

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in videoconference of Special ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

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

PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 63, 13th Waning of Nayon 1382 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 18 June 2020

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

'75 for 75th' online art exhibition to honour State Counsellor's birthday

PAGE-3

LOCAL NEWS

Timber extraction to reduce by 90,000 tonnes in next FY



PAGE-6

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar reports 43 human trafficking cases in 5 months

PAGE - 6

LOCAL BUSINESS

All Sino-Myanmar border trades drop as of 5 June



PAGE - 11

Doing whatever you want, with careless abandon is full of danger. This is the other extreme: State Counsellor



STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that doing whatever you want, with careless abandon like in normal times is full of danger; this is the other extreme. This was what she wrote:

When we say the Mijima or the middle path we might think this is the easiest path. In reality, we are finding that this is not easy. Treading the path with stability, without losing balance and without going towards the extreme seems to be more difficult. Here I am talking about the path we have to tread with regard to protecting ourselves from COVID.

We have to keep reminding people not to worry too much while at the same time we have to urge them not to be careless. Just like the words of advice given by the Pakkoku Sayadaw to my father, "Don't be too scared because others scare you and don't be too fancy-free". One extreme is to be consumed with worry and thinking when would this dangerous disease be cured and how should we carry on. The other extreme is to do whatever you want with careless abandon as in normal times. This is also full of danger.

In our country, we haven't even reached three months from

the time we started imposing health rules and regulations to protect ourselves from COVID. I can see some people who have lost their patience. In this type of situation, we should be scared because we need to be scared; this is the time we should be on our guard. In some countries where they have announced that they have overcome the COVID challenge, they are facing COVID cases again. This is really scary.

Let me remind you again. Researchers are of the opinion that the second COVID wave is more likely to be worse than the first wave. We did not overcome the first wave easily. We had to invest in financial resources, human resources, and spiritual energy and will power. All types of energy. We need to come up with spiritual energy and will power continuously so that the investments we have made so far couldn't turn out to be for nothing.

Although we may feel tired to seize our desired goal, please follow the instructions and rules issued by the Ministry of Health without relaxing our strenuous and determined efforts. So that you don't have to worry in the future, please tread the correct middle path in an upright and unwavering manner.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

In this type of situation, we should be scared because we need to be scared; this is the time we should be on our guard.

No case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 17 June, total figure remains at 262

Updated at 8 pm, 17 June 2020



Recovery Update on 17 June 2020 after two consecutive tests



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 17 June 2020



Ministry of Health & Sports

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in videoconference of Special ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin (left photo) attends the Special ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 via a videoconference on 17 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated in the Videoconference of the Special ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 at 1:30 pm yesterday from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mrs Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Republic of Indonesia as Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations and Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the

Russian Federation. The Meeting was attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the Meeting, the Ministers exchanged views on enhancing ASEAN-Russia cooperation in response to public health emergencies and post-pandemic recovery, strengthening the role of ASEAN-led mechanisms in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and upholding international law and promoting regional architecture

in post COVID-19 and ASEAN centrality.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin informed the meeting that despite limitation in its resources, Myanmar has been able to keep the COVID-19 under control thanks to early response and the Whole-of-Nation approach taken by the government in addressing health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. He also apprised the meeting of the Government's rigorous efforts

in mobilizing peoples' participation and promoting public awareness adhering to the principle of "Leaving no one behind" in the fight against the pandemic.

With regard to the strengthening of the ASEAN-Russia cooperation in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Minister welcomed the establishment of a platform for consultations between relevant public health agencies of ASEAN Member States and Russia

for technical exchanges, information-sharing, networking and joint research and development of new tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of existing and new viruses. He also appreciated Russia's continued commitments to provide trainings to ASEAN health sector specialist from ASEAN Member States, and stressed the importance of strengthening ASEAN-Russia cooperation to enhance national and regional health care capacity, fostering closer collaboration to sustain global supply chains and ensure the flow of essential goods and urgent medical equipment to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, and intensifying collective efforts in addressing the global pandemic through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as EAS,ADMM-Plus .

The Statement of the Special ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was issued at the Meeting. Also, present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Sports. —MNA

UNGC holds summit online to mark 20th anniversary

WITH the supervision of United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the 20th Anniversary of UN Global Compact Leader's Summit was held by means of virtual format on 15 and 16 June.

Officials from the United Nations agencies and governmental organizations of world nations, business persons and professionalists attended the virtual summit.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Antonio Guterres and Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Ms Lise Kingo delivered their opening speeches on the first day of the virtual summit on 15 June.

