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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 35, 15th Waning of Kasone 1382 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 21 May 2020

Myanmar President, PRC President discuss closer bilateral ties in various sectors



U Win Myint, President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar

“... further enhancement of the existing friendly relations and expansion of cooperation based on the spirit of the community of shared future, joint celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China ...”



Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

UWIN Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar had a telephone conversation with His Excellency Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China on 20 May 2020 at 18:10.

During the telephone conversation, the two leaders focused their discussions on matters related to China's

commendable achievement in successfully controlling the COVID-19, closer collaboration between the two countries in combatting the pandemic, China's continued provision of medical supplies and other assistance related to COVID-19 response in Myanmar. Moreover, they also cordially discussed further enhancement of the existing friendly relations and

expansion of cooperation based on the spirit of the community of shared future, joint celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China as the situation of COVID-19 improves, strengthening cooperation between the two countries in maintaining peace and stability at the border areas and combat-

ting the pandemic, continued cooperation in regional and international arenas. They also discussed on exchanging high level visits in post Covid-19 period and speeding up the implementation of projects under the Belt and Road Initiatives and Myanmar-China Economic Corridor which were agreed during President Xi's State Visit to Myanmar earlier this year.—MNA

6 cases are tested positive for COVID-19, all are returnees from UAE

More 6 positive cases of COVID-19 were found in Myanmar on 20 May, and the national tally has reached 199, according to the report of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

All these 6 persons are the returnees from the United Arab Emirates.

They are from North Okkalapa, Pabedan, Thakayta, Tamway, Mingalar Taungnyunt and Insein town-

ships of Yangon Region. Out of 199 positive cases in Myanmar, 6 died, 108 persons have recovered and 98 persons have been discharged from the hospital.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

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PYITHU HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw convenes 3rd day meeting of 16th regular session

PYITHU Hluttaw organized the 3rd day meeting of 16th regular session yesterday, with questions and answers to asterisked questions.

MP Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin constituency asked the relevant ministries for inviting foreign investments and loans after adopting policies to receive financial investments, technologies and warehouses to store seasonal crops for ensuring stability of agricultural produce market.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo explained the ongoing works of his ministry for price stability, smooth trade, export promotion and reasonable prices of agricultural produce, and the collaborative efforts of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation with the relevant organizations to support this sector. MP U Kyaw Swe Win (a) U Ar Lu from Kawhmu constituency asked about the reconstruction of main market in his constituency.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Nyi Tun answered that no one has submitted the tender



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo.

for this project although open tenders have been invited for two times on 7 December 2017 and 5 October 2018.

MP U Myat Lay Oo from Htilin constituency asked about construction of a single-sided dam for household and irrigation water in Sinswe village in his constituency.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw remarked the project is not appropriate for the area due to the geographical and climatic situations, but he suggested possibility of underground wells after conducting feasibility studies.

MP U Tun Tun from Pwintbyu constituency asked about



MP Daw Cho Cho.

the increasing amounts of foreign investments and national investments from April 2016 to December 2019, as well as the prospect of future investments, and question was answered by Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh; MP Win Myint Aung from Dabayin constituency asked about removal of paddy warehouses in Shwebo, Wetlet and Saipyin town of Debayin townships, and it was answered by Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo; MP U Myo Zaw Oo from Lewe constituency asked about promotion of Alar village-tract to Alar Town in his constituency, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aye



Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh.

Maung Sein replied the query; MP Dr Saw Naing from South Okkalapa constituency asked for a long term project for using gravity system water supply technique, together with the existing pumping system from Ngamoeyik water treatment plant, to be able to reduce electricity consumption, and the question was answered by Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Nyi Tun.

MP U Nyunt Win from Kanpetlet constituency asked about removal of squatters from old town of his constituency and inspecting land area of hotel zones; U Tun Tun Naing from Kani constituency asked about renovation of embankment and requirement



MP U Tun Tun.

of designs for safety measures in renovation works; U Than Lin Lin from Mesei constituency asked about creek water project for sufficiency of household water in Hosei and Nantman villages, the questions were answered by Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the receiving Myanmar Health Assistant Council Bill with the recommendations of Amyotha Hluttaw, and Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aye presented their report on it to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The 4th day of Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 25 May.—Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw approves 5th amendment regulations of Hluttaw election bylaws

Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe.



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.



MP U J Yaw Wu.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 4th day meeting yesterday, with substitutions of Hluttaw committee chairpersons and members, questions to the relevant ministries and approvals of 5th amendment regulations of Hluttaw election bylaws.



MP Dr Zaw Lin Htut.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khine Than sought approvals of parliament for substitutions of chairpersons and members of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Commit-

tee and the Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee.

MP U J Yaw Wu from Kachin State constituency (1) asked question about possible permit for feasibility study of gold excavation survey to the Australia-based Fortuna Metal Myanmar Co., Ltd on 300,000 acres of land in Khaunglanphu Township of Putao district, Kachin State.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe replied the ongoing process before issuing the permit in line with rules, regulations and laws.

MP U Sai San Aung from Shan State constituency (12) asked for cancellation of Hpakha reserved forest area that covers town and rural areas of Hopan Township in Wa Self-Administered Division. Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe explained issuing order for cancellation of 251.08 acres from 35 villages included in the reserved forest area and the move will continue in coordination with the Amyotha Hluttaw's the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and

the Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee.

MP U Aung Thein from Bago Region constituency (12) asked about electricity distribution for Taungnyo new town in Nattalin Township of his constituency as there is now power supply for emergency operation theatre at Kwinkyal station hospital.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win replied it will implemented by the budget of Ministry of Electricity and Energy with technical assistance of his ministry.

MP U San Myint from Ayeyawady Region constituency (3) asked about electricity supply for Daikpyat village in Kyonpyaw Township of Ayeyawady Region.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win said that it will be carried out with the local government fund for 2021-2022 financial year.

MP Dr Zaw Lin Htut from Mon State constituency (9) asked about control measures on e-cigarettes.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied the urgent plan of her

ministry to ban the e-cigarettes.

MP U Myint Naing from Rakhine State constituency (5) presented requirement of rural clinic each in Linque and Matinhmaing villages of Kyauktaw Township in his constituency.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein answered that reports have shown no rural clinic is required in Linque village, while the latter village will need a clinic.

MP U Kyaw Ni Naing from Shan State constituency (11) asked about establishment of FDA office in Laukkai Township of Kokang-Administered Zone, MP U Win Aung from Sagaing Region constituency (3) about upgrade of rural clinic to health-care centre in Thayetpin Township of Sagaing region. It was replied by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.

Then, the Amyotha Hluttaw approved the 5th amendment regulations of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaw and Region/State Election Bylaw.

The 4th day meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw will convene on 25 May.—Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

Working Committee meets to address the impact of COVID-19 on the country’s economy

THE fifth meeting of the Working Committee to address the Impact of COVID-19 on the country’s economy was held via video conferencing system yesterday morning.

The meeting was chaired by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Members of the working committee Union Ministers, U Soe Win, U Thein Swe, Dr. Than Myint, Governor

of Central Bank of Myanmar, U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and representatives of the Ministries concerned took part in the meeting.

The meeting decided to expedite loans to businesses adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19. The loans approved on this occasion include applications of businesses from States and Regions as well as Yangon based enterprises. —MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Tun discusses the video conference to address impact of COVID-19 on Myanmar’s economy. PHOTO: MNA

MoALI discusses participatory irrigation management system



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu attends the conference on promoting Participatory Irrigation Management system yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

A conference on promoting Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Min Oo, directors-general of the ministry’s departments, and officials from the Department of Irrigation and Water Management attended the meeting.

Dr Aung Thu first delivered a speech where he said the availability of freshwater is steadily decreasing as climate change occurs around the world. He said the Department of Irrigation and Water Management needs to

ensure farmers and cultivators have access to sufficient water supply for irrigation.

The Union Minister said they formed the water utilization association and published a manual and guidebooks for PIM back in April this year. He said this meeting will discuss PIM implementation so that farmers and cultivators are able to effectively use the right amount of irrigation for their fields.

Next, Director-General U Bo Bo Kyaw of the Department of Irrigation and Water Management explained the implementation process of PIM and the Union Minister gave instructions as necessary.

Experts working on the

BWID (Irrigation Development Project in Western Bago Region), supported by JICA, and engineers from the Department of Irrigation and Water Management formed a task force in April 2017.

That task force compiled the PIM guidelines and handbook on forming a water utilization group. Water utilization groups were formed under a reservoir drinking water system starting from 2000 before the PIM guidelines were drafted. There were 1,206 WUGs formed in that regard. With the expansion of WUGs and WUAs, there are now 1,587 WUGs and 8 WUAs.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoHS prepares for upgrade of internet page, social networks

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presided over the meeting at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to upgrade internet page and social networks of his ministry.

He discussed using common terms in publishing announcements on health issues and about diseases with higher death tolls than COVID-19, linking with public in healthcare projects of the ministry and improvement of internet and social networks of the ministry.

Senior officials of MoHS and officials of eHealth Division also presented awareness information, completion of e-memo system, the existing manpower database in healthcare sector and coordination with the Facebook Myanmar team.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win and senior officials of the ministry.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe chairs the meeting for upgrade of internet page and social networks of Ministry of Health and Sports. PHOTO: MNA

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National-level resettlement programme, closure of IDP camps discussed through videoconference



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye talks on video conference about implementation of national strategy for resettlement programmes and closure of IDP camps in Myanmar. **PHOTO:MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye presided over the video conference meeting yesterday afternoon on implementation of national strategy for resettlement programmes and closure of IDP camps in the country.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed difficult situations of his committee to continue the national strategy amid COVID-19, and requirements of international experiences in these works.

