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State Counsellor holds video conference with transportation sector officials to discuss COVID-19 matters



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a video conference on public transportation and COVID-19 prevention measures. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment held a video conference yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, and discussed the matters relating to COVID-19 prevention and control with officials from the public transportation sector.

Those who participated in the video conference were Managing Director of Yangon Bus Service U Aung Nyi Nyi

Maw, Commuter Ma Nai Nai and Assistant General Manager of Myanmar Railways U Zaw Lwin who is conducting COVID-19 awareness campaigns on Myanmar Railways.

After her words of greetings, U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw discussed briefly the plying of public buses in the city, distribution of masks and arrangement of handwashing basins for the commuters, disinfection of buses, giving assistance as needed in the public transportation sector and prevention of high passenger density on the buses.

Ma Nai Nai, a regular commuter, then shared her experiences in using YBS buses, saying that it would be very helpful for commuters if sufficient ferry buses could be operated for private and public employees; she also shared about her experiences as a volunteer in the 'Clean Yangon' trash collection campaign.

Next, Assistant General Manager from Myanmar Railways U Zaw Lwin discussed the upgrade of trains, operation of air suspension coaches, operation of circular trains and

long-distance trains, and the conduct of COVID-19 awareness campaigns on passenger trains, providing hand sanitizers and handwashing basins for passengers, making sure that passengers followed the health directives and instructions, and administrative measures being undertaken to ensure the safety of vendors on trains as well as at the train stations.

The State Counsellor discussed the need to think in terms of short-term and long-term in relation to the provision of assistance to be provided by

the Union Government.

In her concluding remarks, she said at the moment there was no one who could estimate when rules and regulations on COVID-19 could be lifted; in some countries, restrictions had to be lifted because the public could not bear the stress; some have said that restrictions should not have been lifted in these circumstances; some have pointed out that from the health point of view, because restrictions had been relaxed where it was unwise to

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No new case of COVID-19 at 8 pm on 15 May: Total cases remain at 181

1. On 15 May 2020, a total of 427 specimens— 279 at the National Health Laboratory- NHL (Yangon), and 148 at the Department of Medical Research (DMR) (Yangon)— were tested, and the results showed no positive case of COVID-19.
2. There are a total of 181 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8 pm on 15 May, 2020.
3. Five old confirmed cases (Case- 65, 67, 115, 116, 117) were tested negative two consecutive times, and that a total of 89 persons have recovered up to 15 May. Among them, 74 persons have been discharged from the hospital and they will be kept isolation at the designated places.
4. 6 positive patients have died until now.
5. There are a total of 60 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 15 May.

COVID-19 Laboratory results at 8 pm, 15 May 2020

Samples tested at the National Health Laboratory- NHL on 15 May	279
Samples tested at Medical Research Department on 15 May	148
COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2)	0

COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm 15 May 2020

	New	Total
Confirmed Cases	0	181
Recovered Cases	5	89
Death	0	6

Ministry of Health and Sports (Translated by Ye Htut Tin)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents COVID-19 medical supplies for Dawei locals

COMMANDER in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave COVID-19 medical supplies to the locals and People's Hospital in Dawei Township of Taninthayi Region on 14 May.

The meeting at the Dawei Airport was also attended by the senior Tatmadaw officers, local town's elders and departmental officials.

Town elders received medical supplies for COVID-19 prevention, containment and treatment such as 20,000 surgical masks, 3,000 pairs of surgical gloves, 500 N95 masks, 50 non-contact thermometers, 150 bottles of hand gel, 150 bottles of hand sanitizer, two boxes of bleaching powder, 5,000 masks produced from Tatmadaw factory, and foodstuffs.

For the Dawei People's hospital, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented 10,000 surgical masks, 500 sets of personal protective equipment, 2,000 pairs of surgical gloves, 300 N95 masks, 300 pairs of examination gloves, 100 bottles of hand gel, 100 bottles of hand sanitizer, one box of bleaching powder, three boxes of pulse oxymeter (finger tip), 5,000



Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets residents in Dawei. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C DEFENCE SERVICES

masks produced by Tatmadaw factory, and foodstuffs.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party visited Shwe Wei Thiri Pyinnya Beikman Library in Dawei. They also visited Lawka Marazein Buddha Image

and Shwetaungsar Pagoda which are the landmarks of Taninthayi Region.

The Senior General paid homage to the Buddha image in the ancient historic Yahanta ordination hall.

On 14 May morning, the Senior General and party inspected Mawrawadi Naval Region Command in Heinze Township and held meeting with Commander of the Mawrawadi Naval Region Command Commodore Naing

Min Kyaw before looking around Heinze area in a motorcade, according to the report from the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 31 May 2020

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 15 May 2020 by the Ministry's announcement dated 25 April 2020.
 - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the afore-mentioned entry restriction measures until 31 May 2020.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Missions for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 15 May 2020

Announcement of Union Attorney-General's Office in response to ICOE report

15 May 2020

THE President's Office has formed the 'Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body' to investigate and prosecute for criminal cases in Rakhine State in accordance with the recommendations in final report of Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE). The body is investigating the criminal cases mentioned in the report.

The body is also conducting its investigations in prioritized places and cases out of 13 locations included in the ICOE report. A combined task force has also been formed, comprising of the members of Union Attorney-General's Office and the Myanmar Police Force, for effective implementation of its works. The task force also sought coordination and recommendation of the Special Unit on International Criminal Justice organized by the President's Office.

According to the report of ICOE, some criminal cases happened in 13 locations of Maungtau, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships included cases decided in courts, cases with first information report at the relevant police stations and cases under the police disciplinary procedures. Moreover, a total of 12 cases with FIR and the 4 cases with police disciplinary procedures are under investigation. To date, a total of 91 cases have been filed for legal proceedings.

Union Attorney-General's Office

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

State Counsellor holds video conference with transportation sector officials to discuss COVID-19 matters

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do so, this action had led to more infections instead of assisting in the protection of public health. She said this sort of action could lead to the need to impose more restrictions in the long term.

The State Counsellor added she had considered this point; that the act of imposing restrictions and easing restrictions was being done in the whole country; that this was related to the rules and regulations issued by the Union Government; that the Union Government had to take the lead in issuing rules and regulations; that it was not possible for individuals to decide on matters of easing/relaxation of restrictions; and that all needed to cooperate in this matter.

She added that at this time, transportation was something that needed serious consideration; it was not practical to stay at home all the time without going anywhere; another matter that needed priority attention was the education of children



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the Union Government had to take the lead in issuing rules and regulations. PHOTO:MNA

as it was not possible to keep the schools closed all the time; that regarding this matter, she had studied how other countries were solving this problem; regarding transportation, continuous monitoring and assessment was needed; in Myanmar, the use of cars had increased more than trains; in the past for long-distance trips, people used trains more than cars but nowadays people used cars more than

trains. She said she believed it would be more beneficial for the country if the rail transport sector could be developed and improved, and that it was best to allocate investments evenly to all areas.

She said that during the COVID-19 period, each individual provided much help to the country by working continuously at their jobs; that they needed to follow safety measures at their

workplaces, and that it would not be good to get infected while working; that was why each individual should take good care of themselves, and that taking good care of oneself meant taking good care of the community also; wearing a mask was to protect oneself from being infected, it was more to protect oneself from being infected by others rather than preventing the disease from oneself being

transmitted to others. So the wearing of masks is to protect oneself, protect others and the community. She said, in a situation where it was not possible for people to keep apart from each other, it was very important that arrangements were made to encourage more handwashings and wearing masks. For a country to be running smoothly, it was very important for the transportation sector to be running smoothly. Commuters were also very important. She added that she wanted to thank all commuters for using the transportation facilities properly and without endangering themselves; she also wanted to thank all transport sector employees who have kept the system running as well as those in the private sector organizations. She ended her remarks by extending good wishes for the health and happiness of all concerned.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Auto Disinfection Passage System

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW SPEAKER Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Auto Disinfection Passage System yesterday.

U Kyaw Min Tun, the Chairman of Soe Electric Foundation, handed over the system to be used at the office of Amyotha

Hluttaw Building.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, the director-General and the deputy director-general of Amyotha Hluttaw office.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Auto Disinfection Passage System machines yesterday. PHOTO:MNA



Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein seen presiding over the meeting. PHOTO:MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW Joint Bill Committee held a meeting to discuss a bill on Industrial Zone Bill sent by the President with his recommendation at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

Present at the ceremony were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill

Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Vice Chairman, secretary, joint secretary and members and officials from Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Union Auditor-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Ye Htut Tin)

Govt, Chin National Front discuss COVID-19 action plans

GOVERNMENT'S committee to coordinate with ethnic armed organizations on fighting against the pandemic held an online meeting from National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon with the Chin National Front yesterday.

Chairman of the Committee Dr Tin Myo Win, its Vice Chairman Lt-Gen (retired) Khin Zaw Oo, and committee members represented the government side, and the team of Chin National Front was led by its Assistant General Secretary (2) Salai Htet Ni and representatives.