On the second day of the virtual summit held on 16 June, Myanmar representatives led

by Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi and Ms Marie-Laure Pegie Cauchois and Ms Alma Sedlar from UNODC office of Myanmar discussed the title named "Myanmar: Challenges and Opportunities for the Government and Business to Join Forces in Preventing Corruption".

The Myanmar representatives present at the virtual meeting were ACC Chairman, U Aung Kyi, Ms Marie-Laure Pegie Cauchois and Ms Alma Sedlar from UNODC office of Myanmar, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, U Thant Sin Lwin and Executive Director of Euro Cham Myanmar, Mr Marc De La Foundiere.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Subcommittees discuss preparations for film industry's centenary celebration

SUBCOMMITTEES for centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry held their coordination meetings at the Film Promotion Division under the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Patrons of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization and attendees shared their experiences of previous celebrations of the film industry's anniversaries at the displaying booths subcommittee's third meeting.

The meeting also discussed producing and selling of souvenirs, entertainments on vehicles, drawing 3D portrait paintings of public figures, opening restaurants, film industry's centenary celebration published in periodicals and displaying stunt stalls.

They also detailed delegation of tasks, arrangements for playing short films created by youth filmmakers, photo sessions for fans with artists, and cooperation with international artists.

The organizing competition

subcommittee held its fourth meeting in which its chairman U Kyi Soe Tun said about the competitions of essay, short film, documentary film, cartoon and movie quiz, and explained the competitions' rules and disciplines.

Following the discussions of secretary of the subcommittee U Aye Kyu Lay and attendees, the meeting was concluded with the chairman's remark. —Ohmar, Sandi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Subcommittee for organizing competitions of Myanmar film industry's centenary celebrations hold fourth coordination meeting in Bahan, Yangon, on 17 June 2020. PHOTO: YE HTUT

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်စာစောင်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်မီ
ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. Contact: 01-8604530

“People are the key”

‘75 for 75th’ online art exhibition to honour State Counsellor’s birthday

HONOURING of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi’s 75th birthday anniversary which falls on 19 June, 75 Myanmar female painters will show their 75 paintings on the website of National Museum, Yangon [http://www.national-](http://www.national-museumyangon.gov.mm/75-for75-th)

[museumyangon.gov.mm/75-for75-th](http://www.national-museumyangon.gov.mm/75-for75-th). People can visit the online art exhibition title ‘75 for 75th’ starting from 00:01 am, 19 June morning. —MNA
(Translated by TTN)

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

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

The meeting was chaired by U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working committee Union Ministers, U Soe Win, U Thein Swe, Dr Than Myint, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and representatives of the Ministries concerned took part in the meeting.

The meeting approved loans to enterprises that met the criteria set by the committee and agreed to top up the fund. The



Union Minister U Thaug Tun (left photo) participates in the sixth meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the country’s economy via a videoconference on 17 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

meeting also took a decision to extend the loan scheme to additional sectors. It is learnt that to-date the committee has approved loans totalling K86.7419 billion to be disbursed to 3,094 business enterprises.—MNA

Union Education Minister joins panel discussion about COVID-19 impacts on education, policy responses

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thien Gyi participated in the YouTube Live of publication of The COVID-19 Pandemic: Shocks to Education and Policy Responses, and an online panel discussion yesterday.

The World Bank and Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) jointly organized the online meeting.

World Bank’s Vice President for East Asia and Pacific Ms Victoria Kwakwa made an opening remark, and DFAT’s Ms Elizabeth Peak delivered a speech.

Mr Halsey Rogers and Ms Shwetlena Sabarwal, who compiled The COVID-19 Pandemic: Shocks to Education and Policy Responses, presented the facts that are included in the report.

At the panel discussion moderated by Mr Toby Linden, Union Minister Dr Myo Thien Gyi said the importance of not



Union Minister Dr Myo Thien Gyi participates in the panel discussion on The COVID-19 Pandemic: Shocks to Education and Policy Responses on YouTube Live on 17 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

losing learning opportunity due to COVID-19, non-discrimination, leaving no one behind and reducing dropout rate.

He also discussed building a safe learning environment, schooling of vulnerable children, and building teachers’ capacities, which are part of the national education policy.

The ministry annually provided stipend for more than

25,000 poor students’ education, he added.

He adds that it is important to invest more in education sector not to get dropout rate higher due to COVID-19.

New curriculums and syllabuses that are in line with 21st Century skills were being drawn up. Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) and Early Grade Mathematics Assess-

ment (EGMA) were undertaken in February, before COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar.

The uses of School Stipend Database-STD, Communication for Management-C4M, Education Management Information System-EMIS and Staff Management System-SMS are very beneficial for effective management during COVID-19, he added.

He also says opportunities for life-long quality learning must be created by combining classroom learning and online learning.

