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Monday, 18 May 2020

2nd batch of COVID-19 medicines, equipment arrives in Yangon by humanitarian flight

A second humanitarian flight carrying Personal Protective Equipment - PPE, medicines and medical equipment procured by the World Food Programme-WFP and World Health Organization-WHO arrived in Yangon yesterday. The aid is part of their ongoing support to the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) to scale up fighting against COVID-19.

The aid is worth over US\$40,000, according to the WFP office in Yangon.

The special flight landed at Yangon International Airport at 10 am yesterday.

The equipment procured by WFP will be distributed to frontline fighters, said Mr Walid Ibrahim, Deputy chief of mission of the WFP Programme in Myanmar, expressing his hope that the humanitarian flights arranged by WFP would make the fighting against the pandemic in Myanmar more effective.

Meanwhile, vital medical supplies and equipment procured by WHO will be handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports in support of the government's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

As international commer-



The second batch of medicines and medical equipment arrives at the Yangon International Airport on 17 May 2020. PHOTO: PE ZAW

cial flights remain temporarily suspended as part of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, the World Food Programme, on behalf of the United Nations in Myanmar, is launching a series of humani-

tarian flights linking Yangon and Kuala Lumpur to bring in humanitarian cargo and personnel, with financial support from the European Union and Switzerland.

The first humanitarian

flight, which 10,000 COVID-19 test kits, the first batch of 20,000 kits, reagents and viral transport medium that United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had procured, arrived in Yangon on 10 May.

Similarly, India, China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Japan also donated vital medicinal supplies to Myanmar for combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.— Zaw Gyi

90 migrant workers return from Thailand via border on Sunday

A TOTAL of 90 Myanmar migrant workers returned through the Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady on 17 May, the 17th consecutive day since the government resumed accepting returnees on 1 May amidst the spread of COVID-19.

A total of 720 workers have returned home so far since 1st May.

According to statistics, the authorities accepted 60 workers on 1 May, 54 on 2 May, one 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, 120 on 15 May, 76 on 16 May, and 90 on 17 May respectively.

Local authorities are closely supervising the process of accepting the

returnees in line with the COVID-19 fighting guidelines.

The returnees on 13 and 15 May were handed over by the Thai authorities to Myanmar on those dates as they had completed serving prison terms in Thailand.

Those who returned on Sunday included 20 persons from Kayin State, 13

from Mon State, 27 from Bago Region, nine from Magway, five from Yangon Region, five from Mandalay Region, four from Nay Pyi Taw, six from Shan State, one from Taninthayi Region, one from Rakhine State and three from Ayeyawady Region. — Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by TTN)

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Cyclone Amphan coded yellow by DMH, likely to cross West Bengal of India

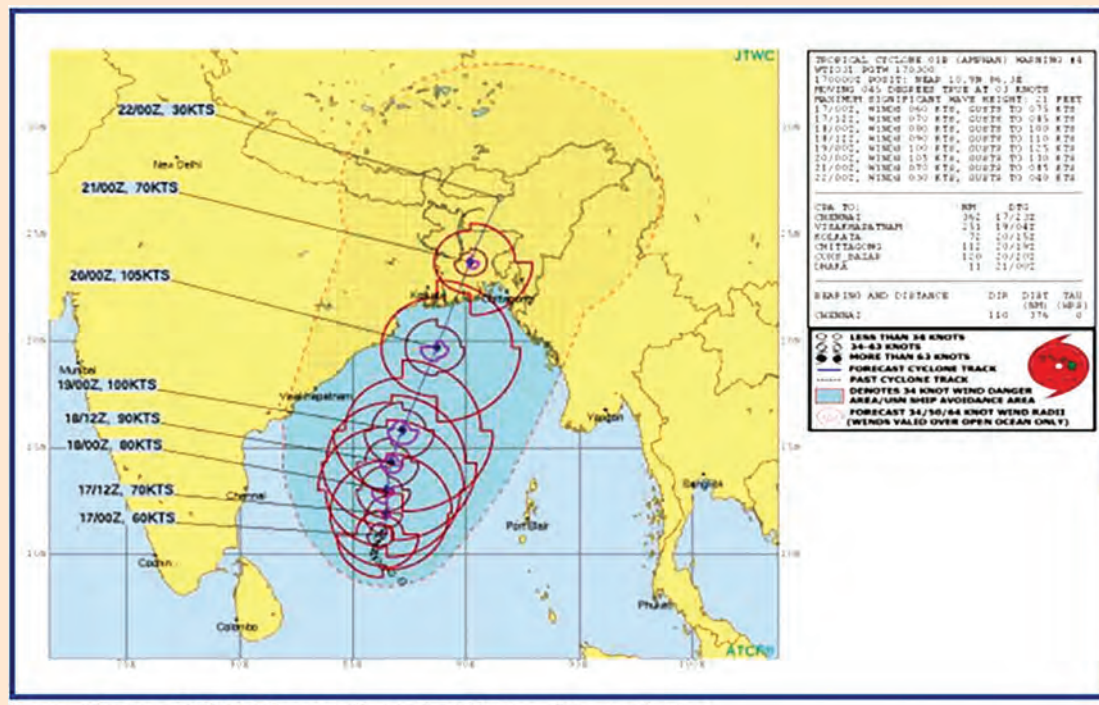
Weather report on Cyclone Amphan

CYCLONIC STORM Amphan has intensified to a severe cyclonic storm but has not showed no change in trajectory within the southeastern and southwestern region of the Bay of Bengal, according to a weather bulletin issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology at 2 p.m. yesterday.

The severe cyclonic storm was centered 530 miles south-southwest of Paradip (Odisha), India, 615 mile south-southwest of Digha, 675 miles southwest of Khepupara, Bangladesh, 460 miles southwest of Coco Islands, Myanmar, and 605 miles southwest of Patheingyi. The cyclone currently shows no sign of heading towards Myanmar and is designated a code yellow.

Cyclone Amphan is likely to intensify to a very severe cyclonic storm in the coming 12 hours and move in a north-northeast direction. Amphan is likely to cause scattered thunder showers in Nay Pyi Taw and other states and regions between 17 to 21 of May. It is likely to cause strong winds at 40mph and waves between 8 to 12 feet in height along Ayeyawady delta, Rakhine coastal region and offshore.

The Emergency Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement



Tropical Cyclone AMPHAN Forecast Track (Joint Typhoon Warning Center)

settlement states that Cyclone Amphan may reach the northern region of the Bay of Bengal on 19 May and become very severe, category-4, and reach winds of 130mph.

Cyclone Amphan is likely to head towards West Bengal, India and Bangladesh border on 20 May and enter land, according to international meteorology agencies. While the cyclone is currently now heading towards Myanmar, it is estimated to cause strong winds of 50-60mph across the center and northern part of Rakhine's coastal regions and in southern Chin State.

The ministry urges the public to take the following precautionary measures in the face of possible strong winds, floods, landslides, heavy rains and other natural side effects from the cyclone:

- (1) People living or working near the coast and fishermen should regularly listen for news updates to the storm and evacuate early if necessary.
- (2) Inspect structural integrity of building residence and reinforce for heavy winds and rains. Cut away trees and branches that may potentially

- fall on the house.
- (3) Have flashlights, candles and matches for emergency use and regularly charge mobile phones.
- (4) Refrain from going outside your house during strong winds and heavy rains if possible as falling trees, branches, utility poles and debris blown by the wind can cause injuries. Also refrain from using mobile phones and other electrical appliances at the same time for danger of lightning strikes.
- (5) Winds of 50-60mph can knock down huts and blow

away roofs. If you feel your house cannot withstand these strong winds, move to the nearest sturdy home or building.

- (6) Be careful of soil erosion near rivers and streams and relocate early if necessary.
- (7) Flash floods can occur as a result of heavy rains and do not give enough time to move away from them. Be extra careful during nighttime.
- (8) Refrain from driving motor vehicles, motorcycles, ox carts or walking along valley streams during thunder showers as strong currents can suddenly overflow.
- (9) Avoid electric wires and electricity poles after strong winds and thunder showers. Be careful of snakes and poisonous creatures that may have come out.

- (10) Continue adhering to COVID-19 health guidelines when relocating to resilient houses, buildings or designated safe zones.

Members of the public can contact the ministry's 24hr hotlines at 067-3404666 and 067-3404777 for more information and updated news on Cyclone Amphan. The ministry will continue updating information through media channels as well.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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

THE MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided healthcare items to the camps of internally displaced persons in the battle against COVID-19 in Kachin and Shan states.