Myanmar announced the National Strategic Plan for Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure of IDP Camps in November 2019, and its national-level committee was formed on 25 February 2019 and its first meeting was held on 25 March.

The ministry started working together with the relevant ministries on 28 March 2020 in COVID-19 awareness programmes and supplying health-care items by spending K2.1 billion to prevent the spread of viral disease.

Prof Walter Kaelin, International Consultant from Switzerland, discussed resettlement plans with emphasis on livelihood, education, health, resistance to natural disasters and other requirements, comparing with the situations in some countries of Africa and Europe.

He also advised to adopt plans that meet requirements of IDPs.

Participants at the meeting also discussed the works in national strategies and future implementations.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

COVID-19 in Myanmar Updated at 8 pm, 20 May 2020 Total: now 199

1. Result on testing of 159 samples at the Department of Medical Research and 94 samples in the first group at the National Health Laboratory (Yangon), totalling 253 on 20 May afternoon showed SIX new positive cases.
2. There are a total of 199 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 20 May.
3. FOUR old cases (Case 28, 43, 87, 125) were tested negative two consecutive times, in a total of 108 persons up to 20 May, Among them, 98 persons have been discharged from the hospital and they will be kept isolation at the designated places.
4. The total death toll remains at 6.
5. There are a total of 66 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 20 May.

COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Report at 8 pm, 20 May 2020

Samples tested at Department of Medical Research on 20 May	159
Samples tested in first group at National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on 20 May	94
COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2)	6

COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm, 20 May 2020

	New	Total
Confirmed Cases	6	199
Recovered Cases	4	108
Death	0	6

Report on COVID-19 cases in laboratory tests 20 May: Updated 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
194	36	Male	North Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (in Insein Township)
195	24	Male	Pabedan Tsp, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
196	44	Male	Thakayta Tsp, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
197	32	Male	Tamway Tsp, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
198	42	Male	Mingalar Taungnyunt Tsp, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
199	30	Male	Insein Tsp, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	

Mobile market system underway in Yangon outskirts: MFVP

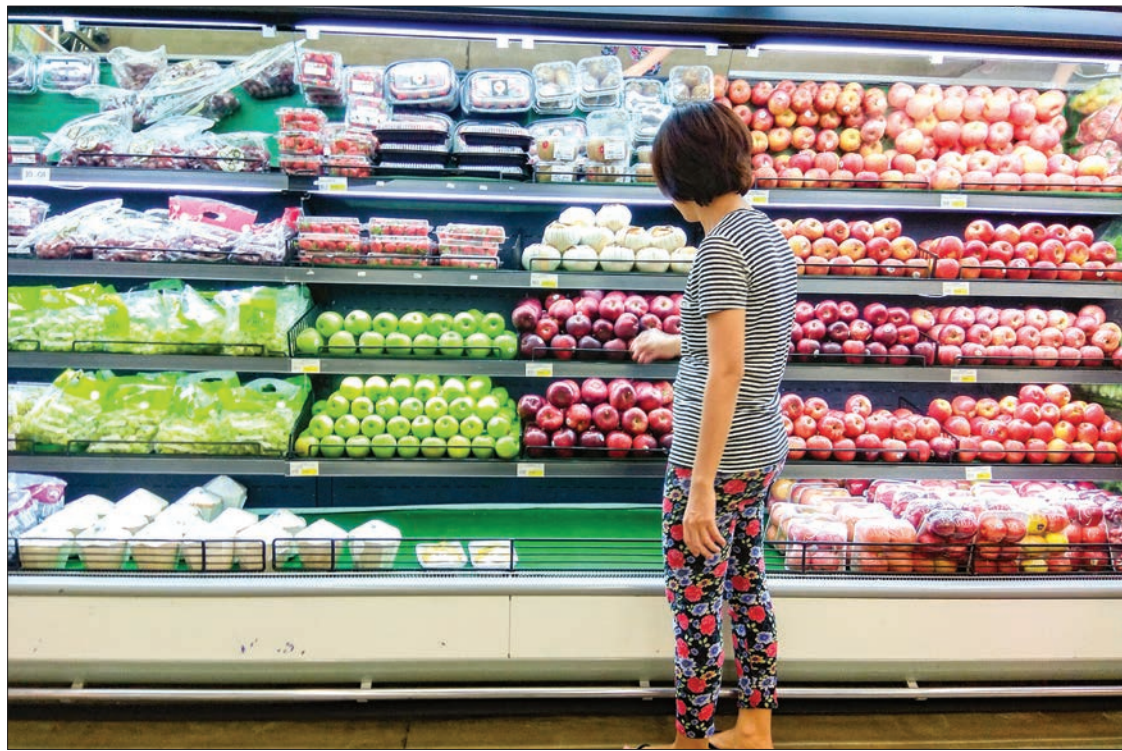
By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) has launched e-commerce platform and also, sell the fruits and vegetables with mobile market trucks in the suburban townships of Yangon, MFVP Secretary U Kyaw Thu told the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

The fruits and vegetable growers in Naungtayar, Pindaya and Aungban towns in southern Shan State are facing financial hardships amid coronavirus outbreak. Those local products will be sold through this platform.

“Yangon people are the main consumers. During the coronavirus pandemic, people are staying at home and so, we are arranging the mobile market trucks to sell them in the townships. This plan will bring fair trade at a cheaper rate for the vendors as well as the consumers as it is direct trade from the growers,” he said.

The cabbage growers in Naungtayar town, southern Shan State have been suffering losses



A woman selecting the fruits at a supermarket in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

as the market ruined. Earlier, the cabbages were sent to Thirimingala market in Yangon. Now, the coronavirus shocks shut down the hotels and restaurants and ruined the market.

The cabbage price drastically plunged to K100 from K1,000 compared to last year.

In the coming months, Napa cabbage, pineapple and tomatoes are going to be harvested and market preparation is crucial, he continued.

Three or four market trucks will go around the crowded suburban townships.

Additionally, people can buy

the vegetables online through e-commerce mobile application which have been developed by MFVP.

People can start using the application on 20 May. They can choose two options to collect their order; self-pick-up or delivery service, he added.

The sellers can display their products through application, describing price, quality and quantity and product image. The consumers can buy direct online.

Those interested buyers can download application and log in free with Facebook account or google or phone number. The sellers must be a member of MFVP. Those online retailers do not need to pay any charges.

Later, that online platform will be expanded for the wholesale and export markets, MFVP stated. On 18 May, under the guidance of MFVP, 12-wheel truck of cabbage were distributed free of charge each in Thingyangyun and South Dagon townships.

The second batch of free distribution is planned to proceed in East Dagon and Hlinethaya townships.

The civil society organizations (CSOs) contributed transportation charges and the CSOs and well-wishers are planning to return the contributions given by the people to remedy the loss of the growers hit hard by the coronavirus.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Member companies urged for contract farming this monsoon: MRF

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) has urged the member companies, rice traders and exporters to carry out contract farming in the coming monsoon paddy season to boost rice production and offer guaranteed pricing to motivate the farmers to produce quality crop, said the MRF-released press statement on 19 May. The federation has met with the member companies to implement contract farming.

MRF has informed those companies, rice millers and traders who wish to conduct contract farming to report detailed plan and projected acres and townships to MRF through admin@mrf.com.mm by 21 May 2020.

According to the MRF, quality control and food safety are key to the promotion of exports. Therefore, improved agricultural practices need to be developed.

Additionally, the country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, including regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders and some

grower groups, are required to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

This farming system also aims to reduce the debt-burden of farmers and to attract more investment to the sector, he pointed out. In a bid to promote cooperation between farmers and companies involved in the value chain of the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation released provisions for contract farming on 31 January 2020. Contract farming is a system under which companies have to provide quality input and technical assistance.

The contract system outlines 9 provisions for farmers, 10 for farming companies and 9 for government. The ministry has posted the contract on its website (www.agri.com.mm), and has urged the two sides to study it thoroughly before going into business. The contract farming system is part of the government's efforts to encourage Private-Public Partnerships involving the government and the private sector.

The strategies, directives,

and procedures for contract farming are aimed at ensuring a strong market for crops and quality crops. Under the contract farming system, farmers and companies can decide on the price and quality of crops before cultivation, which can help create a sustainable market. Farmers, on their part, would be responsible for growing crops using Good Agricultural Practices and producing crops that meet the quality, quantity, and standards set by both sides under the contract.

Myanmar intends to export over 2 million tonnes of rice for the current fiscal year 2019-2020, the federation stated.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 28 February in the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been estimated at over 1.37 million tonnes, worth \$396.29 million, as per the data released by the MRF.

Myanmar has shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was a record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million tonnes, worth \$691 million, in the 2018-2019FY.—Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Investments from Hong Kong cross \$1.3 bln in seven months (Oct-Apr)

HONG Kong has emerged as the largest investor in Myanmar in the current fiscal with 39 Hong Kong-based firms pumping in US\$1.33 billion in real estate development, electricity, and garment businesses as of February-end, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Hong Kong topped the list of investors in the past five months, followed by Singapore, which invested an estimated \$917 million in 11 projects.

Investments also flowed into the country from China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, the UK, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Viet Nam, Samoa, China (Taipei) and Seychelles.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$3.35 billion flowed into Myanmar during the October-April period, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to DICA.

DICA intends to reach its FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the 2019-2020 financial year.

“This year, infrastructure projects such as industrial parks and urban development projects are bringing investments into the country,” said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

“Myanmar is trying to attract foreign investment by providing tax relief, tax incentives, investment opportunities, and fast processing of proposals. However, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting only responsible businesses to the country,” he said.

