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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sends a message of sympathy to Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Republic of India

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, for loss of lives and the property damages due to the Cyclone Amphan in West Bengal and Odisha of the Republic of India.

Special consideration will be given for job creation in the formulation of plans to successfully manage the impact of COVID-19: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that special consideration would be given for job creation in the formulation of plans to successfully manage the impact of COVID-19.

The State Counsellor said she had written the other day that the things they were doing at the moment were investments for the future; in any situation, whether the tendency was for the better or the worse depended a great deal upon those who were participants in that situation.

At the time when great numbers

of Myanmar citizens were returning from abroad, certain thoughts came to mind; although making arrangements for health and transportation of the returnees was a heavy responsibility, it was a matter for great satisfaction and honour because they had returned to their own country with a feeling of dependence while encountering difficulties. Citizens of some powerful countries say “we are from such and such a country” and try to draw their energy from the strength and power of their country. She said in her case, she did not have any wish to get the better of anyone; she just wished the people of

Myanmar to have a feeling of comfort and security that their country would never let them down.

She added that she also wanted to change the situation whereby Myanmar people had to go abroad because of economic necessities; in formulating plans to successfully overcome the impact of COVID-19, the creation of jobs would be given special consideration. In almost all cases, to achieve the desired goals, the cooperation and encouragement of the people was the key. It was possible that the income that could be obtained from working in Myanmar would not be able to match the income obtained in

foreign countries. However, there was the value of being able to work in one’s own community in one’s own country and the resulting feeling of joy.

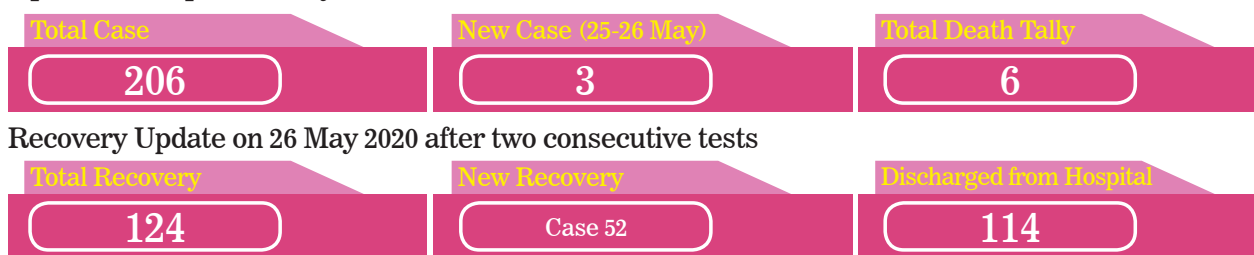
At this time which may be called the rehabilitation period of Myanmar, the opportunity to be able to contribute in whatever manner was very valuable indeed.

She concluded by saying “I urge all of you to participate in building up not only physical heritages but also spiritual heritages for generations to come.”

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

COVID-19 in Myanmar: 3 new cases reported, making total figure 206

Updated at 8 pm, 26 May 2020



Recovery Update on 26 May 2020 after two consecutive tests

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PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves of \$700 mln IMF loan, hears MIC report

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw held its 4th-day meeting of 16th regular session yesterday, with debates of MPs on getting international loans.

A proposal put forward by the President to get US\$700 million loan for addressing national revenue deficit was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after discussions of Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Min.



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo.



Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win.



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.



Deputy Governor U Soe Min.



Lt-Col Thant Zin.



Major San Win Khine.



Major Min Zarni Htwe.



MP U Sein Win.



MP Daw Myat Thidar Tun.

The deputy minister said that the proposed loan will be mainly used to tackle budget deficit, although it cannot be detailed about specific amount for different sectors, including agriculture, livestock, creating employments in the country.

Deputy Governor U Soe Min said that the IMF loan is aimed at increasing healthcare budget, financial stimulus plans for lessening impacts on the businesses and providing assistance to the people with difficult livelihoods due to the COVID-19.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win discussed about receiving \$200 million from the International Development Association of the

World Bank for the project to support food, agriculture and livestock sectors of Myanmar.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the Department of Agriculture will lead the project, in coordination with the Department of Agricultural Research, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Cooperative Department and the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department. The project will be implemented in five and half years from 30 June 2020 to 31 December 2025 by using the 30-years loan, with five years-grace period and the 25-years repayment in 1.25 per cent interest rate and 0.75 service charge.

He added the loan could increase agricultural production sector, quality of produce, mar-

ket competitiveness, food safety and better nutrition.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win supported the loan programme as it meets with the existing laws, debt management strategy, development support policies, MSDP and CERP. He added that agriculture and livestock is the most potential sector for economic recovery in the post COVID-19 period, and that this sector should be supported by both state revenue and international loans.

The Hluttaw then discussed loan proposal tabled by the President for getting K1,311.064 billion loan from the Central Bank of Myanmar to address deficit of Union government deposit for 2019-2020 financial year.

Major San Win Khine, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative

of the Tatmadaw, suggested to use the loan effectively and efficiently for the nation and people.

The motion was also discussed MP Dr Thet Thet Khine from Dagon constituency, MP U Bo Gyi from Chauk constituency, Pyithu Hluttaw representative of the Tatmadaw Lt-Col Tun Tun Win and MP U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency.

Discussions were made on the proposal put forward by the President for getting Japanese yen 30 billion from the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the recovery of socioeconomic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and development of economic policy and reform processes of Myanmar.

It was discussed by Pyithu Hluttaw representative of the Tatmadaw Major Min Zarni

Htwe, MP U Sein Win from Maubin constituency and eight Hluttaw representatives.

The Hluttaw representatives discussed the President's proposal for getting \$60 million loans from the Asian Development Bank for establishing a loan insurance corporation for the development of SMEs.

The motion was discussed by the 12 Hluttaw representatives including Lt-Col Thant Zin and MP Daw Myat Thidar Tun.

U Tun Tun Oo, the Union Attorney-General and the member of Myanmar Investment Commission, discussed the 2018-2019 FY report of the commission.

The 5th day of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be organized on 27 May.— Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

COVID-19 in Myanmar: 3 new cases reported, making total figure 206

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New COVID-19 Cases Updated at 8 pm, 26 May 2020

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
204	39	Male	Mandalay Township, Mandalay Region	No	Yes, India	Waibargi Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine in North Dagon Township
205	63	Female	Mandalay Township, Mandalay Region	No	Yes, India	Waibargi Hospital	Positive	
206	66	Male	Mandalay Township, Mandalay Region	No	Yes, India	Waibargi Hospital	Positive	

“People are the key”

Anti-Corruption Commission gives reference books to Hluttaw

THE Anti-Corruption Commission presented the reference books on anti-corruption, integrity and codes of conduct (basic education high school and university levels) to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

At the donation ceremony, Anti-Corruption Chairman U Aung Kyi explained the purposes of the compilation of the reference books that the whole society can practice integrity by understanding its values and ensure true visions for the society, and integrity can be preserved among the public service person-

nel and civil service personnel.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Anti-Corruption Commission compiled the reference books.

The ACC Chairman gave the 700 sets of reference books to U T Khun Myat, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Each set consists of 4 reference books.

The Speaker expressed thanks for the books, and stressed the importance of anti-corruption process for the development of a nation.

He added that the compila-



Anti-Corruption Commission hands over the reference books on anti-corruption, integrity and ethical codes to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 26 May. **PHOTO: MNA**

tion and distribution of the reference books is fulfillment of the need of the country, and also said that Hluttaws will cooperate with the anti-corruption commission on the anti-corruption

processes.

The event was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hlut-

taw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, members of Anti-Corruption Commission and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

CBM Governor holds talks online with World Bank Country Director

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, made a round of discussions on video conferencing with Ms Mariam Sherman, the Country Director of World Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR yesterday.

The governor expressed

thanks for the World Bank's support for financial sector development of Myanmar, including in the installation of high-tech currency counting machines and training school construction projects of CBM in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

The country director con-

firmed the World Bank's supports for financial sector development of Myanmar and the economic reform agendas of Myanmar. Those present at the meeting were CBM's deputy governors U Soe Min and U Soe Thein.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung (left photo), holds talks online with the Country Director of World Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR on 26 May. **PHOTO: MNA**

Officials prepare for World Heritage List nomination dossier of MraukU cultural heritage zone



Officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture discuss progress of nomination dossier to be presented to the UNESCO for the World Heritage List of MraukU cultural zone. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture held a video conference to discuss progress of nomination dossier to be presented to the UNESCO for the World Heritage List of MraukU cultural zone in Rakhine State in January 2021.