The 18 IDP camps in Panwa and Phakant townships of Kachin State received 174 bottles of hand sanitizer, 3,993 soaps, 180 bags of lime powder, 20 thermometers, two sets of hand washing basin, 906 cloth face masks, 174 surgical masks, two hand speakers, two memory sticks with audio files of COVID-19 awareness campaign and two vinyl sheets printed COVID-19 awareness campaign.

Similarly, seven IDP camps in Namhkam, Kutkai and Namtu townships of Shan State received 3,916 cloth face masks and 824



An official from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement distributes cloth face masks to a person at an IDP camp in Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

bottles of hand gel.

The ministry is providing both material and immaterial supports in Nay Pyi Taw Council,

regions and states to prevent and control of COVID-19 diseases. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 8 am to 8 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

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

Trade Mark Ads

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“People are the key”

Three more trains added to Yangon Circular Railway for rush hours

THE Myanma Railways (MR) expanded its rush hour train services on the Yangon Circular Railway as of 18 May (today), according to the MR’s regional transports Assistant General Manager U Zaw Lwin.

Three trains will be added to the Yangon Circular Railway for rush hours and all circular trains including three added trains will run 40 rounds a day, he added.

The expansion of rush hours train services at the circular railway has been arranged to meet the social-distancing guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Sports.

The MR’s assistant general manager also said, “There are five trains running on the circular railway making 28 rounds a day. We didn’t meet the social-distancing guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports during the rush hours. Therefore, more trains will be added to the lines as of 18 May, which is a Monday when offices and works are open.”

On the circular railway, five trains run 28 rounds a day, and there were about 7,000 commuters per day during the COVID-19



Officials from Myanmar Railways distribute a face shield to a passenger at the Central Railway Station in Yangon. **PHOTO: UZL**

period.

The added three trains will run on Yangon-Hlawgar, Yangon-Mingaladon, and Yangon-Toe Gyaung Kalay-Oakphosu routes.

For Yangon-Hlawgar route, the new train departs from Hlawgar station at 7:20am and arrives at the Yangon Central Railway

Station at 9 am in the morning. In the evening, the train departs from the Yangon Central Railway Station at 6pm and arrives at Hlawgar station at 7:40pm.

For Insein-Mingaladon-Yangon route, the train departs from Insein station at 7:25am, Mingaladon at 8:10am and arrived at the Yangon Central Railway

Station at 9:15am. In the evening, the train departs from the Yangon Central Railway Station at 5:45pm, arrives in Mingaladon at 6:50pm and arrives at Insein station at 7:35pm.

For Yangon-Toe Gyaung Kalay-Oakphosu route, the new train departs from Oakphosu at 7:35am and arrives at the Yan-

gon Central Railway Station at 9:10am. In the evening, the train departs from the Yangon Central Railway Station at 5:50pm and arrives at Oakphosu station at 7:25pm.

As one more train was added to the Yangon-Hlawgar route, there will be three trains departing from Hlawgar in the morning. The three trains arrive at the Yangon Central Railway Station at 15 minutes intervals.

The two trains including a new train departing from Insein on the Insein-Mingaladon-Yangon route, arrive at the Yangon Central Railway Station at 20 minutes intervals.

Only two trains previously ran on the Yangon-Toe Gyaung Kalay-Oakphosu route. Now it has three trains. The three trains departing from Oakphosu arrive at the Yangon Central Railway Station at 10 minutes interval for the first two trains and 20 minutes interval for the last two trains.

Before COVID-19 outbreak, a total of 21 trains on the Yangon Circular Railways operate 168 rounds a day carrying about 50,000 passengers. —Nyunt Ko Ko (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Tatmadaw donates COVID-19 articles to New Mon State Party

THE Tatmadaw donated protective equipment and other items for COVID-19 to the New Mon State Party (NMSP) on 16 May.

Brig-Gen Ko Ko Maung, commander of the South East Command, and officers handed over representatives of NMSP, an ethnic armed organization signatory to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), at the military command headquarters and officials expressed their gratitude.

The donation includes 200 PPE outfits, 5000 surgical masks, 200 bottles of hand gel, 3000 surgical gloves, 100 goggles, and 2 cartons of disinfectants, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Brig Gen Ko Ko Maung hands over protective equipment and other items for fighting COVID-19 to representative from New Mon State Party at Dawna Yeiktha in South-East Command on 16 May.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Follow-up lab tests reveal negative for Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw man

THE Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services reported on 4 May that a Tatmadaw man within the Nay Pyi Taw Command territory had tested positive for COVID-19 and relocated to the Tatmadaw’s quarantine facility.

Lab specimens were taken from the Tatmadaw man again on 15 May, 11 days after he was first confirmed of having the virus, and again on 17 May, 13 days after the confirmation. Two lab tests on the lab specimens revealed the officer no longer had the virus.

The Tatmadaw man will be put under hospital quarantine for 14 days, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Two more COVID-19 cases on Sunday, total cases reach 184

THE Ministry of Health and Sports reported two more confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, bringing the total number of people tested positive to 184. The two newly infected persons were a forty-one year-old male from Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, and a fifty-seven year-old male from Mayangon Township, Yangon Region. Out of the 184 confirmed cases, six patients have died, 97 have recovered, and 84 were allowed to be discharged from respective hospitals, according to the statement issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. —MNA (Translated by TTN)

Update on COVID-19 at 8 pm on 17 May 2020

1. The Department of Medical Research tested 200 samples and the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) tested 186 samples for COVID-19, totaling 386, on 17 May. The result showed that TWO lab specimen tested positive for COVID-19.
2. There are a total of 184 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 17 May.
3. Two old cases (case no 146 and case no 156) were tested negative two consecutive times, bringing the total number of persons recovered to 97 until 17 May. Among them, 84 persons have been discharged from the hospital and they will be kept isolation at the designated places.
4. The total death toll remains at six.
5. There are a total of 76 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 17 May.

COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm 17 May 2020

	New	Total
Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases	2	184
Number of recovered persons	1	97
Number of Death	0	6

COVID-19 Laboratory results at 8 pm, 17 May 2020

Samples tested at Department of Medical Research on 16 May	200
Samples tested in first group at National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on 16 May	186
COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2)	2

COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm 17 May 2020

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
183	57	Male	Mayangon Township, Yangon	No	No	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	Persons under investigation
184	41	Male	Pazundaung Township, Yangon	No	Yes (Malaysia)	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	quarantined in designated location.

Ministry of Health and Sports
(Translated by TTN)

Police arrest illegal Chinese with narcotics, weapons in Muse

A total of 19 Chinese citizens illegally living in Myanmar were arrested in possession of weapons and illegal narcotics in four separate raids in Muse, northern Shan State on 15 and 16 May.

On 15 May, a joint team arrested 10 Chinese citizens including Laung Hwa, son of Khun Hu Tar, at the Tar Sauk Ti Kaw Entertainment Centre of Win Nin Company Group owned by Lin Htet Oo in Swan Saw Ward, Muse, together with 15 laptops, 15 mobile phones, 3 monitors, 2 USBs, a CPU, a printer (Kyocera), 6 Wifi devices, 7 Chinese phones, 10 laptop

chargers, 10 computer mouses and 7 earphones.

In a separate raid at Yi Lone Saung Spa in the same ward on the same day, two more illegal Chinese were arrested.

On the same day, another four Chinese citizens were arrested at the house of Chain Hmon in the same ward, together with a gun, 20 bullets, a magazine, a 9-mm pistol, 10 bullets, and a magazine.

On 16 May, the joint team raided the house of Li Ti Chan, and arrested three Chinese citizens together with two M-22 guns, 2 magazines, an M-21 gun, an M-16 gun, a magazine,



The narcotic drugs and firearms seized from illegal Chinese citizens are seen. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

a Lukar pistol, a magazine, 25 kg of ICE, 37.7 kg of heroin, and 120,000 stimulant tablets. The narcotic drugs are estimated

K 18,000 million.

The suspects, illegal drugs and weapons were handed over to the Muse Myoma Police Sta-

tion, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Maritime trade up \$1.9 bln in current FY

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade for the period between 1 October and 1 May in the 2019-2020 fiscal year totalled US\$15.85 billion, an increase of over \$1.9 billion compared to the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$6 billion, imports were registered at \$9.8 billion. Compared to the same period in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, imports were higher by \$1.19 billion, while exports registered an increase of \$722.6 million.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through the borders was estimated at \$6.7 billion, an increase of \$351 million.

