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Myanmar, Chinese leaders exchange congratulatory messages on 70th Anniversary of diplomatic relations

UWIN Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged messages of congratulations with Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, on the

occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China which falls on 8 June 2020.

On the same occasion, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counselor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also exchanged messages of congratulations with Mr Li Ke-

qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. — MNA



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

A SPECIAL flight bringing medical supplies donated by the World Health Organization-WHO to support the Ministry of Health and Sports in fighting against the COVID-19 landed at Yangon International Airport at 11 am yesterday.

The special flight arranged by the World Food Programme carried medical supplies including personal protective equipment-PPEs, medicines, laboratory equipment and reagents worth US\$10,000 and they will be handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

WFP Myanmar's Deputy Country Director Mr. Walid Ibrahim said the flight brought into the country about \$10,000 worth of medical equipment, including reagents. This cargo will be handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports in our help as the United Nations towards the Government's endeavor

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Workers unloading medical supplies donated by the WHO from the special relief flight at the Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: PE ZAW

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"People are the key"

Construction Ministry to reduce toll collections on some motorways

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin and departmental officials held a videoconference discussing easing of toll collections on some motorways and development undertakings in Ayeyawady Region on Saturday.

According to the video meeting, the ministry will reduce half of toll collections on 24 gates and 62 bridges for six months, from June to November, due to COVID-19.

Director (Civil) of Road Department in Ayeyawady Region U Yan Naing Zaw first presented sector-wise progress of works in the region with the help of power point.

Directors (Civil) of Bridge Department's Construction Team (1) U Kyaw Swar Tun and Construction Team (2) U Aung Thiha also reported on their



Union Minister U Han Zaw holds the videoconference discussing easing of toll collections on some motorways and development undertakings in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

projects to the meeting.

Deputy Director (Civil) from the Special Bridge Construction Team (15) of Bridge Department U Ye Naing Oo and Director (Civil) from the Special Bridge Construction Team (16)

of Bridge Department Daw Thit Thit Aung discussed the construction works in the region with the help of power point.

Director (Civil) of Rural Road Development Department U Lin Hteik presented the works

of overlaying concretes on the roads in Thabaung, Hinthada, Myaungmya, Einme, Danubyu and Labutta townships.

Director of Department of Urban and Housing Development U Nay Min Htet and

Assistant Director (Civil) from the Construction Team (15) of Building Department U Mya Win explained the current and ongoing buildings projects in the region.

Upon the reports, the Union Minister and Deputy Minister expressed appreciations for the completion of upgrading Yangon-Pathein road, and upgrading bridges in cooperation with foreign experts.

The Union Minister expressed satisfactions for the construction of Pathein Bridge (2) which is soon to be completed.

He also urged the officials to ensure workplace safety and try hard for the development of roads and bridges in the regions. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Volunteers, philanthropic groups assisting in COVID-19 measures honoured

THE National Volunteer Steering Committee Secretary Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Director-General Dr San San Aye of the Social Welfare Department and officials conferred certificates of honour and volunteer brooches to volunteers and philanthropic groups assisting in the COVID-19 measures and provided financial assistance to pregnant mothers, children under 5 years old, the elderly and people living with disabilities at quarantine centres yesterday morning.

Firstly, the Union Minister and entourage visited the quarantine centre in Municipal Guest-House in Nay Pyi Taw and handed

over the certificates of honour to volunteers assisting there to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and handed over the volunteer brooches, face masks and hand sanitizers to the volunteer representatives.

Next, the Social Welfare Department's Director-General handed over K1,080,000 for the 12 pregnant mothers, 14 children under 5 years old, 7 elderly, and 3 people living with disabilities at a rate of K30,000 per person to the centre manager.

The Union Minister and entourage then visited the quarantine centre in Nay Pyi Taw's Tatmadaw column and residence centre (3) and conferred the cer-

tificates, brooches, face masks and hand sanitizers there as well.

The Social Welfare Director-General then handed over K1,770,000 for the 32 pregnant mothers, 23 children under 5 years old, and 4 elderly above 60 years old at a rate of K30,000 per person.

The National Volunteer Steering Committee will ensure the certificates arrive in the hands of the 334 volunteers and 34 philanthropic groups and will continue to identify, acknowledge and award certificates and brooches to volunteers and philanthropic groups across the states and regions. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye hands over the face masks to the volunteer at the quarantine centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Special Flight arrives in Yangon with WHO medical supplies ...

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in handling COVID-19 pandemic and to help them in what they are trying to achieve in the country." Under the humanitarian flights plan between Yangon and Malaysia, similar flights arranged by WFP 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. The first three flights were operated with the funding of the European Union and Swiss Government.

As of last week, this plan

has shifted towards WFP's Global Logistics Service Provision Plan that aims at connecting logistics hubs around the world in order to provide an essential link with countries that needs to bring in cargo.

Under the plan, medical supplies including PPEs and laboratory equipment worth

\$16,686 were brought by a relief flight on 31st May.

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 KZL)

LNG to Power projects successfully underway

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy held a meeting concerning the arrival of the LNG ship for the LNG to Power Projects, and coordinating for the implementation of the project yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and Dr Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary U Tin Maung Oo, directors-general, managing directors and other officials.

The Union Minister first delivered a speech where he said the Magway 66MW power station project, Kyun Chaung 20.54 MW power station, and Ahlone 151.54 MW power station project are successfully contributing power to the National Electricity Grid.

The Union Minister said that in the near future, the LNG to Power Thakayta electric production project will also be able to

produce electricity for the grid as well and they are working on completing the Thanlyin LNG to Power project at the same time. He also thanked the hardworking personnel assigned to these projects for their perseverance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Next, Managing Director U Than Naing Oo of the Electric Power Generation Enterprise explained the construction of the mobile filling platform as a temporary jetty for the LNG ship, and coordinating with relevant ministries and regional government for acquiring the permit to dock these ships.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win responded to the explanation and said the LNG to Power project and hydro-power project can be combined to regulate the National Power Grid.

The Union Minister then responded that the LNG ship



Union Minister U Win Khaing holds the coordination meeting on LNG to Power Project yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

project is the first of its kind in Myanmar and needs to be processed in line with international standards.

The LNG to Power project is one of seven projects that can produce 1166MW and is being implemented in Ahlon, Thanlyin and Thakayta of Yangon Region, Magway and Kyun Chaung of Magway Region, Shwetaung in Bago Re-

gion, and Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State. The projects in Magway, Ahlon and Kyun Chaung have been completed and the mobile filling platforms for the LNG ships were assembled in Singapore and installed in Thilawa LNG port on 2 June.

The MV-CNTIC VPOWER GLOBAL LNG vessel docked at the mobile filling platform can

store enough LNG to produce 200MW for 14 days and can be refilled with small LNG tankers.

The vessel departed Malaysia on 28 April and docked at the mobile filling platform on 6 June. The project is implemented in close collaboration with Consortium of CNTIC and Vpower company. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar COVID-19 figure reaches 242 after two positive cases on 7 June

Myanmar's COVID-19 figure has reached 242 after two more cases were reported on 7 June.

The last two cases were those who returned from In-

dia and Thailand.

