

NATIONAL

ASEAN, China launch digital economy cooperation year

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

MoE, MoSWRR, MoEA and Nay Pyi Taw Council hold press briefings on the 4th-year performances

PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 58, 8th Waning of Nayon 1382 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 13 June 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 7th Waning of Nayon, 1382 ME 12 June 2020

IT is announced that the statements to public, orders, notifications, and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of Union-level organizations and Union ministries effective until 15 June 2020 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 30 June 2020 as it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

State Counsellor holds videoconference with pioneers combatting COVID



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to front-liners over measures against COVID-19 on videoconference yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), held a videoconference from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with pioneers combatting COVID-19.

The participants in the discussions

were Professor Dr Mar Mar Kyi from the Insein General Hospital, who is running fever clinics, U Aung Kyaw Moe who is working for social cohesion and Daw Nan Zin Han Oo who is producing and selling cloth masks on a small scale.

In her opening remarks, the State Counsellor said that there were multifarious tasks in handling COVID-19; work was being done from many angles; and

that this crisis could be overcome only with individual efforts which would translate into collective strength emerging from many directions.

She commented that she liked the manufacture and sale of cloth masks; at this time the country needed businesses to be operating as much as possible; the business model should also be in line with the situation in the country; at

this time if unnecessary products were produced no one would buy them; people were trying to make ends meet so they did not have money to spare; therefore they would spend their money only on essential items; thus it was very fitting and proper that only essential products were manufactured during the COVID period.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Well-wishers continue donations to COVID-19 central committee

PAGE-7



NATIONAL

UEC demonstrates voting process with COVID guidelines

PAGE-3



LOCAL NEWS

Local, foreign business firms create over 500,000 jobs

PAGE-6

BUSINESS

Myanmar's jade export tops \$420 mln in 8 months of this FY

PAGE-11

ASEAN, China launch digital economy cooperation year

THE ASEAN - China Year of Digital Economy Cooperation was launched with virtual opening ceremony yesterday.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and representatives of ASEAN member countries joined the ceremony.

The event was held under the title of 'Combatting COVID-19 through Joint Efforts, Embracing Cooperation through ICT and Digital Development', where the ministers discussed development in digital transformation in their countries, digital economy and possible support from the digital sector amid COVID-19.

The leaders of ASEAN and China agreed to set 2020 as the ASEAN-China Year of Digital Economy Cooperation at the 22nd ASEAN-China Leaders' Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2019.

After reading the messages from Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Vietnamese PM



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung participates in virtual opening ceremony of ASEAN - China Year of Digital Economy Cooperation yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the Chairperson of ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting (ADGMIN) and Minister of Post and Telecommunications from Lao PDR Mr Thansamay Kommasith delivered an opening remark.

During the discussions, Un-

ion Minister U Thant Sin Maung talked about the initiation of Myanmar's economic reform in 2013, including telecom sector as it is crucial for socioeconomic development of the country.

He also explained Myanmar government's digital transfor-

mation with forming the Digital Economic Development Committee for drafting the strategic plan of Myanmar digital economic development.

The Union Minister talked about the effective use of ICT for work from home, videocon-

ference and online shopping as a new normal trend amid COVID-19 pandemic, and sharing disease related information through digital application.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Film sub-committee discusses centenary entertainment works

THE entertainment sub-committee for successful holding of centenary for Myanmar's motion picture industry held a meeting at the Film Promotion Division under the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Chairman of the entertainment sub-committee and patron of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) U Aung Lwin, the sub-committee's members and MMPO's patrons discussed matters related to entertainment programmes including theme songs, popular songs and

plays, portraits of actors, and shooting documentary photos.

Attendees of the meeting also discussed the songs for the motion picture industry, the channels that will broadcast the centenary celebration, and shooting 3D photos.—Ohmmar, Yi Yi (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Entertainment sub-committee meets for holding centenary celebrations of Myanmar Film Industry. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar citizens from Philippines brought back home by special flight

A relief flight of Air Asia Philippines carrying a total of 150 Myanmar nationals stranded in the Philippines landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Of them, 129 are seamen onboard the cruise ship of Carnival Cruise Line Co., Ltd. in Manila Bay and 21 are those who were stranded in the country.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided the returnees proper medical examination and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

The Ministry of Foreign

Affairs is working in line with guidelines set by the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and cooperating with relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies abroad to repatriate Myanmar citizens stranded due to COVID-19.

So far a total of 550 Myanmar seamen have been brought back home.

Moreover, the ministry is planning to repatriate more than 400 Myanmar seamen stranded at the ports in the United Kingdom in the third week of June.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

The ASEAN Secretariat Invites Nationals from Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam to apply for the following post:
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Cooperate Affairs

THE ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) based in Jakarta, Indonesia is inviting qualified ASEAN nationals from Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam to apply for the position of Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Cooperate Affairs (DSG CCA). Detailed information including responsibilities and qualifications are available at <https://asean.org/opportunities/vacancies-asec/>.—MNA

circulation order is in easier way.

Hot Line : 09974424848

Advertise with us/
Hot Line : 018604530

State Counsellor holds videoconference ...

FROM PAGE-1

Professor Dr Mar Mar Kyi reported how the community-based fever clinic was established and operated; providing medical tests for the people; prevention of infection from patients; and establishing fever clinics within townships in the Yangon region according to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

U Aung Kyaw Moe talked about production, distribution and awareness campaign for the use of hand gel in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships of Rakhine State in line with the guidelines of MoHS; encouraging hand washing practices among the public; setting up call centres for COVID-19 prevention; preparations being made for cloth mask production and distribution. He also talked about the need for the Union Government to put in more contents about combatting COVID for the dissemination of public education messages via phone operators.

Then Daw Nan Zin Han Oo briefed about making cloth masks on a small scale and selling them; how she had learnt to make cloth masks from online websites; and how her customers preferred to choose masks with nice designs and colours.

In response to the discussions, the State Counsellor remarked that controlling of infection from person to person was the most important thing to be done as a first priority; that there would be no problems if individuals followed rules and directives; that it was important to detect symptoms of COVID-19 disease; and that if early testing could be done, the patient could be put in quarantine to reduce exposure to others.

She added that the biggest challenge of COVID-19 is that it cannot be estimated how long it would last, and that people could feel safe only after the discovery of the vaccine; that it would be possible to declare complete victory over COVID-19 only when a vaccine that could

prevent COVID-19 infection has been developed. She said this was something that Myanmar would not be able to do but efforts were being made; to look at this matter pragmatically, big countries which had more financial, scientific and technological resources had more likelihood of finding ways to prevent and treat this disease. She continued to say that it was very difficult to estimate how long it would take to find a cure for this disease; normally it would take about two years to produce a vaccine; however as the COVID-19 disease was very important, they were trying hard to find a cure soonest; they would, of course, need some time to find a cure.

The State Counsellor said that at this time the economy must keep on running; because of COVID-19, the economy slowed down; in some places, it came to a halt; it was important for everyone to work hard to the best of one's ability to jump-start these businesses.

In making her concluding

remarks the State Counsellor said she was very encouraged because everyone had joined in to help; this issue cannot be addressed by the Ministry of Health and Sports alone, and that it was not enough even with the cooperation of other government departments; she had said repeatedly that people's participation was needed; people were the key; each citizen must participate; this disease spreads from one person to the other; then the disease spreads to others; that was the reason why each citizen needs to take care not to get infected by this disease.

She added that this disease could be overcome if care was taken to make sure that another person was not infected because of oneself; habits need to be developed although there might be difficulties; although it is said that physical distancing was necessary, human nature was such that humans wish to stay in close proximity; it could not be said that this was bad; in normal times, behaviours such as cohe-

siveness, friendship and warmth, and children playing together should be encouraged; however since these were not ordinary times, it was necessary to take care of the children; if they were going to play in close contact, it was important for them to wash their hands; if it were not possible to forbid the children from playing in close contact with each other, the spread of infection could be controlled to a certain extent by making the children to keep their hands clean and to wear masks. She continued by saying that she was very grateful to all the people who had joined in to help out; she wanted everyone to work in unity; if problems arose there were solutions; all that was needed was to seek out the solutions; that was why she was confident that the problem could be overcome with collective strength if the solution was sought in the proper manner.

She ended by saying "Please stay healthy. It is important to be healthy".—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

UEC demonstrates voting process with COVID guidelines

THE Union Election Commission organized a demonstration of voter education for the 2020 General Election to be held in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention guidelines at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by the Commission's Chairman U Hla Thein and members, and officials from the commission office,

the Ministry of Health and Sports and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

Deputy Director-General (Election) of the commission office explained the purpose of voting demonstration.

Staff from the commission office presented the COVID-19 prevention guidelines for the 2020 General Election.