The country's total external trade reached \$22.6 billion, which was higher than the \$20.35 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials. The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A cargo ship is anchored in the Yangon River. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Exports of various pulses cross 1 mln tonnes in seven months (Oct-Apr)

MYANMAR exported over 1 million tonnes of various pulses from 1 October to April-end in the current financial year 2019-2020, earning over \$730 million, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

During a-year ago period, about \$600 million worth pulses and beans were exported. The export volume is up by over 10,000 tonnes compared with the corresponding period of last year.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar beans, especially mung beans. Besides India, Myanmar's beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Dubai, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand is small, according to the domestic pulses market.

India imposed a nationwide lockdown as of mid-April and extended the lockdown to slow-

er the spread of coronavirus pandemic. As a result of this, supply chain disruption affected the trade.

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

India earlier stated that the further increased quota of 250,000 tonnes has to arrive at India's port by 31 March 2020. Due to the coronavirus impacts, they made the extension two times. Furthermore, they extended import deadline to May-end. Following that, mung bean and green gram prices slightly rose in Mandalay market.

Next, India has notified the annual quota of beans imports for the next fiscal year

2020-2021, including 400,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, said Secretary U Min Ko Oo Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

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

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Merchants evaluate quality of pulses at the Mandalay wholesale market last year. FILE PHOTO

Eligibility for maximum coronavirus loan amount can vary on workforce: UMFCCI

THE eligibility for the maximum amount of emergency Coronavirus Fund to enterprises hit hard by the pandemic can vary depending on the workforce in factories, said UMFCCI General Secretary U Aye Win.

"There are three categories in the loan, designated in priority sectors (the small and medium enterprises (SEMs), hotel businesses and CMP garment factories). Majority of the applications are from SMEs, followed by the hotel businesses and CMP garment factories.

However, CMP garment factories received the highest loan amount as they are labour-intensive businesses. SMEs with the small number of workers get access to small amount only," he stated at the recent press conference of UMFCCI.

The emergency coronavirus loan aims to ease the economic burden faced by the virus-stricken businesses, and not to expand the business and put capital for businesses. Mainly, the government intends to help the business keep operations and the workers get the salary for at least three months, he

continued.

Some bigger businesses employ a smaller number of workers against CMP garment factories. This being so, they are eligible to receive an only smaller amount of loan.

So far, the government has contributed K13 billion loans to 300 businesses. The remaining applications will be screened so fast that the business can take the loan in May-end.

The loan applications were accepted between 30 March and 9 April and a total of 4,258 applicants applied for it. Initially, 300 businesses are provided loan and more businesses will be granted loan soon.

The loan will be provided to enterprises that are included in the priority sectors at an interest of 1 per cent for a one-year period.

If a business entity fails to repay the loan it can be put in the Negative List of the Credit Bureau and can be barred from taking any loans from a bank or a non-bank financial institution or a microfinance institution.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand are in queue at a border checkpoint in Myawaddy on 17 May. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**
(NEWS ON PAGE-1)

KBZ Bank donates power generator to NHL



Deputy CEO of KBZ Bank Daw Nang Lang Kham (right) hands over Caterpillar C15 500 kVa Diesel Generator to an official from the National Health Laboratory on 17 May, 2020. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

KBZ Bank donated a power generator to the National Health Laboratory (NHL) in Yangon to ensure the laboratory's smooth operations yesterday.

The American-made Caterpillar C15 500 kVa Diesel Generator will provide electricity for the operations of equipment in the NHL including laboratory freezers, which run 24/7 to store COVID-19 and other test samples.

The power generator will also supply the electricity for

a HNL's COVID-19 testing machine, which can test more than 1,400 people per day.

Along with the power generator, an Auto Transfer System (ATS) and ground earthing equipment for the installation and operation of the generator were also donated, and all donation valued at K 125 million.

Professor Dr Htay Htay Tin, Deputy Director-General of the National Health Laboratory, expressed thanks to the KBZ Bank for the generous contribution.

Daw Nang Lang Kham, Deputy CEO of KBZ Bank, said the purpose of the donation is to keep more people safe and protected amid COVID-19.

Since 26 February 2020, KBZ Bank and its related organizations — KBZ MS General Insurance, KBZ Life Insurance, Myanmar Airways International (MAI) and Air KBZ—made donations valued at K 3.4 billion to support the containment, prevention, and treatment of COVID-19. — GNLM

Tiger prawns released to support Launglon mangroves

THE Department of Fisheries in Taninthayi Region released tiger prawns to promote the growth of mangroves during the enforcement of COVID-19 preventive measures near Kyauknimaw village in Launglon Township, Dawei District.

Regional fisheries director U Than Chaung first explained the reason for releasing the prawns and handed over them to officials. The director, officials and fishermen then traveled into the mangroves on boat and released 60 saltwater tiger prawns and 1.7 million tiger prawn larvae into the water. —U Kyaw Kyaw Latt (District IPRD)
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



POWERFUL TOOLS

UN chief says int'l cooperation on digital technology essential to help defeat COVID-19

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Saturday that international cooperation on digital technology is essential to help defeat COVID-19.

In a video message marking the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which falls on May 17 annually, the UN chief said that "World Telecommunication and Information Society Day reminds us that in-

ternational cooperation on digital technology is essential to help defeat COVID-19 and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

"Information technology can be a beacon of hope, allowing billions of people around the world to connect," said Guterres.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, these connections - with loved ones, with schools and

colleges, with workplaces, with healthcare professionals and essential supplies - are more important than ever," the secretary-general added.

"The International Telecommunication Union continues to work with the information and communication technology community and UN agencies to help manage and end this crisis, and recover better," he said.



File photo - "New technologies, from 5G and big data to cloud computing and artificial intelligence, are powerful tools to tackle the world's most pressing challenges, including the pandemic," the UN chief said. **PHOTO: AFP**

"New technologies, from 5G and big data to cloud computing and artificial intelligence, are powerful tools to tackle the world's most pressing challenges,

including the pandemic," the UN chief said, adding that "leaving no one behind means leaving no one offline."

SOURCE: Xinhua

A RECORD JUMP

3rd phase of India's lockdown ends as infections cross milestone

SUNDAY marks the end of the third phase of India's nationwide lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of the novel coronavirus, while confirmed COVID-19 cases crossed the grim milestone of 90,000.

While the country has been under some form of lockdown since 25 March, a limited restart of some industries has been allowed since 20 April.

In an address to the nation on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that "Lockdown 4.0" would be "completely different" with new rules, indicating a further easing of restrictions.

"Corona will be with us for a long time, but our lives cannot



Passengers are seen in the queue with social distance when they are entering to the city railway station for travel in the special train, in Bhubaneswar, India, on 15 May, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

revolve around corona," he said, adding that the wearing of masks and observing of social distancing measures will continue.

While details of the new guidelines have yet to be released, local media reported that they will be based on suggestions made by chief ministers of all the states. At the start of the shelter-in-place orders, people were restricted from leaving their homes except for the purchase of daily necessities, and movement across state borders was in principal also prohibited.

Since 20 April, factories in regions with low caseloads have been allowed to resume, while mi-

grant workers have been allowed to head home. This month, even in areas where infections continue to rise, one-third of staff were allowed to show up for work at the offices of private firms. Meanwhile, the country's health authorities announced Sunday that confirmed coronavirus cases now total 90,927, with a record jump of 4,987 cases from the previous day. India, the world's second most populous country, the previous day overtook China in terms of confirmed COVID-19 cases. The country's death toll stands at 2,872, according to the health ministry's latest update.

SOURCE: Kyodo

FACE MASKS

Hamster tests show masks reduce coronavirus spread: scientists



Pedestrians wear face masks as a precautionary measure as they wait for a bus in Hong Kong. Hong Kong will ban all nonresidents from entering the city from midnight on March 24, 2020, in a bid to halt the coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

TESTS on hamsters reveal the widespread use of facemasks reduces transmission of the deadly coronavirus, a team of leading experts in Hong Kong said Sunday.

The research by the University of Hong Kong is some of the first to specifically investigate whether masks can stop symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers from infecting others.

Led by Professor Yuen Kwok-yung, one of the world's top coronavirus experts, the team placed hamsters that were artificially infected with the disease next to healthy animals.

Surgical masks were placed

between the two cages with air flow travelling from the infected animals to the healthy ones.