The economic interaction between Myanmar and Hong Kong has been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong emerged as the fourth largest investor in Myanmar after Singapore, China, and Thailand. Between 1988 and February 2020, 234 enterprises from Hong Kong brought in foreign direct investment of \$9.54 billion into Myanmar, according to official data on existing enterprises provided by the DICA.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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National coord committee discusses COVID-19 cooperation with ALP

THE national coordination committee for negotiating COVID-19 measures with ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) held an online video conference with the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) yesterday.

The government's side had the meeting from the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) on Shweli Road in Yangon and included Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, Vice-Chairman Lt-Gen (retd) Khin Zaw Oo and committee members. Joining the meeting from the ALP were Saw Mra Razar Lin, deputy head of the peace implementation group, and other representatives.

Dr Tin Myo Win first delivered the opening speech and the meeting then commenced with an explanation of the seven points of agreement discussed with the ten NCA-S EAOs to ALP.

Peace Commission advisory board member U Hla Maung Shwe said the meeting discussed possible cooperation with ALP on COVID-19 matters



National coordination committee for negotiating COVID-19 measures with ethnic armed organizations hold online video conference with Arakan Liberation Party yesterday. **PHOTO: POE HTAUNG**

and the ALP attended the meeting with the ten NCA-S EAOs on 8 May. He said the discussions at this meeting was based on those agreements from the 8 May meeting.

U Hla Maung Shwe said they are preparing future discussions on COVID-19 with both

signatories and non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and the committee has arranged aid for the virus to be sent to both groups in the coming week. He said Dr Tin Myo Win and Lt-Gen (retd) Khin Zaw Oo already explained this to the ALP.

The national coordination committee will hold a similar online video conference with the Karenni National Progressive Party, a non-signatory to the NCA, on 22 May.—Ye Khaung Nyunt

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

SWRR Ministry donates humanitarian support to Kachin, Shan IDP camps

Officials from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement providing necessary assistance to people in Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is cooperating with relevant departments and organizations to implement COVID-19 measures in IDP camps and temporary relief centres across the nation.

The ministry donated 698 bottles of hand sanitizers, 30 bags of lime powder, 3 body thermometers, 6 wash basins, 3616 face masks, 2 hand speakers, and 2 memory sticks containing COVID-19 informa-

tional audio to 3 IDP camps in Kachin State.

Similarly, the ministry donated 1,272 face masks, 210 bottles of hand sanitizers, and 4 informational vinyls to an IDP camp in Kutkai Township, Shan State.

The ministry is providing humanitarian support, awareness raising campaigns and motivational initiatives across Nay Pyi Taw Council and the states and regions.—MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

107 Myanmar citizens repatriated from Malaysia on 20 May

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International landed at the

Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon, carrying

107 Myanmar citizens who are in the second group stranded

in Malaysia due to suspension of international airlines amid COVID-19. On arrival at the airport, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period at the designated places and the respective hotels in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

They will be checked for COVID-19 at the quarantine places as some returnees in the first group from Malaysia were tested positives.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar returnees from Malaysia conducting their immigration process at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Govt committee discusses COVID-19 coordination with ICRC

DR Tin Myo Win, chairman of the national coordination committee for negotiating COVID-19 measures with ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), and committee members held a meeting with members of the advisory board to the Peace Commission, and Mr Stephan Sakalian, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

delegation in Myanmar, at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) on Shweli Road in Yangon yesterday.

They discussed negotiating and cooperating with EAOs concerning matters related to COVID-19.—Nyunt Ko Ko

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Government committee, Peace Commission and ICRC discuss coordination in COVID-19 measures. PHOTO: POE HTAUNG

ASEAN mine action centre discusses mine-risk education amid COVID-19

THE ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) organized the Regional Webinar on "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in ASEAN in a Time of Pandemic" on 19 May afternoon.

U Win Naing Tun, director-general of Department of Rehabilitation under the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, joined the teleconference which was also

attended by Mr Ly Panharith Executive Director of ARMAC, representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as officials from HALO Trust (Cambodia), HI (Laos), ICRC/Myanmar Red Cross Society, UNDP (Vietnam), MAG (Vietnam), UNICEF, MAG and ARMAC. They discussed measures against COVID-19 in relevant countries and conducting mine-risk education.

Director-General U Win Naing Tun held talks on 'no one is left behind' policy of Myanmar, coordination between the government and ethnic armed organizations and formation of work committees on mine clearance.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



The ARMAC holds Regional Webinar on "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in ASEAN in a Time of Pandemic" on 19 May afternoon. PHOTO: MNA

AA kidnaps 5 household group leaders in Kyauktaw Tsp

THE office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services reported that members of the AA terrorist group kidnapped 5 hundred-household group leaders of Kabaw village and Malar village in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, on 18 May. On the morning of 18 May, hundred-household group leaders U Pan Thar and U Wai Thar Aung from Kabaw village and hundred-household group leaders U Maung Han Thein, U Aung Saw, U Maung Thein Tun, U Maung Thar Win and U Tin Win of Malar village, and four women were on their way from Malar village to pick up COVID-19 objects supplied by the Union government and

purchase necessary supplies in Kyauktaw village.

The group divided up to purchase the supplies at Kyauktaw's market and around 12 pm, U Pan Thar and U Maung Thar Win were abducted by 10 AA terrorists in civilian clothing near Kissapa Thiri Road. U Maung Han Thein, U Wai Thar Aung and U Aung Saw were also abducted by 10 AA terrorists in civilian clothing near a pharmacy on Min Saw Mon Street, to the north of the market, around 12:30 pm Meanwhile, U Maung Thein Tun is reportedly missing.

The AA terrorist group is reportedly kidnapping, intimidating or killing civilians and

civil servants who do not support them.

The AA terrorists also reportedly attacked medical personnel and security forces carrying out COVID-19 containment processes by planting an explosive mine near the Kissapanadi Bridge, Kyauktaw, on 11 May.

This unprovoked kidnapping of hundred-household leaders performing their duties to pick up COVID-19 aid supported by the Union government is also a disruption from benefiting the public, according to the office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Saw David court case moved to 3 June

SAW David (a) Saw David Lah made his first court appearance at Mayangon Township court yesterday as he faces a lawsuit for violating government orders preventing mass gatherings in order to mitigate spreading the COVID-19 disease.

Mayangon Township Administrator for Ward 7, U Ye Win Aung, filed the lawsuit against Saw David under Article 25 of the Natural Disaster Management Law.

In addition, the Yangon Region COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response

Committee has filed lawsuits against him and U Wai Tun in Mayangon police station and against U Saw Kwae Wah and U Saw Reagan Di in Insein police station on 14 April in accordance with the Natural Disaster Management Law.

Mayangon Township Judge U Moe Swe made investigations at the court yesterday and moved the trial to 3 June (Wednesday). Saw David was transferred to Insein Prison and will be held for 15 days.—Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

We owe our children to remain safe while learning at schools amidst COVID-19

CLOSURE and reopening of schools is a controversial topic in countries with both serious and less severe outbreaks of Covid-19.

For parents, safety of their children at school is questionable. But, from the public health point of view, a positive factor in the back-to-school argument is that it is possible to open the schools with staggered timetables and desks space apart and 'new' school guidelines with social distancing requirements and temperature checks, and masks.

Education is important for a society's future, and learning must not be halted. The current interruption in the routine must end sooner, rather than later, by overcoming the challenges posed by COVID-19.

When it comes to opening schools amidst the COVID-19 crisis, we should learn lessons from Viet Nam which is a shining example of reopening schools after containing the virus.

Here is what school life looks like during a global pandemic.

Schools should also step up the monitoring of health conditions of teachers and students, and those who are sick must be prohibited from going to school.

Classrooms and the school canteens should be rearranged to ensure that social distancing could be managed and students also have staggered lunch-times to enable this to be managed carefully.

Necessary health and hygiene matters, such as hand washing and social distancing should be the top priorities to ensure all students are safe while studying at school.

Hand sanitizers or proper hand washing facilities should be placed outside of all rooms and in all hallways, and teachers should remind students to wash their hands regularly.

Large group gatherings such as the usual school assembly, and team sports and competitions, should remain cancelled.

To keep a safe social distance, the density of personnel should be strictly controlled in schools.

Education departments and schools should liaise with health authorities and nearby medical institutions to establish coordination mechanisms in the fight against the virus.

Meanwhile, caution must remain the byword, lest a resurgence of infections, or even a single case involving a teacher or student in a school setting, prompts a halt to or even reversal of the relaxation of restrictions.

While the efficacy of school closure is also debatable, the potential negative consequences of this measure cannot be ignored.

In fact, Covid-19 is a new problem for us, but a problem which is familiar to us. A critical need to solve a problem is the power of reviewing the situation in the right way. That in essence is wisdom.

Using all existing and emerging data — however incomplete — we should make our best-informed recommendations to help our policy makers make this crucial decision, based on science, as soon as possible. We owe this to our children.

Fourth-year performance of Chin State government

By Nandar Win
PHOTO: TARYAR

Chin State, a major ecotourism destination of the future

KENNEDY Peak of Laytha mountain where pine forest thrives and cherries and rhododendron flowers bloom in Tiddim Township is a tourist attractive place of Chin State. The 8871-foot high Kennedy Peak is the best place to admire the natural wonders of Chin State formed with high mountain ranges, green forests and wild flowers. The local government



Chin State Chief Minister Pu Salai Lian Luai.

mountains are decorated natural forests and thriving crops," said Salai Lian Luai, Chief Minister of Chin State.

Located in the western part of Myanmar, Chin State is bordering India in the west, Bangladesh, Rakhine State and Magway Region in the south and Sagang Region in the east. It has a population of roundabout 500,000, and it is the second smallest states of the country.

Chin State government is ensuring food sufficiency and reducing poverty in the state by generating income sources and job opportunities in fiscal year 2020-2021.