Out of 242 confirmed cases in the country, six died, 156 persons have recovered and 136 have been discharged from hospitals, while 43 new

persons are under investigation up to 7 June, according to the report of Ministry of Health and Sports. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■

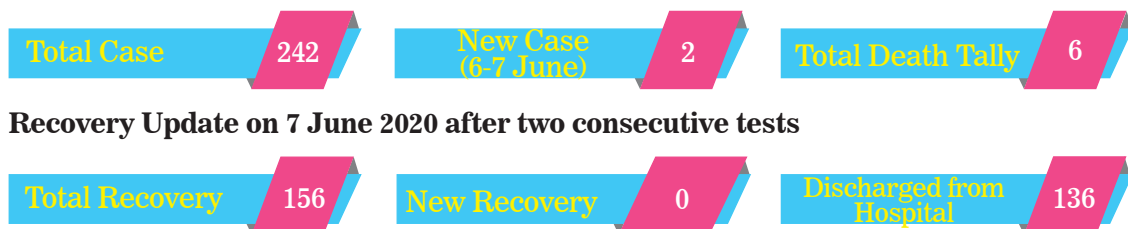
COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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 and opens from 8 am to 8 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

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

Two new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 7 June, total figure reaches 242

Updated at 8 pm, 7 June 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 7 June 2020



Two new cases of COVID-19 on 7 June 2020: Updated at 8 pm

| Case No | Age | Gender | Address | Contact with positive patient | Overseas travel history | Hospital for medical treatment | Lab result | Remark |
|---------|-----|--------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 241 | 58 | Male | Tamway Township, Yangon Region | No | Yes, India | South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital | Positive | Person under Investigation |
| 242 | 36 | Female | Thayat Township, Magway Region | No | Yes, Thailand | Magway General Hospital | Positive | Held under quarantine |

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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.

Myanmar seamen brought home on special flight



Myanmar citizens making their immigration processes at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with guidelines set by the National Central Committee on Preven-

tion, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and cooperating with relevant ministries, Myanmar embas-

sies abroad to repatriate Myanmar citizens stranded due to COVID-19.

A total of 83 Myanmar sea-

men onboard cruise ships of the Norwegian Cruise Line Holding Ltd in France, Italy and The Netherlands were brought back on a special Amelia Airlines flight to Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon.

The returnees were given proper medical examination and quarantine for 21 days as organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government,

A total of 3,192 Myanmar citizens have been repatriated back home in this manner. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

1,635 migrant workers return home via Myawady border on 7 June



Officials helping the Myanmar returnees from Thailand at the Myawady Border Gate yesterday.

PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

A total of 1,635 Myanmar citizens returned home from

Thailand through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge

(2) of Myawady border town in Kayin State yesterday.

Under the arrangement of Thai government and Myanmar Embassy, the Myanmar citizens returned from different areas of the Kingdom.

On their arrival, Myanmar authorities helped them with medical tests and other supplies.

Myanmar migrant workers have been repatriated from Thailand since 1 May, and a total of 21,600 persons have arrived back home so far.

The latest group of returnees included 1,015 males and 620 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

149 migrant workers sent back home via Taunggyi after 21-day quarantine

A total of 149 Myanmar nationals who returned from China and Special Region (4) were transported back to their native places via the Taunggyi Business Center (TBC) Highway Bus Terminal in Taunggyi, Shan State on Saturday.

After undergoing 21-day quarantine in Special Region 4, the Myanmar citizens returned through the Nanghlwe Chaung Bridge in Mongyawng Township in eastern Shan State.

The 149 returnees include

4 from Yangon Region, 10 from Mandalay Region, 27 from Magway Region, 4 from Bago Region, 1 from Ayeyawady Region, 97 from Rakhine State and 6 from Shan State.

So far more than 4,000 returnees were already sent back home via Taunggyi.

Members of Taunggyi Township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, well-wishers, traffic police, officials, Taunggyi Township's volunteers, Red Cross members, and members of aux-



Myanmar migrant workers seen at the Taunggyi Business Centre Highway Bus Terminal. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT SHWE (IPRD)

iliary fire brigade checked the returnees' health conditions, and distributed them lunch boxes, water bottles, soft drinks

and breads for their journeys. —Soe Nyunt Shwe (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Over 120 coronavirus-hit businesses receive loan in Mandalay Region

MORE than 400 coronavirus-hit businesses from Mandalay Region have applied for emergency Coronavirus Fund and 123 of them have been approved to receive the loan so far, said an official of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"A total of 417 businesspersons applied for the loan at Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRC-CI). Some applied through an online platform. As the Fund to enterprises battered 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. During the pandemic, the fund will contribute the businesses a lot. Furthermore, the interest rate of 1 per cent for a one-year period 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.

A total of 1,016 enterprises have been granted K37.55 billion from Coronavirus Fund between 9 April and 2 June, according to a committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

Regarding the Fund, 85 businesspersons were granted K5.696 billion in the first batch, while 113 enterprises were selected for K4.495 billion in the

second batch, 111 enterprises in the third batch for K3.5466 billion, 417 in the fourth batch for K15.079 billion and 290 in the fifth batch for K8.7335 billion.

The priority sectors of K100-billion fund are CMP garment business, hotels and tourism service and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The committee has been granting the loan to the business stricken by the pandemic from the Fund, with K50 billion allocated from the country's revolving fund and another K50 billion from the social welfare fund.

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.

Some businesses shut down during the early outbreak. The emergency 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.

The applicants approved by the committee will be screened in line with bank rules and procedures, and they are not eligible for the loan if they get sued by a bank. The remaining applications are being processed, the committee stated.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Pigeon peas fetch good price as India demand rises

THE price of pigeon peas has risen due to growing demand from India in the recent days, while the price of sesame seeds is on the decline as the fresh sesame are flooding Mandalay market, said traders from Mandalay pulses and beans depot.

"India's quota on pigeon pea import has become effective since 1 April. Yet, they started purchasing them in May-end. Prior to the purchase, the pigeon peas (red grams) touched a low of K68,000 per three-basket bag. Now, the price increases to K73,000. The price is up by K5,000 per bag. At present, those traders who stored red grams are having a healthy profit," said deputy chair U Myo Swe of Mandalay Commodity Depot.

Meanwhile, the sesame

price drops at the harvest time, according to Mandalay Depot.

"The traders halted sesame purchase when the harvest time approached. Having said that, the price plunged to K112,000 per bag. Sesame (Samone variety) is priced K140,000-160,000 per bag. Earlier, it crossed above K200,000," he said.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar's sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

According to the notification of India's Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India allowed importing 400,000 tonnes of pigeon peas for the

2020-2021 FY.

Myanmar's pigeon peas are shipped to markets in India, Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK, and Malaysia. But, the export volume is extremely small compared with black beans and green grams.

In the 2016-2017 financial year, over 160,000 tonnes of pigeon peas were shipped to foreign countries, while in the 2017-2018FY, exports crossed 220,000 tonnes.

Myanmar ships over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially black beans, with an estimated worth of US\$1 billion, to other counties in the last 2018-2019 FY.—IPRD/ Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Pigeon peas are displayed at a commodity depot in Mandalay. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

Export rice price shows slight increase in May against previous months

THE prices of rice in export market rose a bit in May compared with the prices of previous months, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The price of white rice variety (well milled) was priced US\$300-305 per tonne in January and February, 2020. In May, the price slightly climbed to \$390-395. Similarly, low quality rice variety (reasonably well milled) saw a significant increase last month against the prices in January and February, rising from \$265-270 to \$340-350 per metric tonne.

The broken rice variety in the first three months (Jan-March) was flat at \$280-290 for (A 1:2), \$260-270 for B1:2 (sorted), \$245-255 for B1:2 (non-sorted), \$240-245 for (B2:3:4 non-sorted).