The researchers found non-contact transmission of the virus could be reduced by more than 60 per cent when the masks were used. Two thirds of the healthy hamsters were infected within a week if no masks were applied. The infection rate plunged to just over 15 per cent when surgical masks were put on the cage of the infected animals and by about 35 per cent when placed on the cage with the healthy hamsters. Those that did become infected were also found to have less of the virus within

their bodies than those infected without a mask. "It's very clear that the effect of masking the infected, especially when they are asymptomatic - or symptomatic - it's much more important than anything else," Yuen told reporters Sunday. "It also explained why universal masking is important because we now have known that a large number of those infected have no symptom." Yuen was one of the microbiologists who discovered the SARS virus - a predecessor of the current coronavirus - when it emerged in 2003, killing some 300 people in Hong Kong.

SOURCE: AFP

Let's live up to trust

MARKETS began to reopen their doors on 16 May for the first time in over one month in complying with the COVID-19 health guidelines. The stores and shops that do reopen are to restrict occupancy and take other protective measures. Restaurants remain on a take-out basis.

This limited reopening of business, which is not a full reopening; rather, it is a cautious step, comes after achievements in fighting against the COVID-19 disease. But, no doubt that limited reopening of business can increase transmission of the virus. It means we are not out of the woods yet and need to remain vigilant. Reopening doesn't mean the virus is gone.

The economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is genuine and perhaps lasting. Businesses need to

reopen. People want to end this self-isolation and we want to return to normal. But, this virus is potentially deadly, especially for the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

Meanwhile, we're seeing about one or two people a day infected with COVID-19. The country's 184 cases of infections so far on 17 May is not large, compared with other countries. Thanks to the united efforts of the people and authorities, we can contain the spread of the virus and save lives.

When it comes to tackling challenges ahead, not only in the coming months but also for the post COVID-19 period, it is necessary to take into consideration the needs of the people and their resilience.

It is time to ease the restrictions and gradually free up movement. But, we must continually monitor the resulting consequences. There must be a correct balance in issuing relaxations and imposing

restrictions.

Sustaining our achievement depends on the public and businesses continuing careful hygiene measures and safety steps such as wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

Still, we need to be alert and active with the understanding that "people's participation is a must" and assist in overcoming the challenges.

In this situation, each and every business and person are highly advised to continue to practice of commonsense public-health measures. It will take individual and collective action to pave the long and measured path to a safe recovery.

We are confident that our people would behave sensibly in the coming days and weeks and give the authorities reason to further turn the dial to open. Let's live up to that trust.

Fourth annual performance review of Bago Region government

By Thi Thi Min
Photo: Tin Soe (Bago)

In our fourth year, we focused on developing various sectors contributing towards national and socioeconomic development by incorporating community-based measures and inclusiveness in our strategies for equal development across the urban and rural areas : U Win Thein (Bago Region Chief Minister)

FROM the moment they assumed office, the Bago Region government has been working hard to drive public socioeconomic development by improving agricultural systems, forming industrial zones, generating or acquiring sufficient electricity, and promoting tourism. In addition, they are continually finding ways to attract more investment, from both domestic and foreign sources, into the region so as to increase individual income for all citizens and create more employment opportunities.

The following is an interview with Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein on their fourth year in office since the civilian government took over administration, asking him about their accomplishments, challenges, and plans moving forward.

Q: Could you tell us what policies you have implemented to drive up development in Bago Region?

A: We have 12 policies in place: (1) generating more electricity and developing infrastructure and urban-rural areas, (2) the agricultural and livestock sector, (3) developing the industrial

sector and SMES, (4) emergence of special economic zones, (5) developing human resources, (6) developing trade, (7) better land, forestry and natural resource management, (8) promoting regional public services, (9) environmental conservation and developing tourism based on the natural environment, (10) ensuring accurate and systematic tax collection, (11) proper administration, rule of law, and abolishing corruption, and (12) increasing cooperation with all stakeholders.

But I hope to talk more about the processes that were in play rather than policies in our one-year performance. We are incorporating policies enacted by the union government and especially directives for attaining certain development goals by 2030. We add that together with our regional Hluttaw and work from there.

In our fourth year, we focused on developing various sectors contributing towards national and socioeconomic development by incorporating community-based measures and inclusiveness in our strategies for equal development across the urban and rural areas. We have annual projects that set an overall arching time frame

for accomplishing these goals.

Q: What forms of cooperation with the executive pillar has been noteworthy or remarkable?

A: We formed the regional Ministry of Immigration and Human Resources, in line with the State Counsellor's guidelines, to develop society both physically and mentally. This will lead to the formation of a skilled labour force. We have also expanded human resources into developing technical sectors.

There is a history of problems with administration of officers, especially from the ward administrators at the most basic level, in these region. We could even say issues with expenditures and administration processes begin from villages, depending on how their administrative structure.

Thus, we try to upgrade the skills and capabilities of village and ward administrators. From checking accounts to compiling them, allotting funds for things like the electric sector or constructing roads and bridges, how to cooperate in the planning phase of projects, and land management.

So, we have been organizing these training programmes and

cooperation at the district and township levels for implementation.

To encourage good democratic practices, we have organized numerous meetings with the members of the public and prioritized awareness raising campaigns. We also negotiated to resolve matters submitted by local residents.

Q: What did you cooperate on with the judicial pillar?

A: We opened community-centered legal support units in 28 townships to ensure the integrity of the judicial pillar. They provide legal consultation and help people with either financial difficulties or insufficient legal knowledge better understand the law. Each court of law also has an information counter and a media room where a Court Information Officer (CIO) facilitates information to the media.

We prioritize the prevention of the 10 major types of crimes, especially the area of illegal drugs where we have apprehended 236 suspects so far. We have also organized over 180 lectures on the subject.

Q: What have you cooperated on with the legislative pillar?

A: We have opened legislative

support offices in 28 townships within the region and I want to say they have been immensely helpful for the public at large. Certain laws like land tax laws or colonial laws would have tax levied at K2 or K3, amounts no longer relevant to present times. We have petitioned to the President to amend them and will cooperate with Hluttaw representatives to designate appropriate tax amounts.

Q: What did you do to develop the agricultural sector?

A: We are in the process of forming a joint-venture agricultural system. This intends for the farmers who are mostly working individually to become more cooperative and work together. The cooperative agricultural law will help farmers understand the collaboration between financial institutions giving out loans, agricultural experts, and international marketing processes.

We are also in the middle of amending the fisheries law to properly implement fishery development in down to the lake and breeding farm level.

We pay close attention to



U Win Thein
Bago Region Chief Minister

land issues directed by the President's office. Land is closely related to the source of most issues and that's why we have formed a committee dedicated solely to resolve these issues.

Q: What did you do to ensure better infrastructure within the region to boost development, including rural areas?

A: Within this year, we have paved about 105 miles of concrete roads, 136 miles of gravel roads, 148 miles of laterite roads, 52 miles of dirt roads, and constructed 160 rural bridges and 133 other bridges, measuring 1,204 feet.

SEE PAGE-10



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein visits the construction of the Sittoung River crossing bridge (Yedashe) on 23 February, 2020.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 17th May, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm (AMPHAN) over South Bay of Bengal has moved to Northwards slowly and further intensified into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (AMPHAN). It is centered at about (515)Nautical miles South of Paradadip (Odisha-India), about (595) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Digha (India), about (660) Nautical miles Southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh), about (450)Nautical miles West-Southwest of Coco-Island and about (590) Nautical miles Southwest of Patheingyi (Myanmar). Weather is cloudy over the South Bay and West Central Bay and partly cloudy and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 18th May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Deltaic, Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-12) feet off and along Deltaic, Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along Gulf of Mottama, Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet off and along Gulf of Mottama, Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th May, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th May, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, 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 sent 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

Fourth annual performance review of Bago Region government

FROM PAGE-9

In Bago Region, there are the Ottwin-Paukkaung and Minhla-Pado roads connecting the two sides of the region separated by the Bago Yoma. There is the Targara road connecting us to Magway Region. The closest town to Bago is Thayawady but the roads connecting to it are in poor condition. Hence, we are constructing a direct road between the two locations. By expanding about 30 miles of the road from Thayawady we can connect it directly to Bago.

We are also in the final stages of paving roads connecting to Kayin State and Kayah State, crossing over the Sittaung River, joining with Yedashe and Toungoo townships and even directly connecting to Thailand. The Ottwin-Htantabin Bridge, Shwegyin Creek Bridge, Kawa Bridge and Thameinbayan Bridge located south of Bago are included in development projects. Once these bridges are complete, regional socioeconomic situations and tourism will noticeably increase.