Mission

The adopted policy of the local government is to develop farming that is suitable for the state, improve infrastructure, develop small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and protect and develop the natural environment.

Vision

Local government's vision involves the task of reclaiming mountain farming areas for growing cash crops and raising livestock, improving the transport sector, developing the manageable, small and medium enterprises and improving the power supply. It also includes undertakings for rural development, human resources, health,



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observing the photo gallery showcasing activities and development in Chin State.

education, multiple services, reducing unemployment rate, increasing domestic and foreign investment, socio-economic development, and progress of border trade. The local government enacted laws in connection with regional development, financial procedures and rules, development affairs, micro credit industry and financial sharing.

Development undertakings
Fire Services Department

office of Chin State built fire stations in Haka, Mindat, Tiddim, Paletwa, Varlon, Falam and Hsamee (Paletwa) and retaining walls in fiscal year 2016-2017. In fiscal year 2019-2020 it built one staff housing each in five towns, area fire stations in two villages and a town, and retaining walls for the durability of the fire stations.

Chin State government built two suspension bridges, extend-

ed roads, built culverts and housings in improving the infrastructure. It allotted Ks 932.692 million for border and ethnic youth development school and women's vocational education school in fiscal year 2019-2020.

Rural development

The Rural Development Department (RDD) is building staff housing, earth roads, culverts, retaining walls, water supply

and rural housings at a cost of over Ks 3980 million in fiscal year 2019-2020. The emerald green rural development project of Chin state covers nine townships, 235 units and 360 villages.

Agriculture

Chin State introduced the contract system in fiscal year 2016-2017 for the development of the agriculture sector. So, it is establishing farms under both the departmental arrangement and the contract system. It set up 2155 acres of highland farms during the period between 2016-2017 and 2018-2019; 100 acres under the Union budget allotment in fiscal year 2019-2020; 275 acres under its own budget programme; and 650 acres under contract system.

Irrigation

Laivar Dam near Talanzar village in Falam Township is generating 2.8 million kilowatt hours annually and electrifying Haka and Tiddim. The dam is now supplying piped water for Falam residents. Lower Laivar Dam projects is being implemented at a cost of over Ks 3,524 million, and it will be completed in fiscal year 2019-2020. In addition, Theekee dam is providing water to nearby villages and 550 acres of crops. The dam was completed in fiscal year 2017-2018.

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Chin State governmental officials and responsible persons pose for the group photo at the workshop for tourism development in Chin State.



Officials and ethnic people pose for the group photo at the Khaw Nu M Cung Festival in Chin State.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 20th May, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30 hrs M.S.T today, the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm (AMPHAN) which is crossing between Digha (West Bengal), India and Hatiyi Islands, Bangladesh has moved to North-North-eastwards and weaken to the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (AMPHAN). It lies at about (45) miles South of Kolkata (India). Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and cloudy over the North Bay and West Central Bay and partly cloudy and cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 21st May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Chin and Rakhin States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced off and along Deltaic, Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (10-16) 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 (35-40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet off and along Gulf of Mottama, Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st May, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st May, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st May, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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-year performance of Chin State government

FROM PAGE-9

Moreover it will produce 50 million kilowatt hours of electricity for nearby villages, schools, police stations and churches.

Transport

Road Department office of Chin State is protecting and repairing eight union highways and 25 local roads. It built 21 bridges and is building 10 other bridges during the period between fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2019-2020 in the state.

Urban development

Chin State built staff housings, a township office, a rest house, retaining walls for staff housings and the state office, concrete roads, and installing meters under the budget allotment of over Ks 1756 million for fiscal year 2016-2017; staff housings, rental homes, gravel roads and retaining walls under the budget allotment of over Ks 2129 million for fiscal year 2019-2020; various kinds of buildings, concrete roads, gravel roads, earth roads, culverts, bridges, drainages, and retaining walls under the budget allotment of over Ks 8484 million for fiscal year 2019-2020; roads and also establishing 676 acres of residential land plots of the Haka rural projects under the budget allotment of Ks 300 million in fiscal year 2019-2020;

Development affairs

The development affairs bodies of Chin State have been building new markets, upgrading the existing ones in Haka, Mindat, Paletwa, Khaingkam and Hsamee and implementing the rural development plan of Haka, the capital of the state.

Health, Education

The state is building new



The Hluttaw building of Chin State.

schools, education staff houses, pre-primary schools, hostels, retaining walls and upgrading the schools and hospitals in Haka, Thantalan, Falam, Tiddim, Tunzan, Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet. It built nursing and midwifery training school at a cost of over Ks 149 million, and implemented staff housing, laboratory, station hospital, ward extension, operation theatre, and building projects in various townships of Chin State.

Aviation

An airport project is being implemented in Falam (Hsulbon) as the main gateway to Chin State by plane. The project stated in fiscal year 2015-2016 and will be completed in fiscal year 2019-2020. The local government is building all the necessary infrastructure of the airport project at a cost of over Ks 34 billion and completed 83 per cent of the projects on 3 March this year. Test landing and test flying of an ATR-72 is underway. The new airport will start handling regular flights in September 2020. Lialinpi, a town in Matupi Tonship, Matupi Dis-

trict in the southern part of Chin State will have an airfield under the financial aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship International (MAF). The mini airport project is being implemented under the supervision of Aviation Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communication. The airport will have a 3000-foot long and 130-foot wide runway. Over 45 per cent of the work is completed on 3 March 2020.

Disaster prevention

The local government re-drew the plan for taking precautionary measures against natural disasters, emergency response programmes including search and rescue during the disasters, and rehabilitation programmes during the post-disaster period. It is also building retaining walls, drainage canals, and multipurpose shelters.

It is cooperating with international partner organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) in carrying out health-care, disaster preparatory, regional development, job generation, infant care, food sufficiency,

relief, birth spacing, and medical treatment undertakings, and the operations of a bureau to help migrant workers.

Peace

Chin National Front (CNF) held a meeting where its representatives recounted the discussions at the third Union Peace Conference: 21st Century Panglong.

Reforms and benefits

The local government has formed the development affairs committee and seized land scrutinization committed with the involvement of multiple departments, and thanks to the collective meetings based on common interest it can alleviate the unnecessary problems of the public and improve the socio-economy and living standard of the locals. The local government is working hard for regional peace and stability, security, the rule of law and public welfare, and opening the door for inclusive participation of the public.

“Chin State is now witnessing the transport development.

We have already linked Haka, Falam, Thantalan, Matupi and Kanpetlet with upgraded tarred roads. Moreover, 80 per cent in Chin State is using mobile phones,” said the Chief Minister of Chin State.

Thanks to the marked progress in mobile phone and internet networks in Chin State, the local people and departmental personnel can now study knowledge on a wider scale. They now have the broader knowledge of the internal and international affairs, including the impacts of climate change and the political and social trends of the world and Myanmar. As the local government has swiftly allotted natural disaster funds in accord with the requirements, locals can carry out preparatory, response and relief and rehabilitation undertaking more effectively.

The Ministry of Construction has prioritized the quality and durability in carrying out infrastructure development undertakings in accordance with the set standards in Chin State. Local entrepreneurs who win tenders for material supply or operations are gaining experience and expertise from the government projects which are also helping alleviate poverty by generating job opportunities.

The Union Government is implementing long-term plans including the Kaladan River Project, the Paletwa Industrial Zone Project and Khaingkam Industrial Zone Project in Chin State.

In implementing the development plans of Chin State, the local government is working with accelerated momentum in accordance with the framework of laws, rules and procedures adopted by the Union.

(Translated by TMT)



Heart shaped Rih Lake in Reedkhawda is an attractive place in Chin State.



Two storey building of Hakha College.

Rolls-Royce cuts 9,000 jobs as airlines turn off engines

LONDON — Rolls-Royce, the British maker of plane engines, said Wednesday it will cut at least 9,000 jobs and slash costs elsewhere, as the coronavirus hammers the aviation sector.

“This is not a crisis of our making. But it is the crisis that we face and we must deal with it,” chief executive Warren East said in a statement announcing that Rolls would cut nearly one-fifth of its global workforce. “Our airline customers and airframe partners are having to adapt and so must we.”

Unions said they expected most of the cuts to occur in the UK, while analysts said the knock-on effect for supply chains meant many more people working across the aerospace industry were set to lose their jobs.



Rolls-Royce engines, like this Trent 700, power many of today's aircraft. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

17% of staff

Rolls said it expected “the loss of at least 9,000 roles” from a global workforce of 52,000 and would also cut “expenditure across plant and property, capital and other indirect cost areas”.

The measures is expected to hand the company annual savings of more than £1.3 billion (\$1.6 billion, 1.4 billion euros).

The restructuring will cost Rolls about £800 million. Rolls said the restructuring would predominant-

ly affect its civil aerospace business.

“Our defence business, based in the UK and US, has been robust during the pandemic, with an unchanged outlook, and does not need to reduce headcount,” it added.— AFP ■

LG chairman apologizes over gas leak, fire

SEOUL — LG Group chairman Koo Gwangmo apologized Wednesday over two fatal accidents at LG Chem facilities in the past two weeks, reports said, including a gas leak in India that killed 12 people.

LG Group is the fourth-biggest of the chaebols, the family-controlled conglomerates that dominate business in South Korea, the world's 12th-largest economy.

LG Chem, the group's key subsidiary and South Korea's largest chemical company, is reeling from the deadly gas leak at its LG Polymers India subsidiary, which left 12 residents dead and saw more than 1,000 hospitalised.

On Wednesday, a fire broke out at LG Chem's plant in Seosan, around 120 kilometres south of Seoul, killing a researcher and injuring two workers.

“I express my deep condolences and consolation to victims and their families,” Koo said at the Seosan plant, according to Yonhap news agency.