In May, it slightly rose to \$300-310 for (A 1:2), \$290-300 for B1:2 (sorted), \$255-265 for B1:2 (Non-sorted) and \$240-250 for (B2:3:4 non-sorted), according to the MRF.

Additionally, the prices of parboiled rice varieties, high quality rice variety (Pawsan) and low-quality rice variety (Ngasein) in May are not largely unchanged against the previous months.

The foreign market purchases our rice as the price is cheaper than other Asian countries. If they do not ship the rice at low price, there will be no market for export, said an official of Bayintnaung commodity depot.

The prices of rice currently move in the ranges of K39,000-

54,000 per 108-pound-bag of Pawsan varieties, while low quality rice fetched 20,500-24,000. The prices are up by 2,000-4,000 per bag against previous months, MRF data showed.

Next, the country has the rice reserve scheme for emergency case beyond self-sufficiency in domestic market. Myanmar's rice export has returned to normal in May, according to the MRF.

The Federation has been negotiating with the government concerning the export depending on the situations of the COVID-19 and local and foreign markets. Additionally, MRF, its subsidiary organizations and the rice traders are coordinating to have a much fairer price of rice

for the consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At present, local market constitutes over 70 per cent of production, whereas 20 per cent go to foreign market. The exporters must sell 10 per cent of total export volume (25% broken, well milled and sorted rice), stated in export declaration as country's reserved rice. This being so, there is balance between domestic market and export.

The state has purchased about 32,000 tonnes of rice from 110 companies as of 5 June and the rice has been stored at nine warehouses, in line with the set rules and regulations, MRF stated.

During the pandemic, Ministry of Commerce and MRF have

planned to export 100,000 tonnes of rice through sea trade and 50,000 tonnes through border trade every month.

Between 1 October and 22 May in the current financial year 2019-2020, 1.9 million tonnes of rice and broken rice were shipped to foreign countries, with estimated value of \$563.3 million. The country intends to ship over 2 million tonnes of rice in the current financial year, MRF stated. Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million metric tons, worth \$691 million, in the 2018-2019 FY.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Endorsement of Myanmar Standards Adoption

IN accordance with duties and function of section 5, article b and vested mandate of section 33 article (b) of Law on Standardization, National Standards Council endorses the following 264 standards to adopt as Myanmar Standards.

(CONTINUED FROM 7-6-2020)

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| 194 | MMS ISO 6117:2005 Road vehicles — Elastomeric boots for drum-type, hydraulic brake wheel cylinders using a non-petroleum base hydraulic brake fluid (service temperature 100 degrees C max.) | 227 | MMS ISO 12460-4:2016 Wood-based panels – Determination of formaldehyde release – Part 4: Desiccator method. |
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| 223 | MMS ISO 2426-2:2000 Plywood - Classification by surface appearance - Part 2: Hardwood | 256 | MMS NIOSH 7400: 1994, 7402: 1994 & 9000: 2015 (Method for sampling and determination of asbestos) |
| 224 | MMS ISO 2426-3:2000 Plywood -- Classification by surface appearance -- Part 3: Softwood | 257 | MMS NIOSH 6017: 2003 (Method for sampling and determination of hydrogen cyanide) |
| 225 | MMS ISO 2074:2007 Plywood - Vocabulary | 258 | MMS NIOSH 2016: 2003 & 2541: 1994 (Method for sampling and determination of formaldehyde) |
| | | 259 | MMS NIOSH 3700: 1994 (Method for sampling and determination of benzene) |
| | | 260 | MMS JIS G 3101: 2015 Rolled steels for general structure |
| | | 261 | MMS JIS G 3106: 2015 Rolled steels for welded structure |
| | | 262 | MMS JIS G 3131: 2018 Hot-rolled mid steel plates, sheet and strip |
| | | 263 | MMS JIS G 3141: 2017 Cold-reduced carbon steel sheet and strip |
| | | 264 | MMS GAP 23:2020 Myanmar Good Agricultural Practices (Gap) Standard for Crops |

260 Myanmar migrant workers come back home via Lashio



Myanmar citizens returning home from China seen at the Lashio Railways Station yesterday.
PHOTO: NAN THANDA OO (IPRD)

A total of 260 Myanmar nationals who returned from China were transported back to their native places via Lashio in northern Shan State by train yesterday.

Yesterday's returnees include 36 from Kachin State, 1 from Chin State, 113 from Sagaing Region, 60 from Bago

Region, 5 from Magway Region, 25 from Mandalay Region, 3 from Yangon Region, 3 from Rakhine State, 1 from Nay Pyi Taw and 13 from Ayeyawady Region.

So far a total of 9,371 returnees were already sent back to their native places via Lashio.

Members of Lashio District

and Township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, well-wishers, railway officials, Red Cross and volunteers checked the returnees' health conditions, and fulfilled their needs.—Nan Thanda Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

76TH COMMEMORATION OF WWII

Virus forces scaled down D-Day commemoration in France

THE 76th commemoration of the World War II allied landing in France was cut to a strict minimum on Saturday owing to restrictions stemming from the coronavirus.

Celebrations that normally draw big crowds were held without veterans and were intentionally "simple, sombre and strong" in the words of French junior armed forces minister Genevieve Darrieussecq.

The fighting involved more than 200,000 soldiers from both sides by the end of June 6, 1944, and while a precise death toll has not been established, the BBC cites as many as 4,400 among the Allies, and an estimated 4,000 - 9,000 Germans.

At Vierville-sur-Mer, known to many as Oma-



Britain's ambassador to France, Edward Llewellyn lays flowers at the international ceremony marking the 76th anniversary of the World War II Allied landings in Normandy.
PHOTO: AFP

ha Beach, the Patrouille de France air display team made two passes on Saturday, trailing blue, white and red smoke to open a ceremony attended by around 100 people, including ambassadors from eight allied countries and Germany. Representatives from Belgium,

Britain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United States marked the military operation comprised of "soldiers who fought for the values of our republic, our freedom, our democracy", Darrieussecq told media.

SOURCE: AFP



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Extension of deadline for the BIMSTEC Flag and Logo Competition

- The deadline for the submission of designs for the BIMSTEC Flag and Logo Competition has been extended **until 30 June 2020**, from previously announced 15 May 2020.
- For more details, please contact the Sub-Regional Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Telephone Number: 067-3412447 at office hours.

Sub-Regional Cooperation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Trade deficit widens to \$1.6 bln as of 29 May

MYANMAR'S trade gap significantly increased in nearly eight months of the current financial year to more than US\$1.6 billion from \$978 million registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 29 May in the current fiscal, Myanmar's external trade increased to over \$25.2 billion from \$23 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

While exports were estimated at \$11.8 billion, imports were valued at \$13.4 billion. Compared to the previous fiscal, exports showed an increase of \$780.7 million, while imports climbed up by \$1.4 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, CMP raw mate-

rials, 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 the statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.—Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Don't disregard potential dangers from lightning; stay safe in rainy season

EVERY rainy season, especially in early and late season, lightning strikes kill and injure people, at times damaging their property and livestock. Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement releases annual warnings not to disregard the potential dangers.

With the monsoon battering our country, deaths due to lightning are being reported across the country. In 2019, over 130 people died and over 50 injured due to lightning across the country.

In this pre-monsoon season of 2020, over 62 people died and 26 injured as of 6th June.

Nine in 10 victims do not die, but many of those who are struck do suffer long-term difficulties, particularly neurological injuries.

In most cases, people are caught up at the wrong places and in most cases they could have avoided it, with proper knowledge.