The UEC Chairman and attendees also made further discussions to prepare for the elections.—MNA

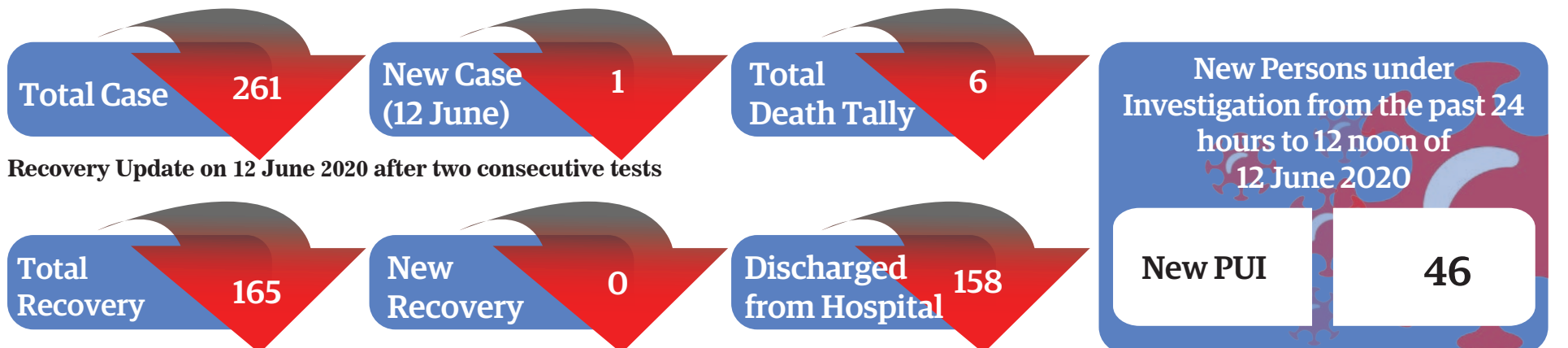
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Staff members of UEC demonstrate voting processes at its headquarters for upcoming 2020 General Election yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



One new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 12 June, total figure reaches 261

Updated at 8 pm, 12 June 2020



One new case of COVID-19 on 12 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
261	60	Female	Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	SouthOakkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Southdagon Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

MoE, MoSWRR, MoEA and Nay Pyi Taw Council hold press briefings on the 4th-year performances



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi explains the 4th-year performances of the ministry at the press briefing yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and the Nay Pyi Taw Council held press briefings on their 4th-year performances yesterday.

Ministry of Education

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi first explained implementations of the ministry in line with the 12 priority works for national education development, including early childhood care and development, primary level education at minimum and creating opportunities all citizens to access middle and higher level education, completion of primary school all school-aged children and prioritizing children facing physical, mental, nutritional, economic hardships or those in remote areas to access education, collaboration with state/regional government in adopting school curriculum into ethnic languages for children of ethnic nationals at the primary level through, and elevating ethnic languages and culture, management on suitable teacher to student ratio, generating the subject expertise and teaching capabilities of teachers of various schools, helping all citizens have access to basic education and prioritizing schools or underdeveloped regions (especially middle schools and high schools with inadequate school supplies), organizing supplementary vocational training for individuals without insufficient educational opportunities, providing assistance to colleges and universities to develop their own curriculum and academic autonomy to develop international standard curricula and education systems,

promoting technological and vocational training to same level as university education, avoiding burden on student parents or the community due to the education system, systematic allocation of educational budgets provided by the Union Government, the private sector and from sources home and abroad are used in the most efficient manner and working on education reforms, management and research programmes based on accurate information.

The Union Minister detailed about these topics, focusing on the numbers of basic education schools, teachers and school children across the country in the previous academic year; the basic learning programmes in 2018 and 2019; direct entrance applications to the University of Yangon and the University of Mandalay, as well as the affiliated universities of these universities, own management of these universities, coordination with foreign universities and institutions, education exchange programmes; applied education for respective areas, creating burden-free education services with supplying school children with books free of charge, and the 9-times increase in educational budget from 2011-2012 to 2019-2020 academic year.

The Union Minister added the budgets are allocated transparently under monitoring of the people, Hluttaw representatives, region/state governments and other stakeholders, tender procedures of the ministry is carried out in line with the Order 1/2017 of the President's Office after posting tender invitations on the websites of Union ministry, relevant departments and

universities.

The Ministry of Education is implementing the Education Management Information System (EMIS), creating software for the module (5) of HR, BE, HE/TVET, AE, Procurement/Finance and training programmes for this software, drafting the Departmental Annual Implementation Plan (DAIP), the drafting of School Quality Assurance Standards Framework (SQASF), Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, preparing for the phase 1 of Communication, Situation Analysis and creation of social inclusion posters.

In response to the media questions, Director-General from the Department of Myanmar Examinations U Myo Nyunt said about the ongoing works for issuing the results of 2020 matriculation exams, and the media will be informed on the date of exam results which will be announced first online on the situations of COVID-19 to prevent social dis-

tancing and the norm announcement will be made when the situations have returned to normality.

The Union Minister and officials answered the questions about teaching and learning of ethnic languages at the primary schools, appointments of teachers, safety measures against COVID-19 when schools are reopened, special plans for the schools in the areas of confirmed cases, budget expenditures, accommodation, management on the shops under the ministry at Bogyoke Market, supplementary salaries to the teachers for teaching ethnic languages, preparations for distancing in classrooms.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye explained the 4th-year performance of the his ministry. He said the ministry continues to ensure the rights of every citizen in order for them to develop and grow safely. In order to do that, the ministry has increased its budget proposals every financial year and received K120.8 billion in 2019-2020 financial year; a seven-fold increase from K18.5 billion in 2016-2017 financial year.

The Department of Social Welfare is working in line with the Child Rights Law enacted on 23 July 2019 and the Early Childhood Development Law to ensure the safety of children and their regular development. In the 2017-2018 financial year, the ministry provided K15,000 to each mother in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Kayah states, and the Naga Self-Administered Zone which are low on the child nu-

trition index, and will expand the programme to Ayeyawady Region and Shan State in 2019-2020 financial year.

The ministry has opened 7 residential nurseries for orphaned children and will be able to open an additional one that can house a hundred children in Nay Pyi Taw within this year thanks to a donation from the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association. New nurseries are opened each year and ten new ones were opened in 2019-2020 and ECCD training courses for teachers are opened to ensure nurseries are run systematically. The ministry has opened 1,202 maternity circles in areas that are unable to open nurseries yet.

The Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) was conducted as a pilot project in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions and Mon State where it was implemented on 7,536 persons in 2019-2020 financial year. A policy related to developing youths has been drafted in the ministry's fourth year and is on track to be approved. Youth centers are being established across the nation with first one opened in Sagaing Region.

The ministry has opened youth training centres for young people serving punishments in Thanlyin, Nhat Ou San, Mandalay and Mawlamyine. Since the legal definition for children is anyone under 18 years of age, the number of children requiring protection has increased three-fold and requires setting up additional dormitories and training centers and assigning more staff.

SEE PAGE-5



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye gives press briefing on the 4th-year performances of the ministry yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoE, MoSWRR, MoEA and Nay Pyi Taw ...

FROM PAGE-4

The Myanmar National Committee on Women was formed with 11 civil society organizations and aims for female development. The ministry is working for the enactment of the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Bill and is also drafting a bill related to sex workers. The ministry began issuing monthly stipends to senior citizens above 85 years old in 2017 and has provided K34.9 billion to 470,821 elderly persons as of 2020.

The Department of Disaster Management is aiming to establish a society resilient to natural disasters and has successfully provided aid to 30 per cent of areas struck by natural disasters within 24 hours, to 60 per cent within 2 days, to 70 per cent within 3 days, and to all occurrences within 7 days.

Meanwhile, the Rehabilitation Department has managed to increase the speed of providing aid and information, increase cooperation with other departments, groups and international organizations, register persons living with disabilities and categorize them, and reintegrating survivors of human trafficking into society.

The ministry has drawn a master strategy to resettle internally displaced persons and close down temporary IDP camps and is currently implementing it. There are 127 IDP camps across Myanmar with 18 in Rakhine State, 84 in Kachin State, 23 in Shan State, and 2 in Kayin State. He said the ministry aims to ensure IDPs can return to their normal lives with security, dignity, and independence.

Dr Win Myat Aye then replied to questions raised by the media on support given to IDP camps. He said action plans for IDP camps were approved in March and are being implemented. He said the nation has spent K2.1 billion and is carrying out action plans for the entire nation, including hard to access locations like Paletwa.

Ministry of Ethnic Affairs

Director-General U Min Aye Ko explained the fourth year performance of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. He said auspicious days and traditional celebrations of ethnic races are held at the National Races Village in Yangon. He said they arrange weekly entertainment programmes for the ethnic nationals, including those organized by the various ethnic literature and culture groups, and programmes for gazetted holidays in cooperation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. Courses for traditional dances and instruments of ethnic people are organized as cultural heritage.