“I am very sorry for causing concern to many people,” Koo added, noting that management felt “heavy responsibility” for the safety accidents.

LG Chem produces petrochemicals, plastic resins, and engineering plastics, and has plants across South Korea and around the world, from the United States and Brazil to China and Australia.

The company also manufactures industrial and electronic materials and has emerged as one of the top battery suppliers for hybrid and electric cars, with customers including Mercedes Benz, Volvo, Volkswagen, and BMW.— AFP ■

Japan receives mere 2,900 foreign travellers in April

TOKYO — Japan received an estimated 2,900 foreign travellers in April, down 99.9 per cent from a year earlier, amid the coronavirus pandemic, government data showed Wednesday.

It is the first time that the monthly figure has slipped below 10,000 since 1964, when the government began compiling such statistics. The percentage of decline was also the largest ever, according to the Japan Tourism Agency.

The previous low for monthly foreign visitors was 17,543 recorded in February 1964.

The figure fell in April for the seventh consecutive month since October, when a significant drop in visitors from South Korea and a devastating typhoon halted the trend of increasing numbers of visitors from overseas.—Kyodo ■

Invitation for Prequalification – Engineering, Procurement and Construction for Power Generation Facility of Integrated LNG to Power Project in Mee Lin Gyaing, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar

- Entrusted by Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Co. Ltd, Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited (UREC) now invites Applications for Prequalification for Engineering, Procurement and Construction for Power Generation Facility of Integrated LNG to Power Project in Mee Lin Gyaing, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar.
- Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures in accordance with the applicable international practice for selection of the contractor on EPC basis.
- Only eligible Applicants within the last ten (10) years with the following key qualifications should participate in the Prequalification:
 - Contracted amount involving gas turbine generator units not less than US\$300 million, and
 - At least four gas turbines equivalent to or higher than 9F family of gas turbines that have been successfully put into commercial operation, as the contractors for design and installation or on turnkey basis, or
 - At least one gas turbine generator unit with the installed capacity equal to or higher than 300MW that has been put into operation, as the contractor on EPC basis.

The prequalification criteria are more completely described in the Prequalification Documents.
- Please visit website www.urec.com.cn for details of the Integrated LNG to Power Project in Mee Lin Gyaing in The Republic of The Union of Myanmar and the Prequalification Documents.
- A complete set of Prequalification Documents may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible applicants upon the submission of a written application to the Email Address: urec-mlg@urec.com.cn from 8:00, May 21st to 16:00 May 24th, 2020 (local time). The Prequalification Documents will be issued through email only.
- Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes before 16:00 28th May, 2020.
- Refer to the Prequalification Documents for details of the requirements for the Preparation and Submission of Applications for Prequalification together with Security.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V THOR BREEZE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THOR BREEZE VOY. NO. (2002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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 WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALTHEA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALTHEA VOY. NO. (126/F770) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT 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

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Reg. No. 4/3721/2020 (24.3.2020)

In respect of "Clothing, footwear, headwear; underwear; lingerie; belts; babies' diapers of textile; babies' napkins of textile; baby bodysuits; baby booties; baby boots; baby footwear; baby pajamas; baby shirts; baby shoes; baby shorts; baby sweaters; baby sweatpants; baby tops; bathing suits; bathing suits for children; bathing suits for men; bathing suits for women; bath robes; beach clothes; beach cover-ups; beach hats; beach sandals; beach wraps; belts for clothing; belts made from imitation leather; bikini bottoms; bikini briefs; bikini tops; blazers; blouses [business wear]; blue jeans; bobble hats; bomber jackets; boots and shoes; boots for children; bottoms for adults; bottoms for children; bottoms for men; bottoms for women; boxer briefs; boxer shorts; boy shorts [underwear]; braces for clothing [suspenders]; canvas shoes; Capri pants; cardigans; cargo crops; cargo pants; cashmere clothing; cashmere gloves; cashmere jackets; cashmere shawls; cashmere sweaters; casual footwear; casual pants; casual shoes; casual wear; children's socks; cloth bibs for children; clothing for sports; clothing of leather; coats; coats for women; coats made of cotton; cocktail dresses; collared shirts; collars [clothing]; collars for dresses; combat pants; costumes for use in children's dress up play; costumes for use in role-playing games; cotton jackets; cotton neckties; cotton shawls; cotton sweaters; cycling jackets; cycling pants; cycling shoes; cycling shorts; dance costumes; dance clothing; denim capris; denim clothing; deck shoes; denim coats; denim crop pants; denim crops; denim dresses; denim jackets; denim pedal pushers; denim shorts; denim skirts; dresses; dresses [business wear]; dresses for children; dresses for girls; dresses for women; dresses made from skins; dresses of cashmere; dresses of wool; dressing gowns; dress shoes; dress suits; duffle coats; ear muffs [clothing]; embroidered clothing; evening gowns; evening wear; fascinator hats; fashion hats; fingerless gloves; fishermen's jackets; fitted clothing for men; flat shoes; fleece bottoms; fleece jackets; fleece pullovers; fleeces; fleece shorts; fleece tops; flip-flops [footwear]; footwear for adults; footwear for children; footwear for men; footwear for women; formal wear for men; formal footwear; formal pants; fur clothing; fur coats; fur gloves; fur hats; fur jackets; fur muffs; hats; hats for children; headbands being clothing; headbands [clothing]; hooded sweatshirts; hooded tops; infants' boots; infants' footwear; infants' shoes; jeans; jerseys [clothing]; jogging tops; jumper dresses; jumpsuits [clothing]; knit bottoms; knit dresses; knit skirts; knitted gloves; knit tops; knitwear [clothing]; koshihimo [waist strings for kimonos]; lace shawls; leather belts [clothing]; leather coats; leather dresses; leather gloves; leather headgear; leather jackets; leather shirts; leather shoes; leather slippers; leggings [leg warmers]; leggings [trousers]; leisure footwear; leisure shoes; leisure wear; light-reflecting coats; light-reflecting jackets; lightweight jackets; lightweight sweaters; linen clothing; long jackets; long-sleeved blouses; long-sleeved jackets; long-sleeved shirts; long-sleeved sweaters; long-sleeved T-shirts; long-sleeved undershirts; loungewear; maternity clothing; maternity dresses; maternity leggings; maternity shirts; maternity shorts; maternity sleepwear; maternity smocks; maternity tops; maxi skirts; men's dress socks; men's socks; men's suits; miniskirts; mock turtleneck sweaters; mock turtleneck tops; nightcaps; nightgowns; nightwear; one-piece playsuits; one-piece swimsuits; outdoor clothing; outerclothing for babies; outerclothing for boys; outerclothing for children; outerclothing for girls; overcoats; overshirts; padded jackets; pyjama bottoms; pyjamas for adults; pyjamas for children; pyjamas for men; pyjamas for women; parkas; plimsolls; polo knit tops; polo shirts; pram suits; printed T-shirts; pumps [footwear]; rain capes; raincoats; rain hats; rain jackets; ready-made clothes linings; ready-made clothing; running shoes; sandals for children; sandals for men; sandals for women; sarongs; scarfs; school uniforms; sheepskin gloves; shirts; shirts [business wear]; shirts for adults; shirts for children; shirts for men; shirts for wear with suits; shirts for women; shoes for adults; shoes for children; shoes for men; shoes for women; short sets [clothing]; shorts for adults; shorts for children; shorts for men; shorts for women; short-sleeved blouses; short-sleeved jackets; short-sleeved sports shirts; short-sleeved sweaters; short-sleeved T-shirts; silk scarves; silk shawls; skirts; skirts [business wear]; skirt suits; ski suits; sleepwear for babies; sleepwear for children; sleepwear for men; sleepwear for women; slippers; slipper socks; slips being underclothing; sports jerseys; sports shirts; sports vests; suits [business wear]; suits [clothing]; sundresses; sun hats; sunsuits; sweaters; sweaters for adults; sweaters for children; sweaters for men; sweaters for women; sweatpants; sweatpants for adults; sweatpants for children; sweatpants for men; sweatpants for women; swim shorts; thermal clothing; thermal headgear; thermal socks; tracksuits; tracksuit tops; trousers; trousers [business wear]; trousers for adults; trousers for babies; trousers for children; trousers for infants; trousers for men; trousers for women; T-shirts with logos; turtleneck shirts; turtleneck sweaters; turtleneck tops; uniforms; vest tops; visors being headwear; waterproof clothing; waterproof jackets; waterproof outerclothing; weatherproof clothing; weatherproof jackets; weatherproof pants; weather-resistant outerclothing; wellington boots [wellies]; winter boots; winter coats; winter gloves; women's socks; wool jackets; woollen clothing; woollen hats; woollen socks; woollen tights; wool shawls; wool sweaters; yoga bottoms; yoga pants; yoga tops" in **International Class 25** and "Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions; demonstration of goods; direct mail advertising; distribution of samples; import-export agency services; marketing; organization of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; organization of fashion shows for promotional purposes; organization of trade fairs for commercial or advertising purposes; presentation of goods on communication media, for retail purposes; price comparison services; provision of an on-line marketplace for buyers and sellers of goods and services; sales promotion for others; organisation, operation and supervision of loyalty schemes and incentive schemes; retail services and online retail services connected with the sale of non-medicated cosmetics and toiletry preparations, non-medicated dentifrices, perfumery, essential oils, bleaching preparations and other substances for laundry use, cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations, soaps, perfumery, perfumes, essential oils, cosmetics, make-up, toiletries, preparations for the care of the skin, body cleaning and beauty care preparations, hair care and hair styling preparations, dentifrices, pot-pourri, nail care preparations, nail polish, nail polish removers, shoe polish, sun care preparations, tanning preparations, sunless tanning preparations, toiletries travel bottle sets, bath beads, bath creams, bath crystals, not for medical purposes, bath foam, bath gel, bath lotions, body and beauty care preparations, deodorants for body care, after-sun creams, almond oil, aromatherapy creams, aromatherapy lotions, aromatherapy oils, aromatherapy preparations, bath and shower gels, not for medical purposes, body cream soap, body deodorants, body masks, cleansing and moisturizing creams, oils, lotions and preparations, scientific, research, navigation, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, audiovisual, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, detecting, testing, inspecting apparatus and instruments, apparatus and instruments for recording, transmitting, reproducing or processing sound, images or data, recorded and downloadable media, computer software, blank digital or analogue recording and storage media, nautical, checking (supervision) electricity, apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images, recording discs, compact discs, DVDs and other digital recording media, mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus, cash registers, calculating machines, data processing equipment, computers, computer software, mobile apps, radios, tape measures, radios incorporating alarm clocks, electric plug adapters, adapters, laptop cases, mobile telephone cases, electronic devices for controlling and monitoring heating, cooling and ventilating systems, apparatus and instruments for regulating or controlling electricity, devices for monitoring and conserving energy use, devices for tracking energy use, thermostats, thermostat control apparatus, solar panels, solar panels for electricity generation, batteries, battery chargers, battery packs, battery charging equipment, charging docks, opticians' goods, glasses, reading glasses, spectacles, glasses cases, sunglasses, cases for sunglasses, chains for glasses, contact lenses, contact lens cases, adapter cables for headphones, apparatus for processing electronic payments, apparatus for the input, output, transmission and storage of data, apparatus for the recording of sound or images, application software for cloud computing services, audio recorders, backup drives for computers, blank CD-ROMs for sound or video recording, helmets, sports goggles, precious metals and their alloys, jewellery, precious and semi-precious stones, horological and chronometric instruments, jewellery, jewellery brooches, jewellery boxes and cases, jewellery rolls, ring holders of precious metal, horological and chronometric instruments, clocks, alarm clocks, electric alarm clocks, watches, watch cases, cufflinks, boxes for cufflinks, key rings and key chains, and charms thereof, key rings [trinkets or fobs], ornaments, statues and figurines made of, or coated with, precious or semi-precious metals or stones, or imitations thereof, ankle bracelets, automatic watches, automobile clocks, badges of precious metal, bangles, bead bracelets, beads for making jewellery, buckles for watch bands, bracelets of precious metal, cases adapted to contain items of jewellery, cases for chronometric instruments, cases for clocks and watches, cases for timepieces, charms for bracelets, clasps for jewellery, clock cases, closures for necklaces, decorative boxes of precious metal, decorative brooches [jewellery], decorative objects [ornaments] made of precious metal, decorative pins [jewellery], desk clocks, digital watches, drop earrings, ear clips, fancy key rings of precious metal, hat ornaments of precious metal, jewel cases, leather and imitations of leather, animal skins and hides, luggage and carrying bags, umbrellas and parasols, walking sticks, collars, leashes and clothing for animals, faux fur, trunks and travelling bags, umbrellas, parasols, walking sticks, bags, handbags, rucksacks, backpacks, bags for sports, briefcases, attaché cases, suitcases, luggage straps, luggage tags, luggage labels, bags for toiletries, cosmetic bags, make-up bags, beauty cases, wallets, pocket wallets, purses, card cases [notecases], document cases of leather, boxes of leather, cases of leather, leather laces, bags and holdalls for sports clothing, bags for campers, beach bags, beach umbrellas, book bags, business card cases in the nature of wallets, business cases, cosmetic purses, evening bags, evening purses [handbags], fashion handbags, flight bags, garment bags for travel made of leather, gentlemen's handbags, handbags, handbags for ladies, handles for canes, hiking bags, hiking rucksacks, hiking sticks, household or kitchen utensils and containers, cookware and tableware, except forks, knives and spoons, combs and sponges, brushes, except paintbrushes, brush-making materials, articles for cleaning purposes, unworked or semi-worked glass, except building glass, glassware, porcelain and earthenware, combs and sponges, brushes (except paint brushes), brush-making materials, articles for cleaning purposes, steelwool, unworked or semi-worked glass (except glass used in building), glassware, porcelain ware and earthenware not included in other classes, crystal [glassware], ceramics for household purposes, chinaware, coffee makers (non-electric), juicers (non-electric), citrus press (non-electric), milk frother (non-electric), pepper and salt mills (manually operated), bread bins, chopping boards, cake tins, biscuit tins, storage containers (for food and drink), storage jars, ironing boards, ironing cloths, clothes pegs, laundry baskets, wash baskets, bins, thermally insulated containers (household) for food and drink, thermally insulated mugs, flower and plant pots, seed trays, bird feeders, gardening gloves, barbecue forks and tongs, utensil holders, tumbler holders, bakeware, baking dishes, tins and utensils, aluminium baking cases, baking trays made of aluminium, tableware, cutlery trays, crockery, dinner sets, dinnerware, plates, dishes, serving forks, spoons, tongs, dishes, bowls and trays, cups and mugs, drinking glasses, barware, place mats, not of paper or textile, napkin holders, napkin rings, air fragrancing apparatus, diffusers for air fresheners, incense diffusers, vases, candelabra, candle holders, cookware, cookware [pots and pans], ovenware, oven dishes, bathroom articles, soap dishes, soap dispensers, toilet brushes, toilet roll holders, toilet utensils, toilet sponges, cosmetic utensils, sponges for the skin, body puffs, powder puffs, nail brushes, combs, make-up brushes, manicure gloves, clothes brushes, toothbrushes, electric toothbrushes, toothbrush containers, holders for toothbrushes, toothbrush cases, ornaments, garden ornaments, statues, figurines and works of art made from glass, china, porcelain, earthenware, terra-cotta, ceramics or crystal, applicators for applying cosmetic skin lotions, bath brushes, bathroom glass holders, bathroom towel holders, bathroom tumblers, bath sponges, beer glasses, beer mugs, beverage glasses, beverage glassware, beverage stirrers, body scrub sponges, body sponges, bottle openers, bottle openers, electric, boxes for dispensing paper towels, boxes of glass, brooms, candle jars [holders], candy jars, ceramic bowls, ceramic mugs, water bottles, clothing,