Myanmar was conducting online trainings for teachers, and efforts for making online courses best are underway.

By changing curriculums and teaching methods, a better learning environment will be created for the students’ health and safe environment, not losing learning opportunities, avoiding crowding, following social distancing, lessening dropout rate and learning situation become normal.

Tonga’s Education Minister and the Philippines’ Deputy Education Minister also participated in the web meeting.

The meeting ended after Director of the World Bank Mr Jaime Saavedra’s concluding remarks.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoI, MoNREC, MoHT hold press briefings on 4th-year performances

THE Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism held press briefings on their 4th-year performances yesterday.

Ministry of Information

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint first introduced the event, saying that the ministries and the Union-level organizations have organized the press briefings since the present government took office. The first press briefing was to mark the 100-days of administration, followed by the second, the third and the fourth press briefings annually.

The press briefings are simultaneous tasks for the Ministry of Information as the first task is to link the public with the government. The elected government is responsible for informing and reporting to the public about their performances for the people, and that it was done by the press briefings.

The second task is making arrangements for media to cover the works of state departments in carrying out the right to information.

The press briefings could introduce the spokespersons of ministries and the Union-level organizations to the media, in developing the culture of such events and to establish a good relationship between media and departmental officials, including their spokespersons. Media personnel could make judgements on the success of these events.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint continued to say about the ministry that the key tasks of MoI are to inform the public and to enhance public knowledge. Myanmar Radio and Television are presenting entertainment programmes every day. The MRTV and the News and Periodicals Enterprise are collecting and broadcasting news, while the Information and Public Relations Department is gathering the news.

The MRTV has made three significant reforms in the 4th-year performances. A new modern studio was inaugurated at its building on Pyay Road in Yangon and has been used since late last year.

The MRTV also switched from SD (standard definition) to HD (high definition) for better quality in its broadcasting. The trial tests were run in late last year, and the new system is a good function at present. Three



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint explains the 4th-year performances of Ministry of Information on 17 June 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

new DSNV vans are intended for broadcasting more live programmes.

The offices of IPRD are attached to the public libraries. These libraries were transformed into community centres where public meetings could be organized. The events were aimed to promote democratic practices. A modern community centre was established in Bahan Township of Yangon Region. The significant milestone of IPRD is organizing literary festivals and all-round youth development festivals.

One of the remarkable performances in the previous year is the celebration of children's literary festivals in all the townships of Ayeyawady Region. The IPRD is also working for the development of Myanmar film industry. The film promotion building on Shwetaunggya Road was upgraded into the Film Development Centre to create a motion picture environment, with establishing movie studios which were useful for the film industry. Events for art film analyzing programmes were carried out in this centre. Media personnel and interested persons are invited to the talks on the film industry.

The Printing and Publishing Department is operating printing works for the state organizations, government documents including gazettes, schoolbooks of the Ministry of Education, ballot papers of the Union Election Commission, ballot envelopes for advance voting, marked papers for ballot boxes, as well as publishing the books of Sarpay Beikman, speeches of government leaders, annual reports of government which are displayed at the event, and the 4th-year performances will soon be published and that the media personnel can keep these documents for reference. The PPE has published up to 9th

series of the 100-Myanmar Classical Literary Series for Myanmar literature development.

The News and Periodicals Enterprise is publishing the Myanmar Alin, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies. Production of newspapers is carried out overnight, and that weaknesses are caused in some occasions. However, responsible persons are working hard to lessen errors.

The state-owned newspapers are the bridges between the government and the public, covering the works of government leaders, ministries, regional and state governments and the activities of other pillars. Moreover, Hluttaw news and the activities of Hluttaw representatives are covered in these newspapers.

Some pages of newspapers carry supplementary pages of ethnic languages in respective areas, and Mon, Sakaw (Kayin), Poe (Kayin), PaO, Kachin and Rakhine languages are published in the newspapers.

The NPE has allowed using its Shwe U Daung hall in Yangon for talks, promotions and distribution events free of charge.

Regarding the question of the News Watch news journal on the legal dispute between the MoI and the Eleven Media and the private media's witness list with the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister, the Managing Director of NPE, U Thet Swe, answered that there were 183 court hearings up to 11 June during the six years of legal dispute. Although it was learnt the Eleven Media Group has submitted a request for settling the dispute to the court under the National Case Management Programme, this media group has not informed it to either NPE or the ministry in writing. The ministry has sent a letter to the court to follow the

court decision.

The Union Minister and the Deputy Minister has been informed about this, and that they have no plan to give testimony at the court yet.

