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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 1 June 2020

## Special flight arrives in Yangon with WHO medical supplies for fight against COVID-19

**A** FIRST flight bringing medical supplies and laboratory equipment donated by the World Health Organization-WHO to support Health and Sports Ministry's fighting against the COVID-19 landed at Yangon International Airport at 10:15 am yesterday.

The special flight arranged by the World Food Programme brought Personal Protection Equipment-PPEs and laboratory equipment worth US\$16,686 and they will be handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

WFP Deputy Country Director Mr Walid Ibrahim said, "WFP's Global Logistic Service Provision Plan has been extended to Myanmar starting from this flight landing in Yangon this morning. In the execution of the plan, WFP has created logistics hubs around the world."

"The plan of WFP, now with the global plan is to continue to provide those flights on a weekly basis every Sunday. This arrangement will be in place until such time that the commercial sector stands up on its feet again



Workers unloading medical supplies from the special flight at the Yangon International Airport on 31 May 2020. PHOTO: PE ZAW

and provide this essential service as they used to do before the pandemic started," he added.

Dr Stephan Paul Jost, WHO Representative in Myanmar, said, "We have a set of person-

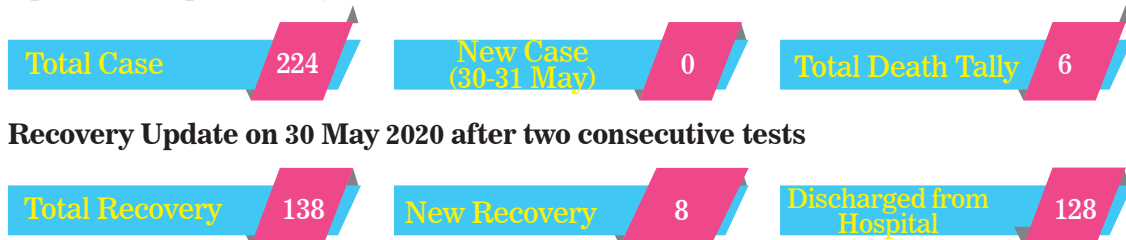
al protective equipment which has been donated by WHO on-board this special charter flight

through the WFP air service. It's very good that this facility exists.

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### No new COVID-19 cases on 31 May, total figure remains at 224

Updated at 8 pm, 31 May 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 31 May 2020

**New PUI**

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# Sixth batch of Myanmar citizens repatriated from Singapore



Myanmar returnees from Singapore queuing for their immigration process at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

DURING the temporary suspension of international flights, a relief flight by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) brought back 151 Myanmar citizens from Singapore as the sixth batch and landed in Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports, and

the Yangon Region government took care of the immigration affairs, health inspections and 21-day quarantine measures.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working within the guidelines of the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 to collaborate with Myanmar embassies and relevant ministries in Singapore to as-

sist Myanmar nationals facing difficulties there to return to Myanmar. The first batch of 144 people were brought back on 7 May, the second batch of 144 brought back on 9 May, the third batch of 145 brought back on 13 May, and the fourth batch of 144 and fifth batch of 145 as well. Combined with this batch, 873 Myanmar nationals have been repatriated.—MNA

## Special flight arrives in Yangon with WHO medical supplies ...

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It provides extra support for the health workers in Myanmar to fight COVID 19, in particular, the Health and Sports Ministry's frontline health workers, and laboratory staff who are in need of this equipment and who need to be able to protect themselves at all times from the possibility of infection from COVID-19.

For this purpose, today's consignment is an important additional contribution on top of many other contributions that

others have made and of course that the country is mobilizing.

Under the Global Logistic Service Provision Plan connecting regional logistics hubs between Yangon and Malaysia, similar flights carrying medical supplies arrived Yangon on 10, 17 and 24 May.

On 10 May, a flight arranged by the WFP brought medical supplies including test kits donated by the Gavi (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) under the programme of

the UNICEF to Myanmar.

On 17 May, the similar flight carrying PPEs and accessories procured by the WFP and medicines donated by the WHO arrived in Yangon and they were handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Similarly, India, China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Japan provided Myanmar with the medical supplies in support of fighting against against the COVID-19.—Zaw Gyi (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

# Security forces reclaim Paletwa strategic locations from AA

SECURITY forces fully reclaimed three strategic locations the AA terrorists took over located 2500 meters southwest of Paletwa, Chin State, at 8 am yesterday morning.

This statement was made from the office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services which said the three strategic points were Point-602, Point-565, and Point-540 and gave the AA opportunities to threaten the security of Paletwa and the areas along the Kaladan River.

The AA began their operations towards Paletwa in March and first blocked the Kyauktaw-Paletwa path and Matupi-Sami-Paletwa path and proceeded to take over Point-114 near the Ramaung Bridge in Minbya on the Sittway-Yangon Union highway to disrupt public and government transportation.

Security forces reclaimed five locations set up by the AA near Point-114 on 8 May.

The AA had taken control of Points-602, 565 and 540 and abducted Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Hwei Tin of Chin State constituency 11 on 3 November 2019. They also kidnapped eight Indian staff of the C&C company, two translators and five workers working on the Paletwa-Zorampu

highway on 23 March 2020.

The AA also fired weapons into Paletwa on 22 April that killed and wounded staff of Myanma Economic Bank and their families and kidnapped Paletwa Municipal Committee Chairman U Myint Maung while disguised as civilians on 12 April.

The AA were also found to have constantly threatened the regional and transportation security of Paletwa region and unlawfully seized donations for local residents supplied by the Chin State government and private donors, in addition to humanitarian aid from WFP, which resulted in security forces beginning to reclaim the area on 24 May.

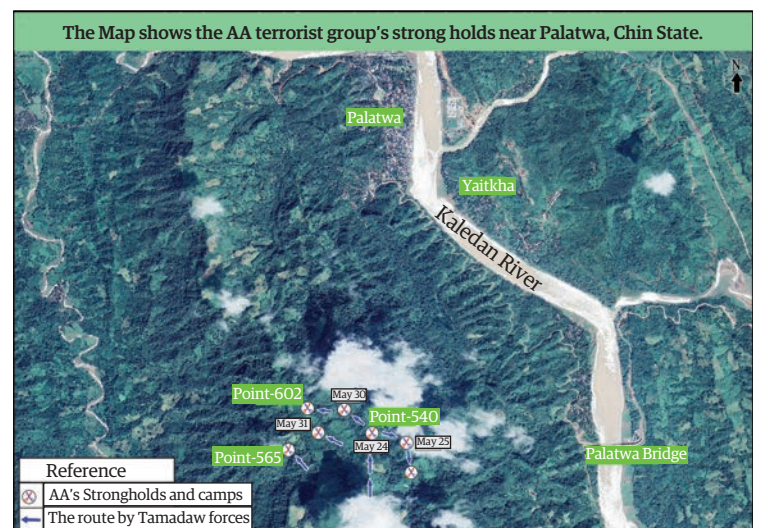
Security forces began attacking Point-540 on 24 May and seized two sentry posts to the east and southeast on 25 May and one near Point-602 on 30 May. With continuous effort, security forces reclaimed Points-602, 565 and 540 on 31 May.

Security forces sustained casualties and deaths but seized corpses, firearms and various items from the AA terrorists and are continuing area security measures in the region.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Arms and ammunition seized from AA terrorists.



## “People are the key”

### Construction Minister inspects infrastructure buildings in Mandalay, Kayah

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw inspected the development projects in Mandalay Region and Kayah State via virtual meeting on 30 May.

Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin, and directors-general, directors and officials from the building, road, bridge, and rural development departments were present at the video meeting.

At the meeting, Director (Civil) of Road Department in Mandalay Region U Kyaw Phone Lwin reported on the conditions of roads and bridges in Mandalay Region with the use of power point. He also explained the conditions of COVID-19 preventive measures in the projects.

Mandalay Region's Director (Civil) from the Construction Team (1) of Bridge Department U Kyaw Swar Tun and Director (Civil) of Rural Road Development Department U Myo presented the conditions of road and bridge projects to the video meeting.

Upon the progress of Urban and Housing Development Department (UHDD) in Mandalay Region, its Director U Thet Naing said a total of 13 four-storey apartments for staff were constructed in seven townships during 2019-2020 FY. Along with the staff housings, a district office and a community centre were constructed and 11 infrastructure projects were implemented.

