive care unit at a hospital in Tokyo.

"I can only imagine how hard it must have been, battling illness for over a month, but like a wrestler he endured it bravely and fought the disease until the end," JSA Chairman Hakkaku said. "I just want him to rest peacefully now." — Kyodo News ■

113-year-old Spanish woman survives coronavirus

MADRID (Spain) — A 113-year-old woman, believed to be the oldest person living in Spain, has beaten the coronavirus at a retirement home where several other residents died from the disease, the residence said Tuesday.

Maria Branyas, who was born in the US, became infected in April at the Santa Maria del Tura care home in the eastern city of Olot, where she has lived

for the past 20 years, and fought the respiratory illness off in isolation in her room.

"She survived the disease and is doing fine," a spokeswoman for the residence told AFP, adding Branyas had only displayed mild symptoms.

"She feels good now, she took a test last week and the result was negative," the spokeswoman said without giving further details.

Branyas, a mother of three, was isolated in her room for weeks, with only a single employee in protective gear allowed in to check on her, according to Catalan regional television TV3, which broadcast images of the centenarian. In the video Branyas can be heard calling the staff at the residence "very kind, very attentive".

When an employee asks her for the secret of her long life, Branyas replies simply that she is lucky to enjoy "good health".

The care home has recorded "several" virus-related deaths during the pandemic, the spokeswoman for the residence said.

Branyas' daughter Rosa Moret told the station that her mother was "in shape, wanting to talk, to explain, to reflect, she has become herself again".

Several articles have been published in Spanish media in recent years about Branyas, considered to be the oldest person in the country. —AFP ■



Spain's retirement homes have been badly hit by the coronavirus outbreak. PHOTO: AFP

Drugmaker Takeda expects 35% rise in net profit on lower buyout costs

TOKYO — Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. said Wednesday it expects a 35.6 per cent rise in group net profit to 60 billion yen (\$559 million) for the current fiscal year, helped by lower costs it will book for the purchase of Irish drug-maker Shire Plc.

Takeda President and CEO Christophe Weber said at a teleconference that his company will launch a clinical study in July of a plasma-derived therapy for adult patients of the new coronavirus with its global partners.

Takeda said it sees no major impact on its business from the virus outbreak but added it might slow demand, significantly delay its clinical trial programmes or disrupt supply chains.

The forecast does not reflect any impact from the plan to launch the clinical study in cooperation with 10 plasma companies, such as Biotest and CSL Behring, and the National



Photo taken on 20 April 2018, shows a logo of Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. installed on its head office building in Tokyo. — Kyodo News

Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States.

“It is a promising programme, and we are really pleased with the progress so far,” Weber told the teleconference, adding that it is too early to as-

sess when or if the study’s results could contribute to its earnings, Weber said.

The company projects group revenue will fall 1.3 per cent to 3.25 trillion yen this fiscal year after becoming the first Japanese pharmaceutical company to top 3 trillion yen in sales last business year, as it will push ahead with sales of noncore businesses to generate cash to cut debts related to the Shire buyout.

In the previous fiscal year, group net profit dropped 67.3 per cent to 44.24 billion yen, squeezed by costs of the 6.2 trillion-yen purchase of Shire last year in the biggest-ever Japanese acquisition of a foreign company.

Takeda expects the expense to fall by 45.4 billion yen to 900 billion yen in the current business year. It logged 3.29 trillion yen in group sales last fiscal year, up 56.9 per cent from a year earlier after the purchase of Shire.

IMF receives Chile’s request for 23.8 bln USD FCL

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday said it has received Chilean authorities’ request for a 23.8 billion US dollars Flexible Credit Line (FCL) over two years.

“The International Monetary Fund Executive Board met today in an informal session to discuss a request from the Chilean authorities for a two-year arrangement under the Flexible Credit Line (FCL) with the IMF,” the Washington-based institution said in a statement, adding that the Chilean authorities intend to treat the

credit line as precautionary.

“On the basis of Chile’s very strong economic fundamentals, institutional policy frameworks, and track record, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva intends to recommend approval of the FCL arrangement for Chile when the IMF Executive Board meets again to take a decision in the following weeks,” the statement said.