It is important to understand how lightning works and regional authorities should start a campaign to educate the people before we lose many lives, livestock and property.

Some tips for safety: If thunder/lightning is in the vicinity, stay inside. If you're stuck outside, make a bee line to the most solid shelter you can find. Or get in a car.

Remember, the most common factors influencing a lightning bolt are height, a pointed shape and the isolation of the object. If you're stuck in a field, stay on your feet and crouch low.

Most important, if you hear thunder or see lightning in the vicinity, get inside as soon as possible.

If you stay inside a home, you should always stay off phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity and stay away from windows.

Always avoid plumbing, including sinks and baths and remember that when thunder roars, go indoors and relax.

Lightning strikes may be rare, but they still happen and the risk of serious injury or death is severe. So take thunderstorms seriously in every rainy season.

Use common sense. Show respect. Stay safe.



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Carry forward the fine traditions of the past 70 years, Build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future

By H.E. Mr. Chen Hai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

TODAY marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations. On June 8, 1950, China and Myanmar officially established diplomatic relations. Over the past seven decades, our relationship has been marked by mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual support, setting a good example for countries, big or small, to treat each other as equals and pursue mutual benefit and common development.

Soon after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Myanmar was the first of countries with a different social system to recognize New China.

China and Myanmar jointly championed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, setting important guidelines for country-to-country relations. Myanmar was also the first neighbor to sign boundary treaty with New China. The two sides have not only properly resolved border issues but also actively responded to domestic and international challenges. By coordinating closely and jointly pushing forward the reform, the two countries have been working to promote both domestic development and bilateral relations.

Entering the 21st Century, the two countries have established the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership and promoted multifaceted cooperation that benefits both countries and our peoples.

According to a saying in Myanmar, "Insects can't destroy Ivory." Although China - Myanmar relationship have stood the test of changing international circumstances for 70 years while it remains as strong as ivory.

This is mainly attributed to the following experience:

1. Both countries have actively followed strategic leadership. The heads of both countries have steered the bilateral relations from a strategic height and a long-term perspective, thus ensuring that China-Myanmar relations maintain a good momentum of sound and stable development.

2. Both countries have consistently practiced the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, with both sides supporting each other on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns, thereby strengthening the foundation of mutual trust.

3. Both countries have inherited and carried forward Pauk-Phaw friendship. China and Myanmar are close neighbors enjoying a deep bond of cultural and people-to-people affinity. The

people of the two countries have had friendly exchanges since ancient times, forming a profound and unique Pauk-Phaw friendship. This is a valuable asset that the two countries share in common and has become the basic foundation of China-Myanmar friendship.

4. Both countries have served steadfastly for the fundamental interests of two peoples. Both sides place the people's interests as the first priority with practical cooperation and development delivering more benefits to the two peoples, which helps China-Myanmar friendship become stronger.

President Xi Jinping's visit to Myanmar at the invitation of Myanmar President U Win Myint at the beginning of 2020, was a historic success. The leaders of the two countries agreed to build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

This important political consensus speaks volumes about the special bond between China and Myanmar, as close as between lips and teeth. It gives vivid expression to the Pauk-Phaw friendship between our peoples who have supported each other through thick and thin, and draws up a new and overarching blueprint for future growth of bilateral

ties, ushering China-Myanmar relation into a new era. Recently, President Xi Jinping spoke by phone with President U Win Myint. The two leaders agreed that China and Myanmar should work closely to implement the outcomes of

President Xi's visit and build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

The 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations serves as a good opportunity to implement the important consensus of the leaders of both countries, fully leverage on geographic proximity and economic complementarity to share opportunities, meet challenges head on, pursue common development and strive to build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

-----Enhance mutual respect and trust to consolidate friendship from generation to generation. China and Myanmar have a long history of friendly exchanges. The elder statesmen of our two countries jointly established the Pauk-Phaw friendship and wrote many touching stories of bilateral exchanges.

Today, the international environment is changing fast and while China-Myanmar relations remain steadfast. Adhering to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, we wish to maintain, consolidate and develop political mutual trust with Myanmar, pass on the precious traditional friendship between the two countries so as to embed the sense of a Chi-



The fourth enshrinement visit of the Buddha's tooth relic to Myanmar in 2011. PHOTO: MNA

na-Myanmar community with a shared future in people's mind and imbue our friendship with more vitality and dynamism in the long river of history.

-----Give priority to development and achieve common prosperity. Both China and Myanmar are developing countries and are at the crucial stages of development. Our two sides need to seek complementarity between economic development strategies of the two countries in our joint efforts to carry out the building of the Belt and Road Initiative, and move the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor from a conceptual stage to substantial planning and implementation.

Efforts need to be made to promote the three pillars of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor - the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone, Border Economic Cooperation Zones, and New

Yangon City, deepening our practical cooperation in connectivity, electricity and energy, transportation, agriculture, finance and livelihoods, so as to expand the shared interests of China and Myanmar and bring more tangible benefits to the two peoples.

-----Stay forward-looking and promote closer people-to-people ties. Recently, China and Myanmar have been working together to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Myanmar's government, military and social organizations have actively contributed to China's fight against the pandemic. China has also donated medical supplies to Myanmar and sent teams of medical experts to help improve Myanmar's capacity to combat the pandemic. These efforts are vivid examples of building a China-Myanmar community with a shared future. We are willing to strengthen



President U Win Myint and President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping inspect the Guard of Honour at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 January, 2020. PHOTO: MNA

en our cooperation with Myanmar on fighting against the virus and head towards final success together.

The two sides will also jointly hold a series of activities celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the China-Myanmar Year of Culture and Tourism, with the aim to expand people-to-people and culture exchanges, and deepen Pauk-Phaw friendship.

-----Uphold fairness and justice, and maintain peace and stability. We are witnessing major changes unfolding in our world, something unseen in a century. The global pandemic has made it clearer than ever that all countries are in the same boat and rise and fall together, and human beings are in a community with a shared future. Because of the pandemic, the rise of protectionism, unilateralism, and populism have cast a negative impact on economic globalization.

We wish to further strengthen strategic coordination with Myanmar and other friendly countries to expand coordination and cooperation on joint responding to the challenges brought by the pandemic and anti-globalization, so as to build a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation and a community with a shared future for mankind.

Both China and Myanmar have a saying: "Unity is strength". Unity is the most powerful weapon in the fight against the pandemic faced by the international community and the most effective way to build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future. We are ready to work with Myanmar, taking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations as an opportunity, to carry forward our traditions and forge ahead hand in hand, thus creating an even better future for China-Myanmar relations.

(The views expressed in this article are those of the author, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.)



China's forex reserves expand in May

BEIJING — China's foreign exchange reserves expanded to 3.1017 trillion U.S. dollars at the end of May, from 3.0915 trillion dollars at the end of April, official data showed on Sunday.

China's forex market operated steadily last month, with demand and supply basically balanced, said Wang Chunying, spokesperson for the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

Wang attributed the pick-up in May to multiple factors including exchange rates and changes in asset prices.

Despite a complex external economic environment amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Wang said China's economy has seen a gradual restoration back to normal, and has resilience, potential and room to maneuver, providing solid foundations for the stability of forex reserves.

Echoing Wang's sentiments, Wen Bin, chief analyst



China's foreign exchange reserves expanded to 3.1017 trillion U.S. dollars at the end of May, from 3.0915 trillion dollars at the end of April.

at China Minsheng Bank, said with the implementation of proactive fiscal policies and

monetary policy tools directly targeting the real economy, the sound long-term outlook of

the country's economy will support the stability of forex scale. — Xinhua ■

Fox News apologizes for chart of stock gains after black killings

NEW YORK — Fox News has apologized for airing a graphic showing how stock markets had responded after high-profile acts of violence against black

men, including the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr and the recent killing of George Floyd.