The Ethnic Sustainable Development Forum was held in 2018 and the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association was established. The MEEA opened branch offices across the states and regions and have helped MSMEs owned by the ethnic entrepreneurs to showcase their regional products to domestic and foreign markets and create job opportunities. Multiple business forums were held in the states ahead of the Ethnic Sustainable Development Forum in 2020.

Bylaws for ethnic rights protection were enacted on 23 August 2019 to support the Ethnic



Director-General U Min Aye Ko and officials of Ministry of Ethnic Affairs hold press briefing yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Rights Protection Law in delivering transparent implementation and effectively resolving disputes. The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs cooperated with the Ministry of Education to develop the ethnic education sector and is replacing language teachers for ethnic languages with teaching assistants and language teachers from abroad in the government schools across the nation in 2019-2020 academic year.

With support from UNICEF, the 25 ethnic literature and culture groups in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states completed compiling regional curricula and the ministry will continue cooperating with UNICEF for the remaining curricula for other ethnic races. The ministry has printed 34 million KG storybooks in 66 ethnic languages and Burmese and distributed 1 million of them across the states and regions.

The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs has coordinated with the Ministry of Education to allow the use of ethnic names when first registering for schools, with the Ministry of Health and Sports for registering ethnic names in birth

certificates, and with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population for including ethnic names in NRC cards.

Ethnic youths can now learn how to produce finished gems products at the vocational schools set up by Su Htoo Pan Education Foundation and were given verification by the relevant regional/state ethnic affairs minister and vetting process of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. The first batch of the school was given free education for a year, with six months of on-job training, in Mandalay starting on 18 June 2019. The same foundation helps the graduates set up SME businesses as well.

Next, Director-General U Win Naing replied to a question from the media on teaching ethnic literature and appointment of teachers. He said they coordinate with the regional literature and culture groups and government officials and teach within school hours in some states and regions while doing so outside schools hours in others.

U Win Naing said the teachers in some schools teach the ethnic languages themselves and the ministry reviews additional applications for language teachers. He said 67 ethnic literature is being taught in this academic year and will continue to strive for the remaining ethnic literature as well.

Nay Pyi Taw Council

Nay Pyi Taw Council Secretary U Khin Maung Aye explained the works on development programmes in education, health and other infrastructural developments with the Union funds, Union Hluttaw Development funds, Nay Pyi Taw Council funds and private donations in the previous four years of present

government, spending a total of K275,249.948 million.

All the annual projects were implemented in Nay Pyi Taw, and the approximate figure on amount of average production and service value of individuals for 2017-2018FY was K1,028,894.6 million and has been targeted to reach K2,029,952 million for 2019-2020FY. The Nay Pyi Taw Council has been allowed to spend K112,266.554 million for 850 projects under the six topics for 2019-2020 FY. Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung and Director-General U Min Min Zaw from the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee answered to the media questions about the land plots for foreign embassies in Nay Pyi Taw, changes of land plots between Chinese embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other discussions with respective embassies on this issue.

The countries which have contracted for land use are Bangladesh and Malaysia; those which have contracted for changes of land lots are Brunei and China; those which are in the process of land lease agreement are Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Brazil; the United States, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Russia, Turkey, Singapore, Kuwait, Korea, India, Thailand and the World Bank have proposed to lease the lands at the diplomatic zone.

Officials also explained tax relaxation plans for the retreatants in Nay Pyi Taw for the three months of closures during the COVID-19 crisis and other development programmes.

Next press briefings

The Union Minister's Office, the Ministry of Construction and the Central Bank of Myanmar will hold press conferences on 15 June.—Han Myo Soe, K Tar

(Translated by Aung Khin, Zaw Htet Oo)



Secretary U Khin Maung Aye and officials hold press briefing on 4th-year performances of Nay Pyi Taw Council. PHOTO: MNA

CHIEF EDITOR

Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITORS

Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aung Htein
Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR TRANSLATOR

Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORS

Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM

Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM



www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.
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.

Local, foreign business firms create over 500,000 jobs

By Nyein Nyein

THE local and foreign enterprises which had been permitted and endorsed by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and regional and state investment committees created over 500,000 jobs opportunities in over four years of the current government

period, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The permitted domestic and foreign businesses employed more than 160,000 domestic workers in 2019-2020 fiscal year (from October to May), more than 180,000 workers in 2018-2019FY, more than 53,000

workers in 2018 mini-budget periods (from April to September), more than 110,000 workers in 2017-2018FY and over 19,000 workers in 2016-2017FY.

Additionally, the permitted domestic and foreign enterprises created job opportunities for over 17,000 domestic workers in the current government period,

according to the DICA.

The MIC is giving priority to labour-intensive enterprises over other investment proposals submitted. More than 100,000 domestic workers are employed annually in domestic and foreign enterprises in the current government period.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Tatmadaw donates foodstuff to Myanmar Sports Media Federation



TATMADAW families donated foodstuff such as rice, edible oil, salt and beans to Myanmar Sports Media Federation on 12 June morning, it is learnt.

The donation ceremony was held in the Tatmadaw hall on U Wisara Road in Yangon. At the ceremony, Commander of Yangon Command Major-General Thet Pon explained the aims of donation and handed over the four items of foodstuffs and coronavirus protection things to chairman U Naing Tun of Myanmar Sports Media Federation.

The ceremony was attended by the officials from Yangon Region military command and the secretary and members from Myanmar Sports Media Federation.

Then, an official from Myanmar Sports Media Federation gave the thankful speech. The donation items include 100 bags of rice, cooking oil, salt, eggs, 1000 masks and 50 hand gel bottles.

Last month, Tatmadaw families also donated the foodstuffs to Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Theatrical Association, Myanmar Artists Organization, Myanmar Cartoonists and Myanmar Film Association.—Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Tatmadaw families donate rice bag to the Myanmar Sports Media Federation.
PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

Ygn-Chengdu-Ygn first relief flight to start on 22 June

DURING coronavirus pandemic period, Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications is planning to fly the first Yangon-Chengdu-Yangon relief flight on 22 June, said U Naing Saw Lwin, the head of business from MNA.

“This is the first time to fly to Chengdu, China. It is not a

commercial flight. The ministries from China and Myanmar have already coordinated to bring back Myanmar citizens in China and send the Chinese from the Myanmar side. The schedule of the fight is the same as before,” he said.

On 22 June, Yangon-Chengdu-Yangon flight will depart at 10 pm from Yangon international

airport and arrive at 1 am in Chengdu town. Then, the flight will depart at 2:30 am from Chengdu and arrive at 5:30 am at Yangon international airport. For those Myanmar citizens in China, they can buy air tickets at a discount price. Chinese citizens will be sent back to China under the permission of the relevant Chinese Ministry.

Yangon-Chengdu direct flight has been operating three times a week since 28 December 2018. Yangon-Chengdu-Yangon flight will cost US\$330 for a return ticket. Yangon-Chengdu-Yangon flight was suspended starting from February because of the pandemic, according to the MNA.—Pwint Thitsar

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Monthly report of the Central Statistical Organization on export/import of Myanmar (from Oct- April 2019-2020FY)

Period	Export (USD mln)		Total Export (USD mln)	Import (USD mln)		Total Import (USD mln)	Total Trade Volume (USD mln)	Balance (US dollar mln)
	Normal	Border		Normal	Border			
April 2019-2020FY	926.16	551.97	1, 478.13	1,072.44	153.29	1225.73	2,703.86	252.40 ↑
Oct-April 2019-2020FY	6,449.19	4,296.35	10,745.54	10,125.82	1,781.06	11,906.88	22,652.42	1,161.34 ↓

(MNA)

Well-wishers continue donations to COVID-19 central committee

COMPANY, organizations and individual donors contributed cash assistances and medical supplies to the National Central Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On behalf of the donors, a representative from Novartis Pharma Services said COVID-19 was somewhat contained in the country with the cooperation among government, private and public.

The well-wishers have contributed donations to help the coronavirus containment processes, the representative said.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as secretary (2) of the central committee, said although the coronavirus was contained to some extent in the country, it should not be careless.

Most of the confirmed cases in the country are those who returned from foreign countries.

Therefore, it is important to abide by the travel restriction rules.

The donations are not only beneficial for the COVID-19 patients at present but also investments for the betterment of long-term health care system, he added.

The Union Minister, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr Thet Khaing Win and Director-General of the Union Minister's Office Dr Tha Tun Kyaw accepted the donations, and returned certificates of honour to the donors.