The RFA news agency raised a query of why phone calls were not available to the contact persons of MoI for news, and why the ministry's information sector has not improved under this government. Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung answered that the responsible persons replied to the media questions, but some calls might be missed and made return calls. Although some questions could not be answered, nothing was intentionally neglected. It can be assumed that there were weaknesses in releasing information from different departments. However, the ministry did the best in covering COVID-19 news.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said that media relations of some state departments have improved under this government which become more proactive online. The Central Statistical Organization, the Myanmar Web portal and the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) are focusing online with update information. Common information can be searched on their websites, and the contact persons of these organizations replied to the questions patiently. Some media persons miss out the important information and data and present what they do want to present. Complaints say that this is 'out of context'. Media ethics should be followed so as to enhance relations among one another based on mutual trust and respect.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said that media personnel should establish relations with the spokespersons who have

been suggested to reply media questions on the respective sector; the MoI has arranged press conferences of the government; new spokespersons were also introduced to media; some questions could not be answered while they were engaged in the meetings; phone calls can also be made outside office hours in this situation; phone calls should be made again and again until the responsible persons reply it; if it deems necessary, letters can be sent to the relevant department; if the spokespersons did not answer the phone calls, it is better to inform the ministry in one way or another; the ministry has genuine desire to establish better relations with media.

The Union Daily newspaper asked why constructions of shooting garden in Ottarathiri Township and a law university in Pubbathiri Township although these issues have been answered at the Amyotha Hluttaw.

IPRD Acting Director-General U Aye Kywe replied the ministry has no plan to establish a shooting garden in Ottarathiri, and the stakeholders have visited Nay Pyi Taw to study possibilities for the development of film industry. It is still in the status of the feasibility study. Construction of a law university is not concerned with the MoI.

Myanmar Now news agency asked why the MoI has not given assistance to the private media toppled by the COVID-19 shocks. Union Minister Dr Pe Myint answered that the MoI is concerned with the difficulties of film businesses and media caused by the pandemic. The volume of the film industry is very huge. Some film productions submitted reports on their losses as they could not reopen cinemas and resume shootings.

There are many restrictions during COVID period, and some rules have to be followed from health perspectives although they are not included in the guidelines.

Although the ministry has not assisted, appropriate ways would be searched. Even international film industries have suffered the impacts, and they have suspended their works. The ministry has received reports on preparatory measures for shootings as per healthcare guidelines. Officials are considering their proposals which have already been submitted to the national central committee and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

SEE PAGE-5

MoI, MoNREC, MoHT hold press briefings on 4th-year performances

FROM PAGE-4

The MoI has no authority to provide direct cash assistance; the private sector has requested for financial relief, for example, the TV channels will have to pay for fees and cash fines for payment delay; the ministry has attested to delayed payment and requests for low-interest loans; the ministry will also provide possible assistance to the media on their suggested relief plan.

The Irrawaddy news agency asked about the businesses of state-owned newspapers. Managing Director of NPE U The Swe answered that the NPE is publishing the Mirror; the Myanmar Alin and the Global New Light of Myanmar. The NPE has seen no loss in publishing these newspapers. The two Myanmar language newspapers are making profits since they were published, while the Global New Light of Myanmar has fewer number of circulation and has targeted to international readers. There were some business losses in the early years, but some profits came out in the following years. The third annual figures showed some financial losses, and a similar trend is expected this year. However, the profits in the previous two years could cover the existing losses of Global New Light of Myanmar. Efforts are being made to produce more circulations and to increase income from advertisements. Therefore, the NPE is a branch of MoI that is making profiting, while others are providing services.

Regarding the questions how to develop the MoI in providing public service media, the Union Minister said that the state-owned media is linking between the government and the public, with reports on activities of gov-

ernment leaders, state departments and ministries. Editors of relevant newspapers have to present the news in line with the policies, while they have different presentations; the speeches of State Counsellor and participation in events are headlines of the newspapers; posting on social media is aimed for public information; therefore, the state-owned newspapers are covering the news, and presentations will be different from private newspapers which emphasize on criticism.

The Eleven Media asked about the MoI's budget proposal under the title of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. Acting Director-General U Aye Kywe of IPRD said the department and the foundation signed MoU in 2013 for works, and launched community centres at the 16 offices of IPRD; while the department's libraries are transformed into the community centres, computer training courses and vocational training courses are conducted at these centres; mobile libraries were operated in coordination with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, renting the books at schools and villages.

For enhancing the success of this foundation, plans are being made to conduct other vocational training courses and youth development programmes. And that, the foundation was transferred to the MoI in 2019 for better services.