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

The meeting focused on technical and material assistance for COVID-19 control measures, facilities for positive patients, coordination plan and rehabilitation programmes for the locals during and post pandemic.

The committee will also be meeting with the Arakan Liberation Party on 20 May.

The Myanmar News Agency made an interview with the government committee's Vice Chairman Lt-Gen (retired) Khin Zaw Oo after the meeting.

Q: Could you talk about the situation of today's meeting with Chin National Front?

A: Today's online video conferencing was joined by Chairman of the Committee Dr Tin Myo Win, committee members and



Government committee and CNF representatives are holding online meeting on coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

The meeting focused on technical and material assistance for COVID-19 control measures, facilities for positive patients, coordination plan and rehabilitation programmes for the locals during and post pandemic.

advisors of Peace Commission. Secretary of committee and Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo discussed from Nay Pyi Taw. Assistant General Secretary (2) Salai Htet Ni represented the CNF.

They discussed their measures against the COVID-19 and requirements. We are working to provide assistance.

Q: What is worries and actions

of CNF on the COVID-19?

A: They had great concern as the first case was found in Tiddim in Chin State. Their problem is transportation. So, their actions are based in Thantlang area. We discussed how to work together if any positive case was in their area. We have planned to take patients to hospitals in Hakha in coordination with Chin State government. It is the preventive

action.

We also suggested to do survey for rehabilitation plans to lessen social economic impacts on the locals in the post COVID-19 period. They have set up the data mapping system for this plan. They are trying their best.

Q: What is the committee's works with ethnic armed organizations which have not signed the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement on the COVID-19?

A: Two days ago in Kachin State, our committee is brokering for possible meeting of local government officials and Peace Talks Creation Group (PCG) with the local COVID-19 team of the Kachin Independence Organization. A meeting was held in

Mai Sup Par village in Waingmaw Township. The local government and KIO are now working together in this measures. It is one of the progresses.

Among the remaining ethnic armed groups, the Karenni National Progress Party has contacted our committee. We have contacted with 10 signatories of NCA and the five groups out of the 8 non-signatories so far.

We are very pleased to see the meeting of Commander in Chief of Defence Services with the ethnic leaders of the Special Region (4) of Mongla and Wa Special Region during his tour to Kengtung recently. Now, the medical teams of Defence Services have arrived in Mongla for measures against COVID-19.

Q: What is the latest situation of meetings with the committee and the ethnic armed groups?

A: We have seen the progress, and we are also making discussions with them.

We are scheduled to meet with Arakan Liberation Party on 20 May (Wednesday). We will continue discussions with the remaining organizations, and will hold a meeting all together with them.

Q: What is the committee's work to get international aid?

A: We are discussing with some international organizations for their assistance. It is expected to happen soon. – Ye Gaung Nyunt
(Translated by Aung Khin)

131 Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries return home

TO bring back Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries due to suspension of international airlines, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in respective foreign countries and coordinating with ministries concerned, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment on COVID-19 Disease.

A total of 131 Myanmar citizens – 68 from the Republic of Korea and 63 from the United States of America, Britain, Italy, Qatar, Indonesia and Viet Nam – facing difficulties in foreign countries were brought back to Myanmar by the relief flight of Myanmar Airways International via Incheon International Airport, and the persons arrived at Yan-

gon International Airport at 8pm yesterday.

Myanmar government has brought back a total of 1,847 Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries as of 15 May.

When they arrived at the airport, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region Government took respective responsibilities in accordance with the health guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports to put them under the facility quarantine at designated places and hotels. – MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Myanmar citizens landed at Yangon International Airport by relief flight from foreign countries. **PHOTO: MNA**



MoLIP, UNICEF Myanmar hold digital meeting



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds online meeting with UNICEF Myanmar Representative Ms June Kunugi about Myanmar child law yesterday . **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe made a discussion online with UNICEF Myanmar's Representative Ms June

Kunugi yesterday. At the meeting, they discussed future coordination to avoid overlapping in amendment, drawing and reviewing

of child law. They also held talks on possible unemployment problem in both formal and informal sectors, and economic recov-

ery plan with the help of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The ministry is working with International Labour Or-

ganization to eliminate child labour in regions and states. —MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

ToT course conducted for COVID-19 volunteers



National Volunteer Steering Unit launches ToT course for new volunteers in Yangon. **PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)**

THE National Volunteer Steering Unit has launched Training of Trainers (ToT) programme for the volunteers at the quarantine centres and those who will take part in medical tests in respective townships of Yangon Region.

The course was initiated yesterday with an opening remark of Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin as the chairman of Yangon Region COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Work Committee.

He said, "We will conduct health inspection in Hline-thaya and Tamway townships on 16 and 17 May. The team will include two health workers, two volunteers, heads of respective areas. Except health workers, the remaining persons will need training. We have conducted trainings to 60 persons today."

Yangon Region has over 5,000 registered volunteers to fight COVID-19.

The ToT course included

the topics of public communications, counselling, practical use of PPE, discard of garbage and environmental cleaning.

Dr Wunna Tun from Myanmar Medical Association said, "Volunteer doctors of our association are taking part in ToT programmes across the country. These doctors have also got this training. The courses have begun today in respective townships."—Min Thit

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Inspections to be continued at remaining factories

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and
Population
Inspection of remaining factories,
workshops and workplaces amid
Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**

9th Waning of Kasone, 1382 ME
15 May 2020

1. It has been announced that reopening of factories, workshops and workplaces will be allowed only if these places are found complying with the rules and regulations during the inspection period from 20 to 30 April 2020 by the officials of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and expert teams to be able to prevent the spread of pandemic Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Moreover, it has also been published that the inspection period would be extended to 15 May 2020.
2. At present, almost all the factories, workshops and workplaces in Nay Pyi Taw Council and Regions/States have been inspected in line with the guidelines and recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Sports. The remaining places are private businesses with small number of workforce, small scaled firms and domestic workplaces.
3. Therefore, under the management of Nay Pyi Taw Council and Region/State governments, small inspection units— comprised with the officials from Township-Level Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Control and Emergency Response Committees, the General Administration Department, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and the Ministry of Health and Sports— will continue to inspect these remaining workplaces in line with the directives of Ministry of Health and Sports commencing 16 May 2020.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Ministry of Border Affairs provides 1,000 rice bags for Khaunglanphu Township

MINISTRY of Border Affairs supplied 1,000 rice bags for the locals in Khaunglanphu Township of Kachin State.

Chief Minister of Kachin State Dr Khet Aung received the rice bags from U Kyaw Min, the director and Kachin State Development Supervisor of the ministry in Myitkyina Township yesterday morning.

Among these food aid, some 800 rice bags will be distributed to 9,880 locals in eight village-tracts along Myanmar-China border and 200 rice bags for 1,808 people from four village-tracts between border posts 30./31. Defence Services personnel, staff members of Ministry of Border Affairs and Kachin State government will help in sending these rice bags to respective areas.

Locals in Khaunglanphu Township encounter shortage of food supplies every year due to difficult access to transportation, natural disasters and bad weather conditions. The government, the military and well-wishers have to provide food relief for the locals. —MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Ministry of Border Affairs supplied 1,000 rice bags to Khaunglanphu area where locals suffer food shortage due to difficult transportation and natural disaster. PHOTO: MNA

MoEE holds press conference for exemption of electricity bill



Deputy Permanent Secretary U Soe Myint replies to questions of media. PHOTO: MNA

MINISTRY of Electricity and Energy held a press conference about the exemption (free) of domestic consumption of electricity bill (up to 150 units) for April 2020 during the period of preventing and controlling Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) yesterday afternoon.

At the conference, Deputy Permanent Secretary U Soe Myint from MoEE explained the public announcement for the exemption (free) of electricity bill on 7 April, the situation of electricity consumed by public during this summer,

collecting the electricity bill, observance of civil services personnel from sub-power stations and power plants of MoEE during this period in accordance with the health guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports, future plan for electricity production and distribution.

The conference was attended by officials of spokesperson and information team from MoEE, departmental heads and media persons. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Thai authorities hand over 120 Myanmar citizens

MYANMAR began accepting Myanmar migrant workers returning from Thailand on 1 May and Myanmar officials reaccepted the third batch of 120 Myanmar citizens who have served jail terms in Thailand for various offences at Myawady Friendship Bridge 2 yesterday.

Handover of these persons and their medical check-ups were supervised by Kayin State Hluttaw Representative U Thant Zin Aung, Deputy District Administrator of Myawady District U Aung Chan Nyein, Head of District Police Force Police Lt- Col Thet Lin Oo, Township Administrator U Phyo Zaw Ko Ko, Myawady District Immigration Officer U Aung Khaing Swe

and officials. This is the third batch of Myanmar migrants returning from Thailand that had penalties imposed on them.