footwear, headwear, underwear, lingerie, belts, babies' diapers of textile, babies' napkins of textile, baby bodysuits, baby booties, baby boots, baby footwear, baby pajamas, baby shirts, baby shoes, baby shorts, baby sweaters, baby sweatpants, baby tops, bathing suits, bathing suits for children, bathing suits for men, bathing suits for women, bath robes, beach clothes, beach cover-ups, beach hats, beach sandals, beach wraps, belts for clothing, belts made from imitation leather, bikini bottoms, bikini briefs, bikini tops, blazers, blouses [business wear], blue jeans, bobble hats, bomber jackets, boots and shoes, boots for children, bottoms for adults, bottoms for children, bottoms for men, bottoms for women, boxer briefs, boxer shorts, boy shorts [underwear], braces for clothing [suspenders], canvas shoes, Capri pants, cardigans, cargo crops, cargo pants, cashmere clothing, cashmere gloves, cashmere jackets, cashmere shawls, cashmere sweaters, casual footwear, casual pants, casual shoes, casual wear, children's socks, cloth bibs for children, clothing for sports, clothing of leather, coats, coats for women, coats made of cotton, cocktail dresses, collared shirts, collars [clothing], collars for dresses, combat pants, costumes for use in children's dress up play, costumes for use in role-playing games, cotton jackets, cotton neckties, cotton shawls, cotton sweaters, cycling jackets, cycling pants, cycling shoes, cycling shorts, dance costumes, dance clothing, denim capris, denim clothing, deck shoes, denim coats, denim crop pants, denim crops, denim dresses, denim jackets, denim pedal pushers, denim shorts, denim skirts, dresses, dresses [business wear], dresses for children, dresses for girls, dresses for women, dresses made from skins, dresses of cashmere, dresses of wool, dressing gowns, dress shoes, dress suits, duffle coats, ear muffs [clothing], embroidered clothing, evening gowns, evening wear, fascinator hats, fashion hats, fingerless gloves, fishermen's jackets, fitted clothing for men, flat shoes, fleece bottoms, fleece jackets, fleece pullovers, fleeces, fleece shorts, fleece tops, flip-flops [footwear], footwear for adults, footwear for children, footwear for men, footwear for women, formal wear for men, formal footwear, formal pants, fur clothing, fur coats, fur gloves, fur hats, fur jackets, fur muffs, hats, hats for children, headbands being clothing, headbands [clothing], hooded sweatshirts, hooded tops, infants' boots, infants' footwear, infants' shoes, jeans, jerseys [clothing], jogging tops, jumper dresses, jumpsuits [clothing], knit bottoms, knit dresses, knit skirts, knitted gloves, knit tops, knitwear [clothing], koshihimo [waist strings for kimonos], lace shawls, leather belts [clothing], leather coats, leather dresses, leather gloves, leather headgear, leather jackets, leather shirts, leather shoes, leather slippers, leggings [leg warmers], leggings [trousers], leisure footwear, leisure shoes, leisure wear, light-reflecting coats, light-reflecting jackets, lightweight jackets, lightweight sweaters, linen clothing, long jackets, long-sleeved blouses, long-sleeved jackets, long-sleeved shirts, long-sleeved sweaters, long-sleeved T-shirts, long-sleeved undershirts, loungewear, maternity clothing, maternity dresses, maternity leggings, maternity shirts, maternity shorts, maternity sleepwear, maternity smocks, maternity tops, maxi skirts, men's dress socks, men's socks, men's suits, miniskirts, mock turtleneck sweaters, mock turtleneck tops, nightcaps, nightgowns, nightwear, one-piece playsuits, one-piece swimsuits, outdoor clothing, outerclothing for babies, outerclothing for boys, outerclothing for children, outerclothing for girls, overcoats, overshirts, padded jackets, pyjama bottoms, pyjamas for adults, pyjamas for children, pyjamas for men, pyjamas for women, parkas, plimsolls, polo knit tops, polo shirts, pram suits, printed T-shirts, pumps [footwear], rain capes, raincoats, rain hats, rain jackets, ready-made clothes linings, ready-made clothing, running shoes, sandals for children, sandals for men, sandals for women, sarongs, scarfs, school uniforms, sheepskin gloves, shirts, shirts [business wear], shirts for adults, shirts for children, shirts for men, shirts for wear with suits, shirts for women, shoes for adults, shoes for children, shoes for men, shoes for women, short sets [clothing], shorts for adults, shorts for children, shorts for men, shorts for women, short-sleeved blouses, short-sleeved jackets, short-sleeved sports shirts, short-sleeved sweaters, short-sleeved T-shirts, silk scarves, silk shawls, skirts, skirts [business wear], skirt suits, ski suits, sleepwear for babies, sleepwear for children, sleepwear for men, sleepwear for women, slippers, slipper socks, slippers being underclothing, sports jerseys, sports shirts, sports vests, suits [business wear], suits [clothing], sundresses, sun hats, sunsuits, sweaters, sweaters for adults, sweaters for children, sweaters for men, sweaters for women, sweatpants, sweatpants for adults, sweatpants for children, sweatpants for men, sweatpants for women, swim shorts, thermal clothing, thermal headgear, thermal socks, tracksuits, tracksuit tops, trousers, trousers [business wear], trousers for adults, trousers for babies, trousers for children, trousers for infants, trousers for men, trousers for women, T-shirts with logos, turtleneck shirts, turtleneck sweaters, turtleneck tops, uniforms, vest tops, visors being headwear, waterproof clothing, waterproof jackets, waterproof outerclothing, weatherproof clothing, weatherproof jackets, weatherproof pants, weather-resistant outerclothing, wellington boots [wellies], winter boots, winter coats, winter gloves, women's socks, wool jackets, woollen clothing, woollen hats, woollen socks, woollen tights, wool shawls, wool sweaters, yoga bottoms, yoga pants, yoga tops, carpets, rugs, mats and matting, linoleum and other materials for covering existing floors, wall hangings, not of textile, bath mats, play mats, bags for yoga mats, exercise mats, floor rugs, yoga mats, games, toys and playthings, video game apparatus, gymnastic and sporting articles, decorations for Christmas trees, playing cards, decorations and ornaments for Christmas trees, artificial Christmas trees, festive decorations, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, baby dolls, baby rattles incorporating teething rings, baby toys, bath toys, bean bag toys, Christmas dolls, crib toys, fantasy character toys; information, advisory and consultancy services relating to the aforesaid" in **International Class 35**.
Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