At that time, the 17 vehicles of the mobile library, computer sets and other related items, worth over K1,000 million, were handed over to the MoI. Some works were being done between the ministry and the foundation when the MoU was signed. Computer trainers and skilled staff members of e-library services



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation holds press briefing on 17 June 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

for mobile libraries have turned to work at the ministry; material and immaterial property reached the ministry. The items have been listed by the ministry, fuels are needed for mobile libraries, budgets are required to buy books for libraries; these budgets were not for the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, but for the department to be used in line with financial rules; that the news went viral online about the budget proposal for Daw Khin Kyi Foundation was not correct. Instead, the budgets are aimed for the IPRD. A total of 24 daily-waged staff from the foundation have remained in their works.

Finally, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and officials answered the questions of the news media about MoI's role in dispute settlements between the private media and the other government organizations, the role of Myanmar Digital News, the two MoUs signed during the visit of Chinese President to Myanmar with MoI, the situation of advertisements in the Myanmar Alin and the Mirror. **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation**

The Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint

Swe explained the fourth-year performances of the ministry. He said the ministry's long-term goal is for systematic management of natural resources for this and future generations of the country.

According to the Global Forest Resource Assessment 2015 published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 42.92 per cent of Myanmar is covered in forests. There are open forests and closed forests and the forest resource assessment is published every 5 years.

The ministry managed to expand 26 forest reserves and have completed 25.49 per cent of the nation's area. The ministry's objective is for forest reserves to reach 30 per cent of the nation's area and for environmental conservation land to take up 10 per cent.

The ministry managed to plant 26,093 acres of state-owned plantations with the Re-establishing Natural Habitat Programme in 2019-2020 financial year. The programme includes establishing plantations and dividing forestry conservation into 6 zones, with commencing from 2017-2018. The Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is currently at 17 per cent for teak and 21.9 per cent for hardwood. The Community Forestry Strategic Action Plan (2018-2020) was published in May 2019 to enable local communities to fulfill their basic forestry needs. In the government's fourth year the ministry managed to establish more than 87,302 acres of community forests, and form 648 utilization groups and 14,744 members. This means that in the period of four years the number of community forests grew to 714,725 acres while the utilization groups grew to 5432 groups with 138233 members.

The ministry has implemented 31.48 per cent of the 30-years National Forest Master Plan and public participation to ap-

prehend smuggling of wood in 2017 resulted in the success of the Community Monitoring Reporting System. This has led to the confiscation of 49,782.35 tonnes of illegal lumber in the 4th year performances and the arrest of 453 suspects and 2,711 vehicles.

The Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary was designated an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2019 and the Inle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary was designated as an East Asia-Australia Asian bird migration route in 2020 and biodiversity programmes began in 2019-2020 to 2028-2029 with 25.97 per cent of the project complete.

Because it is difficult for plants to grow in Myanmar's Dry Zone, the ministry sought international cooperation to distribute high-powered stoves and have distributed 38,182 stoves in the fourth year. The ministry built 20 small water tanks, 122 retaining walls, 3 wells, 12 5000-gallon rainwater reservoirs, and 1300 100-gallon concrete rainwater reservoirs in the Dry Zone for the fourth year. The ministry has opened 20 elephant camps as of 2018-2019 and Bodhi Tahtaung elephant camp and Zalone Taung elephant camp were opened in the fourth year, making the total number of elephant camps to 22.

The National Environment Affairs Policy, Myanmar Climate Change Policy and Strategy and Master Plan (2018-2030), National Waste Management Strategy and Master Plan (2018-2030) were enacted. The Environmental Conservation Department opened 18 district offices and one township department, the Land Survey Department took ariel photos from 4 January to 24 March in 2020 of the Myanmar-China border joint investigation. They also demarcated the Myanmar-India border from 23 November 2019 to 20 March 2020 and reviewed 36 Myanmar-India border posts, maintenance and construction.

SEE PAGE-7



Ministry of Hotels and Tourism holds press briefing on 4th-year performances on 17 June 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CHIEF EDITORAungthu 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

TRANSLATORSHay 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.comPrinted 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