At the meeting, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko explained the works in coordination with Rakhine State government, local cultural conservation groups and rel-

evant ministries in this effort in the past 8 months beginning September 2019.

Senior officials of departments concerned briefed on their ongoing works for implementation processes, including submission of previous nomination dossier to the UNESCO and preparations for the next one in January next year. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

People can face anxiety during COVID-19 and remember not to resolve things with anger, not act out of impulse, avoid alcohol and drug abuse, search for solutions together with family members and close friends, perform physical activities according to weather and health situation, eat nutritional foods, get enough sleep to resolve mental pressure.

Everyone can put these suggestions into practice to prevent their mental health from become fatigued and boost willpower. — Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

Sitagu Sayadaw hands over donations from ROK

SITAGU Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara, the Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies, presented clothes and other items donated by the well-wishers in the Republic of Korea, for the people living in Naga Self-Administered Zone and remote areas of Chin State yesterday.

The ceremony to hand over the items was held at the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Dagon Myothit (north) Township, Yangon, through the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The Sitagu Sayadaw said that the donation items will be useful for the locals in far-flung

areas in facing against severe weather in rainy season.

The Deputy Minister for Border Affairs said the donation items will be sent to the hard to reach areas of Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun of Naga Self-Administered Zone, and Mindat and Matupi townships of Chin State in coordination with Chin State government and Naga Self-Administered Zone.

The donation included 49,898 items in 16 kinds, including jackets, trousers, shoes and baby wears.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Sitagu Sayadaw observes handover of donation items from well-wishers from ROK to Myanmar remote areas. **PHOTO MNA**

Relief items donated to National Volunteers Steering Committee



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives donations of the Myanmar Association for Prevention, Care and Protection of Abandoned Children. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Myanmar Association for Prevention, Care and Protection of Abandoned Children donated manuals for volunteers, hand sanitizers and face masks to the National Volunteers Steering Committee at the office of the committee's secretary in the Ministry of

Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

Chairperson of the association Daw May Yin Tun handed over 2,000 manuals for volunteers, 5,000 face masks, 120 5-litre hand sanitizer bottles, and 10 500-ml hand sanitizer bottles to the Secretary of the

National Volunteers Steering Committee Union Minister Dr Win Myint Aye.

The Secretary of the Committee expressed words of thanks, and returned a certificate of honour to the association's chairperson.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Yunnan TV, Culture Communication Company donate masks to MoI

YUNNAN TV from Yunnan Province, and Myanmar-China Lancang Mekong Culture Communication Co., Ltd. donated face masks to the Ministry of Information at the ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 May.

The two donors contributed 5,000 face masks each to the ministry.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Korean NGOs present COVID-19 protective items



Ministry of Health and Sports receives COVID-19 protective items from KFHI. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

THE Korean Food for the Hungry International (KFHI) and the Be My Friend (Myanmar) donated the protective items against COVID-19 yesterday morning.

Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun, the Director-General of Department of Medical Research, received the donation items at

his office in Yangon, presented by Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Counsellor of the Republic of Korea Embassy in Myanmar Mr Hahm Jeonghan and the donors.

The donation items included US\$56,000 worth 50,000 disposable masks and 5,000 sets of PPE.—Min Thit(MNA)

Myanmar COVID-19 cases stand at 206 as 3 more cases reported on 26 May

THREE more cases of COVID-19 were reported in Myanmar on 26 May, making the country's total tally at 206.

The three latest cases are 39-year-old man, 63-year-old woman and 66-year-old man who are living in Mandalay, and all of them have returned from India.

Out of the country's 206 confirmed cases, six died, 124 persons have recovered and 114 have been discharged from hospitals, according to the report of Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 20/2020
4th Waxing of Nayon, 1382 ME
(25 May 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 23 May 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Thein Myint Oo who lives in Pyun Thonlon Village, Mogaung Township, Kachin State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 May 2020, police searched the house of Thein Myint Oo, 32, son of U Myint Pe, who lives in Pyun Thonlon Village, Mogaung Township, and arrested him together with heroin, opium and low quality opium. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mogaung)MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Zaw Win who lives in Hlaybo Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17 May 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Win, 49, son of U Aye Maung, who lives in Hlaybo Village, Katha Township, and arrested him and two others – Cho Hmway, 42, son of U Maung Ko Gyi, who lives in Thaechaung Village and Kyaw Wai, 43, son of U Ohn Maung, who lives in Hlwalmon Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Innywa)MaYa(pa)8/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Kyaw Zin Oo who lives in Thitsoninn Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 18 May 2020, police searched the house of Kyaw Zin Oo, 36, son of U Myint Saing, who lives in Thitsoninn Village, Htigyaing Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing)MaYa(pa)46/2020 under Section 19(a) and 22(b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Daw Aye Htoke who lives in Kinponchon Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 18 May 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Than, 52, son of U Tin Pe, who lives in Kinponchon Village, Kalay Township, and arrested him and his wife Daw Aye Htoke, 48, daughter of U Saw Maung, together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kalay)MaYa(pa)60/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Yan Ko Oo who lives in Kyauknimaw Village, Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17 May 2020, police searched a motorcycle ridden by Nyi Nyi Win (a) Phoe Lu Mae, 17, son of U Htay Win and Wai Yan Moe (a) Marmar, 18, son of U Tun Min Naing, who live in Nyawpyin Village, on a road near Oukkyaukwut Village, Launglon Township. Police seized 'WY' stimulant tablets from them. Acting on a tip-off, Myo Thura Htway (a) Sikhwar, 27, son of U Aung Lin, who lives in Nyawpyin Village, was arrested in the village. He sold the drugs to Nyi Nyi Win and Wai Yan Moe. A case has been opened against them and Yan Ko Oo (a) Ganangyaw who sold the drug to Myo Thura Htway with MaMaSa (Launglon)MaYa(pa)13/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on an interrogation, police searched the house of Yan Ko Oo (a) Ganangyaw, 22, son of U Kyi Tun (a) Pih-taung, who lives in Kyauknimaw Village. He absconded from the house. Police arrested his mother Daw May Oo, 45, daughter of U Win Naing, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets from there. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Launglon)MaYa(pa)14/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kyauktan Ward, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State.	Police have opened two cases and arrested two men together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Pyae Phyoe Aung, 26, son of U Tin Aung Win and his wife Ma Zin Mar Win, 25, daughter of U Aung Win, who lives in Kyauktan Ward, Mawlamyine Township on 17 May 2020, and arrested them together with 'WY' and 'R' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Mupon)MaYa(pa)32/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Aphwargyi who lives in No 2/6 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 May 2020, police searched the house of Aphwargyi (a) Daw Pauksa, 63, daughter of U Khin Maung, who lives in No 2/6 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Hlinethaya)MaYa(pa)64/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Ko Thet who lives in Htarnar Ward, Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 May 2020, police searched the house of Ko Thet (a) Thet Naing, 48, daughter of U Lwin Myint, who lives in Htarnar Ward, Ahlon Township, and arrested him and two others – Chit Ko Ko Soe (a) Achautma, 36, son of Soe Tint, who lives in the same house, and Myo Min Tun, 47, son of U Than Tun, who lives in South Saw Yan Paing Ward -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Ahlon)MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Daw Cho who lives in Kaunghmuton Ward, Muse Township, northern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17 May 2020, police searched the house of Daw Cho, 52, daughter of U Hone Myin Yote, who lives in Kaunghmuton Ward, Muse Township, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Muse)MaYa(pa)51/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Phayarphu Ward, Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State.	Police have opened 14 cases and arrested 29 men and a woman together with heroin, opium, stimulant tablets and opium block in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Poe Pyae (a) Pyae Phyoe Aung, 19, son of U Soe Than, who lives in Phayarphu Ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on Myopat road, Nyaungshwe Hawgone Ward, Taunggyi Township on 21 May. A case has been opened against him and Ma Soe Myat Oo (a) Ma Oo who sold the drugs to Poe Pyae with MaMaSa (Taunggyi)MaYa(pa)30/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Ma Soe Myat Oo (a) Ma Oo, 29, daughter of U Htay Kyi, who lives in Phayarphu Ward, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Taunggyi)MaYa(pa)31/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Zaw Win Myint (a) Khay Shane, 49, son of U Wan Shan Yone, who lives in the same ward, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Taunggyi)MaYa(pa)32/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,136 cases have been opened files as of 23 May 2020. A total of 1,745 people, including 1,458 men and 287 women had been arrested with 9,456.7714 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 42,860.73886 g of opium, 665.77 g of low-quality opium, 53,263.76 g of speciosa powder, 15,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 622,414 stimulant tablets, 10,658.87 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 596.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

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

Contacts
Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Myanmar nationals in ROK donate cash for COVID-19 fight

THE families of Myanmar Embassy, and well-wishers in the Republic of Korea contributed portable X-Ray machine and cash to the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

A ceremony to hand over the donation was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 May.