In Mandalay Region, UHDD constructed 460 staff housing units in 2016-2017 FY, 476 in 2017-2018, 1,058 in 2018-2019, and 204 in 2019-2020.

During the past four years, UHDD built a total of 26,138 staff housing units — 4,044 for their staff, and 22,094 for other departments' staff.

At present, the ministry's staff housing accommodated 25.07 per cent of its staff in Mandalay Region. This is one-fourth of the ministry's total staff in the region.

The ministry is also trying to provide accommodations for



Union Minister U Han Zaw attends the virtual meeting to inspect the development projects in Mandalay Region and Kayah State. PHOTO: MNA

one-third of the staff in the region, said the director.

Deputy Director (Civil) from Special Building Team (6) of the Building Department in Mandalay Region U Kyaw Thiha reported on the progress of construction in the region to the video meeting.

Director (Civil) of U Pyae Phyoo Sal, Assistant Director (Civil) from Special Bridge Team (6) of Bridge Department

U Shin Thant Htut, Director (Civil) of Rural Road Development Department U Aung San, and Director of Urban and Housing Development Department U Kyaw San Win also detailed about the ministry's works in Kayah State. The Union Minister expressed satisfaction in the construction progress of roads, bridges, and buildings in Mandalay Region. He also urged the officials

to oversee the ongoing development progress and transportation sector in the region.

For Kayah State, the Union Minister appreciated the development progress of road, bridge, housing projects, and rural roads, and urged the officials to ensure the projects' quality standard, and use the budgets in accordance with the financial rules.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## Public guidelines on dangers of earthquake

1. Because of the Sagaing Fault and other minor faultlines, Myanmar has a high risk of earthquakes.
2. Earthquakes occur unpredictably at anytime of the day and are a destructive natural disaster. The public is advised to learn about the nature of earthquakes and disaster mitigation and to adhere to the following guidelines recommended by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement:
  - Preparations before earthquakes
    - \* Know the most secure location in each room and look for resilient places to take cover such as under strong tables, bed-frames, room corners, inner wall or near the house's pillar, and doorframes.
    - \* Remember the locations of windows, glasses, items hanging from the walls or ceiling, tall or easily unbalanced furniture, and stocked shelves to avoid as they can be dangerous during an earthquake.
    - \* Remember routes to safely escape from building of residence, detours and emergency exits.
    - \* Practice shutting down main power switch and closing off gas stoves and pipes.
    - \* Attach heavy wardrobes and other furniture

that can be knocked over to the wall. Place heavy and breakable objects close to the ground. Keep paintings, mirrors and other heavy objects away from beds and places people sit or lie down.

- \* Have your important documents, emergency food, water, flashlights, batteries, radio, emergency medical kit and medicine in stock and ready.
- What to do during an earthquake
  - \* Remain calm and alert.
  - \* Remain indoors or outdoors where you are when earthquakes happen as the majority of accidents occur when people rush into buildings or out of them during earthquakes.
  - \* Sit down, prioritize protecting your head, and grasp onto a firm structure or object to protect yourself from falling over.
  - \* Shut down stoves and extinguish flames in the kitchen when the quake hits.
  - \* Calmly exit the building instead of rushing out if you absolutely need to leave when the earthquake occurs. Do not use elevators or jump out of high buildings and use ordinary staircases.
  - \* Move away from buildings, trees, signboards, electricity lines, utility poles, bridg-

es, cliff sides and river banks. Try to find open and unobstructed grounds.

- What to do after an earthquake
  - \* Inspect whether your home has cracks or show signs of instability and move away if they do.
  - \* Inspect electricity lines. Do not handle or touch fallen or broken lines and contact authorities.
  - \* Aftershocks from the earthquake can occur within hours, days, weeks or months after the main shock. Be mindful of cracks and unstable buildings, roads, bridges that can collapse from additional quakes.
  - \* Be mindful of fires, floods from broken dams, landslides, and tsunamis that can occur after an earthquake.

3. The public is reminded to remain alert to earthquakes that can strike at anytime and refrain from sharing rumours that can induce panic. For natural disasters, you can contact the hotline of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at 067-3404666 and 067-3404777 for assistance.

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

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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.

## Mandalay reopens highway buses to states/regions

MANDALAY-based highway buses will resume their services to other states and regions starting from 1 June, in line with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, according to Mandalay Region government. The highway bus service within Mandalay Region began on 15 May. And now, the highway buses are allowed to run to other regions and states from 1 June. The bus lines are mandatory to follow the health guidelines to resume the service.

The passengers must wear masks, wash hands and measure the temperature before boarding the bus. The seating plan ensures to maintain physical distancing and the buses are instructed to keep the windows open and disinfect the bus before and after boarding the passengers. The bus driver and the assistant must follow the rules

Mandalay-based highway buses will resume their services starting from 1 June, in line with health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

and instructions to resume the service, said regional minister for Shan State Ethnic Affairs.

To contain the spread of the virus in Mandalay Region,

all passenger bus lines stopped the service on 7 April. The regional government has now a relaxed restriction on public transport. There are 425 bus

operators in five highway bus-stops of Mandalay Region. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Mandalay warehouses receive 60,000 bags of reserved rice so far

A total of 60,000 bags for the state's emergency rice reserve have been stored so far in the warehouses in Kyaukse and Myohaung warehouse in Amarapura Township of Mandalay, owned by the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce, according to Mandalay supervision unit for the storage of emergency rice reserve.

The warehouses in Kyaukse have received to the fullest capacity of 50,599 bags between 3 and 26 May. The remaining 9,401 bags have been systematically stored in Myohaung warehouse in Amarapura Township since 28 May.

"The rice reserve scheme is for emergency case during the pandemic. The exporters must sell 10 per cent of total

export volume as country's reserved rice. More than 50,000 rice bags have been kept in four warehouses in Kyaukse to the fullest capacity. Later, over 9,000 bags are continued to be sent to Myohaung warehouse in Mandalay", said U Myint Zaw Oo, director of the regional Department of Consumer Affairs.

In order to ensure the self-sufficiency during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government will spend K38 billion to purchase foodstuff (50,000 tonnes of rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil), said Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce.

The state's emergency rice reserve is to keep the price stable in domestic market, lessen the worries of the consumers, offer the emergency rice to the

people at much fairer price, ensure food security to the people when natural disaster occurs, support ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve and aid the victims in the time of adversity, export them through private entrepreneurs when the new paddy is harvested, and not to harm the rice production of farmers due to the price fall.

The supervision units for the storage of emergency rice reserve are formed in Yangon and Mandalay regions.

The government has reserved about 2,200 tonnes of rice within a month, according to press statement of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) on 28 May.

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the author-

ized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April. The state has purchased about 2,200 tonnes of rice from 80 companies as of 27 May, in line with the set rules and regulations.

The Yangon Region government receives the reserve rice proportioned by sea trade, while some per cent of the border export will be stored at the Consumer Affairs Department in Mandalay Region.

Local market constitutes over 70 per cent of production, whereas some portion of the remaining is sent to foreign market and some of them are left for rice reserve. —Hteik Htar Naing / Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Narcotic drugs seized in three townships

STIMULANT tablets, and Ice were seized in Aungban, Maung-taw and Monhsat townships this week, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Police from Maung-taw township confiscated 7,090,700 WY labeled stimulant tablets worth K 14.2 billion in Myoma Kanyin Tan Village, Maung-taw Township on 30 May while they searched a house of Juhar Husan and his daughter Ma Yaykhayard Farte-

ma. Next, police from Monhsat Township seized 3,000,000 stimulant tablets worth K 4.8 billion while searching on vehicles in Monhsat Township on 30 May.

Police from Aungban Township also seized 3149 kilo of Ice worth K 78.725 billion while searching on vehicles in Aungban Township on 24 and 29 May and four men were arrested. Another four men managed to escape from the arrest. Police

filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Law, according to Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Zaw Min Htwe (a) Kyar Pauk seen with seized illegal drugs. **PHOTO: MPF**

## 93 Mandarinian businesses to get coronavirus loan

More than 400 applicants from Mandalay Region have applied for emergency coronavirus pandemic fund and 93 of them have been approved to receive the loan so far.