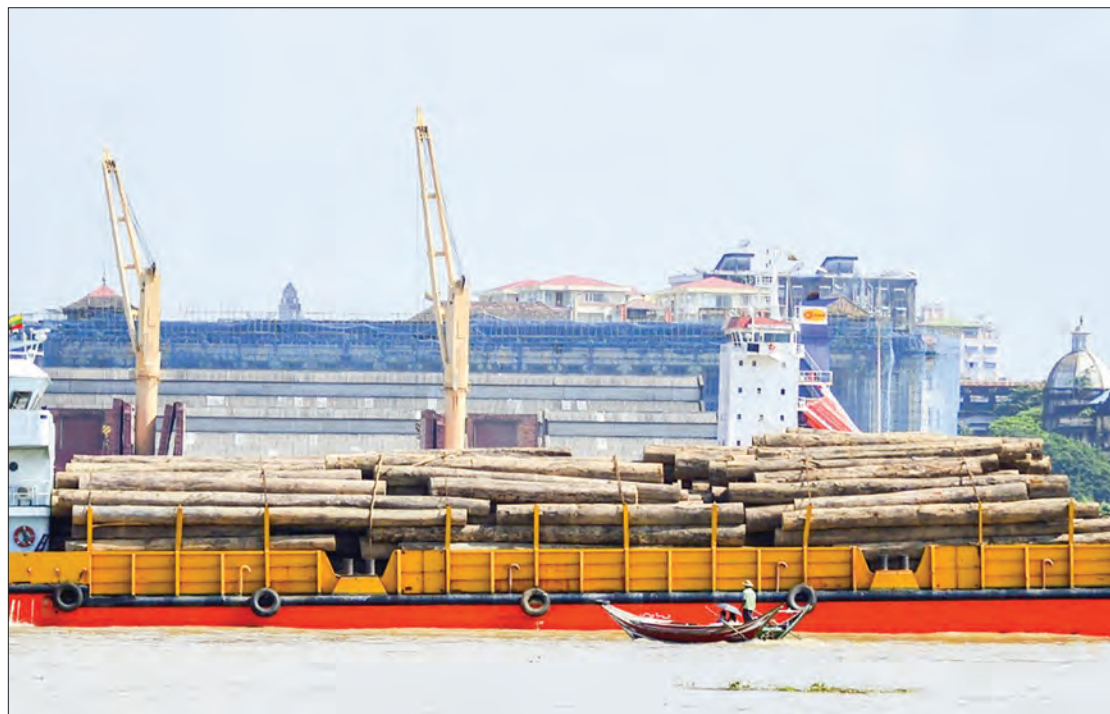
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for usWe 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.

Timber extraction to reduce by 90,000 tonnes in next FY



The government has suspended the export of timber in April, 2014. PHOTO: GNLM

MYANMA Timber Enterprise (MTE) will extract 8,000 tonnes of teak and 200,000 tonnes of hardwood in 2020-2021 fiscal year, a reduction of about 90,000 tonnes of timber compared to that of last FY, said an official

from MTE.

"The timber extraction will be reduced every fiscal year. We won't provide the leasing service in the timber industry. Only one car rental service is left now," said the official.

According to the official statistics from across the country in 2019-2020FY, a total of 10,000 tonnes of teak and 285,000 tonnes of hardwood were extracted in the country. The timber extraction business was

granted to the private sector.

Moreover, such businesses as logging with the use of the elephants, unloading of timber, construction of the roads, and transporting of the logs are granted to the foreign entrepreneurs.

Although the timber production businesses are contracted with the private companies in the previous governments' period, the timber production is being done with the target for timber production set starting from 2017-2018FY in the incumbent government's period. The authority of timber extraction is granted only to the local people recently, according to MTE.

Across the country, Sagaing Region is producing ten thousand tonnes of timber annually. Magway, Bago, Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, Shan, Kachin, Chin and Nay Pyi Taw are involved in the list of the high timber extraction. — Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

CRIME NEWS

Myanmar reports 43 human trafficking cases in 5 months

By Nyein Nyein

A total of 43 cases of human trafficking were reported across the country in the first five months of 2020, according to the country's anti-trafficking police force.

From January to May, 2020, 111 traffickers were coped with in connection with the cases while over 70 people including 11 children were victimized.

Among the 43 cases, a total

of 15 cases were reported in January, seven in February, nine in March and six each in April and May. A total of 77 victims were involved while 111 suspected traffickers charged in cases during the five months of this year.

Forced marriage was blamed for the main cause of trafficking in person in Myanmar, followed by forced prostitution, labour exploitation or forced labour and illegal adop-

tion. The victims were trafficked mostly to neighbouring countries such as China and Malaysia as well as domestically, according to the anti-trafficking police force.

Amongst the 43 cases in five months, about 26 cases involved forced marriages in China, one case of forced marriages in the country, eight cases of forced prostitution in the country, six cases of forced labour in the country and one

case each of forced labour in Malaysia and China.

In five months, Yangon Region topped the list with 14 human trafficking cases, followed by Shan State with 10 cases, Mandalay with six cases, Kachin State with four cases, Ayeyawady with three cases, Bago with two cases and Taninthayi, Magway, Sagaing regions and Nay Pyi Taw with one each.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

3 die in passenger bus rollover on Goktwin Road

A total of three people were killed with 12 others injured in an express bus overturn on Goktwin Road on Mandalay-Lashio highway in Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North).