The IMF’s FCL helps safeguard against external shocks by providing countries with very strong policy frameworks and

track records of economic performance with large, upfront access to IMF resources with no ex-post conditionalities, it added.

The Chilean economy is expected to contract by 4.5 per cent in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the IMF’s recently released World Economic Outlook report in April.

The Chilean economy grew 1.1 per cent in 2019, the poorest performance in a decade mainly due to social upheaval that disrupted productivity in the fourth quarter last year. — Xinhua ■



File photo taken on 1 March 2019, shows the logo of Japanese electronics and entertainment company Sony Corp. on its signboard in Tokyo’s Chuo Ward. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Sony’s FY 2019 net profit down 36% amid coronavirus outbreak

TOKYO — Sony Corp. said Wednesday its group net profit fell 36.5 per cent in fiscal 2019 from a year earlier to 582.19 billion yen (\$5.4 billion) due partly to suspension of production and slowing demand for its products in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

The electronics and entertainment giant withheld its earnings forecast for fiscal 2020 through March next year due to uncertainty stemming from the worldwide spread of COVID-19, the flu-like disease caused by the virus.

However, the company roughly calculates its group operating profit will decrease about 30 per cent in the current year if coronavirus infections bottom out at the end of June and its business activities return to normal in the October-December quarter.

In the year that ended in March, Sony reported its operating profit dropped 5.5 per cent to 845.46 billion yen on sales of 8.26 trillion yen, down 4.7 per cent, as the global spread of the pneumonia-causing virus pushed down

its operating profit by 68.2 billion yen.

Sony’s sales of electronics products such as TV sets posted an operating loss of 35.1 billion yen due to temporary output suspension at factories in China and Malaysia while demand for products globally slowed.

However, the company said sales of gaming software and subscription-based online services for PlayStation were “significantly” boosted, pushing its operating profit up 2.8 billion yen as people are apparently staying home longer.

“Playing time (on its online services by subscribers) has now become about 50 per cent longer than that of the Christmas holidays,” Chief Financial Officer Hiroki Totoki said in an online conference.

Sony Interactive Entertainment Inc., a Sony subsidiary, plans to release its next console, PlayStation 5, by the year-end shopping season as previously scheduled, without any big problems in development and production, Totoki said. — Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (018S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (018S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-5-2020 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 STEEL LADY V.2004

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V STEEL LADY VOY. NO. (2004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-7 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928



Embassy of India, Yangon Tender Notice for AMC of Computers

Sealed tenders are invited for Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Computers (Desktops, PCs, and Laptops) and peripherals of Embassy. Details of tender is available in the Embassy’s website <https://embassyofindiayangon.gov.in/> Tender - Tender (Embassy’s) and CPP Portal. The last date for bid submission is **2 June, 2020**.

UK economy shrinks on coronavirus

LONDON(United Kingdom) — Britain's economy shrank two per cent in the first three months of the year, rocked by the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, official data showed Wednesday, with analysts predicting even worse to come.

Gross domestic product shrank in the first quarter compared with the prior three months in the largest slump since the global financial crisis in the fourth quarter of 2008, the Office for National Statistics revealed.

Economic output dived by a record 5.8 per

cent in March from the previous month, the ONS noted in especially grim news which sent the London stock market down more than one percent in early deals.

"March's GDP figures showed that the UK economy was already in freefall within two weeks of the (coronavirus) lockdown going into effect," said Capital Economics analyst Ruth Gregory.

"And with the restrictions in place until mid-May and then only lifted very slightly, April will be far worse."

Britain implemented

its COVID-19 lockdown — which is only just starting to be slowly eased — on 23 March.

'Widespread disruption'

"This release captures the first direct effects of the coronavirus pandemic, and the government measures taken to reduce transmission of the virus," the ONS said in a statement.

"There has been a widespread disruption to economic activity," it added.

The first-quarter performance was better than France and Italy, which

shrank by 5.8 per cent and 4.7 per cent in the same period. Both nations were hit hard by the pandemic — but they began lockdowns earlier than the UK.

The Bank of England (BoE) had already warned last week that the economic paralysis could lead to Britain's worst recession in centuries.