The number of Myanmar nationals who returned from Thailand was 60 on 1 May, 54 on 2 May, 1 on 3 May, 44 on 4 May, 23 on 5 May, 100 on 8 May, 44 on 10 May, 13 on 11 May, 41 on 12 May, 16 on 13 May, 38 on 14 May and 120 on 15 May with no returnees on 6, 7 and 9 May totalling 554.

They are three persons from Kachin State and 18 from Kayin State, 28 from Mon State, 19 from Bago Region, five from Yangon Region, two from Mandalay Region, 12 from Shan State, 23 from Taninthayi Region, one

from Rakhine State and five from Ayeyawady Region.

Myawady District Information and Public Relations Department's Staff Officer Daw Su Su

Thwe and office staff distributed COVID-19 educational handouts to them. — Htein Linn Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by TTN)



Myanmar returnees queue for immigration and healthcare process Myawady Friendship Bridge 2 yesterday. PHOTO: HTEIN LINN AUNG (IPRD)

Mung bean prices up by K25,000 per tonne as India extends import deadline

By Nyein Nyein

WITH the increase in mung bean import quota by India, the domestic bean price has risen by K25,000 per tonne, according to the bean market.

At present, the mung bean price has risen to K990,000 from K965,000 per tonne while the pigeon pea price has increased to K780,000 from K760,000 per tonne.

Although India has set the mung bean import quota at 250,000 tonnes for 2019-2020 and the import is to be conducted not later than 15 May, the deadline has been extended for two times; however, the remaining 30,000 tonnes are still needed to import due to coronavirus, and the deadline has been extended to the end of May.



Traders seen choosing beans to export them. **FILE PHOTO**

Previously, India has set the mung beans quota at 150,000 tonnes and increased the quota limit by a further

250,000 tonnes on 12 December last year, according to a trade notice issued by India's Directorate General of Foreign

Trade.

The increased quota of 250,000 tonnes was previously set to reach India by 31 March

2020. With low mung bean production in India because of climate change, the mung beans are purchased from Myanmar under the permission of the state government. So, the mung bean price has increased to over K1.3 million per tonne at the end of last year.

Moreover, India's Commerce Department has issued an announcement to import 400,000 tonnes of mung beans for the 2020-2021FY on 17 March 2020.

The mung bean supplied to India is grown mainly in Myanmar. The types of beans such as pigeon pea and green gram are grown not only in Myanmar but also in Africa and Australia, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Export of Rohu to Bangladesh via Sittway border declining



Rohu fish is exported to Bangladesh market through Sittway border. **PHOTO SUPPLIED**

THE export of Rohu (*Labeo rohita*) from Myanmar to Bangladesh via Sittway border trade camp is declining this year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar supplies about 600,000 visses (one viss equals 3.6 lb) of rohu fish to various fish depot markets every day. Rohu is sent from Yangon market to the Sittway border trade camp before being exported to Bangladesh. Myanmar is also exporting other products such as dried fish, onion and garlic to Bangladesh.

Myanmar usually exports around 50 to 100 tonnes of Rohu fish to Bangladesh. However, the export of Rohu has declined starting from March. The trade

between Myanmar and Bangladesh via Sittway border reached US\$ 289 million in two months of 2020.

Rohu is one of the export products of Myanmar. The price of Rohu is instable in the market because there is a high consumption of fish.

Myanmar's second-largest export commodity to Bangladesh is freshwater rohus (*Labeo rohita*). Although bilateral trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh has high potential, the trade between the two countries has declined this year for many reasons. So, Myanmar will export a variety of beans, onion, turmeric and ginger to Bangladesh through sea route

to promote the bilateral trade.

The value of border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh from 1 October to 1 May of 2019-2020 fiscal year reached US\$743.2 million, which showed an increase of US\$729.6 million, compared with the same period of last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen food, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

920,000 broilers granted to import for domestic needs

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR has granted 920,000 broiler chickens to import temporarily in a month to fulfil the domestic needs, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

To fulfil the needs of broiler chicken in the country during coronavirus crisis, about 920,000 broiler chickens are granted to import at an emergency meeting held on 14 May. The meeting was attended by personnel from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Myanmar Livestock Federation, incubating entrepreneurs and broiler chicken importers.

"Because of coronavirus infection, the incubating entrepreneurs have either reduced or suspended the breeding of the broiler chickens in the first week of April. So, the breeding of broiler chicken has declined down to 40 per cent," said Dr Kyaw Htein, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Livestock Federation.

"We need more broiler chicken this time. Currently, we could not meet the demand. Over the second week of June, we expected the chicken to be

sufficient in the country. So, we granted the permission to import the chicken only for this month," said Dr Kyaw Htein.

In need of baby broiler chicken, Myanmar Livestock Federation has granted the permission to import GP/PS hatching egg and GP and PS chicken from till today.

Moreover, the import of commercial DOC and commercial hatching eggs are granted after submission of the proposals for several related departments to be able to fulfil the need of chick in the local market, to control the price of chick in the local market and to release the breeders from the control of the chicken feed.

Later, the local incubators will be able to produce nearly 100 per cent to meet the local chick demand. So, the import of chick and eggs are permitted only for some percentage.

Last quarterly meeting in March has granted the local incubating entrepreneurs to produce the chick more than the local market demand, resulting in a significant decline in the price of chicken. Therefore, the import of eggs and chick are temporarily suspended.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Time to get ready for storm season

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Nay Pyi Taw predicts that a low-pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman sea is very likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm over the same on 16 May.

At the same time, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has declared a cyclone alert for the delta and coastal areas and the hilly areas where the storm might cross before its landfall.

The cyclone will be named "Cyclone Amphan". It is very likely to move northwestwards initially till 17th and then re-curve north-northeastwards towards north Bay of Bengal during May 18 and 19. It means the cyclone is likely to cross the coast of Bangladesh and the central or northern part of the Rakhine Coast with the speed of about 100 miles per hour.

The weather bureau will issue regular updates on the situation to keep people abreast of any developments of changes in the weather pattern and people are highly advised to heed to the weather updates.

Now, local authorities in coastal and delta regions are enforcing rules and regulations for the fisherman in time of the disaster to ensure that fishermen return to coasts and not to venture into the Bay of Bengal.

Secondly, people in low-lying areas should be encouraged to move to higher ground and prepare alternative accommodation in the event of flash floods.

At this stage of the season, much of this rain will come from thunderstorms, accompanied by burst of intense heavy rains, periods of high winds and lightning. People need to be prepared for wind damage and flash floods.

People in low-lying areas should be encouraged to move to higher ground and prepare alternative accommodation in the event of flash floods.

At the same time, people in hilly areas, especially in Chin State, are urged to take be on high alert for possible landslides caused by the heavy rainfall.

In such scenarios, the need for preparedness in the event of any eventualities should be extended to all leadership structures within risk-prone areas, to minimize loss of lives and destruction of property.

Our preparations and preparedness for storms during the period of the COVID-19 crisis must take into account the quarantine facilities, along with aid for Stay-At-Home programmes, prevention and containment measures against the COVID-19 disease at internally displaced camps, and more.

To ensure that COVID-19 does not take hold and spread rapidly at the IDP camps, Stay-At-Home rules, facilities for quarantine and providing regional hospitals with medicines and special equipment are vital.

We need a solid disaster preparedness plan, resources and proper interventions to minimize loss of lives and damage to property.

Fourth-Year Performances of Kayin State Government

By Nandar Win
Photo: Tar Yar

Embracing New Opportunities from Reforms: Kayin State Government

MOUNT Zwegabin, adjoining major city is Hpa-an just 8.2 km northwest, where globe trotters and local visitors enjoyed with much satisfaction.

The top of Zwegabin is 722 metres (2,372 ft) above sea level, a landmark of Kayin State. Trekking high above the mountain, there are two entry/exit points namely "Kha Nauk Noe Village Entrance" and "Lommani Uyin Entrance". Much nearer to the Thanlwin Bridge, the travelers usually enter from "Lommani Uyin Entrance". The surroundings around the mountains are a mosaic of agricultural land and natural vegetation.

It is located in the region of Kayin State, in the southern part of the country, around 450 km south of the capital Nay Pyi Taw. Kayin State spread (70) miles from east to west, and stretches (326) miles from north to south. It borders with Shan State in the north and Kayah State; and sharing (312) miles with Thailand in the east. In the south, there is Mon State and Thaninthayi Region; and that it borders with Bago Region in the west.

Embracing in its fold, Kayin State has (4) districts; (7) townships; (11) towns; (86) wards; (376) village tracts; and (2,097) villages. It hosts (1 point 6) million populations, with homes of Kayin, Mon, Bamar and Pa-O nationalities.

Agriculture Sector

Paddy, bean and pulses, and corn are the main crops grown in Kayin State. Sericulture is the practice of rearing silkworms for



Eindu-Kawkareik Road is being upgraded on 5 Nov 2019.

production of raw silk, and that it started the breeding in March 2018 at Hpa-an - Ka Maw Ka Poe (Special Farming Plot). An agreement was signed between the Kayin State Government and the JICA.