The priority sectors for the fund of K100 billion are CMP garment businesses, hotels and tourism services and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

“A total of 417 businesspersons applied for the coronavirus loan at Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI). Some applied through an online platform. As the coronavirus fund to enterprises hit hard by the pandemic is set at K100 billion and the loan granted has not reached its fund limit of K100 billion, there is still

hope for businesses. Although the businesses do not know the amount of loan they will get, they are happy that their businesses are listed on the businesses approved to the fund. During the pandemic, the fund will contribute the businesses a lot. Furthermore, the interest rate of 1 per cent for one year is extremely low. The businesses approved for the loan includes food industry, weaving business, hotels and tourism enterprise, private schools and gems and jewellery business,” said MRCCI general secretary U Okkar Kyaw.

Regarding coronavirus fund, five businesspersons out of 178 applicants selected in the second batch, one of 101 in the

third batch and 87 of 417 in the fourth batch are from Mandalay Region.

“I am glad that I get the fund. We follow the health guidelines and offer food takeaway or delivery. We cannot terminate employment immediately. The income drops by about one-fourth. We cannot expect the high income after the crisis of pandemic. We need to survive in this with the fund. We have prepared for prevention measures in line with health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports to contain the spread of the pandemic when the businesses can resume operations,” said U Kyaw Thu Aung, a tea shop owner from Maha Aung Myay Township.

The amount of loan granted and further procedures will be released at MRCCI office on 1 June. The loan applications were accepted between 30 March and 9 April and a total of 4,258 applicants applied for it. So far, the government has granted over K28 billion loans to over 700 businesses in the country.

The eligibility for the maximum amount of emergency coronavirus fund can vary depending on the workforce in factories, said UMFCCI general secretary U Aye Win.

“Majority of the applications are from SMEs, followed by the hotel businesses and CMP garment factories. However, CMP garment factories will receive the highest loan amount as they

are labour-intensive businesses. SMEs with the small number of workers will get access to small amount only,” he stressed at the press conference of UMFCCI held in mid-May.

Some businesses shut down during the early outbreak. The emergency coronavirus loan aims to ease the economic burden faced by the virus-stricken businesses, and not to expand the business and put capital for businesses. Mainly, the government intends to help the business keep operations and the workers get the salary for at least three months. — IPRD, Myint Maung

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Sino-Myanmar border trade drops, down by \$162.6 mln as of 15 May

Sino-Myanmar border trade has registered a decrease of US\$162.6 million between 1 October and 15 May in the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Ministry of Commerce’s data shows the value of Sino-Myanmar trade at all five borders touched \$3.75 billion in the current fiscal, which significantly plunged from \$3.9 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

This FY, border trade values totalled \$3.07 billion at the Muse border, \$106.7 million at Lwejel, \$331.15 million at Chinshwehaw, \$231.6 million at Kampaiti, and over \$4 million at Kengtung. The Commerce Ministry’s data showed a drop in trade value at all those borders.

The decline in trade is attributed to the trade suspension the tight security measures amid coronavirus worries.

At present, China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the pandemic. Therefore, Chinese buyers do not come to Myanmar borders in light of coronavirus fears, forcing Myanmar truck drivers to leave for Wanding area to sell the goods.

Next, the export of agricultural products is often

halted, on account of China clamping down on illegal goods. Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China is too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation are occurring often at the border.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders through the border trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the relevant departments and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) have been negotiating with China counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from the neighbouring country. — Htet Myat

*(Translated by EMM)*

## Fruit exports to China now permitted through Lwejel, Kampaiti



Trucks seen at the 105-mile trade zone Muse, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

MYANMAR can now export fruits to China through Lwejel and Kampaiti borders besides Muse, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Earlier, watermelon, muskmelon, mango and plum were allowed to export to China only through the Muse border. Now, Kampaiti and Lwejel are available for fruit exports.

Myanmar’s mangosteen, rambutan, lychee, watermelon,

muskmelon, mango and plum have been cleared for import by China’s food safety inspection mechanism — General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ). The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has already sent information on tissue-culture bananas, limes, pineapples, avocados, and pomelos to China for legitimate trade.

China accounts for 95 per cent of Myanmar’s fruit exports. At present, high-security measures in the light of coronavirus in China’s border areas caused a long queue. Following that, transport delays caused damage to fruit quality and doubled truck fares. The fruit growers and traders are suffering losses during the pandemic, according to a border depot. — Ko Khant  
*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

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## Myanmar to take action against illegal fishing starting from 1 June

THE government will take actions against offshore fishing boats that are illegally operating in the water of Myanmar via Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) starting from 1 June (today).

The decision was made at the meeting of fishing boat owners and agents at the Fisheries Department in Myeik on 30 May. U Than Chaung, Head of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Department, said “We are afraid that illegal fishing might be carried out after the VMS tracking devices are off. If the tracking devices are uninstalled, it will be difficult to reinstall them.”

“The rule was issued five months ago. We informed the fishing boat owners and agents about the rules during the period

and to abide by the rules and regulations.” he added.

U Thet Soe, Secretary of Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation, said “Fishing boat owners willingly installed the tracking devices. The legal action takes effect on 1 June.”

“The date the legal actions start taking effect is inconvenient as it is the period no boats go fishing.”

If the device is off a day, the boat owner will be fined K 50,000, the secretary said.

He added that a better decision should be made for the boat owners after the ministry and Hluttaw cooperate on the previous decision.

Taninthayi coastline located in southern part of Myan-



Fishing vessels are anchored in the offshore of Taninthayi coastline in Taninthayi Region.

PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (IPRD)

mar is the longest coastline of three coastlines in Myanmar. It stretches 1,200km.

On the coastline, there are

about 1,250 Myeik-based offshore fishing vessels with 25,000 workers, according to the Myeik District Fisheries De-

partment’s data in April 2020. — Khaing Htoo (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

### COVID-19 TECHNOLOGY ACCESS POOL

## International community rallies to support open research and science to fight COVID-19

THIRTY countries and multiple international partners and institutions have signed up to support the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) an initiative aimed at making vaccines, tests, treatments and other health technologies to fight COVID-19 accessible to all.

The Pool was first proposed in March by President Carlos Alvarado of Costa Rica, who joined WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus today at the official launch of the initiative.

“The COVID-19 Technology Access Pool will ensure the latest and best science benefits all of hu-

manity,” said President Alvarado of Costa Rica. “Vaccines, tests, diagnostics, treatments and other key tools in the coronavirus response must be made universally available as global public goods”.

“Global solidarity and collaboration are essential to overcoming COVID-19,” said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Based on strong science and open collaboration, this information-sharing platform will help provide equitable access to life-saving technologies around the world.” The COVID-19 (Technology) Access Pool will be voluntary and based on social solidarity. It will provide a one-stop shop for scientific knowl-

edge, data and intellectual property to be shared equitably by the global community.

The aim is to accelerate the discovery of vaccines, medicines and other technologies through open-science research, and to fast-track product development by mobilizing additional manufacturing capacity. This will help ensure faster and more equitable access to existing and new COVID-19 health products.

There are five key elements to the initiative:

- Public disclosure of gene sequences and data;
- Transparency around the publication of all clinical trial results;

- Governments and other funders are encouraged to include clauses in funding agreements with pharmaceutical companies and other innovators about equitable distribution, affordability and the publication of trial data;

- Licensing any potential treatment, diagnostic, vaccine or other health technology to the Medicines Patent Pool - a United Nations-backed public health body that works to increase access to, and facilitate the development of, life-saving medicines for low- and middle-income countries.
- Promotion of open innovation models and technology transfer that increase local manufacturing and supply capacity, including through joining the Open Covid Pledge and the Technology Access Partnership (TAP).

co-hosted today’s launch event, which began with a high-level session addressed by the WHO Director-General and President Alvarado in addition to Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados and Aksel Jacobsen, State Secretary, Norway. There were video statements by President Lenin Moreno of Ecuador; President Thomas Esang Remengesau Jr., of Palau; President Lenin Moreno of Ecuador; , Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and Retno Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs for Indonesia. Leaders from across the UN, academia, industry and civil society joined for a moderated discussion.

To date, the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool is now supported by the following countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Indonesia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mozambique, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, The Netherlands, Timor-Leste, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

Other international organizations, partners and experts have also expressed support to the initiative and others can join them using the website.