On behalf of the donors, *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Han explained the purpose of the donation.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe accepted the K38.4 million worth of HandMed Portable X-Ray machine and K4.227 million cash, and returned certificate of honour to the donors.—MNA



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe (right) receives the cash donated by Myanmar nationals in ROK at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 May. **PHOTO: MNA**

1,394 Myanmar returnees arrive back home through Myawady border on 26 May

A total of 1,394 Myanmar citizens returned home from Thailand through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2) of Myawady border town in Kayin State yesterday.

Among them, the 462 per-

sons entered Myanmar by 22 buses under the arrangement of two governments, and the remaining 932 people arrived back in their own schedules from different areas of Thailand.

Officials helped them with medical tests and other supplies.

Myanmar migrant workers have been repatriated from Thailand since 1 May, and a total of 5,177 persons have ar-

rived back home until now.

The latest group of returnees included 6 from Kachin, 12 from Kayah, 190 from Kayin, 137 from Mon, 71 from Sagaing, 434 from Bago, 209 from Magway, 42 from Yangon, 85 from

Mandalay, 48 from Nay Pyi Taw, 49 from Shan, 9 from Taninthayi, 22 from Rakhine and 80 from Ayeyawady respectively.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar citizens return from Thailand queue at the Myawady border on 26 May. A total of 1,394 Myanmar citizens return home from Thailand through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2) of Myawady border town in Kayin State on 26 May 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoSWRR provides cash assistance for visually impaired persons

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has supplied K30,000 each for the 658 visually impaired persons in 13 private schools for the blind in Yangon Region amid COVID-19.

The ministry drew up a plan to fulfill the needs of the disabled persons. In accordance with the plan, COVID-19 awareness programmes were conducted, and relief items and cash assistances were

also provided.

A total of K7.5 million was provided for 250 visually impaired persons from the schools for the blind in Yangon Region yesterday.

On 25 May, the ministry supplied a total of K1.5 million for 50 visually impaired persons in a school for the blind in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

The Rehabilitation Department of the ministry will also provide cash assistance



Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provides cash assistances for visually impaired persons. **PHOTO: MNA**

for the visually impaired persons of two schools for the blind in Sagaing Region, one school in Magway Region, four

in Mandalay Region, and one in Shan State (South).—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Influx of potato from China harms domestic market amid pandemic



Farm worker sorts potatoes during harvest. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

WITH an influx of importation of potatoes from China to domestic market, the price of potato is on the decline and imports hurt domestic growers, the growers said.

The inflow of China's pota-

atoes to Yangon market brings down the price to K450 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg), which is a significant drop from above K700 registered in the corresponding period of last year.

The growers cannot send

the potato to external markets amid the pandemic. Besides, they are battered by influx of potato from China.

The country allowed for import only when there has insufficiency of domestic consumption. The import needs approval from the Agriculture Department.

The Commerce Ministry has been controlling the entry of illegal potatoes to domestic market to protect the local growers' market share and earn country revenue.

There are over 90,000 acres of potato plantations across Myanmar. About 600,000 tonnes are produced yearly. Local potato consumption is estimated about 350,000 tonnes. —Htet Myat
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Raw materials import of CMP businesses down by \$63.6 mln

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP businesses have been valued at US\$1.397 billion for seven and half months beginning in October in the 2019-2020 financial year, a decrease of \$63.6 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Similarly, exports of finished industrial goods slightly fell to US\$5.843 billion between 1 October and 15 May in the current financial year 2019-2020, a small decrease of \$8.9 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

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

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed. Even worse, some foreign entrepreneurs are also running away from their businesses. Those factories without official notification of closure will

be inspected by a ground field inspection team. And, the factory operators can face legal actions under the Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) if they fail to comply with notification requirements for the closure of factories, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

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

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

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

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

extent, the businesspersons pointed out.

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

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Local traders request for clearance of beans stuck in Chennai Port

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S beans are stuck at Chennai Port of India due to Phytosanitary certificate (PC) and the bean body has requested the related department to tackle this, said Secretary U Min Ko Oo of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA).

It is reported that Myanmar trader exported over 140 tonnes of beans to India with fake PC and they are stuck at Chennai Port.

"Myanmar beans, which were exported in March, are remained stuck at Chennai Port due to some error between Phytosanitary Department of India and Myanmar. India's import association asked for help from Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. There are some errors such as changes in expired validity of the PC. We have requested the Agriculture Department so that the beans were not sent back to the country. We still do not know the following results," he said. The Ministry of Commerce is discussing this matter with the related associations and officials from the Agriculture Department, said Assistant Secretary U Khin Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Commerce.

"The department is trying to deal with this through Myanmar's embassy in India. They are still negotiating this to submit necessary documents. The Ministry is endeavouring to solve this problem at the best efforts.

If a company makes fake Phytosanitary Certificate, the company will be blacklisted or suspended with fines.

India always braces growing demand on bean and pulses. This case hurt the bean industry as well as the governments, the traders said.

Therefore, Myanmar traders have also requested the related departments to cut out some procedures and adopt the system with more compatibility, the association stated.

In response to the request letter by the Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation regarding seeking the PC for two times released on 22 September 2018, the Customs Department has directed to screen the following documents only — shipping note, invoice, packing list, sales contract, country of origin and the PC is not required to have a smooth trade, as per its directive issued on December 2018.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Trade deficit surges to \$1.43 bln as of 15 May

MYANMAR'S trade gap significantly widened in the past seven and half months of the current financial year 2019-2020 to more than US\$1.43 billion from \$590.9 million registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 15 May in the current fiscal, Myanmar's external trade increased to over \$23.9 billion from \$21.6 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

While exports were estimated at \$11.23 billion, imports were valued at \$12.67 billion. Compared to the previous fiscal, exports showed an increase of \$730.96 million, while imports climbed up by \$1.57 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, interme-

diated goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are increasing, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is decreasing.

The government is trying to cut the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 financial year, \$1.3 billion in the previous mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization. — Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Street children should be prioritized since they are at higher risk for COVID-19 infection

WITH a project on providing preventive measures against COVID-19 to the street children in Yangon and Mandalay, the authorities have given attention to the vulnerable group which is at high risk of the coronavirus infection and spread.

The project focusing in the two big cities is considered an initial step for the whole country, and an immediate step taken to give protection to the vulnerable population

We should use this opportunity to prevent these children from coming on the streets again.

Under the project, Yangon Region authorities and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement have provided a shelter and health care to the street children found at traffic signals and markets instead of handing over them to their parents or relatives amidst the COVID-19.

For the children living with their parents, their guardians must be given support so that they could fulfill their obligations and safeguard the rights of children under their care.

It is found that the street children staying at the shelter have mental health problems and they are also suffering malnutrition.

We should all know that children on the streets in abject deprivation of the most basic rights and in poverty should be provided with social protection schemes as they are subjected to sexual exploitation, trafficking or any other crime.

While implementing the project, we should work to establish a children protection mechanism together with volunteers and civil society organizations in regions and states in efforts to provide the children with social schemes. Only then, can the children be prevented from coming out on the streets again.

The status of street children becomes an important issue as the stay-at-home order emptied public places. They can't access food and water if they can't work on the street. They can't "stay home and stay safe" if they have no home and shelters are closed.

To implement a long-term plan to save the children on the streets, we need to prepare a national database of these children first, along with the standard operating procedures for children in street situations. But, this will take time.

In this situation, we are confident that the long-term plan for saving the children on the streets would come into existence in effective manner through this project.

World needs 'green recovery', health experts tell G20 leaders

TRILLIONS of dollars, euros and yuan pouring into post-pandemic economies must build a "healthy and green recovery", 200 medical groups representing 40 million health professionals worldwide told G20 leaders Tuesday in an open letter.