With the joint efforts of the staff members of Kayin State Agriculture Department and the experts from Japan stepped into pilot project beginning June 2018. The farming succeeded in producing (106,000) silk cocoons, and earned cash from wet cocoons and dry cocoons.

Road Communication

Road communication plays a vital role in the development of Kayin State, and that "East - West Economic Corridor ASEAN Road" is there where Kayin State and Thailand meets.

The Kayin State Government

has given priority for better road communication for the development of the trade sector. The trade volume via the Myawady border trade area stands as the second largest trade flow and good income earner in Myanmar.

The Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge No (2) is a bridge over the Thaug Yin River in Myawady Township. This international bridge is (760) meters long and (17) meters wide built at a cost of (3,900) millions Thai Baht.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi opened the second Thai-Myanmar Bridge across the Thaug Yin River on 19 March 2019.

The project, GMS East-West Economic Corridor, is upgrading more than 66-kilometre section of the road between Eindu and

Kawkareik in Kayin State, with the loan from ADB. It is to provide year round access with design features that cut travel time, increase safety and boost climate resiliency. The remaining (29) kilometres would be completed by May 2021.

The New Jai-Kawkareik Bridge on the East-West Economic Corridor Improvement Project is of a reinforced concrete type and measures (1903) ft. in length and (74) ft. in width four-lane. The RC suspension facility is being built with ODA loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency at the cost of Japanese Yen (4,700) millions and MMK (26,000) millions. During four years period, many roads and many bridges in Kayin State have been renovated, repaired and revamped.

Animal breeding

In accordance with the policy guidelines of the nation, the Kayin State is exporting live cattle and buffalo beginning 9 October 2017. In keeping with the international standard in the export of live cattle and buffalo, the livestock disease control and monitoring station is opened at Kawkareik.

The control station was built at the cost of MMK (554) millions, and that the livestock health matters are carried out including the issuance of "Animal Quarantine Certificate" in accordance with the international norm. When the station is fully completed, it will comply in accordance with the OIE-World Organization for Animal Health.

Dams and Embankments Sector

Since the area is mainly agricultural and animal breeding state, the Kayin State Government is shouldering the tasks such as that of the reclamation of new cultivation lands; that of providing adequate water supply; that of preventing flood; that of the repair of sluice gates; and that of repairing the dams and reservoirs. Moreover, considering all round development of the environment and the people, the dams are being taken care of; and that (406) tasks are being handled and benefited (78,425) acres.

Power supply sector

With the use of national power grid, in addition to the solar power system, and the diesel fuel system, Kayin State Government is supplying power.

Out of (2,097) villages, a total of (1,071) villages covering (308,041) households have been provided with electricity during four years period. It accounted for (51) percent of the entire Kayin State. In Kayin State, with different voltage of KV, the electricity is distributed over the different overhead lines to different distances.

Power supply with 230 KV being received from the Mawlamyine - Myawady electric power line, beginning 19 March 2019, the electricity is distributed to surrounding villages of Kawkareik; to some wards of Myawady Town and villages; to Kyain Seikgyi Town and villages.

More projects are ongoing in Kayin State for the distribution of electricity in many areas especially Pine Kyone Town and Maie Lan Village and surrounding areas by implementing power supply line connections and power substation construction.

Furthermore, the electricity has been supplied to Bawgali Town and surrounding villages; Hline Bwe and surrounding villages; to Pine Kyone Town and surrounding villages; and to Myine Gyi Ngu area and surrounding villages. Distribution of power supply have been successfully carried out for Kan Nee Village and surrounding villages of Hlaingbwe Township;



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint for Ka Mar Maung Town and surrounding villages; and for Late Tho Town and surrounding villages.

Interestingly, with the arrangement of private sector initiative, (150) households in Anan Kwin Village and about (2,500) households of (17) villages centering Ta Gun Daing Village have been enjoying electricity through the use of solar system and diesel fuel system of generating electricity in Kyain-Seikgyi Township.

Urban areas beautifying works

The main purpose of urban beautification has always been the improvement of people's life level. During four years period, the night market on Strand Road of Hpa-an Town has been realized; and that the "Aung San Town Hall" in Hlaingbwe Township; "Zar Mi Town Hall" in Kyain-Seikgyi Township and the "Pa Thi Town Hall" in Thandaunggyi Township have been renovated.

People's Centred works carried out

During the four years period, the development tasks for the community with the notion of "People's Centred Concept" have been carried out by the Kayin State Government. As a result, the project funds MMK (10,159) millions have been spent in Kyain Seikgyi Township for (50) villages that covers roads, bridges, water supply, school buildings, power supply, healthcare centers, village meeting halls and other community projects.

Similarly, in Hlaingbwe Township, the projects funds have been spent amounting MMK (7,370) million for (71) villages with roads, **SEE PAGE 10**

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 15th May, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression over South Bay of Bengal during next (12)hrs and as a Cyclonic Storm on (16.5.2020) night. It is very likely to move Northwest wards initially and then recurve North-Northeast wards towards North Bay of Bengal after (17.5.2020). Weather is cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State 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: Rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Mandalay and Yangon Regions.

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 dce@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

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Circulation order is in easier way. **HOTLINE 09-45237515**

66/11 KV (10) MVA Sub-power station in Kyain-Seikgyi comes into operation on 31, December, 2019.

Fourth-Year Performances of Kayin State Government

FROM PAGE-9

bridges, water supply, school buildings, power supply, health care facilities, village meeting halls, and other community tasks.

Development projects have been realized in Kawkareik Township by spending MMK (5,801) millions for (53) villages on roads, bridges, water supply, school structures, electricity supply, and rural meeting halls.

Housing Projects

For the comfort and convenience of the government employees, the staff housing construction have been realized with (71) buildings accommodating (432) rooms; with building for rental numbering (76) buildings with (142) rooms; and with pensioners' housing numbering (3) with (48) rooms.

Industrial Zone

In creating job opportunities for the local people and those returnees from other countries, the local and foreign investors have been invited for setting up industrial zone in Kayin State.

"Fulltex Co. Ltd" of China has invested in Kayin State and that (2,177) workers have secured jobs. The factory exports garments to Hong Kong, China, Spain, and Europe, which fetched US\$ (1,508,770) in 2019. Moreover, for the local consumption, SKK coloured roofing sheets producing factory has earned MMK (2) millions in 2019. Plastic items producing factory named "Kyaw 3" has generated MMK (327) millions from the sales in 2019.

Support to the Peace Organizations

In Kayin State, there are ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) namely the KNU; the DKBA; and the KNU / KNLA (PC), and that the Kayin State Government is facilitating for the peace and the local area development. In creating job opportunities with the approach of food security, the needy families of (19) peace groups have been provided during 2016 to 2020 February with (707) cattle; (2,391) goats; (1,534) pigs; (300) ducks; (115) buffalos; (10,860) local chickens; (20,000) chickens for eggs; amounting MMK (1,972) millions. The peace groups are being provided with various cash crops for cultivation



The newly constructed school building in Khawrawah village in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township.

on manageable scale for livelihood amounting MMK (66) millions.

In February 2020, the Kayin State Government provided the peace groups to help assist in their livelihoods such as that of the KNU / KNLA (PC) of Htee Wah Pa Law Village in Myawady Township led by Major Saw Kaw Lu; that of the KNU / KNLA of Hti Khine Village in Three Pagoda Town of Kya-in-Seikkyi Township led by Colonel Saw Joe Swa with paddy, corn, fruit seeds and cash MMK (270 point 8259) lakhs [Lakh is equal to one hundred thousand (100,000)] for each group.

Moreover, in Htot Kaw Koe Naw Tayar Myine of Kawkareik Township, the peace groups KNU/KNLA (PC) have been provided with cultivation land along with cash MMK (155 point 0782) lakhs.

Tourism Industry

The abundant beauty and culture in Kayin State have attracted local and foreign tourists, and the number of visitors is rising. The tourism industry stands out as a vital livelihood of the Kayin State.

Hotels and Tourism

In the past, Kayin State has only (16) hotels, and that 2020 January statistics revealed that there are (43) hotels. Records of 2016 and 2019 showed that the tourism industry in Kayin State has jumped (169) per cent in hotel business; (34) per cent in local visitors; and (66) per cent in foreign tourists.

With a view to providing better services in the tourism industry, hotel related training courses including "Guest List Information Management

System" have been imparted to (2,000) trainees through (23) events from 2016 to 2020.

Moreover, the Community-based tourism (CBT) is a form of responsible tourism that supports local communities and improves livelihoods. The CBT has been initiated in Thandaunggyi Town since 2015, and that another CBT scheme is on the agenda to open up at Munt Sa Ree Village near Hpa-an Town.