The chart appeared Fri-

day on "Special Report with Bret Baier" and showed how markets had risen after the 1968 killing of the civil rights leader, the acquittal of police involved in the 1991 beating of Rodney King, and the deaths of teenager Michael Brown in 2014 and Floyd.

"The infographic used on FOX News Channel's Special Report to illustrate market reactions to historic periods of civil unrest should have never aired on television without full context," the cable channel said in a statement Saturday retweeted by Baier without comment.

"We apologize for the insensitivity of the image & take this issue seriously."

The chart stirred outrage

at a time when thousands of people nationwide have taken part in mass protests against racism and police brutality following the death of Floyd at the hands of a white officer.

"This graphic makes it clear that @FoxNews does not care about black lives," Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush said on Twitter.

"This is how they mourn the loss of black men at #FoxNews -- by how much the stock market goes up. What. The. Hell!," former Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele tweeted.

Other media have pointed out that financial markets tend to rebound after periods of social unrest, including Fortune magazine.—AFP ■



Thousands of people have been taking part in more than a week of protests nationwide against racism and police brutality after the death of George Floyd. PHOTO: AFP

Pacific bluefin tuna stock to reach int'l recovery target by 2024

TOKYO — The stock of large Pacific bluefin tuna, a popular fish for sushi but for which concerns remain over its depletion, has been projected to meet an international recovery target of around 40,000 tons by 2024, sources familiar with the matter said Sunday.

The projection was made by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, which earlier

this year assessed the probability of achieving the target as 100 percent, according to the sources.

It could set the stage for quota expansion discussions, proposed by Japan, at an international conference usually held in summer.

Japan has been seeking an expansion of catch quota at meetings of the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Com-

mission.

At last year's meeting, parties including the United States opposed the proposed quota expansion, saying the stock of the tuna has not recovered enough.

After declining steadily from 1995 to the historical low level of 11,000 tons in 2010, the stock of tuna with breeding capability appears to have started recovering -- an estimated 25,000 tons in 2016 and 28,000 tons in 2018.

But the stock is still at a significantly low level compared with its peak of 156,000 tons in 1961.

The fisheries commission in 2015 introduced harvest restrictions on the popular tuna -- halving of catches of small fish weighing less than 30 kilograms from the 2002-2004 average level, and limiting the catch for large fish weighing 30 kilograms or more to the average level in the years.— Kyodo ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Tokyo to require night entertainment workers to take virus tests

TOKYO — The Tokyo metropolitan government will ask people working at nightclubs and similar entertainment establishments to regularly take coronavirus tests, Gov. Yuriko Koike said Sunday.

After holding talks with economy minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, she told reporters that the policy is part of new measures aimed at preventing the spread of the virus in major nightlife districts in Tokyo, such as Shinjuku's Kabukicho area.

Since the relaxation of social and economic restrictions late last month, a number of new coronavirus cases have been reported in the area —Kyodo ■

China city launches fifth-freedom intercontinental air cargo route

XI'AN — A fifth-freedom freight air route was launched on Sunday, linking the Republic of Korea's capital Seoul, Xi'an in northwest China, and Los Angeles in the United States.

It is the first intercontinental air route of its kind in Shaanxi Province. Operated by Korean Air on Boeing 747-400F aircraft, the new all-cargo flight is expected to fly once a week, according to sources with the Airport New City in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi.

A fifth-freedom flight is one where an airline company from one country or region, when running an international service, gets permission to make a stopover in a third country and take on passengers and cargo.

The opening of the route will provide an annual air freight capacity of nearly 10,000 tonnes. Electronic product accessories, international express items, e-commerce packages and fresh produce are among the main products to be transported.— Xinhua ■

India, China seek to ‘peacefully resolve’ border face-off

NEW DELHI — India and China have agreed to “peacefully resolve” a latest border flare-up that has heightened tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours, New Delhi said Sunday, after a high-level meeting between army commanders.

Tensions have flared in recent weeks between the two regional powers over their 3,500-kilometre (2,200-mile) frontier, which has never been properly demarcated.

Thousands of troops from both countries are involved in the face-off concentrated in India’s Ladakh region, just opposite Tibet.

“Both sides agreed to peacefully resolve the situation in the border areas in accordance with various bilateral agreements,” the foreign ministry said in a



In this file photograph taken on July 4, 2006, an Indian soldier communicates with colleagues on a walkie talkie at Nathula Gate, leading to the Nathu La border crossing between India and China, some 50 kms (31 miles) east of Sikkim state capital Gangtok. **PHOTO: AFP**

statement.

The ministry added that the commanders agreed an “early resolution” was “essential” for bilateral relations between the world’s two most-populous nations.

“Accordingly, the two sides will continue the military and diplomatic engagements to resolve the situation and to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas,” the statement said.

There have been numerous

face-offs and brawls between Chinese and Indian soldiers at the frontier, but they have become more frequent in recent years. On May 9, several Indian and Chinese soldiers were injured in a high-altitude cross-border clash involving fists and stone-throwing in Sikkim state.

Indian officials said that within days, Chinese troops encroached over the demarcation line in the Ladakh region, further to the west.

India moved extra troops to positions opposite.

The talks, which took place in the Chushul-Moldo region between the two commanders, is believed to be the highest-level meeting since the Sikkim exchange. — AFP

Central SOEs to invest heavily in virus-hit Hubei

BEIJING — Thirty-four Chinese centrally-administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs) inked 72 investment deals with the virus-hit Hubei Province earlier this week, according to the state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) of the State Council.

The move aims to revive the economy of Hubei, the hardest-hit province during the COVID-19 epidemic.

With a combined investment of 327.73 billion yuan (about 46.16 billion U.S. dollars), the deals cover various industries including

new energy, environmental protection, intelligent manufacturing and information technology.

The SASAC will provide more policy support to promote cooperation between central SOEs and Hubei Province, said Hao Peng, chief of the SASAC.

Central SOEs have signed 623 cooperation agreements with Hubei since 2016, with total investment exceeding 1 trillion yuan. So far, nearly 80 central SOEs have invested in the province.

China currently has a total of 97 central SOEs. —Xinhua



Workers observe the progress at a construction site of a project undertaken by the China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co., Ltd in Wuhan, central China’s Hubei Province, March 26, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Head of “comfort women” shelter in S. Korea found dead



Yoon Mi Hyang, the former head of a South Korean group aimed at solving the issue of “comfort women”, who worked at Japanese wartime military brothels, speaks at a press conference in Seoul on May 29, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SEOUL — The head of a South Korean shelter for so-called comfort women run by an organization being investigated for alleged accounting irregularities has been found dead in an apparent suicide, Yonhap News Agency reported Sunday.

The 60-year-old woman was found dead Saturday in her apartment north of Seoul and homicide is not suspected, police were quoted as saying.

As part of their investigation of the nongovernmental organization named the Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance, prosecutors last month raided the shelter, as well as its office and its affiliated museum.

The woman reportedly told those close to her that she was going through a hard time after

the prosecution raid, according to the report.

Yoon Mi Hyang, the prominent former head of the KCJR who was in April elected to the National Assembly, is suspected of embezzling donations to the group. Both Yoon and the organization have denied the allegations.