The twenty nations accounting for 90 per cent of global GDP should prioritise investment in public health, clean air, clean water and a stable climate in order to boost resilience against future health crises, said the letter.

"We have witnessed first-hand how fragile communities can be when their health, food security and freedom to work are interrupted by a common threat," the letter said, describing the COVID-19 pandemic that has sickened more than five million and claimed nearly 350,000 lives since the start of the year.

"These effects could have been partially mitigated, or possibly even prevented, by adequate investments in pandemic preparedness, public health and environmental stewardship."

The next G20 summit is scheduled for November.



"A truly healthy economy will not allow pollution to continue to cloud the air we breathe and the water we drink," organizations representing 40 million health workers said. PHOTO: AFP

sibly even prevented, by adequate investments in pandemic preparedness, public health and environmental stewardship."

The next G20 summit is scheduled for November.

A June meeting of G7 leaders was scrapped due to the global health crisis, but US President Donald Trump said last week it could still take place at the White House and Camp

David, a summer retreat outside Washington DC.

Backed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the letter highlighted the

health-wrecking impact of air pollution, which causes some seven million premature deaths each year.

"New health threats"

"Before COVID-19, air pollution was already weakening our bodies," the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the World Organization of Family Doctors and two hundred other groups said.

"A truly healthy economy will not allow pollution to continue to cloud the air we breathe and the water we drink," the letter continued. "It will not allow unabated climate change and deforestation, potentially unleashing new health threats upon vulnerable populations."

Promoting the hashtag #HealthyRecovery, the appeal called for removing hundreds of billions of dollars in subsidies for oil, gas and coal, the main drivers of both global warming and air pollution.

It also underscored the

need to boost renewable energy, such as solar and wind power.

"Healthy lives depend on a healthy planet," said World Medical Association President Miguel Jorge. "We need a comprehensive approach, a healthy and green recovery, and we need it now."

Health workers -- from cleaning crews to doctors, in hospitals and nursing homes -- have been hit especially hard by the pandemic.

While there is no official tally, tens of thousands have been infected with the virus, and hundreds have died.

At the beginning of May, the International Council of Nurses reported that at least 90,000 nurses worldwide -- possibly twice as many -- had caught the virus.

Hundreds of health professionals have died, including many during the initial outbreak in Wuhan, China, the pandemic's epicentre.

SOURCE: AFP

The "Reach Out Strategy" in Combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Lokethar

MYANMAR, like all other countries of the world is facing the Covid-19 pandemic. Like in most other developing country, Myanmar's public health facilities, at the beginning of the pandemic, lacked testing equipment, the appropriate personal protective equipment and most of all shortage of doctors, nurses, health care workers. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) and under it the public health facilities, including the public hospitals and clinics have had to face the pandemic as best as they can.

In Myanmar however, there has been a strong political will, even in the early stage, of the corona virus crisis, to do the best it can to prevent it and to treat the people who inadvertently are affected by it. It therefore set up a Committee for the purpose even when the news of the "corona virus" epidemic was circulating around. Later however, with the World Health Organization's Announcement of March 11, 2020; that the corona virus 19 crisis was a pandemic, Myanmar upgraded the initial Prevention and Treatment Committee to a National Level Central Committee headed by the State Counsellor. Subsidiary Committees at the Regional, Township and even Wards and Village levels were formed.

First and foremost the Central Committee launched, through its various subsidiary committees, an extensive Covid-19 education campaign through the media to inform the people about the Covid-19 pandemic and how best to confront it using the guidelines of the World Health Organization and the detailed directives and instructions issued by the MOHS. Many INGOs as well as

NGOs pitched in for helping in the process as did the Volunteers (Saydanan Wundhans) including doctors, nurses, caregivers and ordinary citizens particularly the country's youths.

Simultaneously priority has been given to detecting those showing the early symptoms of infection by alerting all the health facilities under the MOH, to set up preliminary health surveillance units, for weeding out people with fever and showing other initial symptoms of the disease. This procedure is also being undertaken at every port of entry as it is most likely that the virus will be "imported" through them. The various committees at every level are being directed to supervise the measures to detect the symptoms of the disease and to report to the MOHS health facilities, including the clinics and hospitals within nearest reach.

Sometime later the Central Committee was able to acquire, with the help and assistance of friendly countries, testing as well as other needed equipment and could perform the tests at the National Health Laboratory and later at the Medical Research Institute both under the MOHS. The tests were made on those who showed signs of Covid-19 infection. Those who tested positive to the Covid-19 virus were sent to the public hospitals designated by MOHS to treat Covid-19 patients. Thus far only about (144) persons showing symptoms, have tested positive among whom (5) persons have succumbed to the disease. However, with the migrant Myanmar workers returning from the countries concerned it is anybody's guess as to how many would test

Covid-19 positive in the not too distant future.

What I would like to highlight here is the "Reach Out Strategy" adopted by the Central Committee. By that strategy the State Counsellor herself, undertook to reach out to those Township/Wards/Village Committees and persons actively engaged, at the "On Ground Level" in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. She has been holding, video conferencing sessions, televised over the Myanmar Radio & Television Broadcasting Network, with small groups of three persons comprising a Township/ Village level official, a member of the voluntary organization in the area, and a health worker (doctor/ nurse/ caregiver/ attendant etc.) in a casual conversation session lasting for about an hour or so, as to how they were performing, their difficulties, their needs, and most of all the help they needed to do their jobs effectively. This "teleconferencing" is being carried out thus far even to include remote States and Regions of the country.

It is indeed a unique process in line with democratic principles. It is a strategy to inform the "people" and make them aware of what the Government is doing to control the epidemic. In some way it is also a "monitoring" process to evaluate what is being done by the responsible people in the country to combat a dreaded infection using the resources available. It also enables the Central Committee and the MOHS to "fill in" some of the needs of the Township/Ward/ Village level organizations to help them do their work more effectively.

The best part of the "teleconferencing" is

the very "informal" way it has been conducted by the State Counsellor herself. The talk commences with each of the three local participants presenting what they have been doing concerning the control measures set by the MOHS and what further help they need. After each presentation there would be a dialogue between the participant and the State Counsellor to further clarify the presentation and at the same time address the difficulties encountered by the presenter in performing his/her duties. The State Counsellor discusses with each participant as to what can be done immediately and what can be done after consultation with the Departments concerned including the MOHS. The "talk" can be interrupted at any time by the presenter or by the State Counsellor who would smilingly introduce anecdotes to make the talk lively. Her style encourages the three participants to lose their inhibitions and to frankly express their opinions and forward their "ideas" to help combat the Covid-19 Pandemic to the best of their ability. The talk ends with the State Counsellor wrapping up the discussion and giving valuable advice and encouragement to the participants as how to better perform their work.

The "teleconferencing" with the responsible persons at the basic level is a novel and a very modern idea indeed. Perhaps a team of researchers could be formed to "document" the proceedings and publish it for posterity.

With Charity to all and Malice to none.

Myanmar Gazette

Head of service organization transferred

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Shwe Lay, Director-General of the Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction, as Director-General of the Union Minister's Office from the date he assumes charge of duties.

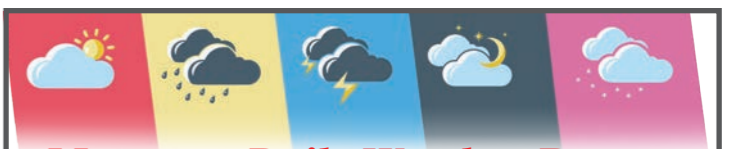
Significant Water Level Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hr M.S.T on 26-5-2020)

The water level of Ayeyarwady River at Myitkyina rose about (7½) feet starting from 23rd May to 25th May, 2020. According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Myitkyina is (746) cm and the rise of water level is about (8) feet within (1) day. The water levels had already risen about (1½-7) feet at Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha and Thabeikkyin within (4) days.

The water levels in Upper Ayeyarwady River may rise above their present water levels about (5) feet to (6) feet at Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha and Thabeikkyin during the next (4) days, about (6) feet to (7½) feet at Mandalay, Sagaing, Myinmu, Pakokku and NyaungOo during the next (7) days, and about (4½) feet to (6) feet at Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun during the next (12) days.