A five-day trial tour on a hot air balloon kicked off on 21 March 2019 at Thiri field in Hpa-an Township. Pleasure sightseeing through the "Hot Air Balloon Travel Plan" was put on as a pilot project in 2019 and that the regular plan will start functioning in open season of 2020.

Education

The development of education sector is vital for the sustainable development of the Kayin State. Therefore, the Kayin State Government has paid attention on education sector such as that of adequate lecture halls at the universities and colleges; that of providing teaching aids; that of opening up more lectures; and that the Convocation Hall of Hpa-an University has been constructed with the capacity of (1,200) attendees which is (80) per cent completed in February 2020.

At the Hpa-an Computer University, building are constructed such as that of four storey building for officers; that of four storey building for staff members; that of university dormitory for (100) students. Moreover, at the Government Technological High School (Hpa-an) buildings are being

constructed such as that of two storey RC teaching facility; that of (152 x 34) feet "Student Dormitory R.C.C. Building"; that of (192 x 38) feet RC three storey teaching facility; that of (100 x 40) feet iron-RC four storey student dormitory building; that of (120 x 40) feet iron-RC six-rooms faculty members' hall.

At the Government Technological High School (Thandaunggyi), construction of building are carried out such as that of (192 x 38) feet RC three storey lecture hall; that of (150 x 75) feet single-storey of "Steel Structure" two units of building for workshop; (78 X 94) feet iron-RC four storey building for faculty members.

At the Government Technological Institute (Hpa-an); construction are ongoing for (198 x 38) feet RC three storey teaching hall; (125 x 82) feet "Steel Structure" single storey workshop; (78 x 94) feet iron-RC four storey building for faculty members.

Basic Education Sector

In transforming better characteristics and decent image of basic education schools, budget allocations have been distributed for new schools construction with expanded students under the capital budget expenditure on (563) schools amounting MMK (34,270) millions; under the current budget expenditure on (516) schools amounting MMK (4,340) millions; on students' adequate school tables amounting MMK (1,441) millions; on teaching aids of computers (414) pieces amounting MMK (442) millions; on library book shelves and almirah (563) units and on book trolley (1199) units amounting

MMK (286) millions.

Healthcare Sector

In the healthcare sector, the Medical Service Department is providing healthcare services to the public at one hospital with (200) beds; at (3) hospitals with (100) beds each; at (2) hospitals with (50) beds; at (7) hospitals with (25) beds; at (24) hospitals with (16) beds, where (16) senior physicians, (18) specialists and (187) doctors are providing professional medical healthcare for the people.

During (4) years period, additional (374) officers have been appointed, and the healthcare index is rising year by year. The Kayin State Medical Services Department has been allocated with budget amounting MMK (14,658) millions, and that MMK (2,967) millions have been spent on medicines and equipment.

During four years period, the Myawady District People's Hospital received on unit of four storey building, while Hpa-an People's Hospital is equipped with three units of kidney dialysis machine. More new buildings and structures have been successfully constructed, and that more facilities are on the agenda. At various healthcare facilities in Kayin State, (41) officers and (987) staff members, totaling (1,028) professionals are serving the people.

During four years period, with total budget MMK (6,732,745) millions have been spent for building and structures. Total of MMK (1,072) millions have been spent for repairing of buildings under the Public Health Department for four years period.

An international standard FDA laboratory is being built at Myawady Township by the Kayin State FDA for the safety of foods, drugs, cosmetics, and household goods for the public in accordance with the laws, by-laws, rules and regulations.

In conclusion, the Kayin State Government has implemented effective and beneficial tasks for the people within a short period of time, and that long term plans are being laid down for the sustainable development. Therefore, the expectation and aspiration of the local nationalities will begin to grow soon in the near future.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Virus could cut up to 9.7 per cent off global economy: ADB

MANILA — The coronavirus pandemic could cut up to 9.7 per cent off the global economy, the Asian Development Bank said Friday, doubling its previous estimate as the virus stifles trade and leaves millions jobless.

The estimated impact would cost as much as \$8.8 trillion based on a range of scenarios, but ADB said government interventions could help offset the losses inflicted by the crisis.

Up to 242 million jobs will be lost due to the virus, more than seven times higher than the employment losses seen during the global financial crisis a decade ago. Foregone labour income could top \$1.8 trillion.

“These will be difficult to recoup,” the Manila-based lender said, warning it could not discount the possibility of a financial crisis if the pandemic was not contained quickly enough to prevent defaults and bankruptcies.

The coronavirus has killed

300,140 people worldwide, according to an AFP tally based on official sources.

The World Health Organization has said the virus may become just another endemic virus in communities and populations will have to learn to live with it.

Over 4.4 million cases have been officially recorded in 196 countries and territories, with the United States recording the most deaths at 85,906.

To stem the economic losses, governments have announced a range of stimulus measures such as payroll support to keep jobs, cash transfers and tax breaks.

“These helped counteract some of the adverse economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,” ADB said.

The bank noted the United States stands to lose up to \$2.2 trillion or a tenth of its GDP while losses in China, where the virus first surfaced, could top



Up to 242 million jobs will be lost due to the virus that has battered the world economy, the Asian Development Bank said. PHOTO: AFP

\$1.6 trillion or 11 per cent of its economy.

Among industries, tourism and aviation were hit hard as countries closed borders and enforced lockdowns to contain the spread of the virus. Many

airlines have either retrenched staff or told their employees to take unpaid leave. “The impact on employment was severe. Unskilled workers normally working on a casual or ‘per piece basis were hardest hit,”

ADB said. Travel restrictions will cut global trade by up to \$2.6 trillion, which is already reeling from trade tensions between the United States and China, a global growth slowdown and weaker business confidence.—AFP ■

Japanese firms in Philippines to restart operations from next week

MANILA — Major Japanese firms operating in the Philippines said Friday they are planning to partially resume operations next week as the lockdown to contain coronavirus infections is eased.

The government this week announced that the lockdown measures will from Saturday be relaxed in a multi-tiered

manner.

Automakers such as Toyota Motor Corp. and Isuzu Motors Ltd. will be restarting production, although no more than 50 per cent of their workforces will be allowed to report to work in the greater Manila region as part of the government’s modified quarantine control.

Toyota Motor Philippines

Corp. is making plans for resumption of work on Monday, while adhering to quarantine rules laid out under the quarantine measure, Vice President Rommel Guterrez said.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. will be resuming work partially, said Nora Liquido, manager of corporate communications, adding that the company will implement strict health protocols for its employees.

Liquido said the company is reexamining its sales target for the current business year because of the economic fallout from the global health crisis.

“The whole industry is working towards recovering, looking into further effects of this pandemic,” he said in an interview.

Liquido suggested that the Philippine government should provide tax breaks for the automobile industry to recover faster, arguing that such breaks would ultimately benefit consumers considering buying vehicles.

— Kyodo News ■



A driver drives the dump truck after garbage collectors finished collecting household waste from a neighbourhood in Quezon City, Philippines on 29 April, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

African e-commerce firms get coronavirus boost

DAKAR — Seydou Sall sprays antiseptic on bags of food freshly deposited by an e-commerce firm at his home in an upmarket quarter of Senegal’s capital Dakar.

In a pattern repeated across the continent, the researcher has turned to online deliveries to get basics such as sugar, milk and coffee during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Home delivery allows me to avoid contact and queues,” he said, explaining that his order is completed in three clicks and that delivery costs just 2,000 CFA francs (\$3.3, 3 euros).

Senegal’s government, in common with others around the world, has restricted travel between cities in a bid to curb coronavirus infections, and reduced opening hours for markets

and shops.

Despite initial fears the virus would devastate poor African countries, the continent has so far recorded low infection rates compared to virus-stricken Europe and the United States.

African anti-virus efforts have nonetheless dealt a heavy economic blow, with retailers especially hard hit as governments have shut markets and restricted the flow of goods and people.

The sudden change has driven some contagion-wary consumers to use e-commerce platforms.

Sall, for example, uses a new Senegalese platform named Rapidos, which has partnerships with supermarkets, bakeries and pharmacies. Set up two years ago, the firm is now doing a roaring trade.—AFP ■



A man disinfects an empty supermarket in Dakar. PHOTO: AFP

UN won't vote electronically in Security Council election

UNITED NATIONS — The UN General Assembly will cast ballots in-person for five new non-permanent Security Council seats, its president said Thursday, effectively ruling out electronic voting despite the coronavirus pandemic.

In a letter to UN members obtained by AFP, President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande said that voting members would be “invited to visit the venue at the designated time slot communicated to them in advance” in order to cast their ballot.

Mexico and India are guaranteed a spot on the Council as the only countries in the running to represent Latin America and Asia respectively.

Ireland, Norway and Canada will compete among themselves for two more seats. Meanwhile Kenya and Djibouti will

vie for the only spot reserved for Africa.