Q: What about the electric sector, access to drinking water and rural development?

A: Providing electricity to villages is an important task, so we've implemented solar power systems in villages are about 10 to 11 miles from the national power grid, or just too far from national power sources. So far, we have successfully implemented this in 15 villages and provided solar powered electricity to 527 households.

The electric sector is very important and there is the national objective of achieving complete electrification across the entire nation by 2030. In that regard, we have completed the



The opening ceremony of extended building of two-storey new patient ward in Waw Township People's Hospital in Bago Region on 10 March 2020.

33KVA (12 mile) transmission line in Zaungtu village and the 33KV (14.5 mile) line in Tanatpin-Kawa. We are in the middle of constructing a 33/11KV 5MVA sub-power station in Kawa, a 33/11KVA (12 mile) line in Mone, an 11KV (72.99 mile) line, 400V (42.032 mile) line, and 90 transformers.

With regard to the National Electrification Project (NEP)'s 2-mile plan, we have successfully implemented 2,410 solar power systems in 1,460 villages using loans from the World Bank. We were able to provide electricity to 12 villages in the NEP's 2-mile range, a village in the 5-mile range, and six villages in the ranges above 5 miles. We have dug up 330 wells for rural drinking water.

Bago Region started working on construction processes with an annual budget of K160 billion and we have since been allotted up to K200 billion. We have formed the Bago Region Construction Board (BRCB) as a sort of third organization to

The electric sector is very important and there is the national objective of achieving complete electrification across the entire nation by 2030. In that regard, we have completed the 33KVA (12 mile) transmission line in Zaungtu village and the 33KV (14.5 mile) line in Tanatpin-Kawa.

oversee construction processes in the region and ensure they meet deadlines and designated standards.

Q: What have you accomplished in the health sector?

A: We have constructed 3 16-bedded traditional medicine hospitals, a traditional medicine department office, a 50-bedded hospital and 5 16-bedded hospitals across the region. Furthermore, the FDA performs surprise checks in markets, schools and restaurants using mobile labs.



The construction site of the new bridge linking Bago and Yangon.

napier grass plantations for livestock grazing and contract farm systems as well.

Q: What have you done to create more jobs for local residents?

A: We are encouraging SME development in the region and opening training courses for skilled labor. The Bago Region Investment Committee facilitates smooth processes for foreign investments, especially Chinese and western factory investments. We are supporting weaving businesses in Shwetaung, garment businesses in Pyu organized by the Ministry of Border Affairs, and food and beverage businesses until they can operate on their own.

Q: Tell us a bit about the investment sector.

A: There have been 83 foreign investments made in Bago Region with a combined about of USD1,584.666 million. We are implementing industrial plans near Kali village and Pyay, residential projects, and town plans.

Q: What about protecting against natural disasters?

A: The regional government has used K1,000 million in funds for Sittaung River bank erosion along Indaing-Hnawpin village in Htantabin and Yedashe townships. The union government funded the construction of 175 houses in Kyuntawsu village after the spillage from Swar dam and an additional 19 houses in Swar Min Lan village.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?

A: The regional government is putting in all of its efforts in preventing, containing and treating COVID-19 during these trying times. We have opened facility quarantine centers for Myanmar nationals returning from China and Thailand and also opened community fever clinics. People coming in from other states and regions are given medical examinations in Bago or Waw.

I would like to urge to public to remain in their homes to limit the spread of the virus and to wear masks and follow proper conduct if they must venture outside. Please wash your hands frequently and closely follow government health guidelines to ensure the safety of the community from the virus.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Q: How have you developed the hotels and tourism sector?

A: We have begun digging up the moat of the Kanbawzathadi Palace, which is over 500 years old. We are restoring the city walls to their original state. It's a delicate task as they are over 500 years old, so there is a lot of collaboration between numerous departments and the public.

We are attempting to revive the pilgrimage process to Kyai-khteeyoe Pagoda in Shwegyin Township and it is showing promising results. We will uncover an ancient town in Kyaukkyi Township for tourism and transform the runway strip in Nanchun village used during the Second World War into a memory park. In addition, we are establishing private forests and also teaching locals how to craft bamboo and wooden accessories.

Q: How have you developed the agriculture and livestock sector?

A: We have begun experimenting with organic farming in close contact with the FDA. We have resolved 125 land disputes out of 192 reported cases. That's why we will soon resolve the land disputes. We will soon implement

Israel set to swear in Netanyahu-Gantz unity government

JERUSALEM — Israel was poised to swear in a unity government Sunday after three elections, more than 500 days of limbo and a delay on the home stretch, as the country hopes to end the longest political crisis in its history.

The coalition government was agreed last month between veteran right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his centrist rival-turned-ally Benny Gantz, a former army chief.

Plans had been set for an inauguration last Thursday. But after 17 months without a stable government and three inconclusive elections in less than a year, Netanyahu asked for three more days to decide on cabinet assignments among his Likud party loyalists.

With the outstanding dis-



The coalition government was agreed last month between veteran right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, and his centrist rival-turned-ally Benny Gantz, a former army chief. PHOTO:AFP

putes among Netanyahu's bloc apparently resolved, Israel's parliament, the Knesset, was scheduled to meet at 1pm (1000 GMT) to begin the session culminating

with the swearing-in.

Under the three-year coalition deal, Netanyahu will serve as prime minister for the coming 18 months — a victory for a leader

due to stand trial in a week on corruption charges, which he denies.

Gantz will be alternate prime minister — a new position in Israeli governance — for the first half of the deal, before he and Netanyahu swap roles.

The new government's policy guidelines state as top priorities combatting the coronavirus and healing an economy battered by the pandemic.

West Bank annexations?

The new government may be confronted with yet another international crisis in matter of weeks, centred on the occupied West Bank. The Netanyahu-Gantz deal says the government can from 1 July initiate moves to implement US President Donald Trump's controversial peace plan for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.—AFP

Afghan President Ghani and rival Abdullah sign power-sharing deal

KABUL — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah signed a power-sharing deal on Sunday, ending a bitter months-long feud that plunged the country into political crisis.

The breakthrough, which sees Abdullah heading peace talks with the Taliban, comes as Afghanistan battles a series of crises, including a rapid spread of the deadly coronavirus and surging militant violence that saw dozens killed in brutal attacks last week.

"Doctor Abdullah will lead the National Reconciliation High Commission and members of his team will be included in the cab-

inet," Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman for Ghani, wrote on Twitter.

Abdullah's spokesman, Fraidoon Khawzoon, said the deal ensures Abdullah's group gets 50 percent of the cabinet and other provincial governors' posts.

He said the deal is expected to pave the way to achieve the "ultimate goal of the Afghan people, which is peace".

Khawzoon added that the implementation of the deal will be monitored by respected political and national figures.

"The situation in Afghanistan is precarious," Khawzoon said. "We need to maintain our unity, and violations could lead to even deeper crisis in the country."



Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani (left) and Abdullah Abdullah pictured in 2015. PHOTO:AFP

Pictures released by the presidential palace showed Abdullah and Ghani sitting side by side for a signing ceremony, while leading Afghan figures including former president Hamid Karzai looked on.

Abdullah had previously served as Afghanistan's "chief executive" under an earlier power-sharing deal, but lost that post

after he was defeated in a presidential election that incumbent Ghani — a former World Bank economist — won in September amid claims of fraud.

Abdullah, an ophthalmologist, declared himself president and held his own swearing-in ceremony on 9 March, the day Ghani was re-installed as president.—AFP ■

Peru says will build hospital in Amazon for COVID-19 patients



Patients with COVID-19 are treated in the corridor of a hospital in the Amazon city of Iquitos, on 14 May, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

LIMA — Peru said it will construct a fast-build hospital in the Amazon as it seeks to respond to a growing COVID-19 emergency sweeping through the indigenous population.

State social security body EsSalud said it expects the 100-bed hospital in Pucallpa, capital of the remote Ucayali region on the border with Brazil, to be operational within three weeks.

"EsSalud will install a fast-build hospital in Ucayali to serve COVID-19 patients," the government body said in a statement late Friday. The Peruvian Amazon is

already facing a dire emergency, with hospitals in its largest city Iquitos overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients and local morgues unable to cope with the number of bodies. The government said it would rush 220 healthworker reinforcements to the Amazon.

"We have been working intensively to expand the services and provide hospitals in the Peruvian Amazon with all the necessary means to care for patients with COVID-19," said Federico Tong Hurtado, a spokesman for the social security services.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Chinese ambassador to Israel found dead at home: police

TEL AVIV — China's ambassador to Israel, Du Wei, was found dead at his residence on the outskirts of Tel Aviv on Sunday, police said.