It is advised that the vessels running along the river and those who made plantations on sandbank during low flow period should make precaution measures for the rise of water level.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 26th May, 2020)
BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Southwest Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 27th May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayin State and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Deltaic areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th May, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

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

YGN govt to provide monsoon paddy seeds for 75,000 acres free of charge

MONSOON paddy seeds will be provided free for 75,000 acres of paddy field in Yangon region to boost the paddy yield and to prevent farmers from being harmed by coronavirus outbreak.

To be able to provide the monsoon paddy seeds free of charge, a coordinating meeting took place at Yangon regional government office on 26 May attended by Yangon regional government Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung

Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Yangon regional government agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Energy minister U Han Htun, Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin, immigration and Human Resources Minister Daw Moe Moe Su Kyi, the regional government secretary U Soe Soe Zaw, regional Hluttaw representatives, related departments officials and the Hluttaw officials.

"We are planning to distribute the high quality paddy seeds

to the Monsoon paddy farms growing the monsoon paddy for more than three years in Yangon region. We don't intend to provide to all high yield paddy farms. We will provide the high quality paddy seeds for the paddy farms, which need the pedigree paddy seeds," said an official from Yangon regional government.

The Yangon regional government officials have instructed the regional agriculture department officials that the high

quality monsoon paddy seeds are needed to be provided to the paddy farmland which need to boost the paddy yield and to prevent the local farmers from being harmed by coronavirus pandemic.

More than 110,000 baskets of high quality monsoon paddy seeds will be provided for 75,000 acres of monsoon paddy farmlands in Yangon Region. — Myint Maung Soe

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***Supplies to fight COVID-19 reach IDP camps in Chin State**

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing medical and relief items to the IDP camps in Chin State for prevention of COVID-19 transmission.

On 24 May, the temporary shelters for internally displaced persons in Sami and Paletwa towns received 11,800 cloth masks, 200 bags of lime powders, 7,704 soap bars, 2,450 bottles of hand sanitizer, 7 memory sticks with audio files of COVID-19 for awareness campaign, 14 hand speakers and 14 thermometers.

The ministry is conducting awareness campaigns and motivation works in Nay Pyi Taw council area and other Regions/States.—MNA

An official presents bottles of hand sanitizer to a person at an IDP camp yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA****Highway passenger buses likely to resume services from 1 June**

THE highway passenger buses based in Yangon are likely to resume services commencing from 1 June, according to the person in charge of the bus lines.

The highway buses were suspended in the first week of April, and are now expected to provide service in a few days. The relevant regional officials do not allow the buses based in their regions to resume their service. So, the bus lines have been suspended until the end

of May. "We heard the bus lines will be allowed to resume their services starting from 1 June. So, we are preparing to reopen the bus lines. The authorities have also distributed the health guidelines for them to run their services," said the person in charge of the passenger bus lines operating from Magway to Yangon.

At present, the passenger buses operating between Yangon and Mawlamyine and Dawei

and Pyay are providing their services. Other regions are not allowed to operate passenger transportation except cargo transportation.

The operation of the passenger buses is not prohibited by the Yangon Region. The other regions restricted coming into and going out of the passenger buses, said Joint Secretary U Hla Aung of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"We will know when we can

start to run our buses at the end of May. We could not sell the bus line tickets yet because we don't know the exact date of operation," said a staffer from the passenger bus lines.

We think we could not make any profit from operating our bus lines because there will be fewer passengers and the rising price of fuel oil, according to the person in charge of passenger bus lines. —Aye Cho

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***Over 1,600 kg of ICE confiscated in Loilem****PHOTO: MPF**

AUTHORITIES seized a total of 1,615 kg of ICE (crystal methamphetamine) in Loilem Township, Shan State, on 24 May, according to Myanmar Police Force.

Police searched the 12-wheeled vehicle driven by Khun San Oo on Loilem-Taunggyi road near Hotin Village in Loilem around 2 am on 24 May, and seized 1,615 kg of ICE, estimated K40 billion. According to the vehicle's driver Khun San Oo, 43, and Wai Lin Tun, 37,

on board, Ko Thu (a) Myint Thu, and Ko Phyu from Lay Phaw Htaw Village, Kyun Chaung Village-tract, Phayathonzu sub-Township, Kyauin-Seikgyi Township, Kayin State, and Ko Sai from Wan Sot Village, Wan Hai Village-tract in Mongshu Township, were also involved in the case. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — GNLM *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

UN says both Koreas broke armistice in DMZ shooting

SEOUL— An exchange of gunfire between North and South Korean forces in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the peninsula was a violation of the armistice agreement, the United Nations Command (UNC) said Tuesday.

The two sides remain technically at war, since fighting in the Korean War ended with an armistice in 1953 that was never replaced with a peace treaty.

North Korean gunfire hit a Southern guard post on May 3, prompting

Seoul's soldiers to return fire a few minutes later and broadcast warnings.

The UNC -- which monitors compliance with the ceasefire -- opened an investigation into the shooting and concluded that "both sides committed Armistice Agreement violations", it said in a statement.

The probe found the North's Korean People's Army fired four 14.5mm small-arms rounds, which were responded to by two volleys from South Korea.

But the investigation was "unable to definitively determine" whether the North's gunshots were fired "intentionally or by mistake", the UNC said.

The North's military did not offer a "formal response" when the UNC invited it to take part in the investigation, it said, adding that the South's forces provided "full cooperation".

Seoul's defence ministry expressed regret over the announcement of the findings and said its troops were following their response manual.

Despite its name, the Demilitarized Zone is one of the most fortified places on earth, replete with minefields and barbed-wire fences.

The last time the two sides exchanged fire on the border was in 2014. North Korean soldiers also shot at a defecting soldier in 2017, but the South did not fire back.—AFP



South Korean soldiers patrolling along a barbed wire fence at the Demilitarized Zone with North Korea. PHOTO: AFP

China trials national digital currency in specific areas

BEIJING — China has been trialing payments of its digital currency in specific areas, the central bank governor said on Tuesday, paving the way for its becoming the first country to establish a national electronic payment system.

Central banks in Japan, the United States and Europe have been vigilant of China's lead in issuing a national digital currency, as it could threaten the long-standing position of the U.S. dollar as an international reserve currency.

The digital yuan is currently under trial in a handful of cities including Shenzhen, Suzhou, and Chengdu, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said in an interview published on its official website.

The basic design has been completed and the trials are verifying the system



Symbol photo on the topics of Bitcoin, Crypto currency, financial speculation, digital currency, China, etc. Bitcoin (coin physical) on a Chinese 100 Yuan (Renminbi) banknote. PHOTO: KYODO

stability and performance, Yi said, adding that "there is no timetable" for an official launch.

More central banks have been considering issuing their own digital currencies or studying the matter, after Facebook Inc., with access to a user network of one-third of the global pop-

ulation, unveiled a plan last year to introduce a digital currency called Libra.

But many countries and regulatory authorities have also remained wary of widespread use of such currencies as they could be abused for money laundering and other unlawful activities.—Kyodo

NEWS In BRIEF

8-member Chinese surveying team attempts to summit Mt. Qomolangma Wednesday

MOUNT QOMOLANGMA BASE CAMP—An eight-member Chinese surveying team will attempt to reach the summit of Mt. Qomolangma, the world's tallest peak, Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the team left Camp Two at an altitude of 7,790 metres and plans to reach the assault camp at an altitude of 8,300 metres later in the day.

If the weather holds, the team will head for the summit in the early hours of Wednesday. Meanwhile, two mountaineering guides will provide support from the assault camp.

A road construction team is expected to complete building a route to the summit Tuesday afternoon, which will be crucial for Wednesday's planned summiting.

Two professional surveyors have been withdrawn from the peak-climbing squad due to uncertainties about the weather and insufficient supplies such as oxygen.—Xinhua

Afghanistan to free 900 more Taliban prisoners

KABUL — Afghan authorities plan to release 900 more Taliban prisoners on Tuesday, as calls grow for the militants to extend a ceasefire on its third and final day.

The pause in fighting -- which came into effect on Sunday to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr -- was, for the most part, holding across the country, officials said.

The government announced plans Sunday to release up to 2,000 insurgent prisoners in response to the Taliban's three-day ceasefire offer.

On Monday they freed 100, and will release another 900, the government said -- the biggest group of Taliban prisoners to be freed so far.