Novartis Pharma Services donated US\$ 210,000 worth of 7,827 SARS-COV 2 test kits and 2,496 PPE sets, Unilever EAC Myanmar Co., Ltd \$3,280 worth of 2,880 2019-nCov Nucleic acid Diagnostic kits, ASA microfinance (Myanmar) Limited (Mingaladon) K 7 million, People's Party 50 PPE sets and 5,000 masks, and Tharaphu Soe Myint Co., Ltd K 5 million worth of PPE, N95 masks, hand gel and



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe receives cash donation for COVID-19 central committee. PHOTO: MNA

hand spray.

Alumni of the deputy heads' management course (3/2019) of Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) donated K 1.1 million, Myanmar Veterinary Association-Central

(2019-2021) K 1 million, seamen from MT, Royal Peridot (2020), Norstar Ship Management PTE Ltd K 4.533 million, public donors K 2.7 million, natives of Nyaunglebin (Yangon) K 1.25 million, sub-inspector course

(9/84) social welfare organization K 1 million, and Myanmar Royal Golden Elephant Co., Ltd K 960,000 worth of 9,600 face masks.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

One more COVID-19 case on 12 June, total figure reaches 261

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 figure reached 261 after one more case, who returned from India, was reported on 12 June, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Out of the 261 confirmed cases, six died, 165 have recovered and 158 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA ■

823 Myanmar migrant workers return from Thailand on 12 June

A total of 823 Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand returned through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

After seeking permission from the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand, the returnees, 486 males and 337 females, came back by their own schedules.

Kayin State Hluttaw rep-

resentative U Thant Zin Aung and other officials performed medical examinations and assisted the returnees with other arrangements upon their arrival.

To date, a total of returnees from Thailand through this border crossing since 1 May reached 26,127.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Notification on COVID-19 prevention in IDP camps

1. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is implementing action plans to prevent, contain and treat COVID-19 in IDP camps across the nation.
2. Management committees and temporary residents of the IDP camps are notified to proceed with the following action points:
 - Regularly and systematically wash hands with the hand basins and soaps provided in the camps.
 - Be wary of personal hygiene and minimizing contact with other persons when using public toilets and showers.
 - Be extra vigilant for the elderly and persons with chronic illnesses living in the camps.
 - To regulate camp residents from going outside and to maintain records of persons going outside for compulsory reasons. Every time they leave or enter the camp, their body temperatures should be checked, surgical or cloth-sewn masks should be worn and hands should be washed systematically.
 - Always wear fabric-woven face mask. Mark two colours for interior and exterior of face mask. Completely cover nose and mouth. Never touch mask with hand when worn

on face. Remove from face using the strings attached to the mask. Clean the fabric-woven face mask thoroughly every day.

- Prevent external persons from entering the camp.
- Report immediately to authorities for unusual activities or requirements concerning COVID-19.
- Carefully read SMS messages from Ministry of Health and Sports on updates and information related to COVID-19.
- Follow patient referral procedures in case of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Connect with local general administration department, health department and philanthropic organizations to swiftly transport patients under surveillance and suspected persons to their designated locations.
- Adhere to notifications issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and local governments concerning COVID-19

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

People can face anxiety during COVID-19 and remember not to resolve things with anger, not act out of impulse, avoid alcohol and drug abuse, search for solutions

together with family members and close friends, perform physical activities according to weather and health situation, eat nutritional foods, get enough sleep to

resolve mental pressure.

Everyone can put these suggestions into practice to prevent their mental health from become fatigued and boost

willpower. — Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

Priority should be given to ban electrofishing

WITH the arrival of rainy season in our country, local authorities in regions and states have raised awareness about banning catching fish with eggs in rivers and lakes from May to July to ensure safe spawning of fish during its breeding period.

At the same time, another effort for the food sufficiency of the country comes with ceremonies to release fingerlings into lakes and rivers in the rainy season.

In this time of the COVID-19 crisis we should eat "moderate amounts" of fish, because the bodies' production of COVID-19 antibodies can be increased due to the greater protein intake when eating fish.

However, on the dark side of the fishery sector, illegal electric-shock fishing has become a big challenge for conservationists and local authorities in their quest to save not only the endangered fish species but also the fish population in rivers and creeks, which people have been relying on for food since the days of yore.

The illegal fishing method involves putting lines of wire into the water, connecting the two ends to a battery and passing an electric shock into the water. This stuns the fish, which then float to the surface.

The technique kills fish of all sizes.

In some cases, it is found that the Ayeyawady dolphins, which are facing the risk of extinction, often also fall prey to electrocution.

The practice was outlawed many years ago as it effectively depletes fish populations. The practice was outlawed many years ago as it effectively depletes fish populations.

The Myanmar government has banned the electrofishing nationwide, punishing violators with a three-year prison sentence and a Ks300,000 fine.

We should educate people about the ban on electrofishing and the penalties for violators.

Just educating and punishing are not enough to prevent the illegal fishing especially in rural areas. We must find alternative livelihoods for fishermen in the electrofishing prone areas.

The people in the areas are also highly advised to report hunting and fishing violations by calling authorities.

During the breeding period, a massive combined operation should be conducted at all the suspected fishing areas.

Before alarm bells ring, authorities should step up efforts to tackle the illegal fishing which can lead to depletion of our fish resource.

Still much to learn about new coronavirus: WHO

THE UN agency has clarified information shared earlier this week, noting that there is still much to learn about the new coronavirus.

"Since early February, we have said that asymptomatic people can transmit COVID-19, but that we need more research to establish the extent of asymptomatic transmission. That research is ongoing, and we're seeing more and more research being done", said WHO chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, speaking during his latest press briefing.

"But here's what we do know: that finding, isolating and testing people with symptoms,

and tracing and quarantining their contacts, is the most critical way to stop transmission. Many countries have succeeded in suppressing transmission and controlling the virus doing exactly this."

During the WHO briefing on Monday, epidemiologist Dr Maria van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead for COVID-19, answered a journalist's question about asymptomatic transmission, stating that it was "very rare".

Dr van Kerkhove later clarified that this was based on a few preliminary studies, and that she was trying to articulate what is known now.

"By definition, a new virus means that we're learning as we go", said Tedros. "We have learned a lot, but there's still a lot we don't know." He said communicating complex science in real time about a new virus is not always easy, "but we believe it's part of our duty to the world. And we can always do better."

(Source: UN News)

A man rides his scooter past a sculpture of a quarantined earth in Venice during the coronavirus pandemic on April 4, 2020. PHOTO: AFP



Mount Popa Geopark and Its Aesthetic Values

By Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

(CONTINUED FROM THE ARTICLE ON 11 JUNE, 2020)

Alchemy

India seems to have been the first centre of alchemic experiments. From India, alchemy spread westwards to the Arabs, the Egyptians and the Greeks, later to the medieval Europeans, eastwards to Burma and farther east to China. By the fifth century A.D. alchemy was being practiced in China and in Burma. In Burma the great period of alchemy was roughly between the fifth century A.D. and the eleventh century, and it became almost a religious cult by itself. But in the eleventh century its popularity waned with the introduction of Buddhism into the country, for Buddhism frowned upon alchemy. Thus, after the eleventh century alchemy started to decay, and although the cult has never completely died out, it has long ceased to be in any way a rival to Buddhism.

Alchemy in Burma is known as Aggiya, meaning 'the work of fire'. 'Work with fire' is indeed essence of alchemy, for the alchemist endeavours to transmute metals by means of fire. This endeavour to transmute base metals into precious metals is not peculiar to the Burmese alchemist and was the common heritage of alchemists all over the world. But Burmese alchemy has as its background a deeper philosophy- a philosophy

so deep and developed at one time that it was almost a religion. The endeavour 'to turn lead into silver and brass into gold' is to the Burmese alchemist merely a first step towards a great goal, namely to discover by further experiment 'the stone of live metal', or the stone of live mercury', which is the Burmese equivalent of the Philosopher's Stone in European alchemy. Again, 'the stone of live metal' itself is not the final goal. The final goal is to attain, after more experiment, a superhuman body and an eternal youth.

When the alchemist has discovered the right metal com-

pounds, the first task before him is to search for a faithful pupil who will bury him in the forest, away from human beings, who will scare away evil spirits and magicians, and who will watch over the spot under which the alchemist lies buried. When the faithful pupil has been found the alchemist makes him dig a hole in the ground and, on entering it, the alchemist will swallow the metal compounds. Then the hole is filled up, and seven days later the alchemist of his own accord and in great joy jumps out of it, for he has become a Zawgyi, a fully developed alchemist. All the supernatural qualities of the

'stone of live metal' are now possessed by him in his supernatural body. Then he will enter the forest and come back to the abode of human beings very seldom, if at all. As the alchemist's body has become superhuman he can wander at will, flying in the air or travelling underground; physical fatigue is no longer known to him and his body needs no further nourishment. His body will remain youthful until he dies, and death will come to him only after thousands of years. On the whole the successful alchemist is happy after achieving his heart's desire, but he also has his own troubles.