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Dated 21st May 2020

Unpaid foreign domestic workers stranded in crisis-hit Lebanon

BEIRUT — A week after her Lebanese employer kicked her out without her luggage, pay or passport, all Ethiopian domestic

worker Sofia wants is to go home as Lebanon begins repatriations.

"My madam threw me out. She owes me six-and-

a-half months salary," Sofia said, her hair draped in a red scarf.

"I want to go back to Ethiopia," said the mother of two girls, who has not seen them for almost three years. Lebanon is suffering its worst economic crisis in decades, as well as a coronavirus lockdown. Some Lebanese families have started paying their home help in the depreciating local currency, while others are now unable to pay them at all, with increasing reports of domestic workers being thrown into the street.— AFP ■



Ethiopian domestic workers queue to register for repatriation outside their country's consulate in Beirut. PHOTO: AFP

US borders with Canada, Mexico closed another month

WASHINGTON — The US government on Tuesday extended for another month restrictions on non-essential travel across the borders with Canada and Mexico to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The US Department of Homeland Security said the closure, first ordered

on March 20 and due to expire Wednesday, will be extended until June 22 and reviewed every 30 days.

"Non-essential travel will not be permitted until this administration is convinced that doing so is safe and secure," said interim DHS chief Chad Wolf.

"We have been in con-

tact with our Canadian and Mexican counterparts and they also agree that extending these restrictions is prudent at this time. We appreciate our partnership with Mexico and Canada in ensuring that North America is working together to combat the ongoing global pandemic," he said.—AFP



China saw a surprise increase in exports last month. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China trade growth 'unsustainable' if virus not controlled: minister

BEIJING — A recovery in China's trade growth is not sustainable unless the coronavirus pandemic is brought under control globally, the minister of industry and information technology warned Wednesday.

China's exports saw a surprise increase in April, partly because of rising medical product shipments, as production resumed after months of

closures to control the outbreak, while imports and exports fell less than expected in renminbi terms during the first four months.

But Miao Wei told a news conference that "although our imports and exports in renminbi terms from January to April have increased moderately, I think that if the global pandemic cannot come under effective control, this is

unsustainable".

To drive economic growth, the country will "rapidly activate domestic demand" to make up for weakness in the international markets, he said.

China had already been trying to boost consumption as a key driver of domestic growth in a drive to recalibrate the economy from one driven by exports and state investment.— AFP ■

China's top political advisory body to hold annual session from May 21 to 27

BEIJING — The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's top political advisory body, will open its annual session on Thursday afternoon in Beijing, a spokesperson said Wednesday.

The session is set to conclude on May 27, Guo Weimin, spokesperson for the third session of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC, told a press conference.

Amid regular measures to prevent and control COVID-19, this year's session will be shorter than previously planned.

During the session, the number of plenary meetings and group meetings will be reduced, Guo said, noting that one of the plenary meetings will be held via video link.

Foreign diplomatic envoys to China will be invited to observe the opening and closing meetings of the session, he added.



Journalists raise hands to ask questions in front of a screen during a press conference of the third session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) through video link in Beijing, capital of China, May 20, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

ed.

A number of Beijing-based Chinese and foreign reporters

have been invited to cover the event at the Great Hall of the People, he said.

Guo also briefed the press conference on the main items of the agenda.—Xinhua ■

Japan's core private-sector machinery orders slide in March amid pandemic

TOKYO — Japan's core private-sector machinery orders

declined in March from a month earlier, the government said in a

report on Wednesday.

According to the Cabinet Office, the orders, excluding those for ships and utilities because of their volatility, edged down 0.4 per cent in March from the previous month. The orders totalled 854.7 billion yen (7.94 billion U.S. dollars), in the reporting period, the Cabinet Office said and came on the heels of a 2.3 per cent increase in February and 2.9 per cent rise in January.

Demand for electrical machinery was particularly weak, dropping 24.4 per cent, along with orders for automakers which fell 28.4 per cent, in the recording

period the office said.

The Cabinet Office maintained its assessment of the orders that they were "stalling," although noted the full impact of the global coronavirus pandemic may yet to be seen, but likely to be reflected in upcoming data.

"The data are rather volatile to begin with, so we have to keep watch for several months to determine a trend. That said, we are seeing declining demand from some industries, so we can't be too optimistic about the outlook," a Cabinet Office official was quoted as telling a press briefing on the matter.—Xinhua ■



Demand for electrical machinery was particularly weak, dropping 24.4 per cent. PHOTO: KYODO

Philippines health chief says country on second wave of infections

MANILA — The Philippines Health Department confirmed on Wednesday that the country is already experiencing its second wave of COVID-19 infections.

"We're now on the second wave (of COVID-19), and we're doing our best to flatten our curve for us to have enough time to develop, and to leverage our capacity in our health care system," Health Secretary Francisco Duque told senators in a hybrid

virtual briefing.

Duque said the first wave of infections happened in the first quarter of this year. "Our first wave happened sometime in January when we had three confirmed cases of Chinese nationals from Wuhan if you can remember."

Philippine Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire echoed his statement in her testimony to the Senate panel. But,

she highlighted that the current wave is very different from the first, which peaked at three cases.

Although it is "the second (wave), but for us regular people, what counts would be the major wave. Hence we are on our first major wave. The peak was March 31, when we had 538 cases. And accordingly, as per our expert, we have been flattening the curve in this current major wave," Vergeire said.

Duque said his main task now is preventing a third wave from happening. He said the Health Department is working on ensuring that "minimum health standards," including continuing to adhere to social distancing guidelines and other measures, are followed.

As of Wednesday, the country reported 13,221 total cases, with 2,932 recovered, and 842 deaths.—Kyodo ■

NEWS In BRIEF

China-Laos railway tunnel's border drilling finished

VIENTIANE — China Railway No. 2 Engineering Group (CREC-2) told Xinhua that it has drilled through the Friendship Tunnel from northern Laos to the border line with China on Wednesday.

After 37 months of hard work, the China-Laos Railway Friendship Tunnel, which runs through the Laos-China border and is constructed by CREC-2 and designed by China Railway Eryuan Engineering Group, was bored from northern Laos' Botten, some 370 km north of Lao capital Vientiane, to the border with China on Wednesday.

The progress has, hence, laid a solid foundation for the completion of the railway by December 2021.

The Friendship Tunnel, with a total length of 9,959 metres and 2,425 metres of which belonging to the Lao section, and with the maximum burial depth of 243 metres, is located in the forests in northern Laos.

In the depth of the mountains, the tunnel meets salt layer with thickness of over 100 metres and salinity of over 80 per cent, which is extremely harmful to the safety of the tunnel structure.—Xinhua ■

S. Korean prosecutors seek 35-year imprisonment of ex-President Park

SEOUL — South Korean prosecutors on Wednesday demanded a 35-year prison sentence for former President Park Geun Hye on Wednesday over her bribery, abuse of power and embezzlement charges, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The report said prosecutors, in a hearing held at the Seoul High Court, demanded Park be punished with a 25-year prison sentence, a fine of 30 billion won (\$24 million) and a forfeit of 200 million won on the bribery charges.