WHO, Costa Rica and all the co-sponsor countries have also issued a “Solidarity Call to Action” asking relevant stakeholders to join and support the initiative, with recommended actions for key groups, such as governments, research and development funders, researchers, industry and civil society.

WHO and Costa Rica

SOURCE: WHO



Indonesian officers from the military, police and transport ministry check motorists at a checkpoint to curb the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Sumedang, West Java on 10 May, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

# Film festivals worldwide going online due to virus cancellations

**W**ITH the coronavirus pandemic necessitating the postponement or cancellation of large events across the globe, a number of major film festivals have come together to curate a list of more than 100 films that audiences can watch without having to set foot out of the door.

“We Are One: A Global Film Festival” runs over 10 days from May 29 and features full-length and short films, documentaries and music performances as well as specially curated filmmaker talks that can now be viewed for free on YouTube at <https://www.YouTube.com/WeAreOne>

It is the first time film festivals have collaborated in this way.

The Cannes Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival and Venice Film Festival were among 21 noted events that took part, along with the Sundance Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Tokyo International Film Festival and Mumbai Film Festival.

Yoshi Yatabe, senior programmer of the Tokyo International Film Festival, said, “We have tried to select films that will allow people to feel a sense of freedom through the joy of watching cinema, despite the restricted nature of our lives right now.”

At the moment, the Tokyo International Film Festival will be held as scheduled in October, as will the Venice Film Festival in September. The Berlin showpiece took place as scheduled in February before the coronavirus crisis had swept Europe.

France’s Anney International Animation Film Festival,

also a participant, will hold its own virtual festival with the virus causing organizers to rule out holding it as normal.

Cannes canceled this year’s festival, scheduled for mid-May, due to concerns about the inability of attendees to maintain social distancing recommendations required to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Travel, obviously, was also impossible for participants.

Japan’s nationwide state of emergency was completely lifted on May 25 after running for almost two months in Tokyo and some other prefectures. The declaration resulted in travel and movement restrictions, requests for social distancing and closure of businesses and facilities including movie theaters, which are now starting to reopen.

Six films are on the Tokyo Film Festival lineup, including one from reputed Japanese director Koji Fukada, who won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film for “Harmonium” in 2016. Fukada’s film “The Yalta Conference Online,” a parody of the Yalta Conference during World War II, was created exclusively for the festival.

Masaaki Yuasa will have his short film “Genius Party: Happy Machine” (2007) streamed. The film, with no dialogue, depicts a fantasy experienced by a baby. Yuasa’s work “Lu Over the Wall” (2017) won the top feature film award at the Anney International Animation Film Festival.

The Japan-based film festival’s chairman, Hiroyasu Ando, has described the online festival showcase, which will last until June 7, as “meaningful” and one



The 10-day “We Are One: As of Sunday, more than 200,000 people around the world have subscribed to the YouTube channel of We Are One, generating comments in English and other languages. PHOTO: AFP

that hopefully can serve as “a light through the darkness.”

Funds raised will be donated to coronavirus relief efforts, with a donate button link in every film page allowing viewers to give to organizations such as the World Health Organization.

Recorded panel discussions from past festivals include that of Bong Joon Ho, whose South Korean family satire “Parasite” became the first non-English language film to win the Oscar for best picture at the Academy Awards and also won the top prize in Cannes last year.

A discussion featuring Guillermo del Toro, who won the Oscar for “Shape of Water” in 2018, will also be available.

The project and its showcasing of the various film festivals’ offerings via the medium

of online streaming was initiated by Tribeca Enterprises, a production company that was established in 2003 by actor Robert De Niro and producer Jane Rosenthal.

With the Tribeca Film Festival for April canceled and other film fetes in limbo, Tribeca co-founder and CEO Rosenthal said in a recent virtual conference, “Obviously, with this pandemic, we can’t physically gather. So I started thinking about how else we could bring this world together at this time.”

Directors of the participating film festivals also took the current situation as an opportunity to reflect on the future of film festivals in their traditional mold.

“We’ve found this in-between stage for us to gather together and be able to help inspire and

instigate imagination. Hopefully, film festivals will go on again -- what date, who knows?”

“But doing something in the virtual world and in the real world can (continue), one doesn’t preclude the other. They can happen in unison.”

As of Sunday, more than 200,000 people around the world have subscribed to the YouTube channel of We Are One, generating comments in English and other languages. One user praised the platform as a “great initiative,” while another said, “Thank you very much for this amazing opportunity!”

The full schedule of the films, some of which can only be viewed once, can be seen at <http://www.weareoneglobalfestival.com/>

SOURCE: Kyodo

WAY TO BE HEALTHIER



## Smartphone tool helps users keep social distance

SMARTPHONE users have a new way to keep their distance—a tool that lets them know when people are getting closer than pandemic

The Google-developed Sodar tool available this week taps into Android smartphone cameras to put users in the center of a white circle with a radius of about two meters, or 6.5 feet. PHOTO: AFP

guidelines recommend. The Google-developed Sodar tool available this week taps into Android smartphone cameras to put users in the center of a white circle with a radius of about two meters, or 6.5 feet.

The perimeter, determined based on pandemic social distancing guidelines, is made using the same kind of augmented reality technology in smartphone games such as

Pokemon Go.

Circles superimposed on surroundings move with users, keeping smartphones in the center. Users get a visual warning when they are within the potentially hazardous radius.

Sodar works through Google-made Chrome browsers on Android smartphones that support augmented reality, according to the Califor-

nia-based internet firm.

“This experiment uses (the application program interface) WebXR to visualize 2-meter social-distancing guidelines in your environment,” a message at the website said.

The tool came out of an “Experiments With Google” project on technology hacks to help people cope with the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■

# Being prepared for disaster a civic duty

PEOPLE wearing face masks and following social distancing and health guidelines at markets and restaurants these days have indicated that disaster preparedness was on their mind.

That's a good thing. While some may think that panic over the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) could be an overreaction, it's never a bad idea to keep at least a couple weeks of nonperishable supplies on hand for any emergency.

Consider it a civic duty. Natural disasters from floods to landslides to earthquakes happen somewhere on a regular basis in the world.

Myanmar is susceptible to earthquakes because it has five major fault lines. The active fault lines make it one of the more earthquake-prone countries.

It's a beautiful, but tough world we live in. Everyone needs to do their part to be as ready as possible to respond to a disaster.

Myanmar is susceptible to earthquakes because it has five major fault lines. The active fault lines make it one of the more earthquake-prone countries.

The Sagaing fault was last active in 2011, and the other four are the Kabaw fault in the West, the Kyaukkyan fault in northern Shan State, the Thanlwin fault under the Thanlwin River and the Rakhine fault in Rakhine State.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Rettlement conducted the earthquake awareness in the towns on the fault lines and also publish the earthquake preparedness guidelines through the media in efforts to increase public awareness of an earthquake.

Earthquakes being unpredictable forces of nature, can strike anytime without any warning.

Therefore, people living along the fault line should take these warnings seriously and make necessary preparations like making their homes disaster ready and family members have the necessary information on how to respond when earthquakes strike.

Considering disaster preparedness a civic duty, people should imagine a full list of what their family might need during a disaster like earthquake and should follow the guidelines advised by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Or, they should make a hotline contact list of the authorities.

At the same time, earthquake awareness including disaster drills should be conducted on a regular basis especially in the quake-prone areas in efforts to educate the public on what to do during and after earthquake.

Preparedness is the key to managing any more such disasters.



## EFFECTIVE WAYS TO PREVENT COVID-19

# Race for vaccine tests limits of drug innovation

By Kelly Macnamara with Issam Ahmed, AFP

FROM medical workers struggling to care for the rising tide of Covid-19 patients to the billions of people told to stay home to slow the pandemic, everyone is waiting for one thing: a vaccine.

There is no known treatment for the new coronavirus that emerged in China late last year and has since proliferated across the planet, infecting more than half a million people and claiming more than 30,000 lives.

In mid-January, researchers from China published the genetic sequence of the virus, firing the starting gun for dozens of research labs across the world in the race to find effective drugs.

The approaches have varied dramatically. Some teams are looking at the effects of existing medicines as potential treatments, some are experimenting with repurposing common drugs. Others are using cutting-edge technologies to fashion radically new types of vaccines.