His is an intensely lonely life. He does not have to eat, but occasionally he eats fruit, as he cannot eat meat because of its smell. Therefore, it follows that he cannot stay with human beings for more than a few minutes, as they are eaters of meat and smell too much for him. On the slope of Mount Popa there are trees whose fruits have exactly the size and shape of the average human maiden, and by his alchemic power the alchemist puts some sort of 'life' into them, so that the fruits become animated. He makes love to them, but unfortunately, as they are but fruit, they soon get crushed and become of no use to him. The majority of the Burmese Buddhists frown upon alchemic experiments as a wanton waste of time, and look upon the alchemist as a seeker after gold and after sensual pleasures (Maung Htin Aung, 1959).

When he had passed every house, Monk Goat-Bull, still attended by his novice, went to Mount Popa. At the mountain-top the monk dug up some magic roots and ground them with the Philosopher's Stone. The ground roots formed themselves into six medicine balls and the monk swallowed three. The other three he gave to the novice and the novice swallowed the medicine balls with nausea. 'It is clear that you are not fated to share my success in alchemy', said the monk sadly, 'and we must say farewell here'. The novice bade a tearful farewell to his master, who gave him a piece of gold as parting gift.

The Cult of the Magus

It is not known whether there was a cult of the Magus in Burma before A.D. 1056. However, the hero of Burmese alchemy, the monk Master Goat-Bull (Shin Isa Gawna), seems to have been worshipped as their patron by those interested in alchemy. The details of his life had been mentioned in Burmese folk-tales written by Maung Htin Aung in 1948. After having many serious problems with his alchemistic experiments and replacing his eyes with eyes of



Mount Popa. PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKHTILA)

Correction

Please read "... Department of Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection..." instead of "...Department of Petroleum Products Supervision..." in the sub-para (a)'s right column of the first para of Myanmar Gazette titled "Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed" on page-9 of the 12 June Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.— Ed



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



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 12th June, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTILNOON OF THE 13th June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, scattered in Mandalay Region, Southern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 8)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak to moderate Monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th June, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

SEE PAGE-12

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
HOTLINE
09-974424848
Advertise with us.

Myanmar signs up to key international convention on minimum working age ahead of the World Day Against Child Labour

Amid COVID-19 crisis, ILO and UNICEF call to 'Protect Children, Now More than Ever'

MYANMAR confirmed its commitment to addressing child labour by ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention on 8 June, just ahead of the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June. The development has been heralded as a positive development, particularly in the context of the current COVID-19 crisis, which threatens the rights, safety and development of the estimated 1.13 million children in child labour across the country.

The Minimum Age Convention 138 requires countries to set a minimum age aligned with the end of compulsory education and under which no one shall be admitted to work in any occupation except light work and artistic performances. It also prohibits hazardous activities for anyone under 18 years old. In Myanmar, the minimum working age is 14 years old, as per the new Child Rights Law and existing Labour Law. The Convention also requires countries to establish national policies for the elimination of child labour. Myanmar is the 178th country to ratify the convention and has an estimated 9.3% of the child population aged 5 to 17 in child labour, including more than 600,000 working in hazard-

ous work environments.

According to a new report by the ILO and UNICEF, the 153 million children trapped in child labour around the world are at risk of entering hidden and more dangerous forms of work or working longer hours due to COVID-19.

Loss of livelihood, an illness or death in the family, displacement, and the raft of upheavals which are driving children out of school, orphaned or in financial troubles, are some of the COVID-19 related factors that are pushing millions of vulnerable children – even those at a very young age – to work in hazardous conditions. As of May 2020, more than 60,000 people have already lost their jobs in Myanmar; and as the crisis continues, deeper cuts in workers' salaries or more employment terminations are expected to occur.

The ILO, UNICEF and partners are using the World Day Against Child Labour to draw attention to the importance of vigilance and a coordinated response to protect vulnerable children from the pandemic's far-reaching economic and social impact.

Donglin Li, ILO Liaison Officer, called for continuous action and support to ongoing national efforts in combatting child labour. "There is significant momentum towards preventing and eliminating child labour in Myanmar as it has implemented the National Action Plan on Child Labour and

ratified the ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age on 8 June," Li said. "We must overcome the current COVID-19 crisis and work together to continue and reinforce the momentum to achieve Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals on elimination of child labour by 2025."

"As we fight the impacts of COVID-19 together, we must provide additional protection for children so they are not put in a situation where they are forced into the most dangerous forms of labour; that push them to miss school and impair their health and well-being," Alessandra Dentice, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Myanmar, added. "We need integrated approaches that strengthen child protection systems and simultaneously address poverty and inequity, improve access to and quality of education and inform and mobilize the public to respect children's rights."

As part of the World Day Against Child Labour campaign in Myanmar, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP), in collaboration with the ILO, and in partnership with the Embassy of Switzerland, are organizing a series of events throughout Myanmar through until September 30. Photo exhibitions in the Central Railway Station, Dala Ferries and Junction City will open on June 15, while online campaigns and awareness raising activities across various states and regions will take place over the coming months.

Tim Enderlin, Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar, explained his support for the campaign: "Children simply should not work. Switzerland welcomes Myanmar's ratification of the Minimum Age Convention. We consider this an important step forward. However, a lot remains to be done and COVID-19 has not made the challenges any smaller. The Swiss Embassy is proud to support this year's campaign of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in collaboration with ILO on the World Day Against Child Labour."

Human rights-based and child-centred response to COVID-19 recovery

The World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated worldwide annually on 12 June to call attention to the global child labour challenges and to drive collective action to end all forms of child labour by 2025.

The United Nations has declared 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. While there have been significant improvements towards this goal, COVID-19 could set governments and social institutions many steps back.

The ILO is thus urging partners to join efforts that build on the respective ILO Conventions and Recommendations, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and protect all children in or at risk of child labour and ensure that they are a priority in the

COVID-19 response. The ILO's recommendations include:

1) Protecting workers and their families and providing livelihoods support: All employers and workers and their families should be protected from the health risks of COVID-19.

2) Strengthened social protection for all: Social protection provides essential support that helps families weather health and economic shocks.

3) Public Quality Education for All: COVID-19 has forced school closures in many countries. Children who were already working part of their time or who are at risk of child labour may never return to school so there should be low technology to no-technology interventions that allow vulnerable children to keep up.

4) Increased advocacy and partnerships: It is even more important to keep the spotlight on vulnerable children and families and to work together with all concerned partners to ensure that the needs of children are at the forefront of the crisis response.

Workers, employers and their organizations play a key role in preventing child labour by addressing the health risks at work and the economic consequences of the pandemic. Social dialogue has proven to be absolutely crucial for a balanced crisis management and response, ensuring protection of workers' rights, the rights of children as well as business continuity.—ILO

KOICA supports 210,000 USD worth of vegetable seed kits and COVID-19 healthcare materials to MoALI

THE donation ceremony of vegetable seed kits and COVID-19 healthcare materials was held at the main meeting hall of MoALI Office No (15) on 12 June. During the ceremony Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Mr Lee Sang-hwa, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea delivered the speech and Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General of Department of Agriculture (DOA), and Ms Lee Youn Soo, Chief Representative of KOICA Myanmar Office explained current cooperation projects between MoALI and KOICA including effort for COVID-19 response. The 150,000 USD worth of vegetable seed kits for home gardening during the monsoon season will be distributed to 40,500 households in 27 Town-



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu presents the certificate of donation to an official of KOICA for donating 210,000 USD worth of vegetable seed kits and COVID-19 healthcare materials to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

ships under the Strengthening Agriculture Extension in Myanmar (SAEM) Project supported by KOICA. This donation aims not only to fulfill the objective of the SAEM Project but also support an action plan related to the agricultural sector of COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

Another 60,000 USD worth of basic health care materials such as hand-washing station, infrared thermometer, soap, mask are donated to 136 SMU model villages and Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Training Centre (AERDTC) for supporting prevention from COVID-19 in the rural areas and safe operation of the AERDTC established under the Saemaul Undong Project (SMU Project) in Myanmar.—MNA



Merchants evaluate the quality of jade stones at the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: KYAW THU HTAT (MNA)

Myanmar's jade export tops \$420 mln in 8 months of this FY

MYANMAR earned US\$ 420 million from over 1,960 tonnes of jade export in eight months of this fiscal year (FY), said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar has earned \$102.036 million more from the export of 558 tonnes of jade this year, compared to that of last year.

Myanmar earned \$420.036 million from the export of 1,964 tonnes of jade in eight months of this fiscal year from 1 October to 22 May. The same period of last year, Myanmar exported 1,406 tonnes of jade and earned

\$318 million.