The exact number could vary subject to legal procedures, National Security Council spokesman Javid Faisal told AFP.

He said the authorities hoped the Taliban would extend the ceasefire so that delayed peace talks could commence.

"If the Taliban are ready to extend the ceasefire, we are ready to continue the ceasefire too," Faisal told a news conference.—AFP

Soldiers deployed in Indonesia to enforce lockdown before reopening



FILE PHOTO: President Joko Widodo stressed that the soldiers and police personnel would make people abide by the protocols of social distancing so that the infection rate would continue to fall. PHOTO: AFP

JAKARTA —Indonesia has deployed soldiers and police personnel to enforce the partial lockdown in a bid to bring the COVID-19 infections down as the country plans to relax restrictions to shore up the ravaged economy.

Nearly 350,000 troops and police on Tuesday started guarding mall shopping centres, public transport and tourist attractions in the capital of Jakarta and three other provinces as

well as 25 cities, Indonesian Military Chief Air Marshall Hadi Tjahjanto said.

President Joko Widodo stressed that the soldiers and police personnel would make people abide by the protocols of social distancing so that the infection rate would continue to fall.

"Starting today (Tuesday), military and police personnel will be stationed in spots where mass usually gather to discipline the people, making them obey the

health protocols," Jokowi, as the president is known, said when visiting a mass rapid transport station in Jakarta. The president said the declining trends of the virus spread in some provinces have been encouraging based on the reproduction rate standard (RO), namely the level of the virus transmissions which have settled below 1, meaning the relaxation of the rules can be applied for a new normal stage.—Xinhua

Singapore warns of worst economic contraction since independence

SINGAPORE — Singapore's virus-hit economy could shrink by as much as seven per cent this year — the worst reading since independence — the government said Tuesday, as it unveiled a fresh multi-billion dollar stimulus package.

The city-state is seen as a bellwether of the global economy, and the forecast historic contraction highlights the extreme pain being wrought on countries by the killer disease.

The warning came as Singapore's deputy prime minister unveiled a fresh support package worth Sg\$33 billion (\$23.2 billion) for the troubled city, which has been crippled by months of lockdowns around the world.

The trade ministry's

forecast — which was a downgrade from the maximum four per cent contraction predicted in March — came as official data showed the economy shrank 0.7 per cent on-year in the first three months of the year, while it reduced 4.7 per cent from the previous quarter.

The financial hub is one of the world's most open economies, and is usually hit hardest and earliest during any global shock.

The ministry said the new estimate was made "in view of the deterioration in the external demand outlook" and the partial lockdown imposed domestically. A contraction of seven per cent would be the worst since the city's independence in 1965.—AFP



Empty streets in Singapore as people stay at home to curb the spread of the coronavirus / © AFP

S.Korea's consumer sentiment rebounds on gov't relief grants

SEOUL — Sentiment among South Korean consumers over economic situations rebounded in May as the government provided relief grants for all households in a bid to bolster consumer spending, central bank data showed Tuesday.

The composite consumer sentiment index (CCSD) stood at 77.6 in May, up 6.8 points from the previous month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It came as the government offered relief grants to all households to help boost private consumption, hit hard by the COVID-19

outbreak.

The grant as much as 1 million won (810 US dollars) was given to households with at least four or more family members.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases slowed down in recent weeks, enabling the government to loosen rules on social distancing campaign.

Inflation expectations, which reflect outlook among consumers over headline inflation for the next 12 months, came to 1.6 per cent in May, down 0.1 percentage point from a month earlier.—Xinhua

China would have set GDP growth target around 6% without outbreak: Xi

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping recently said China's gross domestic product growth target for 2020 would have been set at around 6 per cent without the new coronavirus outbreak, a website of the People's Daily showed Tuesday.

If the country rigidly sets the growth target this year, the focus will be on strong stimulus, which is not in line with the purpose of its economic and social development, Xi was quoted by the ruling Communist Party's mouthpiece as saying.

China usually sets a GDP growth target at an annual session of its parliament, but it abandoned



FILE: China's economy already showed signs of faltering last year as a tit-for-tat tariff dispute with the United States weighed on exports, a major driver of growth, in turn dragging down investment and private spending at home. PHOTO: AFP

doing so this year with the virus outbreak, first detected in the central city of Wuhan, crucially

darkening the outlook for the world's second-biggest economy.

At a meeting on Fri-

day on the sidelines of the National People's Congress, Xi also stressed that the priority is to improve people's lives by stabilizing employment, and GDP growth should not be concentrated, according to the newspaper.

It was the first time since 1988 that China failed to set a GDP growth target at the legislature.

China's economy already showed signs of faltering last year as a tit-for-tat tariff dispute with the United States weighed on exports, a major driver of growth, in turn dragging down investment and private spending at home.—Kyodo

Hong Kong airport to resume limited transit services

HONG KONG — Hong Kong will partly resume transit services at its international airport next week, the city's leader announced Tuesday, as the business hub gradually reopens while keeping the coronavirus at bay.

Hong Kong's airport is one of the world's busiest but arrivals and flights have collapsed in the wake of the global pandemic.

"Transit services at the airport, which have been suspended since March 25, will partly resume on June 1," Chief Executive Carrie Lam told reporters.

Further details on lift-

ing transit flight restrictions were expected to be unveiled at a press conference by health officials later in the afternoon.

Hong Kong was one of the first places to record the COVID-19 disease when it broke out of mainland China.

But the city has since made impressive headway against the virus with a little over 1,000 recorded infections and four deaths out of a population of 7.5 million people.

Tuesday marked 11 consecutive days with no recorded local infections.

Anyone arriving at the

airport is not allowed into the city until they take a coronavirus test. Those found to be positive are immediately quarantined.

Many businesses including bars were forced to shut in March and April but have since reopened.—AFP



Transit services at Hong Kong airport have been suspended since late March. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (129N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (129N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA
SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (020S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (020S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity reopens: AFP

BETHLEHEM—Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, built on the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born, reopened on Tuesday more than two months after closing in the face of the coronavirus.

A handful of priests from different Christian denominations stood watch as the door to the church in the Israeli-occupied West Bank was opened, an AFP photographer reported.

Once inside, the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, Bishop Theophylactos, kissed an icon while a priest sprayed holy water in the grotto of the church, where Christians believe Christ was born in a manger. The church had been closed since March 5 when an outbreak of COVID-19 was detected in Bethlehem.

Initially only 50 people will be allowed in the

church at one time and visitors must wear face coverings and observe social distancing, a joint statement from the churches that control the site said.

Kissing or touching the stones, including in the grotto where Christians believe Jesus was born, will be forbidden.

The Bethlehem outbreak began with a group of Greek tourists who visited the city, including the Church of the Nativity,



Bishop Theophylactos reopens Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, built on the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born, as Palestinian authorities ease coronavirus restrictions in the occupied West Bank. PHOTO: AFP

prompting church authorities to sterilize the site.

The Palestinian gov-

ernment swiftly took measures to prevent the spread of the disease and in recent

weeks few new cases have been reported in the West Bank.—AFP

Australian media to be tried for contempt over Pell reporting

SYDNEY—Dozens of Australian journalists and news organizations will go on trial in November for allegedly violating a gag order barring coverage of Cardinal George Pell's sex crimes case, a judge said Tuesday.

Rupert Murdoch's Nationwide News and the former Fairfax group, now owned by broadcaster Nine, are among 12 companies facing contempt charges along with 18 leading editors and reporters.

If convicted, the journalists face prison terms of up to five years and the media organizations fines of up to Aus\$500,000 (\$328,000).

The presiding judge issued the gag to prevent news of the court proceedings from prejudicing jurors in what was expected to be a second trial against Pell over his now-quashed conviction for child sex abuse. The order meant Pell's December 2018 conviction for allegedly abusing two choirboys in the 1990s could not be reported in Australia, including on the internet.

Local media then ran cryp-



Protesters gather outside court as Australian Cardinal George Pell is escorted into the Supreme Court of Victoria in Melbourne last year. PHOTO: AFP

tic articles complaining they were being prevented from reporting on a story of major public interest.

But they were accused of breaching the order and "scandalizing the court" with those reports, even though they did not mention Pell or the charges involved. Press freedom and civil liberties groups say so-called suppression orders are over-used by Australian courts and have failed to take into account changes in the way news is dis-

seminated online and via social media.

The targeted news organizations have vigorously disputed the contempt of court charges.