In addition, they demanded an imprisonment of 10 years and a forfeit of 3.3 billion won on the abuse of power and other criminal charges.—Kyodo ■

Kiwis eye shorter working week in post-lockdown economy

WELLINGTON — Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Wednesday raised the prospect of Kiwis enjoying extra public holidays and a shorter working week to help kickstart New Zealand's post-lockdown economy.

Ardern said she wanted to encourage "nimble" and creative ideas for recovery after a strict seven-week lockdown that helped New Zealand contain COVID-19 but stalled the economy.

Suggestions included moving to a four-day week and creating extra public holidays to help boost spending in the tourism and hospitality sectors that have

been hit particularly hard by the lockdown.

"This is an extraordinary time and we should be willing to consider extraordinary ideas," she told reporters, adding: "I haven't ruled anything in or out."

Ardern said there is "a range of options and we should be open (minded)".

After talking to tourism industry representatives on Tuesday, the prime minister said working from home during lockdown had shown how productive employees could be if given extra flexibility.

She said a four-day week could work the same way if em-

ployers were willing to try it.

"Think about if that's something that would work for your workplace, because it certainly would help tourism all around the country," she said.

New Zealand, with a population of five million, has recorded just 21 coronavirus deaths, thanks largely to the early lockdown and rigorous adherence to anti-virus measures.

International borders remain closed but New Zealanders are now free to travel domestically, with tourism operators and airlines ramping up services to meet demand.—AFP ■



PM Jacinda Ardern has said New Zealanders should be ready to consider 'extraordinary ideas' to deal with the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE



Besides his new knighthood, WWII veteran Captain Tom Moore also holds world records for raising money in a charity walk and as the oldest person to have a No. 1 in the UK singles charts. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

100-year-old WWII veteran 'Captain Tom' to be knighted

LONDON — Hundred-year-old British World War II veteran Captain Tom Moore is to be knighted after raising nearly \$40 million for healthcare charities, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling him a "beacon of light" during the coronavirus pandemic.

The knighthood, which brings with it the title of "Sir", will be formally issued by Queen Elizabeth II.

Moore set himself the goal of walking 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday in April.

He was hoping to raise £1,000 (\$1,200) for National Health Service charities as a thank you for the treatment he received while suffering from cancer and a broken hip.

But the money started pouring in after his effort drew national and then international

interest, a rare good news story in the middle of a global health emergency.

"Colonel Tom's fantastic fundraising broke records, inspired the whole country and provided us all with a beacon of light through the fog of coronavirus," Johnson said Tuesday announcing the knighthood.

"On behalf of everyone who has been moved by his incredible story, I want to say a huge thank you. He's a true national treasure."

The army had made Moore, who served as an engineer in India and Burma during World War II, an honorary colonel.

Moore's efforts and humility propelled him to national fame, with a high-speed train named after him and Royal Air Force jets performing a flypast for his birthday on April 30.—AFP ■

Chile virus cases soar as soldiers deploy following unrest

EL BOSQUE — Coronavirus cases soared in Chile Tuesday as soldiers were deployed to back up riot police in Santiago following clashes with demonstrators angry about food shortages and job losses.

Soldiers in armoured vehicles and wielding automatic weapons were deployed to the working class neighbourhood of El Bosque, where on Monday residents armed with clubs and stones clashed with riot police.

Overnight Monday to Tuesday rioters looted a neighbourhood gas station, while downtown a mob set a bus ablaze. Residents in both poor and middle-class neighborhoods banged pots and pans in protest.

The military deployment came as Chile recorded 3,520 new coronavirus cases, its biggest daily increase, for a total of almost 50,000 infections.

The South American country, with a population of some 18 million people, also reported its largest number of single-day

deaths with 31, bringing the total to more than 500.

The pandemic is focused on Santiago, and with 90 per cent of the intensive care hospital beds taken in the capital authorities are shipping patients to other cities. "We're in a complicated moment, very difficult, with a lot of worried citizens," said Health Minister Jaime Manalich.

"People don't have work, they don't have money and they

don't have food," said Monica Sepulveda, a 46-year-old unemployed security guard from El Bosque.

Sepulveda complained that promised government help hadn't arrived.

Santiago began a total lockdown on Friday as Chile strives to contain its coronavirus outbreak.

"We're seeing what we call a social pandemic," said Manalich.—AFP ■



Chilean demonstrators clashed with riot police on May 18 during a protest against President Sebastian Pinera's government. PHOTO: AFP

Virus stigma weighs heavily in sub-Saharan Africa

LIBREVILLE — Landlords evict people from their homes, nurses are abandoned by their husbands and people are spurned just on suspicion of coming into contact with a COVID-19 patient.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, the stigma attached to the coronavirus is so strong that some choose not to seek treatment to avoid facing unbearable hostility.

People suspected of having contracted COVID-19 say they

are treated like pariahs: singled out at work, in their neighbourhoods and even in their homes.

Fatou, a Senegalese woman in her twenties who did not use her real name, described her bitter experience about a month ago after coming into contact with a sick person. She was immediately confined to her room and ostracised by people in her community.

"Messages have been circulating on social media with

my first name, surname and address," she said, adding that rumours were spread that she "contracted the virus by sleeping with white people".

Fatou, who was confined to her room until she tested negative, was then forced to spend two weeks in isolation in a hotel despite having no symptoms because the doctors tracking her case had received "anonymous calls", she said.—AFP ■

Govt honours 30th SEA Games gold, silver and bronze medalists

THE honourable bonus awards given by the government to the athletes and coaches who won the gold, silver and bronze medals in different events in 30th SEA Games that took place in December 2019 in the Philippines are now being issued at the Thuwunna Sports Stadium and Training Centre Office-1.

The honourable bonus awards are being issued by Assistant Director Daw Myo Myo Lwin of Sport and Physical Education Department and her officials.

“We have never received a bonus of that much throughout the history of our sport. We are much thankful to the government for consideration of the value of our coaches as well. These honourable bonus awards will highly motivate both



The 30th SEA Games medalists receiving their prizes.
PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

the players and the coaches. We believe that Myanmar sports will develop in future,” said general secretary Daw Khin Lay Mon of the Myanmar Thaing

Federation, who came to receive the honourable awards for the sports players who have won the medals in the SEA Games. The government is giving

K15 million for the gold medalists, K7.5 million for the silver medalists, and K5 million for the bronze medalists.

The government is also giving K10 million to each player who won the gold medals in the team events, K5 million to the silver medal winners and K3 million to the bronze medal winners.

For the coaches, the government is giving K5 million each for their guiding performance to assist players in winning the gold medals, K3 million for those who coached the silver medal winners while K2 million for those who coached the bronze medal winners. The government is also providing K3 million each for the managers of the gold medalists, K2 million each for the managers of the

silver medalists and K1 million each for the managers of the bronze medalists.

The government is spending K982 million on 166 people including the managers and coaches. Myanmar has competed in 20 out of 31 events in the 30th Southeast Asian Games. Myanmar has won 4 golds, 18 silvers and 51 bronzes.

The events in which Myanmar has participated are: billiard, arnis, rowing (traditional, western, canoe, cayat), track & field, archery, judo, boxing, Sepak-takraw, weightlifting, Taekwondo, wrestling, Kurash, chess, hockey, football (male and female), Karate, Pétanque and yachting and Wushu. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Rose says Premier League players treated like ‘lab rats’

LONDON — England defender Danny Rose says players are being treated like “lab rats” after Watford and Burnley revealed they were among the Premier League clubs affected by six positive tests for the coronavirus.

Teams have started socially-distanced training in small groups this week, but several Premier League stars have expressed concerns about plans to resume the season.

The Premier League conducted 748 tests on players and staff on Sunday and Monday as part of their bid to restart matches in June. Burnley assistant manager Ian Woan, one unnamed Watford player and two members of the Vicarage Road staff tested positive in the first batch of medical checks. While the positive test numbers were relatively low, Rose has joined Watford captain Troy Deeney

and Manchester City pair Sergio Aguero and Raheem Sterling in speaking out about the potential health risks of pressing ahead with “Project Restart”. Rose, currently on loan at Newcastle from Tottenham, told the Lockdown Tactics podcast: “People are suggesting we should go back to football, like we’re guinea pigs or lab rats. We’re going to experiment this phase and see if it works or not.—AFP



Newcastle defender Danny Rose (right) says Premier League players are being treated like “lab rats”.
PHOTO: AFP

Dave Leduc vs Buakaw fight arrangement on the way



Myanma Lethwei star Dave Leduc (L) and Muay Thai Fighter Buakaw (R). **PHOTO: MLC**

Officials from the Myanmar Lethwei and Muay Thai are currently arranging for a special fight of Lethwei star Dave Leduc and Muay Thai fighter Buakaw, according to the official statement with the Myanmar Lethwei Collection (MLC).

MLC stated that Dave Leduc said, “Plan for our fight is on the way as authorities from both Myanmar Lethwei and Muay Thai has been discussing about the fight.” Myanma Lethwei Cruiserweight World Lethwei Champion Dave said Muay Thai Buakaw denied head attack plus attack

without gloves for their fight if the fight will be sure after the officials’ discussion. Dave also said there was weight difference between them as he is at the 80 Kg weight class and Buakaw is at the 72 Kg and they need to fix their weight class to 72-75 Kg. Currently, the match is on the way and the match will likely to be held when COVID-19 pandemic been controlled well.

Dave also promised his fans from Myanmar that he will show the dignity of the Myanma Lethwei if the fight will be arranged.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)