The jades are being sold through the launching of the expos. During the expos, Myanmar can export more jade products. If the jades are sold by cash memo, they need to use only the cash memo produced by the Myanmar Gems Trade Centre. If they accept the case for selling the jades, they need to sell the jades only with Myanmar Kyats. Every cash memo needs to be embossed with the seals and describe the necessary information.

If they are selling the jade in

foreign currencies, they need to use debit and credit cards, Visa, Master, JCB, CUP from the foreign banks. They need to fill up the buyer's name, passport number and card number.

Although the government targeted to earn over K56.4 billion from jade and jewellery production, they earned over K97.8 billion from jade and jewellery production, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

— Aye Maung ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Business Plan Contest 2020 to be held in July: DICA reports

By Nyein Nyein

BUSINESS Plan Contest 2020 for a post-coronavirus economic recovery will be held starting from July, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Due to the negative impact of the pandemic, the world countries are experiencing economic challenges and hardships. In response to possible challenges and obstacles in the post-coronavirus, Green Hills Development Ltd organizes Business Plan Contest 2020, supported by domestic businesses and business associations in Myanmar.

The objectives behind the contest are to contribute towards a post-coronavirus economic recovery, increase job opportunities, promote investments in Myanmar and boost trade with foreign partners.

Those who like to participate in the contest or who like to contribute in-kind or financial support can send enquiry to contact@mmbizplancontest2020.com and contact@greenhillsdevelopment.com.

Those who will support the contest can send a company or organizational logo.

At present, CMP garment business, hotel and tourism service and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are hit hard by the negative impacts of viral disease.

The committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the coronavirus, led by Union Minister U Thaung Tun for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, was formed on 13 March 2020. The committee has been granting the loan to the business stricken by the pandemic from the Coronavirus Fund, with K50 billion allocated from the country's revolving fund and another K50 billion from the social welfare fund.

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. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Manufacturing sector attracts more foreign enterprises

By Nyein Nyein

MAJORITY of foreign enterprises eye the manufacturing sector for investments in the current financial year 2019-2020, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) stated.

Of 178 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by Myanmar Investment Commission and the respective investment committees between 1 October and 31 May of current fiscal, 138 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector. Other service sector stood at the second by attracting 15 businesses, while power sector got the third spot with seven projects.

During a-year ago period, 132 of 170 enterprises put investment

into the manufacturing sector, while other service sector drew 14, and livestock and fisheries attained investments from seven businesses.

The current coronavirus consequences have not affected the foreign investment sector, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

The proposals submitted to MIC include CMP businesses. At present, such kind of labour-intensive enterprises is facing financial hardship, disputes between the employers and employees and the closure of factories. However, those cases in the industry did not hinder new investors.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need large labour force are prioritized. MIC is endeavouring to clear

those kinds of projects so fast that they can start running in the post-coronavirus period, he continued.

Moreover, MIC showed readiness to accept the projects regarding the production of mask, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, in responding to the activities of prevention, control and treatment of the pandemic.

Myanmar has attracted foreign direct investment of more than US\$4.1 billion between 1 October and 31 May in the 2019-2020 financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments in the Special Economic Zones, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). (Translated by Ei Myat Mon) ■

\$7 mln worth 3 foreign projects, K1 bln domestic proposal granted: YRIC

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee, at a videoconference held on 10 June, has approved three foreign projects from China and Hong Kong, with an estimated capital of US\$7.397 million and one domestic project worth K1 billion.

The projects will create 656 jobs. They will invest in the manufacturing sector, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the

production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

The investments in the regions also flowing into the hotel services, and other services sectors as well. To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

According to statistics released by the Directorate of In-

vestment and Company Administration, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar, Mandalay attracts 30 per cent, while the other regions and states receive only a small share of investments.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. —GNLM ■

(Translated by EMM)

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

N. Korea to further develop nuclear arms due to stalled U.S. talks

BEIJING — North Korea's foreign minister pledged Friday that Pyongyang will press on with the development of nuclear weapons

and ballistic missiles, as denuclearization negotiations with the United States has remained stalled.

Ri Son Gwon's statement, titled "Our Message to U.S. is Clear," was issued through the state-run Korean Central News Agency, at a time when two years passed since the first-ever U.S.-North Korea summit took place in Singapore on June 12, 2018. At the meeting, U.S. President Donald Trump promised North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that Washington would provide security guarantees to Pyongyang in exchange for its "complete" denuclearization.

Emphasizing that Washington has ignored the agreement, Ri said, "In retrospect, all the practices of the present U.S. administration so far have been for nothing except to accumulate its political achievements." —Kyodo ■



A man in Tokyo's Akihabara district walks past a screen reporting a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjeom in the Demilitarized Zone on June 30, 2019. It was their third meeting. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian PM announces further easing of coronavirus restrictions

CANBERRA — Limits on gathering sizes in Australia will be lifted within weeks, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has revealed Friday.

Following a meeting of the National Cabinet, which is comprised of the prime minister and state and territory leaders, on Friday Morrison announced that a 100-person limit on indoor gatherings will be scrapped under step three of the government's plan to ease coronavirus restrictions.

Instead venues will be required to provide at least four square metres per person indoors.

Stadiums with a capacity of up to 40,000 people will be allowed to have 10,000 people under step three while bigger venues will be required to apply for special exemptions, paving the way for crowds to return to sporting events in droves.

"It would have to be a large, open area. There would need to be seats at the appropriate distance. It would need to be ticketed, and so people would be able to understand who was in attendance at that event," Morrison told reporters.—Xinhua ■

COVID-19 cases in Delhi 40 times more than that of Noida, Ghaziabad: UP govt tells SC

NEW DELHI — Uttar Pradesh government on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it will have to continue the travel restrictions imposed from Noida and Ghaziabad to Delhi since the number of COVID-19 cases in national capital are almost 40 times that of Noida and Ghaziabad.

The UP government said that it will allow pass-through only for essential services workers, media persons, and advocates, at least for now.

The top court also sought a response from the UP government on the orders issued by the District Magistrate of Noida recently.

Criticizing the order passed by the Noida DM, the Supreme Court said that such orders

cannot be passed by District Authorities which are directly contrary to the orders passed by the Centre. The Central Government has, from the beginning, encouraged home quarantine for persons showing symptoms for COVID-19 and in some cases, even persons who have tested positive.

"Such situations will create chaos," the Supreme Court bench said criticizing the DM's decision on the necessity of institutional quarantine over home quarantine.

The State of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to furnish a response clarifying how the order passed by the DM was allowed while also directing the DM himself to review his order.—ANI ■



FILE: Police check motorists at a checkpoint during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus in New Delhi on March 26, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mount Popa Geopark and Its Aesthetic Values

FROM PAGE-9

The novice went to his widowed mother and took out the gold piece from his pocket and gave it to his mother. But when he again felt his pocket, there was another gold piece inside it. He took it out and gave it to his mother. But there was a gold piece in his pocket. This went on until the mother had ten gold pieces in her hand, and still there was a gold piece in the novice's pocket. Then only did the novice realize that his beloved master Monk Goat Bull had given him a perpetual gift of gold (Maung

Htin Aung, 1959).

The Cult of the Runes

The cult of magic and witchcraft included also the cult of runes. The runes consisted of magical squares containing either letters of Burmese alphabet or arithmetical figures, and it is believed that every potent rune is guarded by a guardian god.

For reasons which are not known, the cult of the runes suddenly regained its popularity in the fifteenth century, when it took over many ideas from the cult of alchemy. The most famous 'Master of Runes' in the

fifteenth was Dhamma-zedi. He and his companion Dhamma-pala, were young Mons who entered the Buddhist order and settled at Ava, the new Burmese capital, after fall of Bagan. The two Mons were very learned in the scriptures and were also interested in the cult of the runes. He is now regarded as the first patron of the cult of the runes.

The cult of the runes gained a second patron early in the nineteenth century, on the eve of the first war with the British. The new patron was Maung Aung or 'Master Victory', who may have been a contemporary historical

personage, although the chronicles are silent about him. Maung Aung went to a university in India where he met two other Burmese students, one of them being Bodaw-paya (A.D.1782-1819) who was the King's son. The third student became a monk, retired to a forest monastery and was never heard of again. At the present day the majority of the devotees of the cult of runes believe that there is no need to cast the runes themselves; provided they keep the Eight Precepts, go into retreat whenever possible, refrain from eating meat, and keep their faith in Dhamma-zedi

and Grandfather Victory (Bobo Aung), one of the Masters will surely come and give them the runes, so that they will become Zawgyis and await the coming of the next Buddha.