The 57-year-old envoy, who had arrived in Israel in mid-February, was found dead in his home in Herzliya, north of the city, spokesman Micky Rosenfeld told AFP, adding that police were investigating.

Du's wife and son were not with him in Israel.

The Chinese foreign ministry said it would only comment when it had "solid" information.

Israeli police and forensics teams could be seen at the residence, a property guarded by a low wall and shaded by a leafy garden, AFP reporters said.

Du had previously served as ambassador to Ukraine, according to his biography on the embassy's website. The Haaretz daily said initial reports said staff had found Du dead in his bed and that there were no signs of violence. It quoted Israel's emergency medical service Magen David Adom as saying the cause of death appeared to be a cardiac incident.—AFP ■

Australian prison drug intercepts spike during virus lockdown

SYDNEY — Prisons in Australia have seen a spike in drugs intercepted in mail since the coronavirus outbreak saw visits suspended, with substances concealed in letters, cards and even a child's painting, officials said Sunday.

Corrective Services NSW, which operates prisons in Australia's most populous state of New South Wales, said contraband had been seized from 135 mail items in April — compared to a monthly average of just 22 in 2019. That followed the suspension of visits to inmates in 38 prisons across the state in mid-March because of the coronavirus outbreak. Earlier this month, prison officers found the opioid buprenorphine concealed within a child's painting, with strips of the drug pasted onto the paper and covered by layers of paint.—AFP ■

Long queues as Thai malls reopen after virus shutdown

BANGKOK — Shoppers flocked to Thailand's top-end malls on Sunday, eager for retail therapy as shopping centres reopened in a gradual easing of restrictions to revive the virus-ravaged economy.

Hundreds of masked customers passed through temperature checks, disinfection stations, and had their photos taken before they were allowed into plush malls in Bangkok.

In the main downtown shopping district, Central World touted a "new normal" of doing business on posters, while screens on the mall's exterior declared "We are open". The shopping centre re-launch comes with Thailand's infection numbers slowing in recent weeks — authorities announced three new cases Sunday, with the total at just over 3,000.

Shopper Taewich Penpatkul said he was "not really worried" about contracting COVID-19 because of Thailand's low



Long queues to enter Bangkok's plush Siam Paragon mall. PHOTO: AFP

caseload.

"Mentally, it makes me feel better that all the malls are now opened," the 23-year-old told AFP.

Customers and businesses were advised to adhere to restrictions, which include limits on the number of people allowed in retail spaces and a ban on alcohol sales in restaurants. Cinemas, however, remain closed.

The food court — often the most popular part of Thai shopping centres — filled up quickly, and a mobile robot roamed around monitoring people's temperatures. Tables had plastic dividers set up to encourage social distancing, while one restaurant placed cardboard dinosaurs opposite customers to indicate the place was not to be used.— AFP ■

Factory workers wary as Detroit's 'Big 3' begins to motor back up

DETROIT — Detroit's auto giants are keen to resume production this week, but there will be unease on assembly lines where social distancing is difficult and worries about the deadly coronavirus persist.

Motor City carmakers insist they are taking precautions to protect employees for the ramp-up that marks a key moment in the attempted relaunching of the US economy. But not everyone is convinced.

"I am expecting a bumpy ride," said one United Auto Workers official, who asked for anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The "Big Three," which have the experience of relaunching in Asia, have set their US restart for 18 May. That is the same day Tesla has been cleared by local regulators in California to resume full production following a faceoff between public health officials and brash Tesla boss Elon Musk

that apparently was resolved with a compromise on enhanced safety measures.

Unlike California, Michigan has been the site of armed marches to the state capitol in protest over restrictions imposed by Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Under pressure from the state's automotive suppliers and carmakers, she modified her stay-at-home orders to allow for the resumption of manufacturing with social distancing.— AFP ■

FCA talking with Italy in bid for 6.3 billion facility

ROME — Fiat Chrysler's Italian unit is in talks with the Italian government for a 6.3 billion euro (\$6.8 billion) credit facility to help sustain the auto manufacturer's operations in Italy, it said.

A "Liquidity Decree" passed by the government in April allows for the state to guarantee loans to Italian companies hurt during the extended quarantine due to coronavirus.

"FCA Italy has initiated a process with the Italian Government to obtain a guarantee from SACE (Italy's export credit agency) in support of a credit facility designed to help the automotive chain Italy, comprised of approximately 10,000 small and medium size businesses," the company said in a statement released Saturday.

Discussions had already begun with Italian bank Intesa Sanpaolo for a 3-year credit facility exclusively for the company's activities in Italy, the company said.

The global automotive sector has been crushed by the coronavirus pandemic as demand

has evaporated and factories have been shuttered.

FCA said the funds from the Italian credit facility would be "for the sole purpose of providing operational support for payments to Italian suppliers to support their liquidity" as well as "supporting the restart of production and investment at Italian plants".

The 6.3 billion euro facility is equivalent to 25 per cent of FCA's industrial subsidiaries in Italy, as per the government's decree.

The automotive sector makes up 6.2 per cent of Italy's GDP, while 7 per cent of jobs in manufacturing are auto-related ones.

In Italy, FCA employs nearly 55,000 workers in its 16 factories and 26 research and development sites. The company work with 12,000 suppliers, comprising 120,000 jobs, it said.

Support for companies not based in Italy pose tricky political problems for the government as millions of companies in the country complain of little or no support.— AFP ■



The logos of automobile companies (LtoR) Abarth, Lancia, Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Jeep are pictured at the entrance to the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) at the Fiat Mirafiori car plant on 27 May, 2019 in Turin, northern Italy. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1028 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1028 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK
EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (259W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (259W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (019S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (019S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2020 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

Italy to reopen borders for EU tourists in early June

ROME — Italy will reopen to European tourists from early June and scrap a 14-day mandatory quarantine period, the government said on Saturday, as it quickened the exit from the coronavirus lockdown.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte also said on Saturday that gyms and cinemas would soon be able to welcome the public again, as the government seeks to restart economic activity while treading cautiously amid the lingering, though waning, coronavi-



Gondoliers in Venice practise on the Grand Canal as they wait for tourists to return to the city. PHOTO: AFP

rus. “We’re facing a calculated risk in the knowledge that the contagion curve may rise again,” Conte said during a televised address. “We have to accept it otherwise we will never be able to start up again.”

Conte enforced an economically crippling shutdown in early March to counter a pandemic that has so far killed nearly 32,000 people in Italy.

The shutdown halted all holidaymaking in a country heavily dependent on the tourism in-

dustry. Although Italy never formally closed its borders and has allowed people to cross back and forth for work or health reasons, it banned movement for tourism and imposed a two-week isolation period for new arrivals.

In March, the European Union banned foreign nationals from entering its Schengen zone, an open border zone comprising 22 of 27 member states, with exceptions for medical workers and essential travel.

—AFP ■

2020 list of UK’s richest shows first fall in wealth in decade

LONDON — Britain’s wealthiest people have lost tens of billions of pounds in the coronavirus pandemic as their combined annual wealth fell for the first time in a decade, the Sunday Times reported in its Rich List 2020.

The newspaper, which has produced the respected annual ranking of the country’s 1,000 wealthiest people since 1989, found the past two months had

resulted in the super-rich losing £54 billion (\$65 billion, 60 billion euros).

More than half of the billionaires in Britain had seen drops in their worth by as much as £6bn, a decrease in their collective wealth unprecedented since 2009 and the financial crisis.

Inventor James Dyson bucked the trend to top the list for the first time, with an estimated wealth of

£16.2bn. The paper credited his rise from fifth place in 2019 to both the strong performance of his businesses and the plummeting fortunes of other billionaires in the top 10.

The Hinduja brothers, who topped last year’s list with a £22bn fortune, saw among the biggest falls in worth — £6bn — and are now ranked jointly second with entrepreneurs David and Simon Reuben.

Jim Ratcliffe, boss of petrochemicals firm Ineos, who topped the rankings in 2018, also saw his worth slide by £6bn to £12.15bn.

Steel baron Lakshmi Mittal was another to see the steepest falls in his fortune — nearly £4bn — placing him 19th with a worth of £6.78bn.

In total, the 2020 list calculated the combined wealth of Britain’s super-rich to be £743bn — £29bn less than last year.