On Sunday, the current head of the group released a statement saying that, following the raid on the shelter, the woman “felt as if her entire life was being denied and had confided to those close by of the mental pain she was suffering,” Yonhap said.

The probe was prompted by accusations leveled against the group and Yoon last month by 91-year-old former comfort woman Lee Yong Soo.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

AirAsia Indonesia to resume flights this month amid relaxation of restrictions

JAKARTA— AirAsia Indonesia will resume flights on June 19 as the country has gradually relaxed rules on the large-scale social restrictions, the airline said on Sunday.

President Director of AirAsia Indonesia Veranita Yosephine Sinaga said that preparations for the resumption of the scheduled flights have been carried out. “AirAsia is committed to serving the needs of traveling or transporting goods to across the country and abroad through special charter flights for passengers and cargoes,” she remarked.

The airline said that the travelers flying with AirAsia in the future are required to understand and strictly adhere to and comply with health and immigration requirements, and the travel restrictions set up by the governments of the country of origin and those of the destination, local media reported.—Xinhua

INS Jalashwa brings back nearly 700 stranded Indians from Male

TUTICORIN — Indian Navy Ship Jalashwa on Sunday safely docked at the harbour in Tuticorin on Tuesday bringing back 700 stranded Indian nationals from Male.

With this voyage, INS Jalashwa alone has so far repatriated around 2,700 Indians from the Maldives and Sri Lanka under Operation ‘Samudra Setu’. On June 1, the vessel repatriated approximately 700 Indians from Colombo in Sri Lanka to Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu. This is the third trip to the Maldives by INS Jalashwa.

The rescue mission is a part of Operation ‘Samudra Setu’ under the Vande Bharat Mission, which has so far facilitated the evacuation of nearly 2,700 people from Male twice on May 8 and May 16. Under the second phase of the naval repatriation mission, INS Jalashwa with the base at Visakhapatnam would voyage for evacuation in Bandar Abbas (Iran) after Male.—ANI

U.S. has no right to extend UN arms embargo on Iran: Iranian envoy

TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations said on Sunday that the U.S. calls for the extension of a UN Security Council arms embargo on Iran lack legal standing in international law, Press TV reported.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations “wrongly” believes Washington retains the right to snap back sanctions against Tehran under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, said Majid Takht-Ravanchi.

Washington is no longer a “participant” in the 2016 Iranian nuclear deal, Takht-Ravanchi noted, referring to U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw from the nuclear deal two years ago.

Under Resolution 2231, arms embargo on Iran will be lifted in October 2020. However,



A UN ban on weapons sales to Tehran will come to an end in October 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE PHOTO

er, the United States says it is considering “every possibility” to renew the UN Security Council

ban on selling conventional arms to Iran.

Iran has said it would not

accept the renewal of UN arms ban against the Islamic republic.—Xinhua ■

New wave of Belarus opposition wants to oust strongman president



Elections are often a formality in Belarus. PHOTO: AFP | SERGEI GAPON

MINSK — Just a year after the launch of his channel, Belarusian

vlogger Sergei Tikhanovsky has galvanised a new movement

ahead of this summer’s polls, aiming to unseat the country’s strongman leader.

The campaign against President Alexander Lukashenko, in power since 1994, has stirred interest toward the polls in the country, where they are often a formality.

It has also led to the prosecution of 41-year-old Tikhanovsky, who could be facing prison in the ex-Soviet country tucked between Russia and the European Union.

His popularity stems from his channel “A Country for Life”, which has amassed around 230,000 subscribers with clips

about corruption, the court system and police abuse.

He also coined a new insult for Lukashenko when he called him a “cockroach”.

“It’s been 26 years since the dictator is leading the country with criminal incompetence and negligence,” Tikhanovsky said in a video from May 7, which he made after a year of travelling the country to meet ordinary people.

“2020 is the year of change, stop the cockroach!” Tikhanovsky said. But he could not file his presidential bid papers in time due to being under arrest for a protest early last month, so his wife Svetlana stepped in his place.—AFP ■

Dozens wounded in clashes as hundreds of protesters flood Beirut

BEIRUT — Protesters poured into the streets of the Lebanese

capital Saturday to decry the collapse of the economy, as clashes



Lebanese protesters also clashed with riot police. PHOTO: AFP

erupted between supporters and opponents of the Iran-backed Shiite group Hezbollah.

Hundreds filled the streets in and around the protest hub of Martyrs Square in the centre of Beirut, with skirmishes also between protesters and security forces, who fired tear gas.

Forty-eight were wounded in the violence, 11 of whom were hospitalised, while the rest were treated at the scene, the Lebanese Red Cross said.

It was the first major anti-government rally attracting demonstrators from across

the country since authorities relaxed a lockdown imposed in mid-March to fight the spread of the coronavirus. We came on the streets to demand our rights, call for medical care, education, jobs and the basic rights that human beings need to stay alive,” said 21-year-old student Christina.

Many protesters wore face-masks as part of hygiene measures imposed to fight the pandemic, which has severely exacerbated an economic crisis, the worst since the debt-burdened country’s 1975-1990 civil war.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain eyes places of worship as lockdowns lift

LONDON — The UK government said Sunday it will reopen places of worship for individual prayer on June 15 as it reportedly looks to speed up easing measures in order to save jobs.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s office said services and worship groups will still be banned for the time being due to concern that the new coronavirus spreads more quickly in enclosed spaces.

“People of all faiths have shown enormous patience and forbearance, unable to mark Easter, Passover, Ramadan or Vaisakhi with friends and family in the traditional way,” Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick said in a statement.

“We are now able to move forwards with a limited but important return to houses of worship.” Britain’s official COVID-19 death toll of 40,465 is second only to that of the United States.—AFP ■

‘Time for a change’: Anti-racism protesters march across US

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of peaceful protesters rallied for racial justice Saturday in cities across the United States following the death of African American George Floyd at the hands of police.

Protests took place from New York to Los Angeles but Washington was at the epicenter, as thousands of people — black, white and brown — flooded downtown streets surrounding the White House, which was barricaded with black metal fencing.

“This fight has been happening for many, many decades, hundreds of years, and at this point it’s time for a change,” said Washington native Christine Montgomery.

“I’m here so my son is not the next hashtag that is circulating worldwide,” she added, indicating her 10-year-old child standing next to her.

On a sunny but oppressively hot day, many people wore masks because of the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■

African American banks pivotal as ever for minorities in US

NEW YORK — When she needed capital to expand her business, Ernisha Randolph was just one of countless African Americans to encounter roadblocks despite having no history of financial trouble.

About seven years ago, her catering company, Juanita's Kitchen, had secured a big government contract that guaranteed revenues for three years. To finance the expansion, she turned to banking giant Wells Fargo.

"I asked them for \$50,000 and when they denied it, I went down to \$25,000," she recalled in an interview. "I did not get that, either."

Randolph turned to OneUnited, one of the leading African-American owned banks in the US that have supported minority-owned businesses

over the decades.

With credit from OneUnited, Randolph transformed her Miami company into today's mini-food empire.

The Sweet Butter Hospitality Group includes the restaurant Shuckin & Jivin that now appears better positioned than many other restaurants and small businesses to survive the blow from the coronavirus.

"I am very very grateful for black-owned banks," Randolph said. "For so long we have been denied loans."

As the political debate in the US shifts following mass protests in the wake of the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police, the focus is turning to systemic barriers to opportunity for African Americans, including in the banking system.—AFP ■

Fed to weigh unemployment, reopening at key meeting

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve will meet next week for the first time since US states began easing shutdowns imposed to stop the coronavirus pandemic, unexpectedly boosting employment numbers after two months of massive layoffs.