References:

1. R.C. Temple.1906: *Thirty Seven Nats*
2. G.E. Harvey. 1925: *History of Burma*
3. Maurice Collis.1937: *She was a Queen*
4. Maung Htin Aung. 1959: *Folk Elements in Burmese Buddhism*
5. Tin Naing Toe. 2004: *Mt. Popa, Oasis of Dry Zone*



Lebanon in crisis talks as currency plunge sparks protests



A man cleans up outside a bank that was vandalized by protesters in Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEIRUT — Lebanon's government held crisis talks Friday after the country's currency plumed record lows on the black market, triggering a night of angry protests over the worst recession in decades.

An economic downturn since last autumn has seen widespread layoffs and swingeing pay cuts that have plunged 45 per cent of the population into poverty.

The worst economic turmoil since the coun-

try's 1975-1990 civil war has sparked an unprecedented street movement against a political class accused of being corrupt and incompetent.

After the Lebanese pound hit a new low Thursday, down around 70 per

cent from its official rate, protesters took to the streets after sundown, setting tyres on fire and blocking roads including in the capital Beirut.

Demonstrators chanted against a government that has been unable to arrest the economic decline, as well as against the governor of the central bank Riad Salame.

"Riad Salame, game over," read the front page of the Al-Akhbar newspaper close to Shiite movement Hezbollah on Friday morning.

"Revolution of hunger," the Jumhuriya daily said.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab chaired an "urgent" cabinet meeting, also attended by the central bank governor and representatives of the country's money changers, the National News Agency said.—AFP ■

UK economy sees record monthly slump with GDP dropping by 20.4 pct in April

LONDON — Britain's gross domestic product (GDP) plunged by 20.4 per cent in April compared with the previous month, hitting the biggest monthly fall since 1997, said the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Friday.

"April's fall in GDP is the biggest the UK has ever seen, more than three times larger than last month and almost ten times larger than the steepest pre-COVID-19 fall," said Jonathan Athow, deputy national statistician and director general for economic statistics at the ONS.

Data showed that record slumps were seen across all sectors in April, with services, production, manufacturing and construction dropping by 19.0 per cent, 20.3 per cent, 24.3 per cent and 40.1 per cent, respectively.

Notably, both the production and manufacturing sectors recorded the largest monthly plummet since 1968, figures revealed.

Meanwhile, GDP

declined by 10.4 per cent in the three months to April compared with the previous three-month period, as "government restrictions on movement dramatically reduced economic activity," the ONS said.

Howard Archer, chief economic adviser at EY ITEM Club, an economics forecasting group, said the country's GDP contracted a record "eye-watering" 20.4 per cent month-on-month in April, adding that the "labor market is certainly a concern for the UK economy."

The Trades Union Congress (TUC), a British union representing 5.5 million workers, tweeted that the shocking plummet in April indicated that "we can't abandon people to the misery of long-term unemployment."

"Workers urgently need a job guarantee scheme and a national recovery plan with jobs at its heart," said the TUC.—Xinhua ■

Saudi wealth fund 'shopping spree' belies economic pain

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund has snapped up around \$8 billion worth of stakes in global giants -- from Boeing to Facebook -- in a spree that belies deep and unpopular austerity measures at home.

The twin shocks of the novel coronavirus pandemic and a plunge in oil prices have prompted the government to triple its value-added tax, suspend a monthly allowance to civil servants and slash spending as it seeks to tame a ballooning budget deficit.

The harsh measures are straining a so-called "rentier" social contract, which for decades saw the kingdom use its oil wealth to provide citizens with generous subsidies, jobs and a tax-free lifestyle.

Amid its worst economic crisis in decades, the seemingly contradictory state policy to splurge billions on overseas assets is raising eyebrows.

The kingdom's Public Investment Fund is emerging as one of the world's biggest bargain hunters, dishing out billions to buy minority stakes in American and European blue-chip firms.

"You don't want to waste a crisis," PIF governor Yasir al-Rumayyan said in April, indicating the \$300 billion fund was taking advantage of a virus-induced recession to snap up stakes at knock-down prices.

In the first quarter of this year, it bought \$7.7 billion holdings in a host of companies -- from Boeing,

Walt Disney and Starbucks to Marriott and Citigroup.

It also took stakes in energy giants including Royal Dutch Shell and Total -- a move at odds with Saudi policy to steer away from oil dependence -- as well as Facebook, which has triggered privacy con-



cerns from a US watchdog. The PIF is also backing a proposed £300 million (\$372 million) takeover of football club Newcastle United, though the deal looks to be in trouble over allegations that Saudi Arabia was behind a pirate sports broadcaster.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (023S/024N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (023S/024N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from **MARGA MIN company Limited** to **Y Agro Solution Co., Ltd.** Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg	Reg No
1.	ADORA 60%EC	Thiobencarb 40%+Propanil 20%EC	FULL	F 2019 - 1878

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch). Room 209, Rangoun Business Center, No.97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road. Tele: 09-5145328

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from **Agro Tech Co Ltd** to **Y Agro Solution Co., Ltd.** Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg	Reg No.
1.	Absolute 20SP	Acetamiprid 200g/kg SP	Prov	2014 - 2169

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch). Room 209, Rangoun Business Center, No.97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road. Tele: 09-5145328

Twantay known as Dala fort still preserves ancient cultural heritages

By Htut Htut (Twantay)

SITUATED on the outskirts of Yangon Region, Twantay, which can boast of numerous ancient cultural heritages, is a section built in line with archeological characteristics such as ancient pagodas and stupas, city walls, old city, moats and terracotta kilns. The Department of Archeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in cooperation with Myanmar Ceramic Society made a joint effort in the preservation of ancient cultural heritages. In 1999, twin ancient terracotta kilns—No 1 and No 2 ancient kilns in the house of U Kyi Than and Daw Nyunt Ye in Kyaukpyarsan, Kankyikon village in Yangon Pada village tract, Tawkyeetan in Twantay—was discovered and another ancient kiln in Phayagyi village. There

were a total of three ancient terracotta kilns dating back to about AD 15 and they are now being preserved well.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture issued an announcement stating that Maungte stupa and its precinct in San village, Twantay Township, southern part of Yangon Region were designated as the ancient building zone with the notification No 4/2008 issued on 4 July in 2008 and Shwesandaw Pagoda in Shwesandaw ward in the same township with the notification No 10/2009 issued on 5 November in 2009. Now Twantay is renowned for its ancient existence alongside scholars, researchers and travel lovers.

Twantay is home to over 200,000 people and comprised of eight wards including 65 village tracts and 235 sub-villages with an area of 365.939 square miles,

27 miles long from east to west and 25 miles long from north to south. Most of Twantay residents have to rely on farming to earn for a living.

For the time being, with the purpose of enabling the historians, terracotta experts and enthusiastic people to make observations about ancient terracotta kilns, the terracotta research museum is open in Nyaungdaga village. The Department of Archeology and National Museum in collaboration with Myanmar Ceramic Society built the terracotta research museum receiving the assistance from Japanese government. Unearthed terracotta pots and broken ones are on display at the museum.

“Most of the terracotta-ware unearthed from the ancient terracotta kilns has a lot of markings, but some don’t



The photo shows Shwesandaw Pagoda, a pride for Twantay residents.

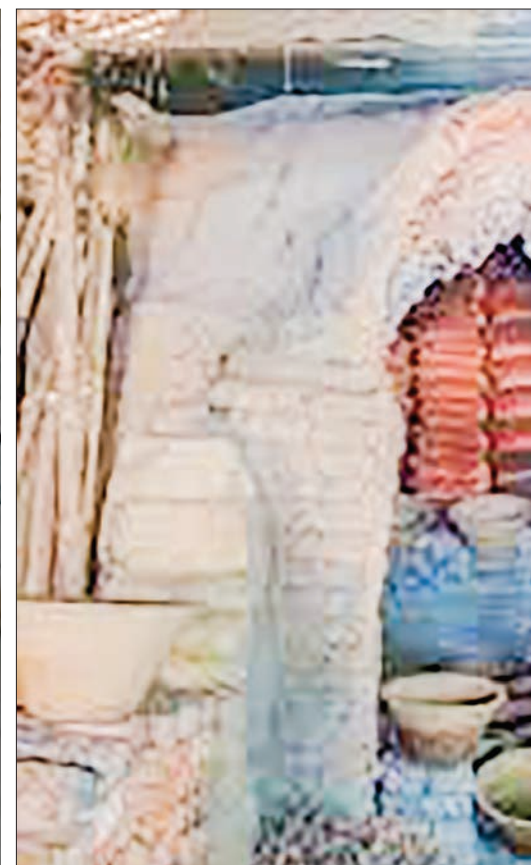
have. Pipes (smoking articles) and bowls made of terracotta can be found in the museum. Along Twantay Tawkyeetan was formerly known as the old town of Dala, palace mounds where ancient kings resided, ancient stupas and terracotta kilns can be also spotted. The ancient stupas were built like the ones in Bagan. The historians predicted that unearthed pieces of brick and brick tiles dated back Bagan era. The historians told that further ancient pagodas and stupas, city walls, old city, moats and terracotta kilns would be still in Twantay”, said U Hla Myo, a member of Twantay Township Ancient Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee.