"With the arrival of the pandemic, nearly every aspect of the economy was hit in March, dragging growth to a record monthly fall," said Jonathan Athow, deputy national statistician for economic statistics at the ONS. "Services and con-



Construction workers wearing PPE (personal protective equipment), some including face masks, work to build new apartments and a retail complex at Nine Elms in south London on 12 May 2020, as life in Britain continues during the nationwide lockdown due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

struction saw record declines on the month with education, car sales and restaurants all falling substantially."

"The pandemic also hit trade globally, with UK imports and exports fall-

ing over the last couple of months, including a notable drop in imports from China."

The BoE had forecast last week that UK output was likely to crash by 14 per cent this year.—AFP ■

Bitcoin rises after eagerly awaited 'halving'



Bitcoin was created in 2008. PHOTO: AFP

SINGAPORE — Bitcoin rose Wednesday after undergoing an eagerly awaited adjustment that occurs every few years to limit the amount of the virtual currency on the market, building on a recent coronavirus-driven rally.

So-called "halving" takes place every four years and is when the reward received by "miners", whose computer processors enable the running of the world's most popular virtual currency, is reduced.

The virtual unit was trading 1.6 per cent higher at \$8,897 in Asia, according to digital currency tracker CoinDesk, after the "halving" took place earlier this week.

Bitcoin is up about 25 per cent this year, with investors viewing it as a hedge against inflation expected to be triggered by central banks easing

monetary policy to cushion economies from the virus outbreak.

"The Bitcoin 'halving' in effect makes generating new Bitcoins twice as difficult," Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst from OANDA, told AFP.

"That will be supportive of prices."

Wednesday's rise also tracked a broader shift from stocks into other assets, after a top US scientist warned that ending lockdowns too quickly could trigger uncontrollable new coronavirus outbreak.

"Halving" is also expected to hit the profitability of mining bitcoin as more work will be needed to achieve the same reward — but analysts say this could be offset if the unit's value rises.

Bitcoin, which is notoriously volatile and reached

almost \$20,000 in 2017 before slumping heavily, has no legal exchange rate, no central bank backing it and is traded on specialist platforms.

It was created in 2008 by a person or group writing under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto as a peer-to-peer decentralized electronic cash system.

It started as the preserve of computer nerds and financial experts but has gained a following among a broader group seeking alternatives to traditional investments, while it has been used to pay for items from a pint in a London pub to a manicure.

This week's "halving", which basically involves the halving of the reward from bitcoin mining, was the third time it had occurred. It took place for the first time in November 2012, and the second in July 2016.

The reward was originally set at 50 bitcoins but it was subsequently reduced to 12.5 and is now thought to have been reduced to around just 6.25.

The amount has been trimmed over time in order to implement an overall global limit of 21 million bitcoins.

Given its turbulent history, analysts remain sceptical about Bitcoin's future prospects.—AFP ■

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Dated 14th May 2020

Europe's re-opening quickens, as Fauci warns of danger

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — Europe's re-opening gathered pace Wednesday after weeks of coronavirus lockdown, while America's top infectious diseases official warned of uncontrollable new outbreaks if the process happens too quickly in the US.

Austria announced its border with Germany would be unlocked following a two-month shutdown and Britons were allowed unlimited outdoor exercise, despite a global death toll closing in on 300,000.

Curbs that have confined billions to their homes continued easing but the death toll spiked in some of the world's most populated countries, with Brazil, Russia and the US all reporting bad news.

It came as US government

expert Anthony Fauci issued a stark warning to Congress about the dangers of resuming normal life too soon, saying a run of 14 days with falling cases was a vital first step.

"If a community or a state or region doesn't go by those guidelines and reopens... the consequences could be really serious," he said Tuesday.

"There is a real risk that you will trigger an outbreak that you may not be able to control."

Fauci said the true number killed by the epidemic in the US is likely greater than the official toll of over 82,000 — the world's highest.

On Tuesday the US registered 1,894 coronavirus deaths in 24 hours, a steep rise after daily tolls fell below 1,000 on Sunday



Brazilian nurses honour health workers who have died of the coronavirus at a demonstration in Brasilia. PHOTO: AFP

and Monday. Fauci's cautionary message stands at odds with rhetoric from President Donald Trump, who has pressed for rapid steps to rekindle the devastated US economy before a November election.