Just over 60 days after the genetic sequence of Covid-19 was shared, the first potential vaccine began human trials.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed it "an incredible achievement" and experts have raised cautious hopes that a vaccine will be ready within 18 months.

This may seem like a dauntingly long time for those in the path of the virus.

But Seth Berkley, the head of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, has cautioned that it normally takes between 10 and 15 years for a drug to go from development, through testing phases and onto licensing and large-scale manufacture, although the Ebola vaccine was ready in five.

"How lucky will we be in getting a good immune response? Which approaches will work? Will they be scalable?" he said in an interview with the TED organisation last week.

While the world will try to "squeeze it down dramatically", the timeline will still depend on the testing process.

"There are many things we're

going to have to go through and it's really about making sure that vaccine works and it is safe for use in what ultimately may be billions of people," he said.

GAVI, which is making funding available for lower-income countries to respond to the coronavirus crisis, has urged world leaders to ensure potential treatments and vaccines are accessible to everyone.

Amid concerns over a short-fall in global cooperation over the virus, G20 nations on Thursday announced a \$5-trillion injection to boost the global economy and pledged to



"work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines".

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a global organisation based in Oslo, has called for \$2 billion to support the development of a vaccine.

Meanwhile, the United States is funding several companies through its Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

### A new type of vaccine

The traditional method for developing vaccines, based on principles dating back to smallpox vaccine in 1796, has been to introduce a modified part of the infectious agent to stimulate the body's immune system without doing harm.

But an emerging technique aims to trigger this immune response in a different way, by incorporating a strand of the virus' genetic material.

Within weeks of Chinese researchers making the genome of the virus public, a team at the University of Texas at Austin was able to create a replica model of its spike protein, the part which



A researcher works on a Covid-19 vaccine. PHOTO: AFP

attaches to and infects human cells, and image it using a cryogenic (cooled) electron microscope.

This replica itself is now the basis for a vaccine candidate. NIH is working with Moderna, a relatively new firm founded in 2010, to make a vaccine using the protein's genetic information to grow it inside human muscle tissue, rather than having to inject it in.

This information is stored in an intermediary transient substance called "messenger RNA" that carries genetic code from DNA to cells.

"The advantage is that it's really fast," Jason McLellan, who led the UT Austin team, told AFP.

The human trials began this month and if all goes to plan, it could be available in about a year and a half, according to NIH's Anthony Fauci.

French drugmaker Sanofi is using a different genetic approach.

It is partnering with the US government to use a so-called "recombinant DNA platform" to produce a vaccine candidate.

It takes the virus' DNA and combines it with DNA from a harmless virus, creating a chimera that can provoke an immune response.

The antigens it produces can then be scaled up.

The technology is already the

basis of Sanofi's influenza vaccine, and the firm believes it has a head start due to a Sars vaccine it developed that offered partial protection in animals.

Treatment quicker than cure? While the world waits for a vaccine, scientists are experimenting with other existing drugs in the hunt for treatments for severely ill patients.

The WHO has selected four drugs or combinations for a large-scale global trial involving patients from Argentina to Thailand.

These are the experimental antiviral treatment remdesivir; a combination of two HIV drugs, lopinavir and ritonavir; those two drugs plus interferon beta, an immune system medication; and the malaria drug chloroquine.

Remdesivir, made by US-based Gilead Sciences, is already in the final stages of clinical trials in Asia and doctors in China have reported it has proven effective in fighting the disease.

It was developed to fight other viruses including Ebola (where it was shown to be ineffective) and it has not yet been approved for anything.

Remdesivir gets modified inside the human body to become similar to one of the four building blocks of DNA, called nucleotides.

Benjamin Neuman, a virologist at Texas A&M University-Texarkana, told AFP that when viruses copy themselves, they do it "quickly and a bit sloppily",

meaning they might incorporate remdesivir into their structure — though human cells, which are more fastidious, won't make the same mistake.

If the virus incorporates the remdesivir into itself, the drug adds unwanted mutations that can destroy the virus.

In an early trial, the lopinavir-ritonavir combination had disappointing results in a study of 199 patients in Wuhan, China, published this month in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Researchers concluded that the

Just over 60 days after the genetic sequence of Covid-19 was shared, the first potential vaccine began human trials.

drugs did not significantly improve clinical outcomes.

US President Donald Trump has stoked excitement about hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and chloroquine (CQ), related compounds that are synthetic forms of quinine, which comes from cinchona trees and has been used for centuries to treat malaria.

HCQ, which is the less toxic of the two, is also used as an anti-inflammatory to treat conditions like rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.

The medicines have shown promise against the Covid-19 illness in early studies in France and China.

But Dr Fauci has cautioned that the small studies carried out so far amount to "anecdotal" evidence.

And the drugs are not without their risks.

About 1% of people are at high risk of blackouts, seizure or even sudden death from cardiac arrest because of heart rhythm issues they may themselves be unaware of, Michael Ackerman, a genetic cardiologist at Mayo Clinic told AFP.

### Multi-purpose drug

Regeneron last year developed an intravenous drug that was shown to significantly boost survival rates among Ebola patients using what are known as "monoclonal antibodies".

They genetically modified mice to give them human-like immune systems. The mice are exposed to viruses, or weakened forms of them, in order to produce human antibodies, Christos Kyratsos, the company's vice president of research told AFP.

These antibodies are then isolated and screened to find the most potent ones, which are grown in labs, purified and given to humans intravenously.

The drug could work as both a treatment and as a vaccine, by dosing up people before they are exposed — though these effects would be only temporary.

### Old vaccines, new purpose

One CEPI-backed project — a collaboration with France's Institut Pasteur, biotech firm Themis and the University of Pittsburgh — uses the measles vaccine as "a vehicle".

This would take a vaccine that is widely manufactured across the world and redesign it to express the antigen of the new coronavirus.

Australian scientists are taking an even more direct approach.

Researchers at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne are fast-tracking large-scale human testing of the BCG vaccine, used for decades to prevent tuberculosis, to see if it can protect health workers from Covid-19.



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 01<sup>st</sup> Jun, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, Rakhine and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**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:** Continuation of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 01<sup>st</sup> Jun, 2020:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 01<sup>st</sup> Jun, 2020:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 01<sup>st</sup> Jun, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar



## Growing US-China rivalry seen fueling UN paralysis amid virus crisis

UNITED NATIONS — For nearly a decade, the UN Security Council has been frequently paralyzed by Russia's obstinacy over the Syrian crisis. Today, however, it is the US-China rivalry that has infected a growing array of issues, according to officials and diplomats.

As recently as 2017, an understanding between Washington and Beijing allowed the United Nations on three occasions – involving separate sets of economic sanctions – to project international unity in the face of the North Korean nuclear threat.

Three years later, the COVID-19 pandemic has seen a ferocious competition erupt between the UN's two main contributors, prompting the organization's



The flag of the UN outside the New York headquarters of the world body, seen in a photo taken on September 23, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

chief, Antonio Guterres, to bemoan a “lack of leadership” during the world's worst crisis since 1945. “Where we see power, we sometimes do not see the necessary leadership,” he said recently.

Even after more than two months of negotiations, the 15

Security Council members were unable to reach agreement on a resolution supporting a call from the UN secretary-general for a global cease-fire while the world battles the novel coronavirus.

The sole reason? US-Chinese differences over a passing

mention in the draft resolution to the World Health Organization (WHO), with which President Donald Trump on Friday said he planned to sever ties.

Both UN officials and diplomats say the US-Chinese conflict seems to be spreading, leaving them increasingly pessimistic.

“The Security Council has been frozen for 45 years between 1945 and 1990, because of the Cold War,” one ambassador said, speaking on condition of anonymity. “The last thing we need is another Cold War that would freeze again the Security Council.”

“Importing bilateral disputes in the Council would be a disaster,” he said.

Added another ambassador:

“We really shouldn't enter in a new Cold War. But it doesn't look very good at the moment,” whether regarding leadership, the pandemic or US-Chinese relations, three subjects “very closely tied to each other.”

Fragility and humility

At the UN, there is a sense of a dangerous drift into new and dysfunctional territory.

“In the past, when you had disagreements among members of the Council, it was compartmentalized,” said a UN official, speaking on grounds of anonymity. “So your adversary one day on a particular issue was your best ally the next day on another issue. What we see now is everything spilling over.—AFP ■

## India to start lifting lockdown in phases from Monday

NEW DELHI — The Indian government said it will reopen economic activities in a phased manner from Monday with the number of coronavirus infections in the country topping 170,000.