—AFP ■



British inventor James Dyson, founder of the Dyson company, topped the Sunday Times rich list for the first time. PHOTO: AFP

Coronavirus crisis punctures Tunisia tourism rebound

TUNIS — As the novel coronavirus pandemic wipes out a recovery from jihadist attacks in 2015, Tunisia’s vital tourism sector is trying to find ways to avoid going under.

“Normally, the season starts now. But there is nobody,” said Mohammed Saddam, who owns

an antiques shop in the famous blue and white village of Sidi Bou Said, near the capital Tunis.

Usually its streets are filled with tourists at this time of year, but now Saddam is only opening his store for an hour a day to air it out.

“We are waiting for the airspace to reopen,”

he said. “But 2020 is a write-off.”

The North African country has registered 45 deaths from the COVID-19 illness, and for several days this week saw no new infections, putting it among Mediterranean countries faring relatively well in the pandemic.

—AFP ■



NOTICE OF TENDER



Date: 18 May 2020

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)’s Project Management Consultant (hereinafter referred to as the “PMC”) for the Project for “Establishment of Integrated Agriculture and Irrigation Master Plan (EIAIDMP), Ayeyarwady Delta Region” invites prospective bidders for Consulting services for the Agriculture Remote Sensing Based on Geographic Information System (hereinafter referred to as the “Services”). The EIAIDMP is being implemented with the grant aid of the Government of Republic of Korea

Brief of Bidding

- **Bid Title:** Agriculture Remote Sensing Based on Geographic Information System for the “Establishment of Integrated Agriculture and Irrigation Master Plan (EIAIDMP), Ayeyarwady Delta Region”
 - **Contract Duration:** 3 months from the commencement date
 - **Estimated Budget: USD100,000 (inclusive of taxes)**
 - **Summary of Consulting Services**
 - Study area: Ayeyarwady Region
 - Scope and Method: Specified in the Request For Proposals (RFP)
- Employer: KOICA PMC for the Project for “Establishment of Integrated Agriculture and Irrigation Master Plan (EIAIDMP), Ayeyarwady Delta Region”
 - Bid Type: Open Competitive Bidding for Myanmar and International Consultants
 - Selection of the Successful Bidders:
 - Evaluation consists of Bid Financial Evaluation of Twenty (20) Points and Technical Evaluation of Eighty (80) Points. Total of One hundred (100) points
 - Details of Selection of the Successful Bidder is specified in the RFP
 - The RFP will be provided upon applicants’ request by emails or written letters to the PMC.
 - Instructions and Schedule:**
 - [Clarification]
 - The Consultants may request clarification of RFP not later than 25 May 2020
 - [Bid]
 - Place for Bid Submission: **PMC office**
 - Bid Closing (Submission): 1 June, 2020, 14:00 at **PMC office**
 - Financial Proposal Opening: 8 June 2020, 10:00 at **PMC office**
 - Currency of Financial Proposal (Bid Price): **United States Dollar**
 - Currency of Contract: **United States Dollar**
 - The applicants can apply as a sole consultant or consortiums/Joint Ventures. The applicant shall include at least one Myanmar Company as a member or sole consultant. Details are specific in Letter of Invitation of RFP
- Bid Price of Financial proposal shall be equal or less than the Estimated Budget. Any bid exceeding the limitation may result in rejection of its bid.
 - The RFP includes following documents but not limited to:
 - Letter of Invitation
 - Instructions to Consultants
 - Technical Proposal – Standard Forms
 - Financial Proposal – Standard Forms
 - Terms of Reference
 - Standard Forms of Contract
 - Language of Proposal: All documents shall be written in English. If the other languages documents delivered by the government administration, bank, educational, professional organizations and others for the proof of Bid Evaluation Criteria, the NOTARIZED English documents shall be attached.
 - PMC shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids
 - All bidders are expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms and specifications of the bidding documents. Failure to furnish all information required by the bidding documents or submission of a bid not substantially responsive to the bidding documents in every respect shall be at the Bidder’s risk and may result in the rejection of the bid.
 - Contact Information

PMC Office

Address: 1F, Extension Building, Design Branch, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, Thitsar Road, Yankin T/S, Yangon
Tel: 95-94 28460701, 95-97 95413155
E-mail: eiaidmpkoica@gmail.com
Attention: ROH Gyeong Tae, Project Manager, EIAIDMP



Bird's-eye view of Pinn Creek in summer.

One Day in Yenangyoung

By Thiha, the Traveller
@ Thiha Lulin

IT was a region friendly with me since I read school textbooks in my childhood. The region was friendlier with me in reading fiction books when I was in teenage life. I have never considered paying a visit to such region. While reading the books related to such region, I have felt suffocation and hotness. Actually, it was a lovely town with hospitality for the guests.

Yenangyoung, the land of oil wells dubbed as black gold possesses lovely beauty which cannot meet panoramic scenes of dry region of Myanmar despite hotness in summer. On my way to Bagan, I took a spare time to visit Yenangyoung. Although there were no so many

destinations, the historic town still preserves buildings in colonial era.

Five names of Yenangyoung

Everybody immediately knows Yenangyoung is included in Magway District of Magway Region. In the post-war era, government offices opened in the town located on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River. It was named Seiktha Kunhtauk, Kyaukka, Yenantha and ever lighting city (Meemanyein City). As of 1973, its name has been Yenangyoung, the fourth largest city in Magway Region.

I noticed Yenangyoung is a native land of Abbot Ashin Chandadhika, writers Juu, Myat Nyein and Thet Oo Maung (Chauk) and vocalists Ko Tin Hlaing and Yenantha Soe Hlaing. Moreover, it was

the land of school where national leader General Aung San attended. It was the land of marking the first May Day celebration.

Climatic conditions

I think it does not need to compose hotness of the town. But, all the guests can prefer hotness of the city. Despite hotness, some parts of the town are formed with hilly areas. The guests can taste travel feeling on their ways among hills but these hills are barren among vast dry plains in its environs.

Travelling sites in Yenangyoung

Buildings in colonial era are attractive to guests. In the past, film directors choose Yenangyoung to create films portraying the past events. Actually, Yenangyoung is the second

Hollywood of Myanmar apart from PyinOoLwin. So many films created in Yenangyoung caught attention of the people. Not only local people but also student youths will give a helping hand to you when you visit the travelling sites. Their help and hospitality is one of the facts to pay visit to the town.

Stone inscription chamber for Tri Pittakat treatises

It can be said as Yenangyoung stone inscription chamber. Cornerstones were laid down for the chamber on 13 October 1914 and construction completed on 21 October 1925. It is located on Yadanagiri Hill in Ponnagon Ward. The chamber, the pagoda, the prayer hall and the Buddha image were donated by oil well owner U Tha Kan and wife Daw Khin Thin including daughter Khin Ma Ma Gyi. The chamber showcases



Eight-dimensional Hsutaungpyae Pagoda



The house with 99 doors taking position for guests to the past.



Public relaxation centre can be seen at Hill



The stone plaque chamber stores 451 plaques



a.



near Sanaynan Pagoda, bring the souls of



lock of Cupid.



ques for Tri Pitakat treatises.

114 stone plaques for Vinaya treatise, 213 plaques for Abhidhamma and 124 plaques for Suttan. I noticed the famous novel with the title of "Paramiphet Khin Mon (1982) written by writer Nyein Kyaw was based on the stone inscription from the chamber.

Oil wells

These are good scenes for taking photos rather than travelling. Especially, the scenes along Yenangyoung-Chauk road are attractive to photographers to take wonderful photos. But, the oil wells are operating themselves, and it is difficult to ask about the oil wells because of lack of people there.

Sanaynan Stupa

Only when Sanaynan Stupa is included in the talks about Yenangyoung, will its history be complete. The stupa was one of 84,000 stupas built by King Asoka from India. The stupa built on 218 Sasana era is located on Awatagiri Hill. Its name is Shwemuhtaw, then Shwemyintin and now Sanaynan because the site of pagoda was moved and moved to the southwest corner of the town.

The house with 99 doors

It is eminent in Yenangyoung. Taking a position near Sanaynan Stupa, the house is formed with ninety nine doors. Except 99 doors,

it does not have any amazing things but it can bring the souls of guests to the past. Readers seem the house as residence of the novel with the title of Yenantha Khin Khin Gyi created by writer Maung Thein Hsaing. All the travellers went to the house without fail. However, owners of house will not allow any guests to visit there. It will be just a trip to the house for taking photos.