There are several ancient terracotta kilns that haven’t yet been unearthed in Zawti, Ayoetaung, and Hngetpyawsan villages in Twantay, Thabyusan and Hngetawsan villages in Kawhmu and Kungyangon. Being in partnership with the departments from Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon, Japan group and Myanmar Ceramic Society conducted field trip researches during 2010. The field trip researches showed that there still remains more than 2,000 unexplored ancient terracotta kilns.

Pottery business has been done in Twantay also known as the town of pots from time immemorial. The various reasons are driving the pottery to



The photo shows a pottery site in Twantay.



The photo shows a kiln in Twantay.



The photo shows ancient Maungte stupa built by King Anawratha and its precinct in San village, Twantay Township.

extinction.

“Pottery is our traditional business that we have been preserving it since the time of our ancestors. Some people are running other businesses and others are working abroad. Some are doing a small-scale business. Those who are doing pottery business have become fewer now than those in the previous days of our parents. Pieces of earth have to be bought in advance. Now the number of those doing pottery business is on the decrease,” said an owner of pottery business, who lives in the west Orebo ward.

To run a pottery business, pieces of earth have to be bought first. Earth has to be dug from the canal of Twantay

or the fields or fish ponds. Different types of pots are made of sticky earth. Digging in Twantay canal resulted in bank erosion. For that reason people are banned from digging the earth from Twantay canal by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

The number of those doing pottery business is on the decrease, mainly because of a scarcity of firewood and earth. Pottery business requires technical assistance to ensure sustainable progress. Only if boiling water pots, drinking water pots and plate made of terracotta are produced as value-added products, will the potters make a big profit. The

scarcity of firewood and earth and labour charge hike ensure a reduction in the number of potters. Now only about 10 traditional potters are still going on preserving the traditional pottery, U Hla Myo, a member of Twantay Township Ancient Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee.

Nowadays, photographers and documentary film makers as well as the foreign tourists are visiting the pottery kilns to take photographs, make documentary films and interview the potters for how to make the earthen pots and terracotta pots.

Along Dala-Twantay motor road, Khabin and Kyaikpa old towns can be seen. A lot of stupas have existed along Twantay Tawkyeetan. Upon arrival to Twantay, don't miss the chance of observing archeological characteristics such as ancient pagodas and stupas, city walls, old city, moats and terracotta kilns. The visitors can also study traditional pottery and bamboo-related livelihoods that have started from the time of the ancestors.

Shan traditional sand pagoda of Shan ethnics is held at the Sunday corner on the platform of Shwesandaw Pagoda on a grand scale in Twantay on Myanmar New Year day every year and this tradition is still being preserved.

The visitors can pay homage to Shwesandaw Pagoda, a pride for Twantay residents, Kyaikkaytha Pagoda in Pokayawady old town where is the native place of Taphutha and Balika, ancient Maungte Stupa built by King Anawratha in San



Shan traditional sand pagoda is held at the Sunday corner on the platform of Shwesandaw Pagoda on Myanmar New Year day.

village located at the feeder road of Twantay and Kawhmu Townships, Naungtaya Pagoda built during the period of Hsinphyushin Banyar Oo Min and learn more about the stone inscription inscribed with Pali and Mon languages.

Let me share a message for the travellers across the country wishing to make a visit to Twantay also known as Dala old town. The travellers can take a ferry from Pasodan jetty to Dala and then take a 45 min-

utes' drive to Twantay. It can be reached from Hlinethaya by car or by motorcycle.

The government, scholars, CSOs and local people ought to take active part in the preservation of the archeological characteristics such as ancient pagodas and stupas, city walls, old city, moats and terracotta kilns in Twantay so that these ancient heritages will be handed down to the younger generation.



Myanmar's football star Aye San passes away

AYE San, former Myanmar National Football player and coach of the Yangon National Football Academy (Yangon) passed away as he sunk into a waterfall in Thayet Chaung, Dawei Township yesterday evening, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Aye San was a former Myanmar football star and he played for defender position in U-23 Myanmar National Football Team. He supported team Myanmar not letting goals by having a stronger defensive line.

He helped team Myanmar

U-23 team winning the silver medal in 2007 South East Asian Games in Thailand. Then, he also assisted the Myanmar U-23 winning the bronze medal in the 2011 South East Asian Games in Indonesia.

The football star also played for the domestic league:

Kanbawza FC, a former club name of Shan United FC and Nay Pyi Taw FC.

After Aye San retired from the football player professional life, he was working as a football coach for National Football Academy in Yangon and he trained youth generation

footballers for the academy.

For his sudden death, football authorities and families of the Myanmar Football Federation, and Myanmar National League have expressed the condolences on their official social pages.

Lynn Thit (Tgi)

La Liga resumes after three months away as Sevilla defeat Betis

MADRID — Sevilla beat Real Betis 2-0 as La Liga returned after three months away on Thursday (Jun 11), becoming the second of Europe's five major leagues to resume following the coronavirus pandemic.

After the Bundesliga in Germany restarted on May 16, La Liga opened its doors again to players but not supporters at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, where the usually vibrant Seville derby was played in front of empty stands.

The game was the first in Spain's top flight since Mar 10 but 93 days later another professional fixture has been completed without incident, offering further encouragement to the Premier League in England and Serie A in Italy. Both are set to return next week.

Lucas Ocampos gave Sevilla the lead from a 56th-minute penalty and Fernando Reges then added the second goal for the home side, who are third in the table.

This was the first leg of a 39-day sprint to the finish in La Liga, that will see teams playing every three days for five and a half weeks and undergoing stern examinations of their fitness.

Both coaches made use of their new allocation of five substitutes and there was a drinks break in each half but the contest lost its fluency late on, in part because Betis never looked like staging a comeback.—AFP ■

Australia set to allow 10,000-strong sporting crowds

MELBOURNE — Crowds of up to 10,000 people will be allowed into Australian sports stadiums from next month, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Friday, as COVID-19 restrictions are further relaxed.

The announcement comes a day before New Zealand prepares to welcome back fans at its Super Rugby Aotearoa tournament, which kicks off on Saturday.

Morrison said it would only apply to stadiums with a capacity of 40,000 or under, ruling out the likes of the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Adelaide Oval for now.

"We will be moving, as part of step 3, for events in stadia or other venues of that nature with a capacity of 40,000 or less to enable attendance at those events," he told reporters.

All patrons must be tick-

eted and seated with social distancing rules in place, and attendance will be limited to 25 per cent of the venue's capacity.

"This is not something that's happening straight away," he added. "This is something that would be happening as part of step 3, where states and territories choose to move to that, and it will require a bit more work."

For now, bigger grounds will not qualify, given the difficulties around social distancing in larger crowds, particularly on public transport getting to and from venues.

But it opens the door for fans to cheer on their teams at mid-tier arenas, which could include Canberra Stadium and AAMI Park in Melbourne, which are both due to host Super Rugby games from July 3.

Spectators have been



Crowds of up to 10,000 are to be allowed back into Australian sports stadiums from July. PHOTO: AFP

barred from Australian sporting events since mid-March when competitions ground to a halt as the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

But with COVID-19 now largely under control Down

Under, rugby league and Australian Rules have resumed action, with cardboard cutouts in seats to make the grounds appear less empty and broadcasters piping in canned crowd noises.—AFP ■

FIFA allows transfer windows to open before current season ends

PARIS — FIFA will allow leagues to open their transfer windows before the current, delayed season has been completed as football recovers from the

impact of the lengthy coronavirus shutdown, the game's world governing body announced on Thursday (Jun 11).

FIFA has passed a series

of temporary amendments to help deal with the havoc to the football calendar caused by the health crisis.

Most notably, these include allowing the "first registration period" - better known in Europe as the summer transfer window - to "overlap" with the delayed end to this season by up to four weeks.

In normal circumstances, the transfer window does not open until the season has been completed, but many leagues are only just restarting having been halted in March, and will not now finish in many cases until late July.

However, while transfers will be permitted before this season ends, clubs will not be able to field new signings until the next season begins.

The same rule will apply to players moving under freedom of contract.

The transfer window can stay open for up to 12 weeks.

Earlier on Thursday, the president of La Liga, Javier Tebas, indicated that the window in Spain would only open once the season has been completed and run from late July to early October.

Previously, Premier League chief executive Richard Masters has said that the window in England will also only open once the season has finished.

In France, where the season was declared over in late April at the height of the pandemic, the domestic transfer window opened on Monday.—AFP ■



FIFA headquarters in Zurich. PHOTO: BELGA/AFP