The world's largest economy added 2.5 million jobs and the unemployment rate fell in May, according to the Labor Department, even as COVID-19 remains a threat to daily life.

The Fed moved swiftly and aggressively as soon as the pandemic struck, even before businesses were shut down nationwide, as the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) slashed its key lending rate to zero in March. The central bank also rolled out trillions of dollars in liquidity to support battered markets, and provide lending to

large and medium businesses as well as state and local governments.

And Fed chair Jerome Powell has vowed to do more, if necessary.

President Donald Trump who is counting on a solid economic recovery to boost his chances of winning a second term in November, cheered the better-than-expected job numbers.

But despite the unexpected good news the economy remains in trouble and BBVA's chief US economist Nathaniel Karp does not expect the FOMC to waver from its stance any time soon.

"While there are some early signs that the worst part of the crisis has passed, we expect that the Fed will reaffirm its commitment to doing whatever it takes while also reflecting on how the committee is viewing the current crisis," he said.—AFP ■

China imports plunge, exports fall on virus hit to global growth

BEIJING — China's exports and imports fell in May as the economic slowdown abroad started to take its toll, and after a surprise jump driven by increased demand for anti-epidemic supplies, official data showed Sunday.

With consumer demand muted and key overseas markets suffering downturns, imports saw their sharpest on-year fall in over four years, even as the country worked to restart its economy after bringing activity to a standstill to curb the coronavirus.

Exports from the manufacturing powerhouse fell 3.3 percent on-year last month, better than the 6.5 percent slide expected by a Bloomberg poll of analysts.



China has worked to restart its economy after bringing activity to a standstill to curb the coronavirus spread, but its key overseas markets are suffering downturns. PHOTO: AFP

But the return to negative territory came after a surprise 3.5 percent jump in April, which was partly due to medical exports.

Analysts have warned of signs that a larger downturn awaits.

Customs data released Sunday also showed

a larger than expected drop in imports on-year, which were down by 16.7 percent and at a four-year low.—AFP ■

OPEC, allies agree to extend deep output cuts through July

VIENNA — OPEC members, led by Saudi Arabia, and other key oil producers agreed Saturday to extend historic output cuts through July, as oil prices tentatively recover and coronavirus lockdowns ease.

The 13-member cartel and its allies, notably Russia, decided to extend by a month deep May and June cuts agreed in April to boost prices, the Organization of the Petroleum

Exporting Countries said in a statement.

But Mexico, which had already made clear ahead of the talks that it "could not adjust... production further", announced that it would not be complying. Oil prices have plummeted as a result of falling demand as countries around the world impose strict lockdowns to stop the spread of the new coronavirus.

"All participating

countries... agreed the option of extending the first phase of the production adjustments pertaining in May and June by one further month," the OPEC statement said.

Under the terms of the April agreement, OPEC and the so-called OPEC+ pledged to cut output by 9.7 million barrels per day (bpd) from May 1 until the end of June.

The cuts were then to

be gradually eased from July, to 7.7 million bpd until December.

Algerian Oil Minister Mohamed Arkab, who currently holds OPEC's rotating presidency, told AFP that the agreed cut for July was 9.6 mbpd, just slightly below the 9.7 mbpd for May and June.

Oil ministers from key producers will meet monthly to assess the agreement, he added.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1029 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1029 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-6-2020 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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (260W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (260W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-6-2020 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Makyongalet Village of Salon ethnic and Lampi Marine National Park

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

WE made a trip to Aungba Village, north of Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region by car. From Aungba junction, 50 miles from Kawthoung, we turned left and then arrived at Aungba Village, located on the beach of Taninthayi coast. Aungmyanmar Village is south of Aungba Village, northeast to Makyongalet Island and southeast to Nyaungwi Island. Both islands are habitat of Salon ethnic people in the Bay of Bengal.

Kawthoung Township is constituted with 93 islands, 20 of which are residences for local people. Among them, Yadana Island, Thway Island, Zadetgyi Island, Jalan Island, Salon Island and Mwetaw Island are attracting travellers.

We took about two hours to visit Makyongalet Island via Aungba Village by boat in the blue sea. The motorboat can be driven from Pachan River of Kawthoung to Makyongalet Island within four hours.

Makyongalet is residence of Salon ethnic people. Based on

the statistics issued in September 2018, a total of 859 Salon people resided in Kawthoung Township. On my way, I saw Salon children playing on the beach of Makyongalet Island. Makyongalet Village was formed with more than 170 houses, 40 per cent of which were residences of Salon ethnic people. Now, there remain about 20 per cent of Salon houses. A total of 250 people of some 6,000 are Salon ethnic people, and 20 per cent of local people speak Salon language.

A rural health branch of the Ministry of Health and Sports is opened in Makyongalet. Salon ethnic people went to spirit masters for treating their illness. Now, they have wider knowledge to receive health care services at the government's rural health branch. As a specific point, a cemetery for Salon ethnics is designated in the village cemetery of Makyongalet. Salon ethnics do not bury bodies among that of other people but placed bodies in their separate cemetery.

Salon people staying aboard

boats wondered in the sea in the past. Now, most of Salon people settle on islands. In consequences, Salon youths have lesser skills of diving.

A Salon cultural festival took place in Makyongalet in 2013. Makyongalet Island is included in Lampi National Marine Archipelagos.

Lampi Marine National Park

While flying over Myeik Archipelagos on my way from Yangon to Kawthoung, I could not notice a curved island in shape of a sea-horse in the sea because of viewing beautiful forms of Myeik Archipelagos through the window of airplane. In fact, such a curved shape was Lampi National Marine Park.

The government announced 20 natural areas where globetrotters can pay visit for improvement of ecotourism service in Myanmar in April 2014, comprising Lampi Marine National Park, Hukaung Valley, Kyaikhtiyoe, Panlaung and Pyadalain Cave wildlife sanctuar-

ies, Lawkananda, Wethekan and Thameehla sanctuaries.

As tourism industry of Myanmar is achieving development year by year, extension of ecotourism sites will increase destinations for international tourists in Myanmar. As a result, no smoke industry will earn income from tourism services.

Lampi Marine National Park takes a position in Bokpyin Township of Taninthayi Region, 60 nautical miles northwest to Kawthoung and 40 nautical miles



Salon children bathing in the water.



Entrance of Makyongalet village, Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region.

southeast to Bokpyin. The park, 12 miles to Taninthayi coast, is located between north latitude 10° 32' and 11° 02' and east longitude 97° 59' and 98° 23' in the sea. It is a single national marine park of the country formed with more than 200 islands including the main island and five small islands.

The park is 30 miles long from the south to the north and seven miles wide from the east to the west on 50,617 acres of land. The white sand beach is more than one mile long and over 300 feet wide. The area has about 200 inches of rainfall per year.

The 22 per cent of the island is covered by ever green forest, two per cent by mangrove forest and one per cent by sandbank

forest. The island is teeming with more than 1,500 feet high hills together with least damage of natural environment.

International tourists were banned to visit the park in the past because of security measures. Now, both local and international travellers are allowed to tour the park as the region has restored stability.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation declared Lampi and small islands in its surrounding areas as the Marine National Park on 28 February 1996 with the aim of ensuring long term existence of natural forests, biodiversity species, coral reefs and cultural heritages of Salon ethnic, observing botanical, zoological



Lampis Island.

and geological subjects on the island, operating ecotourism services and protecting them by Forest Department. In 2013, the park was recognized as ASEAN Heritage Park.