The guidelines announced by the interior ministry on Saturday indicated that designated COVID-19 containment zones, including accompanying lockdowns, will remain in place until June 30.

Religious sites and places of worship, hotels, restaurants and other hospitality services and shopping malls will be allowed to reopen outside containment

zones from June 8.

Schools, colleges and other educational institutions will remain closed nationwide and only be allowed to reopen after a further assessment of the situation in July.

The ministry also said that some business activity, including international flights, metro rail transport and theaters, will continue to be prohibited for some time. India put in place nationwide lockdown restrictions on March 25. Since late April, the government has gradually eased some of its anti-virus measures.—Kyodo ■

## No imminent virus state of emergency for Tokyo, Fukuoka: minister

TOKYO — The government has no immediate plan to place Tokyo and Fukuoka Prefecture under a state of emergency again despite the areas seeing an increase in the number of coronavirus infection cases in recent days, economy minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said Sunday.

Nishimura, the minister in charge of Japan's virus response, said he does not expect new infection case numbers to increase rapidly as the country reopens its economy but he will continue to carefully monitor the situation.

“We have not come to a stage of reinstating a state of emergency,” Nishimura told a press conference.

The southwestern city of Kitakyushu in Fukuoka had no confirmed coronavirus infections from April 30 to May 22 but began to see double-digit daily growth in cases due to cluster infections at medical institutions.

In Tokyo, the number of new daily cases had fallen to single digits earlier in the month after peaking at over 200 in mid-April but started to creep up from Tuesday, the day after the

government fully lifted the state of emergency, initially declared for the capital and six other densely populated prefectures on April 7 and later expanded to the entire country.

The Tokyo metropolitan government said Sunday five new cases of infections were confirmed, falling to a single-digit figure for the first time in six days.

Nishimura said many of the new infections were contracted at hospitals and that those who came into close contact with the infected people have been traced.—Kyodo ■

## Japan to train Bhutan officials for higher policy making capability

TOKYO — Japan will accept a third batch of young Bhutanese government officials at universities from next year in a project aimed at enhancing their policy planning capabilities, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The first such batch of 10 Bhutanese civil servants began studying last year at the University of Tokyo, Nagoya University, the International University of Japan and Ritsumeikan University under the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarships.

The fate of the second group of officials from the Asian country who are scheduled to start their studies this autumn has been put in doubt due to the coronavirus

pandemic.

The 174 million yen (\$1.6 million) project is also intended to train professionals who will strengthen intellectual networks and boost friendly ties between the two countries.

Notes on the provision of grant aid for the scheme were exchanged in late May in New Delhi between Japanese Ambassador to Bhutan Satoshi Suzuki and Bhutanese Ambassador to Japan Vetsop Namgyel.

Aside from Bhutan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency has run the project with 17 other countries including Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Ghana.—Kyodo ■



Tokyo's Shibuya area is crowded with people on May 30, 2020, on the first weekend after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced an end to the coronavirus state of emergency. PHOTO: KYODO

# Iran says US talks 'futile', denounces black American's death

TEHRAN — Iran's new parliament speaker said Sunday any negotiations with Washington would be "futile" as he denounced the death of a black American that has led to violent protests across the US.

Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, a former commander of the Revolutionary Guards' air force, was elected speaker on Thursday of a chamber dominated by ultra-conservatives following February elections.

The newly formed parliament "considers negotiations with and appeasement of America, as the axis of global arrogance, to be futile and harmful," he said in his first major speech to the chamber.

Ghalibaf also vowed revenge for the US drone attack in January that killed Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the Guards' foreign operations arm.

"Our strategy in confronting the terrorist America is to finish the revenge for martyr Soleimani's blood," he told lawmakers, pledging "the total expulsion of America's terrorist army from the region".

Ghalibaf has also slammed the US over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, during an arrest in Minneapolis which has led to widespread protests across the country.

Tens of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets from New York to Seattle demanding tougher, first-degree murder charges and more arrests over the death of Floyd, who stopped breathing after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Decades-old tensions between Tehran and Washington have soared in the past year, with the sworn arch enemies



Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf (C) chairing a parliament session in the capital Tehran. **PHOTO: ICANA NEWS AGENCY/AFP**

twice appearing to come to the brink of a direct confrontation.

The tensions have been ris-

ing since 2018, when President Donald Trump withdrew the US from a landmark nuclear accord

and began reimposing crippling sanctions on Iran's economy.—AFP ■

## Inquiry clears Malta's PM over migrant deaths

ROME — An investigation has cleared Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela of any blame over the death of migrants at sea, his government announced Saturday.

The results of the investigation, set out in a 420-page report, were summarised in English in the island's main daily newspapers, the original document having been written in Maltese, said the government's press service.

The investigation, which had sought to establish whether Abela, a senior army officer and the crew of an army patrol boat had been responsible for the deaths of at least five migrants, had cleared them of homicide, the Times of Malta wrote, citing

the report.

In mid-April, Malta's Reppubblika civil rights organisation filed two police reports alleging criminal inaction on the part of Abela and Maltese armed forces commander Jeffrey Curmi.

Its second report was filed against 11 crew members of a Maltese patrol boat who allegedly cut the cables of the migrant dinghy's motor.

Abela said at the time he denied the allegations against him but had volunteered to cooperate with the police investigation.

Malta has closed its ports to migrants, citing the threat of the novel coronavirus.—AFP ■



Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela, seen here in February, has been cleared of homicide over the death of migrants at sea. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

## Curfews and clashes as US race protests escalate

MINNEAPOLIS — Curfews were imposed on major US cities as clashes over police brutality erupted across America with demonstrators ignoring warnings from President Donald Trump that his government would stop the violent protests "cold."

Minneapolis, the epicenter of the unrest, was gripped by a fifth consecutive night of violence on Saturday with police in riot gear firing tear gas and stun grenades at protesters venting fury at the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, during an arrest in the city on Monday.

Los Angeles, Chicago and

Atlanta were among two dozen cities ordering people to stay indoors overnight as more states called in National Guard soldiers to help control the civil unrest not seen in the United States for years.

From Seattle to New York, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets demanding tougher murder charges and more arrests over the death of Floyd, who stopped breathing after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

In Los Angeles, officers fired rubber bullets and swung batons during a testy standoff

with demonstrators who set fire to a police car.

Police and protesters clashed in numerous cities including Chicago and New York, with officers responding to projectiles with pepper spray while shop windows were smashed in Philadelphia.

Multiple arrests were reported by US media in Minneapolis, Seattle and New York as rallies continued through the night.

Trump blamed the extreme left for the violence, including widespread looting and arson in Minneapolis, saying rioters were dishonoring the memory of Floyd.—AFP ■

## Trump says he will delay G7 summit and invite other countries

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said Saturday he will delay the G7 summit scheduled to take place in June and invite other countries — including Russia — to join the meeting.

"I don't feel that as a G7 it properly represents what's going on in the world. It's a very outdated group of countries," Trump told reporters on Air Force One.

He said he would like to invite Russia, South Korea,

Australia and India to join an expanded summit in the fall.

It could happen in September, either before or after the UN General Assembly, Trump said, adding that "maybe I'll do it after the election." Americans head to the polls in early November to choose a new president, with Trump keen for a return to normalcy from the coronavirus pandemic and a healthy economy as voters cast their

ballots. Describing the event as a "G-10 or G-11," Trump said he had "roughly" broached the topic with leaders of the four other countries. Leaders from the Group of Seven, which the United States heads this year, had been scheduled to meet by videoconference in late June after COVID-19 scuttled plans to gather in-person at Camp David, the US presidential retreat outside Washington.—AFP ■

## Latin America's stricken airlines facing long haul to recovery

MEXICO CITY — Latin America's beleaguered airlines will take up to three years to recover losses due to the coronavirus pandemic, and in the meantime desperately need government help, according to experts surveying the damage to the industry.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) estimates it will take at least that time for the region's airlines to inch back to their pre-pandemic level for domestic and regional

flights.

Long-haul services to the United States and Europe will take until 2024 to come back, it says.

"It's a long-range view; it will not be short term. It will take a lot of work," said Peter Cerda, IATA vice president for the Americas.