Trump has sought to shift focus onto the role played by China, where the virus first emerged in December. Republican allies in

the Senate on Tuesday proposed legislation that would empower the president to impose sanctions on Beijing if it does not give a "full accounting" for the outbreak.

"The Chinese Communist Party must be held accountable for the detrimental role they played in this pandemic," said Senator Jim Inhofe.

"Their outright deception of

the origin and spread of the virus cost the world valuable time and lives as it began to spread."

In the House of Representatives meanwhile, Democrats unveiled a \$3 trillion virus response package, the largest yet, to fund efforts to fight the pandemic and provide emergency payments to millions of American households.—AFP ■

Canadian rocker apologizes over 'racist' COVID-19 post

OTTAWA (Canada)— Canadian rocker Bryan Adams apologized Tuesday after a backlash and accusations of anti-Chinese racism over his online rant about the pandemic forcing the cancellation of his London shows this week.

The "Cuts Like a Knife" singer issued a statement offering "apologies to any and all that took offence to my posting yesterday," adding: "I have love for all people." Adams had said in earlier expletive-laced Twitter and Instagram posts that his gigs at the Royal Albert Hall were nixed thanks to "bat eating, wet market animal selling, virus making greedy bastards."

He went on to say that "the

whole world is now on hold, not to mention the thousands that have suffered or died from this virus," admonishing the Chinese to "go vegan."

While animal rights groups praised his call to stop eating meat, others interpreted the expletive-laced comments as anti-Chinese. "This is so irresponsible and so racist," Amy Go of the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice told AFP. "He's a Canadian idol and he's fanning the flames of anti-Chinese racism, and contributing to an increase in hateful taunts and blatant (physical) attacks on Chinese and Asian people in Canada and around the world," she said.—AFP ■



Bryan Adams was slammed for comments about how "bat eating" triggered the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused his London shows to be cancelled. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS

In

BRIEF

Facebook apologizes for role in 2018 Sri Lanka unrest

HONG KONG (China) — Facebook has apologized for its role in the deadly communal unrest that shook Sri Lanka two years ago after an investigation found that hate speech and rumours spread on the platform may have led to violence against Muslims.

The riots in early 2018 erupted as anti-Muslim anger was whipped up on social media, forcing the Sri Lankan government to impose a state of emergency and block access to Facebook. — AFP ■

Seven killed in new DR Congo 'militia' attack

KINSHASA (DR Congo)— Seven civilians have been killed in northeast DR Congo and 13 soldiers wounded in violence attributed to a notorious regional militia, sources said. Armed men from a group called CODECO attacked Djugu territory in Ituri province overnight Monday, killing seven civilians and leaving around 10 injured, territorial administrator Adel Alingi said late Tuesday. Thirteen troops were injured in fighting with CODECO on Sunday, according to the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO which airlifted the wounded out for treatment. — AFP ■

Gunmen kill 15 villagers in northern Nigeria

KANO (Nigeria) — Gunmen have attacked a mainly-Christian farming village in northern Nigeria, killing 15 people, police said, in the latest violence between farmers and herders in the area.

The assailants stormed the village of Gonar Rogo in Kaduna state early Tuesday as residents were asleep. "The attackers started shooting sporadically, attacking villagers and in the process killed 15 people and injured five others," state police spokesman Mohammed Jalige said in a statement late Tuesday.—AFP

At least 23 dead from tainted alcohol in Mexico

PUEBLA (Mexico)— At least 23 people died after drinking adulterated alcohol at a funeral in Mexico's central Puebla state, local officials said.

Puebla state official David Mendez said the tainted alcohol was consumed at a funeral which drew around 80 people in Chinconcuatla, around 200 kilometers (125 miles) northeast of Mexico City. — AFP ■

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Chinese city in partial lockdown over 'major risk' of virus spread

BEIJING (China) — A north-eastern Chinese city has partially shut its borders, cut off transport links and closed schools after the emergence of a local coronavirus cluster that has fuelled fears about a second wave of infections in China.

Jilin, with a population of more than four million, suspended bus services Wednesday and said it will only allow residents to leave the city if they have tested negative for COVID-19 in the past 48 hours and complete an unspecified period of "strict self-isolation".