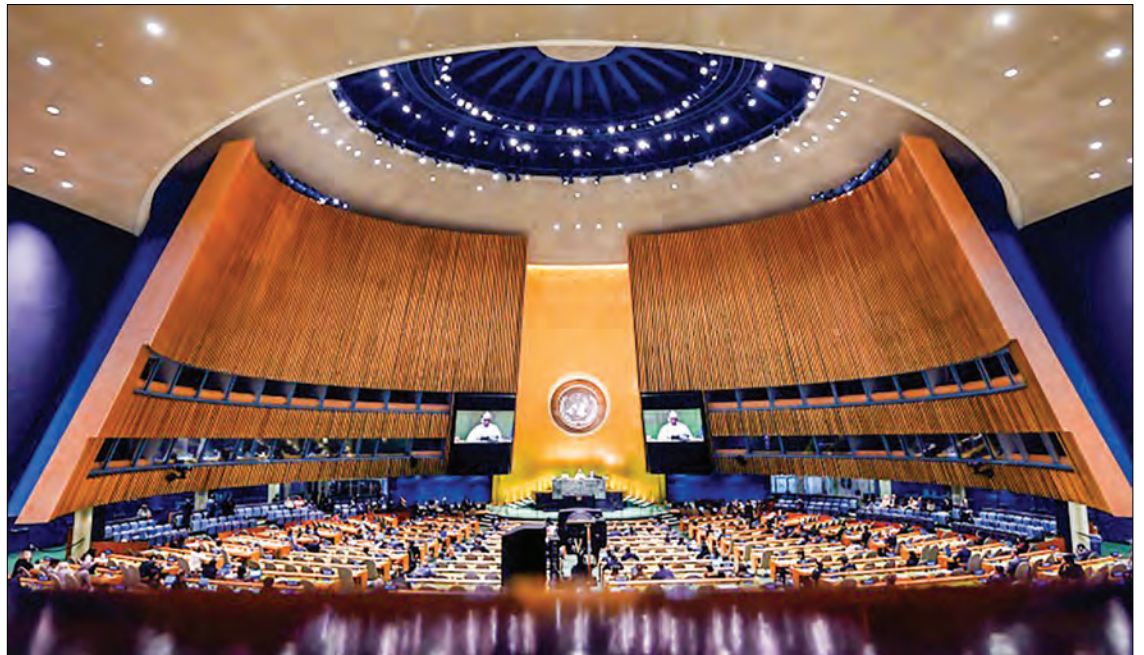
The vote is planned for 17 June, but the letter seen Thursday referenced only the month of June, meaning a change of date could be possible depending on circumstances.

According to the letter, the 193 General Assembly members will vote “by secret ballot without a plenary meeting.”

Although no location was given, the vote is likely to be held at UN headquarters.

In normal times, the annual vote to elect five of the body's 10 non-permanent members takes place like clockwork during a well-oiled ceremony, with states placing their secret vote into a ballot box in the General Assembly's main hall.

In recent weeks, General Assembly members have ex-



UN diplomats will vote on new Security Council members in person despite the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

pressed concern that their secret ballot might be revealed or that electronic fraud could take

place, a diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity told AFP. With the stakes high, com-

peting countries have gone to great lengths to win votes. — AFP ■



The French government has banned alcohol consumption alongside the Seine and the city's canals in a bid to dissuade merrymakers. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

France urges caution as first post-lockdown weekend beckons

PARIS — French officials called Friday for self-restraint as the country prepares for its first weekend since the coronavirus lockdown was eased, warning that police would break up any large gatherings of people taking too much advantage of newfound freedoms.

Scenes of packed squares and riverbanks in Paris and other cities this week have the authorities worried that social-distancing diligence will fade in the spring sunshine forecast for much of the country.

The government is walking a fine line, hoping to avert a new surge in COVID-19 cases even as it cautiously reopens some businesses and lets people now travel

within 100 kilometres (60 miles) of their homes without requiring a justification. Since the lockdown was eased Monday, “the response has globally been positive,” government spokeswoman Sibeth Ndiaye told France 2 television.

“But significant efforts must still be made” ahead of the summer tourism season, she said, when cooped-up families will be looking to escape to countryside retreats or beaches.

Deputy interior ministry Laurent Nunez called Thursday for “civic-mindedness” after the government conceded that its limit on public gatherings to 10 people or less could not be enforced in private homes.

“It's a matter of common

sense,” he said. “Everyone needs to be responsible, to decide if you want to be part of the chain of transmission for this virus. On our side, we are trying to break it at all costs.” Local officials have reopened large stretches of beaches along the Atlantic coast, a “green” zone where the virus threat remains contained for now, but only strolling and swimming will be allowed — no sunbathing, and no crowds.

But parks in Paris, a hard-hit “red” along with large parts of northeastern France, will remain closed, despite a plea from a doctors' union to grant Mayor Anne Hidalgo's request to make them available to residents in search of fresh air. — AFP ■

One year after Ibiza scandal, Austria's Kurz rides high

VIENNA — A year after conservative Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz found himself buffeted by a corruption scandal, which brought down his coalition with the far-right, the coronavirus crisis has cemented his dominant position.

Already having enjoyed a boost in national elections in September and entered a fresh coalition with the Greens, “there is no question that (Kurz's) People's Party (OeVP) has once again been strengthened in the corona crisis,” political analyst Thomas Hofer told AFP.

Recent polls have given the 33-year-old's party a huge lead, with Profil magazine last month even putting its approval rating at 48 per cent, up from the 37.5 per cent the OeVP won in the September election.

Austria was among the first countries in Europe to impose lockdown measures to stem the spread of the pandemic in mid-March. Widely seen as an example of a country that has successfully brought the pandemic under control thus far, a gradual reopening has been underway since mid-April.

Greens sidelined?

But analysts say challenges lie ahead as the economy faces an unprecedented slump and struggling businesses, including Austrian Airlines, appeal for state aid.

Green Environment Minister Leonore Gewessler said last month any aid to help the carrier, which is a subsidiary of German giant Lufthansa, should come with “clear climate policy conditions” attached. — AFP ■



Austria's Foreign Minister and leader of Austria's centre-right People's Party (OeVP) Sebastian Kurz was buffeted by a graft scandal a year ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

Virus pushes Germany into recession

BERLIN — The coronavirus pandemic has tipped Germany into a recession, official data showed Friday, with Europe's top economy suffering its steepest quarterly contraction in more than a decade as lockdown measures began to bite.

The German economy shrank by 2.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, federal statistics agency Destatis said, calling the quarter-on-quarter decline "the worst since the global financial crisis" in 2009.

The agency also revised its gross domestic product (GDP) figure for the final quarter of 2019 from zero growth to a contraction of 0.1 per cent. That means Germany has now experienced two consecutive quarters of decline, meeting the technical definition of a recession.

The worst is yet to come however, with economists warning that the full impact from the coronavirus restrictions will be felt more in the second quarter.

Economy Minister Peter

Altmaier last month warned that Germany was headed for "the worst recession" in its post-war history as the pandemic brought huge swathes of the economy to a standstill.

Like other European countries, Germany closed factories, shops, schools and restaurants from mid-March and asked workers to stay at home to help curb the outbreak.

The export-reliant powerhouse was also hammered by travel curbs and supply chain shocks worldwide.

"Private consumption, exports and investments in equipment shrank considerably as a result," the German economy ministry said in a statement.

State spending and the construction industry were the only growth drivers in the first three months of the year.

"Two weeks of lockdown as well as supply chain disruptions... brought the German economy to its knees," noted ING-Diba economist Carsten Brzeski.—AFP ■



Coronavirus lockdowns have upended the German economy, with many firms such as restaurants forced to close. PHOTO: AFP

UK govt in £1.6bn bailout of London transport system

LONDON — The British government will pump £1.6 billion into London's public transport system to restore services and help prevent overcrowding as people return to work, operator Transport for London (TfL) said Friday.

London mayor Sadiq Khan is now expected to restore full bus and train services, having warned they would be cut further without emergency state support, owing to the coronavirus epidemic.

But he criticised the government, which will obtain control for the period of the bailout, because of likely fare increases to offset losses incurred during the lockdown.

He accused the Department for Transport of "making ordinary Londoners pay the cost for doing the right thing on COVID-19".

TfL informed the London Stock Exchange Friday that "an extraordinary funding and financing support package has been agreed between TfL and the Department for Transport to contribute towards TfL's forecast funding shortfall.



London Mayor Sadiq Khan has warned commuters to expect an above-inflation-one-per-cent rise in fares. PHOTO: AFP

"The funding package is based on the assumption that the funding shortfall will be £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion, 1.8 billion euros) for the period 1 April 2020 to 17 October 2020."

TfL has seen a 90-per cent drop in revenue from ticket sales during the seven-week coronavirus lockdown as passenger numbers slumped.

It has been paying the £600 million monthly operating bill from cash reserves but said the

situation was no longer sustainable.

Khan on Thursday warned that without government funding, bus and Tube services would have to be cut to save money, as TfL tried to balance its books.