The accident was reported at 3:30 am on 17 June 2020. According to the traffic police investigation, the passenger bus identified as 'Minthargyi' containing 14 passengers aboard overturned because of loss of control due to brake failure between Mileposts 82/6 and 82/7 on Mandalay-Lashio highway.

The express bus driven by Thet Naing Tun from Magway

Town is heading to Lashio from Magway. The accident caused three deaths including the driver with eleven others injured seriously. Two died on the spot while a woman succumbed to the injuries when arriving at the hospital.

The police have filed charges against the reckless driver. To prevent traffic congestion, the traffic police from Nawngkhio Township conducted educational talks with the assistance of the social affairs association and members of Fire Services Department. —Lu Aung (Katha) *(Translated by Hay Mar)*



The passenger bus is crashed on the Goktwin Road on Mandalay-Lashio highway in Nawngkhio on 17 June. PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)

ASEAN nations hold meeting on rural development, poverty eradication

THE Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) was held via a videoconference yesterday.

The 15th meeting was led by Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) and Viet Nam.

Director-General of Rural Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) U Khant Zaw, in his capacity as ro-

tating chairman of the meeting, discussed the implementation of SOMRDPE Framework Action Plan 2016-2020, its improvements and challenges, and the facts that will be added to SOMRDPE Framework Action Plan 2021-2025, and cooperation among the ASEAN sectoral bodies.

He also discussed COVID-19 Economic Respond Plan, which was being implemented in Myanmar, and MoALI's COVID-19

relief programmes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, officials from the ASEAN Secretary-General Office, chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of 16 sectoral bodies under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), and representatives from ASEAN nations.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Director-General U Khant Zaw attends 15th Meeting of Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN tourism professionals organize 23rd meeting via videoconference



ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee holds 23rd meeting via a videoconference on 16 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee held their 23rd meeting via a videoconference on 16 June.

The meeting, chaired by Indonesia and vice-chaired by Viet Nam, was attended by ASEAN tourism businesses' leaders, representatives from ASEAN nations, and delegates from ASEAN Secretary-General's Office.

The attendees discussed the implementations of results from 51st Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organizations (NTOs)

and Mutual Recognition Arrangement on ASEAN-Tourism Professionals-MRA-TP in ASEAN nations. They also detailed recompilation of ASEAN Tourism Professionals Registration System- ATPRS, and ASEAN tourism professionals' actions on human resources developments during COVID-19.

Deputy Director-General and officials from Myanmar's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism were present at the meeting, discussing the reformation of National Tourism Profession-

al Board (NTPB) and Tourism Professional Certification Board (TPCB) for implementation of ASEAN MRA-TP. They also reported on the postponement of second regional workshop, which is led by Myanmar, on skill standards for ASEAN's tourism professionals to August.

The 24th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee was scheduled to take place in Singapore in the last week of September.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoI, MoNREC, MoHT hold press briefings on 4th-year performances

FROM PAGE-5

Next, Director-General Dr Thet Tin Nyunt explained about permits given to Wuntho Resources Co. Ltd, which has 90 per cent owned by Brisbane based PanAust Co. Ltd and 10 per cent by Myanmar Resources Energy Group International Co. Ltd, and registered in DICA on 26 February 2015. The regional government asked for comments on the company's area of work in 4 March 2019 for the 775,05 square miles 151,514.855 acres it owned and the Sagaing Region government said there was no problem.

The Environmental Conservation Department approved the company's EMP and the Forestry Department reduced 3,832 forestry acres. Which is why 187,682.855 acres of the original 191,514.855 acres. The list of virgin, fallow, and vacant lands in the allotted

lands have been submitted to the Central Committee on Managing Virgin, Fallow and Vacant Land.

The mineral affairs management committee and Union government's decided to sign an agreement to reduce mining in areas with less mineral production, meaning there will 1.5 per cent of the current work area. The surrounding area had the UNDP and geological research and mineral searching department conduct a Geological Survey Exploration Project (GSEP) between 1974 and 1978. The area had gold and copper found and to sign separate contracts only when commercial minerals are found.

There is no permit for mining yet and less likelihood for environmental damage. The foreign income from this foreign investment will contribute to the national GDP and increase job

opportunities for local residents. The first step was to receive the US\$ 178,593.34 as the contract signing fees, K28.42 million for the first land grant for 2020-2021 and K80.12 million for forest grant in 2020-2021.

Dr Ye Myint Swe then replied to permits for Wuntho Resources Co. Ltd's permits for working in Bamauk, Wuntho and Pinlebu townships in Sagaing Region without submitting to Myanmar Investment Commission. He said as it was the exploration state and feasibility study to ascertain the costs, there was no need to report to MIC.