All cinemas, indoor gyms, internet cafes and other enclosed entertainment venues must shut immediately, and pharmacies must report all sales of fever and antiviral medicines, the local government said in a statement.

The city is located in the eponymous province of Jilin, which borders Russia and North Korea.

A cluster of infections was reported in the suburb of Shulan over the weekend, with Jilin's vice mayor warning Wednesday that



Police officers wearing protective suits stand outside Jilin railway station after the Chinese city partially shut its borders and cut off transport links after the emergence of a local coronavirus cluster. **PHOTO: AFP**

the situation was "extremely severe and complicated" and "there is major risk of further spread".

The city recorded six new cases on Wednesday, all linked to the Shulan cluster, bringing the total number of cases connected

to a local laundry worker to 21.

Shulan shut down public transport including trains leaving the city on Sunday.

Jilin city, the second-largest in Jilin province, also suspended train services from its main rail-

way station Wednesday morning, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

The city announced Wednesday that schools that had reopened in recent weeks would have to shut again, with students returning to online learning.

Final-year high school students across Jilin province returned to campuses on April 7 after months at home, while some younger students had been scheduled to resume classes this week, according to CCTV.

Meanwhile, Jiaohe, another area of Jilin city, put out an urgent call for all attendees of a wedding connected to one confirmed case to alert local authorities and isolate themselves at home immediately. One patient confirmed on Monday had recently driven two wedding photographers to Jiaohe, where a celebration was being held in a hotel, the local government said in a social media post Tuesday.

China has largely brought the virus under control, but it has been on edge about a potential second wave as it has lifted lockdowns across the country.

The emergence of new cases in Wuhan in recent days, after weeks without fresh infections, has prompted a campaign to test all 11 million residents in the city where COVID-19 first emerged late last year.—AFP

Troubled nuclear fuel processing plant OK'd by regulators



File photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on April 24, 2020, shows a spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, northeastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO—Nuclear regulators on Wednesday said a trouble-plagued fuel reprocessing plant in northeastern Japan has passed safety checks, bringing it a step closer to beginning operations after more than two decades in limbo.

The plant in the village of Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, is designed to take spent fuel from reactors and extract uranium and plutonium that can be reused, playing a key role in the country's nuclear fuel recycling policy.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority said the plant cleared the

tougher standards introduced in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima disaster, which include requirements for more robust measures against earthquakes and tsunamis.

While effectively a seal of approval, the endorsement still needs to be finalized after one month to solicit feedback from the public and concerned parties, including industry minister Hiroshi Kajiyama. Even then, the plant must pass further checks before it receives final approval to begin operations.

Toyoshi Fuketa, chairman of

the Nuclear Regulation Authority, said at a press conference that it may take "a very long time" before the plant comes online.

Construction of the plant began in 1993. It was originally scheduled for completion in 1997, but persistent troubles forced the timeline to be pushed back 24 times.

Operator Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd., applied for the safety checks in 2014. In 2017 it was discovered that the company failed to carry out necessary inspections on an area of the plant for 14 years, resulting in nearly a ton of rainwater to pour into a building that houses an emergency diesel generator.

Fuketa said the screening process was prolonged by a relative lack of experience among all parties involved in dealing with fuel reprocessing plants.

"It's like being first at bat, but also the only one at bat. When considering accidents at power plants, for example, we can look at Three Mile Island or of course Fukushima. But with fuel reprocessing plants, there is no precedent," he told a press conference.—Kyodo News

South Korea raises age of consent from 13 to 16

SEOUL (South Korea) — South Korea has raised the age of consent for sex to 16 from 13 as it seeks to strengthen protection for minors following accusations the existing law on sex crimes was too weak.

Under the revised law, adults who have sex with under-16-year-olds will be prosecuted for child sexual abuse or rape regardless of any alleged consent.

Previously, teenagers aged 13 or older were held to be legally capable of consenting to sex, resulting in controversial

cases and critics saying that sex offenders were escaping without punishment due to the low benchmark.

In 2017, a 42-year-old man was found not guilty of raping a then 15-year-old on the grounds she had consented, provoking outrage and calls for the age limit to be raised.