The government is urging people who cannot work from home to return to work in an easing of stay-at-home measures, while also calling for people to avoid public transport if possible.—AFP ■

China industrial output sees shock growth but consumers stay wary

BEIJING — China's industrial output returned to growth for the first time this year in April, official data showed Friday, but another sharp drop in retail sales indicated crucial consumer demand remains weak, which could scotch hopes for a quick economic recovery.

Analysts also voiced concerns over an uptick in urban

unemployment, adding that the outlook remains unclear as key export markets struggle to re-open after weeks of lockdowns around the world.

The forecast-beating 3.9 per cent rise in industrial production was taken as a sign that China — where the pathogen first emerged — is bouncing back after weeks of shutdowns that

helped shrink the world's number two economy 6.8 per cent in the first quarter.

The reading — which overshoot the 1.5 per cent estimate in a Bloomberg poll — came after a small downturn in March and 13.5 per cent collapse in the first two months of the year, which marked the first contraction in three decades.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YM SUMMIT V.01/20

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YM SUMMIT VOY. NO. (01/2020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IVS PHINDA V.1

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IVS PHINDA VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-2 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 WILHELMOSEN SHIPS
SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HUANGYAN SPIRIT V.06/2020

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HUANGYAN SPIRIT VOY. NO. (06/2020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-2 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

Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue in Myanmar

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

AS Myanmar had been ruled by British colonialists for many years, there remain many residential buildings, offices, schools, Buddhist religious edifices, temples, churches, mosques and synagogues built in colonial era in Myanmar. Among them, number of buildings in Christianity is the largest in Yangon in addition to buildings for services held by those with faiths of Hindu, Islam, Sikh and Jew.

Currently, more than 100 years old buildings of these structures are included on the list of ancient buildings.

With regard to ancient buildings

According to the Law on the Preservation and Protection of Ancient Buildings, the buildings of more than 100 years old including the structures built and used by humans above and underground and above and underwater were set as ancient buildings. To be able to preserve historical heritages of buildings, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture scrutinizes ancient

structures across the nation to designate ancient buildings.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum is carrying out search and maintenance of tangible and intangible cultural heritages from various areas of the nation. The published the books on such ancient buildings on locations and eras. Among 47 cultural heritage zones throughout the nation, Yangon Region is formed with 16 zones.

These zones in Yangon Region are locations of eminent religious edifices of Buddhists such as Shwedagon, Sule, Botahtaung, Shwephonepwin, Koehtetgyi and Kyaikkhauk pagodas.

Yangon Branch of Department of Archaeology and National Museum is searching and conducting research on the buildings with the works of colonial era in Yangon Region. In collecting ancient heritage buildings, the branch compiled the list of 120 more buildings decorated with works of colonial era in 14 townships of Yangon Region. According to a list com-

pared by Yangon City Development Committee, there are 188 ancient heritage buildings in Yangon.

Among eminent ancient buildings in Yangon, the Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue takes a position in downtown Yangon.

Yangon in the history

Mon ethnics established Dagon as a small fishery village in the place of current Yangon during the period from 1028 to 1043 AD. King Alaungphaya who established Konbaung dynasty cleaned the old Dagon on 2 May 1755 and established a new city on 75 acres of land. He named the city as Yangon built with teak logs as walls.

After the Second Anglo-Myanmar War, British occupied the lower Myanmar on 20 December 1852. Dr. W. Montgomery and Lt. A. Fraser drew a modern city project which centred Sule Pagoda so as to rebuild Yangon as a hub of lower Myanmar.

Based on the Reconstruction of Modern Rangoon 1863, British built Yangon in a Chess Board Pattern bordering with

East Road (now Theinbyu Street) in the east, Lanmadaw in the west, Strand Road in the south and Commissioner Road (now Bogyoke Aung San Street) in the north. Five main roads stretching from the east to the west namely Strand Road, Merchant Street, Maha Bandoola Street, Anawrahta Street and Bogyoke Aung San Street were constructed with 180 feet in width. The westernmost street stretching from the south to the north was 17th street and the easternmost, 44th street.

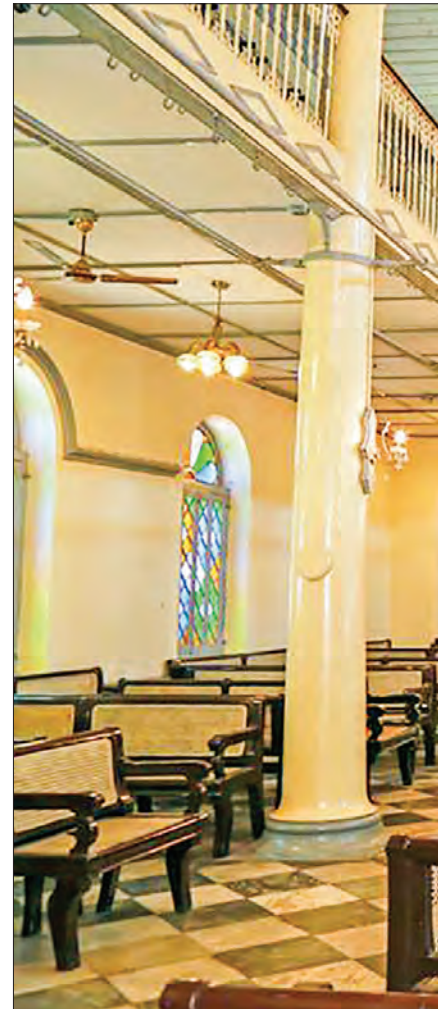
Yangon City, 21 miles from the mouth of the sea, was built at the confluence of Yangon River, Bago River and Dawbon Creek. As such, it was an important port city. King Alaung Mintayar appointed Minhla Kyawswa as the governor of Yangon. British kept a signal line under the holy umbrella of Alanpya Pagoda built on a large plot near Shwedagon Pagoda and used such signal lines for vessels in Yangon River. As such, the pagoda was named Signal Pagoda or Sale's Pagoda because British commander Sir Robert Henry Sale stationed his troops at the pagoda in the First Anglo-Myanmar War.

Jews in Myanmar

According to the records, the Jew who arrived in Myanmar firstly was Solomon Gabirol who served at the troop of King Alaung Mintaya in 18th century.

In mid-19th century when British governed Myanmar, Jew merchants from Iraq and India arrived in Myanmar and established Jewish communities in Yangon and Mandalay. In 1940, more than 2,500 Jews resided in Myanmar.

A Jewish cemetery with some 600 tombs was located on 91st street in Yangon. Likewise, one more Jewish cemetery took a position in Mandalay. Issac Samuels who passed away in