Evidence of the severity of the crisis came last week when the region's two largest airlines, Chilean-Brazilian LATAM and Colombia's Avianca, filed for bankruptcy in the United States.



An Aeromexico airlines plane lands at Mexico City's Benito Juarez airport on May 20, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

ed States.

With countries across the region in lockdown, flight activity has plummet-

ed 93 percent from around 200,000 a day, with losses in revenue estimated at \$18 billion.—AFP ■

## Thousands protest mass Renault job cuts

MAUBEUGE (France) — Thousands of workers rallied Saturday outside the Renault factory in northern France to protest the automaker's decision to cut 15,000 jobs worldwide, including 4,600 in France.

Unions said 8,000 people took part in the protest at the Maubeuge subsidiary over the cuts designed to help Renault steer out of a cash crunch exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The plant, which employs around 2,100 people, has been stopped since Friday.

Under the new plan, Maubeuge-based production of electric Kangoo utility vehicles is set to move to Douai, 70 kilometres (45 miles) away, much to the consternation of workers.

"It's an earthquake that is taking place. We want to keep our company here," Jerome Delvaux, a union member, told AFP.—AFP ■

## US workers face an unequal future when virus recedes

WASHINGTON — As the coronavirus worked its way across the United States, it cleaved the country's workforce in two: those who have the ability to work from home, and those who do not.

From baristas to hotel workers to tourism operators, people whose job

requires them to show up in-person were among the hardest hit in the waves of layoffs, and also those on the low end of the US pay scale.

Unemployment is now at a level not seen since the Great Depression nearly a century ago, and moving higher, while

the coronavirus is expected to threaten the country for months to come, factors analysts fear will only serve to deepen inequality for workers in the world's largest economy.

"People who are well-off and highly skilled and work from home are going to demand that their

employers make accommodations for them," said Jesse Rothstein, a former chief economist at the Labor Department who now teaches at the University of California, Berkeley.

But "lower skilled workers... are taking on more risk without more pay."—AFP ■



Unions said 8,000 people took part in the protest over the cuts designed to help Renault steer out of a cash crunch exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (021S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (021S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2020 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

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (186N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (186N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2020 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING  
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY 1079)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY 1079) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 LAND AND SEA  
INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SHANDONG KUAILE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHANDONG KUAILE VOY. NO. (SD2020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN  
INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO, LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KAPTA MATHIOS

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KAPTA MATHIOS VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES  
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALLIANCE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALLIANCE VOY. NO. (03/20) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 UNI SPRING LOGISTICS  
HOLDING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

## Russian small businesses reopen to uncertain future



Boris Kupriyanov co-founded Falanster, one of Russia's most famous independent bookshops. PHOTO: AFP

MOSCOW— When Moscow authorities closed non-essential businesses to stop the spread of the coronavirus, Boris Kupriyanov began to personally deliver books to his customers.

This, he said, has helped him and his indie bookstore survive over the past two months.

“In many ways this has become our salvation,” Kupriyanov, co-founder of Falanster, one of the country’s most famous inde-

pendent bookshops, told AFP.

“We’ve kept going only because people wanted to buy our books and help us,” he added.

Many small and medium-sized businesses including Kupriyanov’s bookstore will be allowed to reopen on Monday as authorities gradually ease confinement restrictions in Russia, which has reported more than 396,000 coronavirus infections – the

third-largest caseload after the United States and Brazil.

Not everyone will resume operations, however.

According to a study by the Center for Strategic Research in April, about a third of Russian companies risk bankruptcy following a collapse in demand fuelled by the epidemic.

Companies in the trade and services industries are among the hardest-hit, the think-tank said.—AFP ■

## China factory activity slows as global slump drags on growth

**BELJING** — Factory activity in China expanded at a slower pace in May as the country attempts to get back on track after the coronavirus, official data showed Sunday, with the global economic slump making the sector’s recovery difficult.

China’s factories have stirred back to life after the lifting of strict lockdown measures imposed when the deadly virus surfaced in the central city of Wuhan, but its spread worldwide has dragged down key foreign markets – weighing heavily on Chinese exports.

The Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), a key gauge of activity in China’s factories, was at 50.6 points in May, remaining above the 50-point mark separating growth from contraction each month.

But the figure was down slightly from 50.8 the month before, and 52.0 in March, according to the National Bureau of

Statistics (NBS).

NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe pointed to weakness in China’s imports and exports, saying “the epidemic situation and economic situation globally remain severe and complex, and foreign market demand is still shrinking”.

Zhao said indexes on new export orders and imports remained at relatively low levels.

The “momentum of economic recovery is steady and improving”, Zhao added, but there is

weakness in some industries such as textiles and apparel.

Non-manufacturing PMI was at 53.6 in May, a slight increase from the month before, with the NBS flagging that the construction and service industries are showing signs of recovery.

Business activity in the cultural, sports and entertainment industry, however, remains low with many entertainment venues still closed amid fears of a second wave of COVID-19 infections.—AFP ■



An employee works on an Airbus A220 aircraft at a factory in Shenyang in China's northeast. PHOTO: AFP

## Zimbabwe’s inflation soars 756 percent in April

**HARARE** — Zimbabwe’s annual inflation for April stood at 765.57 percent, gaining 89.18 percentage points from the previous month, the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat) said on Saturday in a statement.

Inflation stood at 676.39 percent in March.

Zimstat said month-on-month inflation in April was 17.64 percent, having shed 8.95 percentage points from March.

Exchange rate instability, driven by the parallel market, has been pushing up the prices of goods and services in Zimbabwe over the past months.

Zimbabwe has faced a prolonged shortage of foreign currency, which has in turn affected essential imports such as fuel and medical drugs.—Xinhua ■

### Myanma Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.15 feet to 20.41 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of June 4<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MAGNUM FORCE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAGNUM FORCE VOY. NO. (2020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT 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 CHUN AN  
INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO, LTD.

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# Pindaya, the lovely Danu's City (2)

By Thiha, the Traveller @ Thiha Lulin

## Green Tea Industry

The author felt well satisfied with the chance of observing Hsekya-in Natural Green Tea Industry Hsekya-in village in Pindaya. With the guidance of an organization from Germany, modern natural green tea managed to be cultivated and produced. The green tea is hygienically produced and it can reduce 5 per cent of carbon dioxide gas.

We don't know this smell, but the foreigners know it. The presence and absence of this smell show the quality of the coffee. The author remembered that he encountered heavy rain while studying the green tea industry and the family of the host served him wet tea leaves without artificial sweetening agent while having a chat. Looking at the rainfall among the mountain ranges from Danu traditional house while

sipping plain green tea is very delicious

## Danu traditional paper and umbrella industry

The author continued observing Danu traditional paper and umbrella enterprises. He studied different processes of making samples. The traditional paper and umbrella industry of U Kyaw Shwe is located in a locality not far from Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda. The author made a video recording on production processes of traditional paper and this video was already uploaded. Local products include hand-made umbrella, fan, book, envelope, paper lantern, lantern, bamboo hat and toys. The foreigners buy them as gifts and local visitors as home use.

## Konlon Sayadawgyi Corpse Cave Shrine Edifice (Lwan

## Zedi)

The famous Buddhist monk in Pindaya is Konlon Sayadaw Shintajay Niyasa. When the Sayadaw passed away, the body of the Sayadaw did not go rotten, hair and nails lengthened. The Sayadaw was believed as if he was alive. The corpse of the Sayadawgyi was put into the glass coffin. The pagoda where the corpse of the Sayadawgyi was put into the glass coffin is called Lwan Zedi. The formation of the Lwan Zedi looks strangely beautiful and sublime. There is no smelling inner Zedi. Record images of offering alms, fruits and flowers to the Sayadaw can be paid obeisance. The Sayadawgyi was born in Tamel village, Htelthon village tract in Pindaya on 4 April in 1900. At the age of 13 the Sayadawgyi became a novice and at the age of 20 the Sayadawgyi became a monk. His age was



The photo shows Konlon Sayadaw's corpse is put into the glass coffin.

96 years and he had 76 years of monkhood. He was famous for vegetarian. A 20 minutes' drive from Pindaya can reach Konlon Sayadawgyi Corpse Cave Shrine Edifice. It is higher than Pindaya because it is 4,352 feet above sea level.