Some of the defendants were dropped from the case earlier this year.

The gag order was lifted in early 2019 when prosecutors dropped further charges against Pell and the cleric was subsequently acquitted of all charges by Australia's top court in April this year.—AFP ■

Costa Rica legalizes same-sex marriage in first for Central America

SAN JOSE—Costa Rica legalized same-sex marriage on Tuesday, becoming the first Central American country to do so, as a court ruling came into force at midnight.

Planned celebrations did not take place because of the coronavirus pandemic, but a special programme about LGBT rights was broadcast on public television and online as the first weddings were held.

"This change will bring about a significant social and cultural transformation, allowing thousands of people to marry," said President Carlos

Alvarado in the programme. Costa Rica is the eighth country in the Americas to recognize same-sex marriage—a group that includes Brazil, Ecuador and Argentina, as well as Canada and the US.

The move was triggered by a 2018 ruling of the Supreme Court which declared the part of the law banning gay marriage was unconstitutional.

That ruling gave parliament 18 months to legislate on the matter—but it did not, so the provision was automatically annulled.—AFP ■



Costa Rica is the first Central American country to legalize same-sex marriage. PHOTO: AFP

Israel court rules Australia sex crimes suspect fit to stand trial

JERUSALEM—An Israeli court ruled Tuesday that an Orthodox Jewish teacher accused of child sex abuse in Australia was mentally fit to stand trial, bringing her closer to extradition after years of legal battles.

Judge Chana Lomp of the Jerusalem district court said of Malka Leifer that she had "decided to accept the expert panel's opinion, the defendant is fit to stand trial".

Lomp said she would set a date for the renewal of the extradition process.

Leifer, who was not in court on Tuesday, is accused of child sex abuse while she was a teacher and principal at an ultra-Orthodox Jewish school in Melbourne, where she had emigrated from her native Israel.

According to Australian media, Leifer is facing 74 counts of child sex abuse, but her lawyers say there were only "three actual complaints."

After allegations surfaced against her in 2008, Leifer and her family left for Israel and have been living in the settlement of Emmanuel in the occupied

West Bank.

A previous extradition attempt between 2014 and 2016 failed after Leifer was hospitalized in mental institutions and expert opinions found she was not fit to stand trial.

But undercover private investigators later filmed Leifer shopping and depositing a cheque at a bank.

This prompted Israeli authorities to launch a probe into whether she was faking mental illness to avoid extradition, leading to her arrest in February 2018.—AFP ■

Consumer complaints able to be lodged to CICC to protect harms and losses

By Naing Oo (DOCA)

THE global pandemic COVID-19 brings about difficulties to almost all world nations including Myanmar, especially some selfish capitalists are selling medicines, health-related items and personal and household goods unfairly raising the prices taking the advantage of the consequence of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. At such a time, the Ministry of Commerce had to issue a notification prohibiting too much stockpile of goods and large profit sought.

Only when individual changes

Humans of today trying to change the world have forgotten to vary their mindsets, they are reluctant to do so and they are hesitant to make a complaint as well. Only when individuals adapt their fixed ideas will any town or any village or any country make progress. To witness positive changes, each citizen and each department is responsible for changing the country. By doing so, it amounts to special attention to the strenuous efforts of the ancestors to ensure longevity of the entire mankind in the human community from the olden times until nowadays. Only when human's responsibility is served dutifully can a better standard of living be raised. Measures to protect the humans against danger or harm and deal with their sufferings can be carried out only when everyone cultivates sense of duty.

With many advances in all aspects, information technology, transportation, trade and construction are fast changing in the world day after day. It should be noted that many advances include advantages and

disadvantages. Every country has to conduct awareness and educative talk in a bid to remove the untoward advantages. Regulations and policies have to be designed to investigate and take legal action.

Similarly with regard to the services of household goods and personal goods, the Ministry of Commerce is taking action in accordance with the provisions prescribed in the Consumers Protection Law 2019 of the Department of Consumer Affairs in order to protect the consumers from losing their rights and dealing with the sufferings of the consumers. It also aims to ensure Myanmar people to live in a healthy and prosperous community.

The central committee for consumer protection was instituted in order to carry out the tasks in line with the provisions prescribed in the law. The consumer dispute settling body was also formed in the districts in regions and states under which the working committee for accepting and handling complaints and the working committee for securing products which raised public awareness, distributed pamphlets, set up educative signboard in public places, and used different forms of media to give information about consumer rights. In doing so, the people have got the habit of opting secure household and personal goods as well as services free from harmful effects. If any harms or damages are found regarding products and services, the people have the right to make complaints to the CICC independently and transparently so as to obtain remedial actions.

Opening of CICC branch offices to seek solution to harms and damages

To carry out remedial action against harms and damages of the consumers and civil society organizations (CSOs) in a short time, to make complaints about harms and damages of the consumers in an easy manner, to promote the reliance of the consumers, the Consumer Information and Complaint Centre (CICC) offices are open in the districts in regions and states and the offices are also to protect rights and interests of the consumers, ensure safe and secure products, supervise quality and standardizations of the products and services.

Duties and responsibilities

of CICC offices

In respect of harms and damages of the consumers from regions and states concerned, the duties and responsibilities the CICC offices are assuming are as follows:

- (A) Duties assignment to accept the complaints
- (B) Acceptance of the complaints
- (C) Submission of the conflict to the consumer dispute settling body
- (D) Coordination with the department concerns
- (E) The settlement of the complaints

CICC's handling process of complaints

The ways of CICC offices to deal with the complaints about

the harms and damages of the consumers are to the following.

- (A) Acceptance of complaints
- (B) Complaint review of whether it is true or not
- (C) Should the complaint considered right, it is to reply to complainant within 48 hours
- (D) Mediation between the complainant and the accused
- (E) Unless the mediation reaches the agreement, it is to continue submission to the consumer dispute settling body
- (F) Complaint settlement according to management ways
- (G) If the complainant is not satisfied with mediation situation, an instruction is to be given to file the case at the courts

A way shown to make a complaint to CICC

Consumers can make a complaint to the CICC offices via phone, fax or other means.

CICC settling the complaints with these ways

The CICC offices are settling the complaints using two ways with regard to the damages and losses of the consumers.

(A) The Consumer Affairs Department and the Consumer Dispute Settling Body mediate in the dispute

(B) The complaints that are not directly related to the consumer protection are handed over to the departments concerned in accord with the law



Officials from Department of Consumer Affairs make a surprise check on sales of expiry and prohibited goods in the market. PHOTO: DOCA



Some complaints settled by the CICC

Some complaints lodged by letter, media or in person in respect of the damages and losses of the consumers settled by the CICC are as follows:

- (A) Regarding the complaint about the communication service failing to live up to the promise of the announcement, the service enterprise was ordered to stop operation until the dispute is over. The CICC helped the complainant claim that assistance would be provided to the education sector with the name of the representative.
- (B) Regarding the complaint about the presence of fungus in hamburger lodged

by Viber, the CICC made an inspection tour to the hamburger shop and made the responsible person of the shop put signature to the pledge. The CICC informed the complainant of the complaint settlement by telephone to which the latter gave the green light.

- (C) Regarding the complaint about the presence of fungus in 'butter cake' and changes in expiration dates filed by Facebook, the CICC made an inspection tour to the place of manufacturing butter cakes and made the responsible person put signature to the pledge that an effective legal action would be taken against if the product goes on selling.

(D) Regarding the complaint about the refusal of the phone shop owner to repair the phone that broke down before warranty period ends free of charge, the CICC mediated in the dispute in the presence of the buyer and the seller. The seller promised that the phone would be sent to Service Center for repair. The buyer did not need to pay repair cost and was satisfied with the dispute settlement.

(E) Regarding the complaint about an ATM of a private bank failing to issue out K200,000 the Visa card user wanted, but do only K160,000, the CICC went an inspection tour to the ATM of the private bank and informed the private bank concerned of the ATM error and managed to settle the case together with the findings and evidences until the Visa card user gave the green light.

(F) Regarding the complaint about the unpleasant smell of duck curry, the presence of insect in the curry and tax payment without stamp of a restaurant, the CICC made an inspection field trip there and made the responsible person of the restaurant put signature to the pledge and gave instructions on the rules to follow. The CICC informed the complainant of the complaint settlement by telephone to which the latter gave the green light.