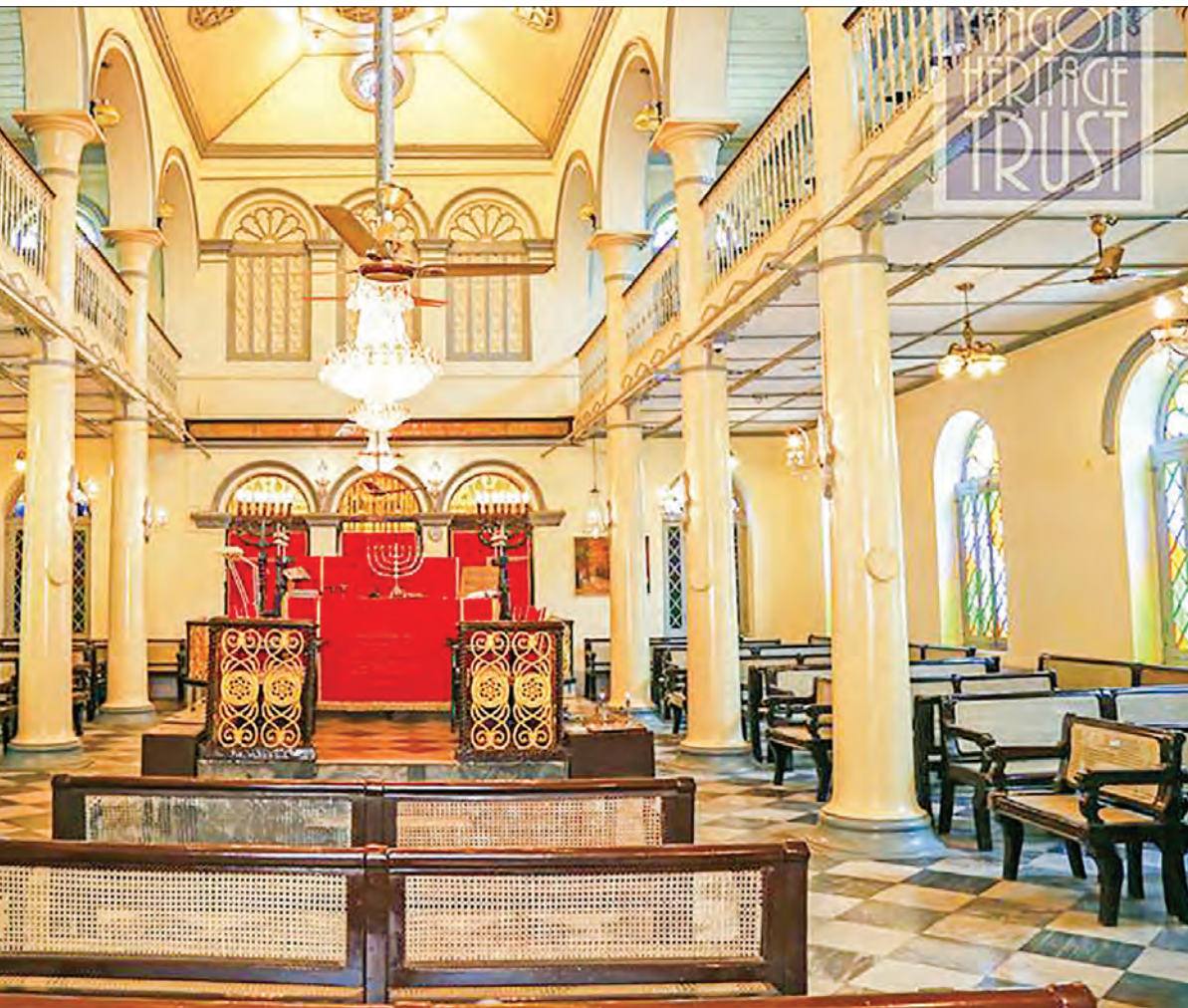


Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue.



Silver casings containing Torahs.





The Blue Plaque installed at the Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue.



Documentary photos on Myanmar-Israeli relations are displayed in the Synagogue.

1978 was buried at the Jewish cemetery in Yangon. Issac was father of Moses Samuels who maintained the Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue and was buried as last remains at the Jewish cemetery.

A Jewish school set up in 1910 was attended by 200 students from the KG to the middle school level. Some Jewish men married Myanmar women and sent their offspring to India and Britain to study further learning.

Jews in Myanmar operated small scale industries as well as exportation of thread and rice in British colonial era. They established social societies in Yangon and Patheingyi. In early 20th century, they elected their leaders. Mr. Raphael was leader of Jews in Patheingyi and Mr. David Sophaer in Yangon.

Jews opened the Beth El Synagogue in Yangon in 1932. When Japanese troops occupied Myanmar, a large number of Jews left Myanmar for India. As such, the Beth El Synagogue was closed due to least number of prayers. However, the location and records for building related to the Beth El were not found.

Myanmar and Israel regained independence in 1948. Myanmar among Southeast Asian countries recognized Israel as an independent country. Diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Israel was established in 1953 and embassies to each other opened in 1957.

Musmeah Yeshua

The Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue, one of the urban heritages in Yangon City, was established at No 85 on 26th street in Pabedan Township.

Pabedan Township formed with 11 wards takes a position of centre in Yangon. The area was resided by those engaged in blacksmiths in early Konbaung era. So the area was named Pabedan. When Shwedagon Pagoda was hoisted a holy umbrella by King Mindon, iron structures of the umbrella were made by blacksmiths U Sa and U Nyo from Pabedan Ward.

Complexes of Theingyi Market, Bogyoke Aung San Market, St. Mary Church, BEHS No 1 Pabedan and former head office of Myanma Railways in Pabedan Township were built in colonial era including the Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue building.

In 1854, Jews built a small wooden building for praying. In 1893, they dissolved the building and constructed the two-storey Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue taking three years till 1896. The land plot for the building was permitted by British government.

The Musmeah Yeshua stored 126 items of Torah Scroll for Jewish religion. As Jews who left Myanmar took these copies of Torah Scroll, the Musmeah Yeshua now holds two Torah Scroll copies only. These treatises taken from Baghdad of Iraq are more than 100 years old.

At present, the Synagogue becomes an urban heritage site in Yangon where globetrotters visit. The Synagogue is being

maintained by generations of Moses Samuels who passed away on 29 May 2015.

Maintenance of the Synagogue was undertaken with financial assistance of the United States of America and it completed in 2013. On 8 December, the Synagogue hosted an inter-faith friendship ceremony, attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and Israeli Ambassador Mr. Hagay Moshe Behar.

The Synagogue, a single one in Myanmar, was included on the list of 10 top destinations for foreign tourists in Yangon. The Yangon Heritage Trust-YHT installed the 13th blue plaque at the Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue in Yangon on 6 June 2016.

Documentary photos on Myanmar-Israeli relations are put on display the Synagogue whereas the two copies of Torah Scroll are being preserved. The synagogue built 125 years ago becomes ancient building as well as eminent heritage in Yangon.

The Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue is opened from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm daily except Sunday for public observation. (Translated by Than Tun Aung)

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Phone Myint Kyaw wins 5 consecutive games in 8 Ball Tournament in China



Phone Myint Kyaw wins Chinese opponent 21-18 in Chinese 8 Ball Pool Tournament yesterday. **PHOTO: KO AR TI**

MYANMAR pool player Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Maung Maung (1) Ar Ti won five consecutive games in Chinese 8 Ball Pool Tournament yesterday.

He defeated former World Champion and Chinese player Yang Fang 21-18 in the fifth match, receiving 30,500 points, elevating himself to second in the tournament table.

In the match, Phone Myint Kyaw lost in earlier small matches, and then led the opponent after the 13th match.

The Chinese player followed him until 20-18, but the Myanmar player won in the last 21st match.—Shine Htet Aung ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Olympics: IOC preparing \$800 million for postponement costs



A monument depicting the Olympic rings is seen in Tokyo's Odaiba waterfront district. **PHOTO: KYODO**

GENEVA — International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach on Thursday said his body is preparing to spend up to \$800 million for extra costs necessitated by the one-year postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Speaking via teleconference following an online meeting of the IOC's executive board, the first since the opening date for the Tokyo Games was rescheduled for July 23, 2021, Bach said the uncertainty of the new coronavirus pandemic and how it was affecting the Tokyo Olympics in terms of costs but also how it may impact Olympics in the

future once the current crisis passes.

"Nobody knows what the world looks like tomorrow," Bach said. "You can't put a number on something you don't know is going to happen."

Up to \$650 million, he said would be for the IOC's share of organizing the postponed Olympics, with up to \$150 million in support for international federations and national Olympic committees and other recognized agencies.

He was not specific about the costs that will be born on the hosts' side, saying only that the IOC was continuing to talk with

its Japanese partners.

Bach praised the work of the task force charged with transforming a plan for an event in 2020 into one for 2021, and insisted that the main priority would be the safety of all the principals. He declined, however, to talk about specifics such as vaccines or holding the games behind closed doors.

Although public health experts around the world have said the games would not be feasible without a vaccine for the coronavirus, Bach said the IOC would rely on advice from the task force and the World Health Organization.—Kyodo News ■

Messi accepts 'risk' of possible La Liga return



Messi has started training again with Barcelona ahead of La Liga's proposed return next month. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID — Lionel Messi says he is comfortable with footballers returning to play again as La Liga prepares to restart the season in Spain next month.

La Liga president Javier Tebas has circled June 12 as the ideal date for matches to resume.

Barcelona sit top of the table, two points ahead of Real Madrid.

Players in Spain have started working individually at training grounds as part of a strict and staggered programme, with five players already put into quarantine after testing positive for coronavirus.

"The risk of contagion is everywhere," Messi said in an interview with Mundo Deportivo, published on Friday.

"When you leave the house the risk is already there, so I think you can't think about it too much because otherwise you'll not want to go out anywhere.

"But we also understand it is essential to comply with protocols and take all the possible measures of prevention. Going back to training is a first step but we shouldn't get complacent and we must continue taking all the necessary precautions and assume we have to start playing games but behind closed doors."

Messi also spoke about Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez, whom Barcelona are reportedly keen to sign this summer.

Martinez is viewed as a long-term replacement for the 33-year-old Luis Suarez.—AFP ■

US sport edges back from virus shutdown with golf, auto events

WASHINGTON — World number one Rory McIlroy and America's most popular auto racers will nudge United States sport forward this weekend as hope grows for a June revival from the coronavirus shutdown.

Four-time major champion McIlroy and fifth-ranked Dustin Johnson will team up to face Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff in a made-for-television Skins Game without spectators on Sunday to raise \$3 million for virus relief charities.

"Golf can return to doing things like this," McIlroy said. "We can keep ourselves socially distant. We can keep ourselves in different carts and stay more than six feet away from one another. That's very important, too, taking all the necessary

precautions to be able to put this match on."

That's in part because other sports organizations seeking their own returns will be watching to see how well these events handle the challenge.

The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) also returns Sunday without fans with a 400-mile (643km) race at the 1.33-mile Darlington Raceway oval, where temperature-taking and masks will be among the measures used to safeguard the health of all involved.

"There will be a huge microscope on how we're doing things," 2020 Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin said. "For all of us, it's just the unknown of making sure we're doing it the right way."—AFP