## Pwayhla Market

Pwayhla is a village but it is believed as if it was a big city because it is hustle and

bustle. The author ate lunch in Pwayhla market in the time of lesser buyers and then he looked around the market, he saw edible root from the herb *Allium tuberosum* and tubers and bulbs as well as species of orchid.

## Pwayhla Hawnan (Manor of Shan chief)

The author did not reach Pintaya manor of Shan Chief in this trip schedule, but he visited Pwayhla Hawnan which is more than 100 years old and it has existed since the Japanese era. There only the daughter of the Shan chief is currently living. The author felt well satisfied with the chance of studying Hawnan. Pwayhla Hawnan can be seen as European structure designed with Myanmar handiworks. It is about 80 feet long and 50 feet side. The room the Shan chief lived, couch and electric cords used those days still remain. Bolts of the doors look strange. The holy place is more than 100 years old since the construction of Hawnan and the photos on the walls of living room upstairs are very historic. The first-ever Shan chief to the latest one can be seen at the same place. The author prefers exterior design of the structure.

## Setkyar Taung (Settaw Taung) Pagoda



The photo shows the dance of Danu damsels from Hsekya-in village.



The corpse of the presiding Sayadaw who resided at Setkyar Taung (Settaw Taung) Pagoda en route to Ywangan from Pindaya was put into the glass coffin. Settaw Taung Pagoda became the cave shrine edifice. Only bones were left in the corpse. The current presiding Sayadaw did not dispose of the corpse of his senior Sayadaw who passed away on which he always concentrated and practiced Dhamma every day. On the other mountain of Setkyar Taung Pagoda, a new Zedi has appeared and it looks

like a strange shape of tunnel. It is supposed that it would be alive with a teeming crowd of pilgrims if completed. The visitors can observe the mountain ranges and plantations and enjoy the beauty of villages near that mountain.

**Trekking and hiking in Pindaya's environs**

The visitor can go trekking and go hiking activities in Pindaya's environs hiring local guide. The visitors can spend half day, one or two or three night stopovers in the villages

while exploring environmental knowledge such as lifestyles of ethnic villages and enjoying the beauties of forests and mountains. Local guides give services for Pindaya-Yasakyi, Pindaya-Inlay, Pindaya-Kalaw, Pindaya-Kanhlakone/Shwe Pahtoe and Pindaya-Ywangan. At present, the foreign travellers are going there, but local ones don't know much about the visiting situation in Pindaya.

**The places to put up in Pindaya**

The hotels available to be chosen in Pindaya are not many. The prices are very reasonable in general. This time the place the author put up was at Conqueror Resort. The bungalows are all lovely and their items are in good state. The hospitality of the staffs reflects honesty of the local people. The hotel is very near Shweomin Cave Pagoda and the age-old banyan tree. The visitors can go there either on foot or by bicycle. It is near the market and Pindaya Hawnan as well. Other choices the visitors can make are Inle Inn Hotel, Golden Cave Hotel, and Global Grace Hotel.

Pindaya the author said earlier is not as same as Pindaya he thought of. When the author actually arrived in Pindaya, he obviously saw the place of the hidden beauties. The author believes that the article would help those wishing to visit Pindaya, the land of Danu in the south of Shan State during the visit if they read it.

*Translated by Htut Htut  
(Twantay)*



The photo shows the beauty of Setkyar Taung (Settaw Taung) Pagoda seen from a long distance.



The photo shows the front area of Pwayhla Hawnan.



The photo shows U Kyaw Shwe's Danu Traditional Paper and Umbrella Industry.



The photo shows Danu traditional paper sheet.

## Phone Myint Kyaw faces loss to Chu Bing Jie in 7<sup>th</sup> match

Myanmar's pool star Phone Myint Kyaw (alias) Ko Ar Ti suffered 11-21 defeat to Chinese player Chu Bing Jie in the seventh match of the first round of the 8 Ball Chinese Pool Super Match 2020 Tournaments, being held in Chao Yang, China yesterday.

The loss for Myanmar's pool star is due to missing some key balls including starting balls. Chu Bing Jie took advantage of Phone Myint Kyaw's mistakes in the middle of the game till the

final points to confirm his victory.

The match was a point collection match for Phone Myint Kyaw as he had already advanced to the second round after six straight wins in the China 8-ball pool tournament with a win over Wu Yeng by 21-19 on 16 May.

All six wins make the Myanmar's pool star to be the very first player to advance in the second round of the tournament bagging 37,800 points. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar's pool star Phone Myint Kyaw seen in his 7<sup>th</sup> match of 8 Ball Chinese Pool Super Match 2020 Tournaments against Chu Bing Jie. **PHONE MYINT KYAW'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

## 'Road Runner' Davies dazzles as Flick betters Guardiola's Bayern record

BERLIN — Road Runner' Alphonso Davies lived up to his nickname with another lightning sprint Saturday while Hansi Flick bettered Pep Guardiola's record

start as head coach of Bayern Munich, who opened a 10-point lead in the Bundesliga.

Having defeated second-placed Borussia Dortmund

1-0 away in midweek, Bayern enjoyed a 5-0 romp over Fortuna Duesseldorf. The visitors' defender Mathias Joergensen scored an early own-goal before Benjamin Pavard, Robert Lewandowski (2) and Davies hit the target for Bayern.

With five games left, the defending champions, who have won their last eight league games, are comfortably on course for an eighth straight league title.

Davies scored the best goal of the game when the fleet-footed defender pressed Duesseldorf into making a mistake, barged past several defenders and fired home.

"It was very special, I did my job as a defender, I pressed high up the pitch and got the ball, then put it in the back of the net," said Davies.—AFP ■



Bayern Munich's Canadian midfielder Alphonso Davies (C) clocked 35.4 km/h in Saturday's 5-0 league win over Fortuna Duesseldorf. **PHOTO: AFP**

## MFF to have new plan for football management

Myanmar Football Federation will have new football management style with new coaches for Myanmar national women's football team, Myanmar U-16 boys' national football team and Myanmar national futsal team according to the decision made by the MFF Technical Committee Meeting (1/2020), held in Yangon on 25 May.

According to the authorities' decision made by the football federation's meeting, football authorities recently appointed former football star and football manager U Tin Myint Aung, as head coach for the Myanmar National Women Football Team instead of hiring a foreigner coach.

Also, U Chit Naing will serve as head coach for the U-16 boys' Myanmar National Football Team and Netherlands futsal coach Victor Hermans will take the duty of the Myanmar National Futsal Team head coach.

MFF football authorities were keen to request youth football programmes from German football giants like Dortmund and Ajax.

The MFF is currently aiming at improving football standard of Myanmar to reach top of Asian level and new technical director and talented coaches of Myanmar Football Teams could be seen on the turf of the football teams in post-pandemic period. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Thiem, Kyrgios to play July grass, hard-court events in Berlin

BERLIN — Dominic Thiem, Nick Kyrgios, Elina Svitolina and Kiki Bertens will compete in grass and hard-court events in Berlin in July featuring both men's and women's fields.

The behind-closed-doors competition will be held on grass at the Steffi Graf Stadium from Jul 13-15 and then switch to hard court in a hangar at Berlin's Tempelhof Airport from Jul 17-19.

With Wimbledon cancelled for the first time since World

War II due to the coronavirus pandemic, this will be the first grass-court tennis of 2020. Six men and six women are set to take part.

"I am curious to see where I stand with my tennis," said Germany's Alexander Zverev, who joins Austria's Thiem, the highest ranked at third in the world, and Australia's Kyrgios in the men's event.

"I've been practising hard, but it's going to be my first time playing a competitive event in a

long time.

"It's going to exciting to play on two different surfaces in seven days."

In the women's field, Germany's Julia Goerges and Andreea Petkovic will join Svitolina of Ukraine and Bertens of the Netherlands, who are both in the top 10.

There will be no live spectators, electric line-calling will be used instead of judges and the matches will be played over two sets with a possible third as



Australia's Nick Kyrgios will be playing next month in Berlin, which will host men's and women's events on grass and hard court behind closed doors. **PHOTO: AFP**

a tie-breaker.

The matches will be broadcast with prize money of €200,000 (US\$222,000) at stake - 100,000 each for the men's and women's

events.

The ATP and WTA tours are both suspended until late July due to the global health crisis.—AFP ■