Makyongalet, Yay, Palawkat, Kophaw, LeikU, Khugyi and Galet islands are located in the area of Lampi Marine National Park. Salon ethnics reside on Jalan, Makyongalet, Nyaungwi and Kyonme Islands.

Salon ethnic people can dive underwater for a long time without any equipment for breathing. They can be called Mawkin people who can dive underwater without oxygen supporting.

Lampi Island is located east to Wah Island, west to Wahle and Makyongalet and Kyonme islands and south to the island of edible bird's nest where local people produce edible bird's nests. Makyongalet Village

establishes a monastic education school. The island is filled with sandbank forest, casuarinas forest, mud forest and mangrove forest.

A total of 201 plant species including six species of mangrove plants and four unidentified plants are thriving in Lampi Marine National Park in addition to 122 species of birds including white head falcon, white bellied sea eagle, osprey, seagull, red-whisk-

ered bulbul, greater coucal and crow. The statistics collected in 2011 showed that there were 1,395 numbers of birds in the park including two species of bird species endangered to be extinct within 50 years and 10 species within 100 years if they are not under conservation.

Moreover, the park is home to 21 species of mammals including dolphin, muntjac, wild boar, pangolin, monkey, squirrel, rat and bat, 18 fish and prawn species and 189 invertebrate species in addition to various species of monitor lizard, python, boa constrictor, bamboo pit-viper, star turtle, green sea turtle, Myanmar black turtle and cow-nosed ray turtle.

Moreover, 54 species of seaweeds and algae and 10 species of sea grass can be seen in the park in addition to 26 species of coral reefs most of which are of stony coral.

Lampi Island among those of Myeik Archipelago is the most attractive to globetrotters. Local people said it needs to take about three days to wonder around Lampi Island. Mangrove forest and natural marsh protect water erosion to the coast of Lampi Island. Roots of mangrove plants hamper wind speeds. The southern part of the island is good site for travellers to enjoy fishing.

Lampi Marine National Park, the single marine park of Myanmar, is full of biodiversity species and other observatories. Hence, a warden office is opened on Makyongalet Island to maintain and conserve Lampi Park and conduct research.

Arrangements are being made to build small bungalows for stay of travellers on Lampi Island. Local authorities do not allow construction of large hotels on the island. Whatever it maybe, as Myanmar has many sites of good ecosystem, it needs to expose these sites as tourism areas so as to improve Myanmar's tourism industry. (Translated by Than Tun Aung)



Harbour.

Obituary

Dr. KHIN MAUNG SWE

**Dy. Chairman, Myanmar Academy of Technology
Mathematics Professor (Retired)
(National Literary Award)**

Age 84 years

BEREAVEMENT

Son of (U Ba Aung-Daw Tin Mya) (Taungtha Township, Kyauka Village), son-in-law of late honourable minister (Mahn Ba Khaing-Daw Khin Ni), husband of retired Mathematics Professor Daw Myint Myint Khaing, father of Ko Swe Khaing (TOTAL E&P MYANMAR)-Ma Toe Toe Nge, Ko Nyi Nyi Swe Khaing (THANLWIN DRAGON COMPANY)-Ma Khing Thazin, Ko Pyi Soe Swe Khaing (ACUTE BUSINESS SERVICES)- Ma Khaing Thazin Tun, and grand father of Nay Htet Hein, Moe Htet Hein, Mya Mhuu Khaing, Swe Thazin Khaing, passed away on 7-6-2020 morning.

Bereaved family

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units- G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

Virus-hit Asian Tour to restart in September after six-month gap



Australia's Wade Ormsby, seen here winning the Hong Kong Open in January, is the current Asian Tour Order of Merit leader. **PHOTO: AFP**

HONG KONG — The Asian Tour announced on Sunday plans to restart its coronavirus-ravaged season in September after a six-month suspension, but players may have to travel alone despite restrictions beginning to ease across the world's most populous continent.

The tour, which has been suspended since American Trevor Simsbly won the Malaysia Open on March 7, told AFP it aims to tee off again at the Shinhan Donghae Open from September 10 to 13 in South Korea, the first of three events in con-

secutive weeks.

The \$1.181 million tournament at Bear's Best Cheongna Golf Club, Incheon, will be played under COVID-19 travel and distancing protocols which could mean few spectators and players using local caddies.

"We are targeting between 10 to 12 events from September to December," Asian Tour Commissioner and CEO Cho Minn Thant told AFP, with the tour calendar almost certainly extending into the new year before transitioning into the 2021 season.—AFP

UFC superstar Conor McGregor announces retirement

LONDON — Mixed martial arts superstar Conor McGregor announced his retirement from the sport on Sunday.

The two-division Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) World Champion said his fighting days were over in a Twitter message posted on his verified account, alongside a picture of the Irishman with his mother, Margaret.

"Hey guys I've decided to retire from fighting. Thank you all for the amazing memories!

What a ride it's been!" he wrote.

"Here is a picture of myself and my mother in Las Vegas post one of my World title wins! Pick the home of your dreams Mags I love you! Whatever you desire it's yours."

The controversial fighter, nicknamed "The Notorious", first announced his retirement from the sport in March last year after being battered into submission by arch-rival Khabib Nurmagomedov in October 2018.—AFP



Irish UFC superstar Conor McGregor has announced he is retiring from mixed martial arts. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFC competitions to start in September

ASIAN Football Confederation (AFC) tournaments will launch starting from September 2020, according to the statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation.

An official videoconference was held on 6 June to discuss the holding of AFC tournaments at the end of this year depending on the betterment condition of the pandemic.

Officials from AFC, General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein of the Myanmar Foot-

ball Federation, CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw of Myanmar National League, and football authorities from Viet Nam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Laos, Cambodia and the Philippines attended the videoconference.

According to the football authorities' meeting, round-robin group matches of the AFC Cup 2020 will be held from 15 to 30 September and final match of the AFC Cup 2020 will be played on 12 December.

ASEAN Zonal semifinal matches will be held from 20 to 28 October and single matches will be played starting on 4 November respectively.

Next, AFC U-19 Championship will be held from 14 to 31 October and AFC U-16 Championship will be launched from 25 November to 12 December.

AFC Futsal Championship will also be held from 4 to 15 November.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Man City face critical appeal against two-season European ban



Manchester City's appeal against a two-season ban from European football begins on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Manchester City's appeal against a two-year ban from European competition will be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) from Monday in a case of wide-reaching repercussions.

City are accused of overstating sponsorship revenue to hide that they had not complied with UEFA's financial fair play (FFP) rules between 2012 and 2016 and were also handed a 30 million euro (\$34 million, £27 million) fine.

UEFA's case was prompted when German magazine Der Spiegel published a series of

leaked emails in 2018 that purported to show how City manufactured extra sponsorship revenue from a series of companies with connections to the club's Abu Dhabi-based owner Sheikh Mansour.

Under the Sheikh's ownership, City's fortunes have been transformed from perennially living in the shadow of local rivals Manchester United to winning four Premier League titles in the past eight years.

However, billions of investment in players and managers has not yet been able to deliver

the club's first ever Champions League title.

City are still involved in this season's competition and will be allowed to compete should the 2019/20 edition of Champions League return in August no matter the outcome of the appeal.

Financial hit

But a two-season ban from the competition would represent a huge blow to the club's prestige, finances and hope of hanging onto manager Pep Guardiola and key players like Kevin de Bruyne and Raheem Sterling.—AFP