(G) The CICC is settling the complaint about price gouging in medicine, medical related equipment, household and personal goods during the outbreak of global pandemic COVID-19.

Especially, it is important that more than 51 million people should enjoy full consumer rights and gain easy access to harmless household and personal goods as well as services. Products should be manufactured in line with international norms and they must be hygienic, safe and secure enough for the consumers to use. The Department of Consumer Affairs is stepping up its effort to protect the consumers from harms and damages. If the consumers find out any harms and losses, complaints can be filed to the CICC offices in districts in regions and states.

Translated by Htut Htut
(Twantay)



Vivo V19 leaves the nation impressed with its newly launched innovative mobile experience

VIVO recently revealed the new V19 through the LIVE streaming event hosted at Vivo Myanmar Facebook page on 8th May 2020. In the live stream event, the Product Manager showcased the full specifications and features of the latest flagship, V19. Vivo's Brand Ambassadors, Wyne Su Khine Thein and Nay Chi Oo also participated in the live-stream event and shared their first-hand experiences and expectations of V19 along with Product Manager of Vivo Myanmar. The results of the launch event were astonishing and received overwhelming responses from its fans.

Smartphone enthusiasts, media, and famous celebrities took on social media talking about this camera-centric smartphone. Nearly 4,000 fans participated and shown curiosity on V19's full specifications, price, and enjoyed watching their favourite idols at the LIVE streaming. Myanmar famous celebrities including actress Alice Ong, Nan Sandar Hla Htun, Singer May La Than Zin, Oak Soe Khant, Han Nay Thar and National football player Kyaw Min Oo also shared their personal experiences in social media using the newly launched V19 device.

"Vivo is committed to innovate with the consumer in mind and V19 reflects our deep understanding of consumers' needs as we try to innovate new technology

to follow the trends to fulfill our customers' needs. With industry-leading selfie technology, beautiful design, and strong performance, V19 is perfect for young consumers who care about the camera and entertainment features. We now have a dual-front camera setup encased in a pill-sized notch, along with four sensors on the back, bringing the total number of cameras on the V19 to six. In this time of the pandemic situation, the smartphone plays a vital role in staying connected with our friends, family, and up to date with the latest news that are happening globally." said Mr Nelson Ni, Chief Operating Officer at Vivo Mobile Myanmar.

There is also a "Light Up Your Night Campaign" on Vivo Myanmar Official Page which was announced on 23 May. The campaign period will take from 24 May to 6 June, Vivo will offer to winners gift set (V19 Smartphone + Bluetooth Speaker + Power Bank) as a gift set, V19 as a second prize as well as Y19 as a third prize. There are also additional prizes such as Bluetooth Speakers to 6 winners as fourth prizes, 10 Power Bank to 10 winners as fifth prizes and 10 Earphones to 10 winners as special prizes. Moreover, Vivo is going to provide lucky prizes for people who give the votes to the participants although they are not joining in the campaign. —GNLM



MFF Technical Committee holds meeting (1/2020)

The Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)'s Technical Committee held the first meeting for 2020 at the MFF's meeting hall in Yangon on 25 May.

At the meeting, Chairman of the Technical Committee U Than Toe Aung made an opening remark.

The MFF technical committee was formed at the MFF Executive Committee's meeting (1/2020) on 28 February to effectively perform the technical affairs of the committee during 2020-2023.

The technical committee

consists of patrons U Tin Aung (goal) and U Bunny Tin Aung, Chairman U Than Toe Aung, Vice-Chairman U Tin Myint Aung, and members U Kyi Lwin, U Aung Naing, U Myo Hlaing Win, U Kyaw Min Htoo, U Tin Maung Tun, U Kyaw Min, U Zaw Win Tun, U Than Wai, U Soe Myat Min, U Aung Kyaw Moe, U Myo Min Tun, U Zaw Lin Tun, U Aung Khaing, U Aung Nay Win, U Kyaw Thu, U Aung Myint Tun, and U Htay Myint.

The meeting discussed the appointment of vacant technical director position.



The meeting of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)'s Technical Committee is in progress on 25 May.

PHOTO: MFF

Afterwards, the Committee's Chairman U Than Toe Aung expressed thanks to the attendees

for joining the meeting. He also urged the attendees to cooperate on the success of the internation-

al matches. After the chairman's speech, the meeting was concluded.—Kyaw Khin

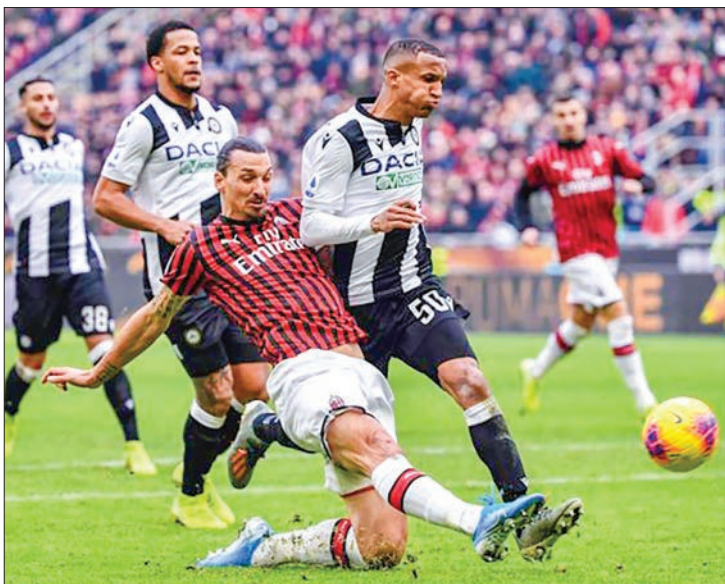
Ibrahimovic suffers potential Achilles injury: reports

ROME — Zlatan Ibrahimovic may have picked up an Achilles tendon injury that could put the Milan forward's season at risk, according to reports in Italy on Monday.

The Gazzetta Dello Sport reports that the Swede hurt his calf in training but various outlets claim that the injury may also involve his Achilles tendon, which would rule him out for weeks, with Serie A potentially restarting next month.

Contacted by AFP, Milan didn't comment on Ibrahimovic's physical condition. Aged 38, Ibrahimovic rejoined the seven-time European champions during this season's winter transfer window. He suffered a calf injury shortly after signing in January.

He returned to Italy two weeks ago from Sweden, where he had been training with Hammarby, in order to prepare for a possible return to Serie A action.—AFP



AC Milan forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (third from left) attempting to score against Udinese during a Serie A match on Jan 19 at the San Siro stadium in Milan. **PHOTO: AFP**

English Premier League to vote on return of contact training

LONDON — Premier League clubs will vote on proposals for a return to contact training on Wednesday as the English top-flight seeks to take another step closer to resuming the season next month.

New UK government guidelines issued on Sunday allow for the return of "close contact" training, including tackling, to help players step up their match fitness ahead of a return to competitive action.

"This type of training would start with smaller 'clusters' of 2-3 athletes and eventually progress to larger groups of 4-12 athletes, and ultimately full team training," added the government advice.

Premier League clubs returned to training in small and socially distanced groups last week.

Players and managers are to be consulted in a meeting on Tuesday before the proposals are put to a vote of the 20 clubs.



Premier League clubs will vote on a return to contact training on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Results of the latest round of COVID-19 testing, which is taking place on Monday and Tuesday, will also be published on Wednesday.

The small number of positive tests from the first two rounds of testing at Premier League clubs has raised hopes of a return in June.

Eight cases of coronavirus

among players and staff have been detected from 1,744 tests in the Premier League.

In the Championship, just two positive tests were registered from 1,014 tests.

How to proceed in the event of a positive test once contact training has restarted is one of the topics that will be discussed by clubs later this week.—AFP

Coronavirus could bankrupt German FA, warns treasurer

FRANKFURT — The coronavirus crisis could "potentially threaten" the existence of the German Football Association (DFB), its treasurer Stephan Osnabruegge warned Monday.

"The DFB is in the deepest

economic crisis of the recent past," said Osnabruegge at the German FA's virtual extraordinary meeting. He said "far-reaching cuts" must be made to avoid a worst-case scenario, which would see the DFB receiving 96.5 mil-

lion euros (\$105.1 million) less than planned this year, resulting in a forecasted loss of 77 million euros. All but 13.8 million euros of that figure would be covered by the governing body's financial reserves.—AFP