Despite its economic and technological advances, South Korea remains a traditional and patriarchal society, where victims of sexual assault have been shamed for coming forward.—AFP



Under the revised law, adults who have sex with under-16-year-olds will be prosecuted for child sexual abuse or rape regardless of any alleged consent. **PHOTO: AFP**



Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ar Ti is seen at the Chinese 8 Ball Game in China. **PHOTO: KO AR TI'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Chinese 8 Ball Game: Phone Myint Kyaw to play on 15, 16, 31 May

Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Maung Maung, the Myanmar pool star, will play the remaining matches of the first stage of the Chinese 8 Ball Game on 15, 16 and 31 May.

So far the Myanmar pool player is leading standing table of the competition with 24,500

pints.

He played four games and won all of them, beating the world-class Chinese players including former world champion Yu Hai Tao and former China Open Champion Li Bo in separate matches. — Kyaw Khin ■

MNL, F&N donate sports beverages to Phaungyi quarantine centre, We Love Yangon Group

MYANMAR National League (MNL) and F&N Company (Myanmar) have contributed sports beverages to the Phaungyi Quarantine Centre

and We Love Yangon Group, according to the MNL's social media.

Officials from MNL and F&N Company handed over

3,600 bottles of 100 Plus Active (Non-Carbonated) Testy Lemon at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. — Kyaw Khin ■



A member of We Love Yangon Group presents back the certificate of honour to an official from the donor organizations. **PHOTO: MNL**

Scrap promotion if Championship season cannot finish, says Norwich chief

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Norwich sporting director Stuart Webber says promotion to the Premier League should be scrapped if the Championship season is not completed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Premier League is pressing on with its "Project Restart" plans to restart the top-flight campaign in June despite a host of issues and objections from some clubs and players.

Attempts to resume play in the second-tier Championship, League One and League Two are also fraught with difficulties, especially the prohibitive cost of testing players and staff for the virus for clubs with scant resources.

Reports say the League One and League Two seasons could be called off and the future of the Championship is far from certain.

The prospect of Premier League teams being relegated and replaced by Championship sides who did not finish their seasons does not sit well with Webber.

Norwich were rooted to the bottom of the Premier League, four points adrift of second-bot-

tom Aston Villa, when play was suspended in mid-March.

Leeds and West Brom were first and second in the Championship.

"What we could not accept is a situation where we play all our games and get relegated, but the Championship can't play, and they automatically promote some teams who haven't finished the season," Webber told Sky Sports.

"For anyone who has got promoted from the Championship, it is a 46 or 49-game slog. It needs

to be settled on the pitch, both coming up and going down."

Premier League clubs hope to resume training next week while observing social distancing but the lower leagues remain in a state of flux. A number of lower-division teams have furloughed their players to save money during health crisis. An English Football League board meeting is set for Wednesday to discuss how to finish the season, followed by talks between all 24 Championship clubs. — AFP ■



Norwich's sporting director says Championship clubs should not be promoted if their season cannot finish. **PHOTO: AFP**

Premier League gets green light for June re-start

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Premier League clubs received a boost to their hopes of completing the season on Monday as the government published a "roadmap" that could see the return of elite sport in England from 1 June.

As the 20 English top-flight clubs met for further talks on "Project Restart", ministers announced plans to ease the coronavirus lockdown.

Under step two of that process, which cannot begin any earlier than June 1, sporting events would be allowed "to take place behind closed doors for broadcast, while avoiding the risk of large-scale social contact".

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he believed the return of sport on TV would "provide a much-needed boost to national morale."

Supporters face a long wait to be allowed to attend matches, though, with the latest guidelines recognizing a return to sport in front of a crowd "may only be fully possible significantly later

depending on the reduction in numbers of infections".

Premier League clubs had been planning for a return to action no earlier than the week beginning 8 June.

Before the resumption of matches can be considered, protocols need to be agreed on how to return to group training safely and on how the Premier League would deal with positive tests.

Brighton confirmed on Sunday that a third member of their squad had tested positive.

Cases have also been found in squads in Germany, where the Bundesliga is due to restart this weekend, as well as Italy, Spain and Portugal in recent days.

"We have protocols created and reviewed, we have a testing company appointed, but the important consultation with players and managers is the next step," said Premier League CEO Richard Masters.

"No decisions will be made until after we have talked to players and managers and those meetings are scheduled for later this week." — AFP ■