Eight-dimensioned Hsutaungpyae Pagoda

The pagoda takes a position on a hillock where travellers can enjoy aerial views of the town. Travellers should enjoy scenes from the hillock in the morning and evening. Travel in the afternoon to the pagoda was inappropriate because I felt hotness.

Yenangyoung Degree College

I have never specified universities and schools for travelling. Now, I expressed signboard in front of the degree college and the lovely road, rather than travelling on the campus. I was pleasure for looking at the degree college portrayed in the novels of writers.

Hillock of Cupid

The Hillock of Cupid is on the lovely ground situation as

a favourable travel site mentioned in the novels of writer Juu. The hillock was improved in public recreation style, facilitated with heart-shaped frames for taking photos, seats for taking relaxation and sports gear for taking physical exercises. I felt walking flavour on dried grass and crawling dwarf plants with spikes on the hillock as well as strolling along a small ravine. But, travellers need to take care of plunging into the ravine while taking photos. In fact, they should pay visit to the Hillock of Cupid in the morning and evening.

Pinn Creek

Proper sites for taking a bath can be seen along the bank of Pinn Creek. The creek will be full of water in monsoon but only narrow waterway streams in summer. So, travellers can swim in the waterway happily while going for a picnic. Food stalls are alive both upstream and downstream Pinn Creek. I prefer to visit the site with wide scene beside the bridge.

NatkanU Valley

It is a good site for conducting geological surveys. A record was mentioned that soil particles are of Kyaukkok Formation (Irrawaddy Formation). The valley is in shape of pavement between two rocks. Some parts of the valley are 31 feet high.

The whole route is 1,871 feet long. Some scripts were created by youth travellers on the walls. Some parts of the walls were depicted with pictures. If beautiful paintings can be created on walls of both sides, it may be attractive to travellers. Such a site is beautiful for taking photos and observing geological conditions.

Yenangyoung is a lovely town despite not so many travelling sites. Travellers can pay visits to religious edifices including Pin Sakkalanpa Pagoda in Yenangyoung. The buildings in works of colonial era take positions inside and outside the town. Large water tankers made of iron sheets are also catching attentions of travellers. Modern lodges in Yenangyoung welcome the guests. But I could not stay there. Yenangyoung shows its beauties as a poem. In fact, Yenangyoung is always bearing lovely scenes in three seasons. It is sure that the travellers who visited Yenangyoung once would have a thought to pay visit to it once more because of its specific ground situation among other towns in the central Myanmar.

May the world quickly be healthy. May all be healthy.
(Translated by Than Tun Aung)



A 31 feet high valley is lovely for taking photos.



Myanmar professional football player Myat Kaung Khant.
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Myat Kaung Khant discontinues contract with Thai club

MYAT KAUNG KHANT, a Myanmar professional footballer, discontinued his contract with Thailand's Chainat Hornbill Football Club.

He was a talented home grown player of Myanmar Football Academy. In 2017, Yadanarbon signed him with a transfer fee of K 5 million.



He officially made his debut in 2018 at the age of 17 and since then, he had been part of the senior squad.

He scored his first ever professional goal in his debut game. After spending 2 years in Myanmar National League, he earned a move to Chainat Hornbill.

He became the second Myanmar player who discontinued contract with Thailand football clubs this month.

In the early of this month, Kyaw Ko Ko discontinued contract with Thailand's Sukhothai Football Club.—Shine Htet Zaw

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Klopp confident Liverpool can win title without being at their best



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp is trying to lift the pressure on his Premier League leaders. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Jurgen Klopp has insisted Liverpool have no need to be at their “all-time best” in order to clinch a first English league title in 30 years. Premier League officials are now aiming to restart the season in mid-June, with Liverpool just two wins away from the title when the campaign was postponed on Mar 13 because of the coronavirus outbreak.

For so long the dominant force in English football, the Merseysiders have not been crowned domestic champions in the Premier League era, with the last of their league titles coming when they won the old First Division crown in 1990. But as teams start returning to training, Liverpool manager Klopp has tried to ease any mounting pressure on his runaway leaders who are 25 points clear at the top. “Football is a game where everyone is pretty much in the same situation we play against another team and we don't have to be at our all-time best we have to be at our best possible and that's exactly the same for the other teams,” he told the BBC's Football Focus programme. “Whenever we will start we will have had the same time for preparation and our job was always, and always will be, to use the situation you are in. We will be in as good a shape as possible.”

Meanwhile the German boss said he was desperate to return to “normal life” after an unexpected two-month break by getting back to Liverpool's Melwood training base, where players will initially train in small groups. “Lockdown has been as good as possible it's not exactly what I want to do but it's what we all have to do so we try to make the best of it,” said Klopp.—AFP ■

La Liga clubs given permission to expand into group training

MADRID — La Liga have told clubs they will be able to increase training to involve groups of up to 10 players on Monday as teams take another step towards the planned resumption of the season next month.

The Spanish government has announced protocol that will allow training sessions to be expanded by all clubs, even those belonging

to areas that are further behind in the country's de-escalation programme.

It means teams like Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid will be able to train in groups of 10, a source at La Liga told AFP, despite both Madrid and Catalonia remaining in ‘phase 0’ as two of Spain's worst-hit regions by coronavirus.

Espanyol, Leganes, Getafe and Real Valladolid will also be given special permission to do training in larger groups.

The move comes as a boost to La Liga's hopes of restarting the season in the middle of June and following the lead of Germany's Bundesliga, which staged games behind closed doors on Saturday.—AFP ■

Bayern aim to shake off cobwebs with quiet confidence in Berlin

BERLIN—Bayern Munich restart their charge for an eighth straight Bundesliga title at Union Berlin on Sunday amid doubts the Bavarian giants will be able to last the distance after a two-month hiatus.

Hansi Flick's side hold a one-point lead at the top of the league heading into their trip to the German capital, which has been the scene of some impressive upsets thanks to promoted Union's form at their Alten Forsterei stadium.

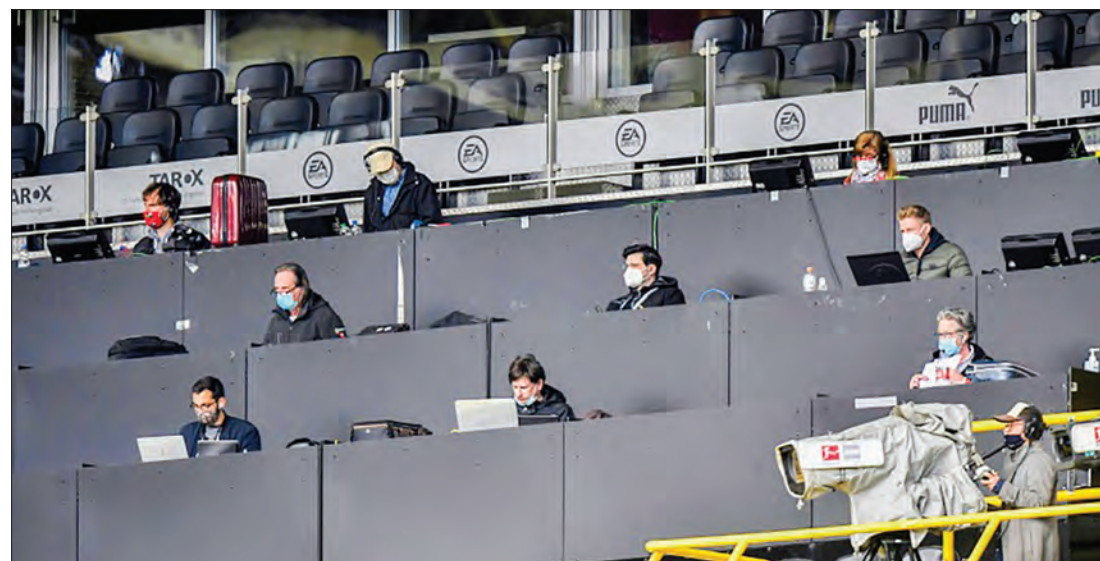
Union have twice shocked the league leaders this season, beating Borussia Dortmund 3-1 in August and turning out 2-0 victors over Borussia Mönchengladbach three months later.

Now it's Bayern's turn

Flick is unsure of his team's ability to play out a full match of professional football after hav-

ing only received the go-ahead to resume full team training last week. “We don't know if the team can hold out over 90 minutes,”

said Flick. “We have trained well and played three matches of 20 minutes each last Sunday.—AFP ■



Plenty of room for a view: Journalists in the press tribune at Saturday's game between Borussia Dortmund and Schalke which was played in the absence of spectators. **PHOTO: AFP**