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

Deputy Minister U Tin Latt explained the fourth year performance of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. He said they began implementing community based

tourism in 2015. He said they opened 19 CBT sites including 42 villages of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Shan states and Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi, and Sagaing regions, and an additional 7 CBT sites with 10 villages. He said over 50,000 domestic and foreign tourists had visited the CBT sites as of February 2020.

The ministry arranged tour guide training courses, language classes, and tourism police courses across the nation. The ministry cooperated with Luxembourg Development to open courses for Train the Trainer, Assistant Cook, Passenger Fares and Ticketing, and Travel and Tour. The ministry also cooperated with Swiss Contact to open online courses for Digital Marketing Training and Supervisory Skills Training.

The ministry utilized digital marketing to promote Myanmar's

tourism and launched the website www.tourism.gov.mm on 10 April 2019 and is available in Myanmar, English, Korean, Japanese, German, Spanish, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian, and Italian. He said there 3,551,424 foreign visitors into Myanmar in 2018 and increased to 4,364,101 in 2019 and put Myanmar into the 20 quickest developing nations by UNWTO. The 2020-2030 Tourism Master Plan has been enacted and the ministry has implemented the Hotel Guest List Management System across the states and regions. The fourth-year performances press conferences of the Union Government will continue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/International Cooperation, Union Attorney-General Office, and Union Civil Service Board.— Han Myo Soe, Kaytar (Translated by Aung Khin, 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)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Call
Thin Thin May,

● 09251022355

● 09974424848

Wear quality helmets to stay safe

ROAD traffic injuries are a major public health problem and a leading cause of death and injury around the world. Each year nearly 1.2 million people die and millions more are injured or disabled as a result of road crashes, mostly in low-income and middle-income countries. Our country is facing the problem of a rapidly rising number of people injured or killed while riding motorcycles. A large proportion of the deaths and severe injuries result from injuries to the head.

As motorization increases, road traffic crashes are becoming a fast-growing problem in our country. If present trends continue unchecked, road traffic injuries will increase dramatically in most parts of the country over the next two decades, with the greatest impact falling on the most vulnerable citizens.

As well as creating enormous social costs for individuals, families and communities, road traffic injuries place a heavy burden on health services and economies.

Increasing helmet use in a country is thus an important way of improving road safety. But, the helmets we use must be quality ones or safety helmets.

In some areas of Myanmar, motorcycles, which account for half the road accidents in Myanmar, are also plying on the roads, but some road users are not wearing helmets.

Reckless driving, under the influence of alcohol, over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather are being blamed for most traffic accidents. Deaths and casualties from traffic accidents have continued to increase around the world.

In Myanmar, nationwide, motorcycle accidents accounted for 49 per cent of the total mishaps in 2018, and claimed 2,376 lives and left 12,985 injured.

Motorcycle accidents encompass 49 per cent of all traffic accidents in 2018 with 2,376 deaths and 12,985 casualties. The numbers also increased noticeably in 2019.

Every road user knows that helmets are effective in reducing the likelihood of head injuries, as well as their severity. Increasing helmet use in a country is thus an important way of improving road safety. But, the helmets we use must be quality ones or safety helmets.

It means all motorcycle helmets that we use should comply with the current UNECE standards by the UN Regulation No. 22 which covers motorcycle helmets.

UN Regulation No. 22 provides uniform conditions for the approval of protective helmets for drivers and passengers of motorcycles.

Taking serious consideration in addressing this issue, we must adopt the UN Regulation No. 22.

We must not lose sight of the goal to reduce the death toll in traffic accidents by 50 per cent in 2020 from the toll recorded in the base year of 2013.

We should not aim to return to normal

By Armida Alisjahbana and Inger Andersen

THE world before COVID-19 looks very attractive right now. In light of the disease, mass unemployment and social distancing, a return to pre-pandemic normality seems appealing. Yet we should remember what normal was.

Normal was obtaining 85 per cent of our energy from fossil fuels and losing 7 million people a year to air pollution.

Normal was careening toward a global temperature rise of over 3.5 C by the end of the century, with island nations facing obliteration.

Normal was 1 in 8 species threatened with extinction, continued squeezing of wild spaces into smaller and smaller corners, and the rampant illegal trade in wildlife.

Normal contributed to causing this pandemic.

We should also remember that COVID-19's effects on health, jobs and economies are simply an acute version of what climate change is predicted to bring - and in places already has. Unless we aspire to a better normal with recovery, we are treating the symptom, not the disease. We must build back better than before.

Many governments are preparing stimulus and relief packages to support COVID-19

recovery. Trillions of dollars will be ushered into the economy across Asia and the Pacific. These stimulus measures should help us achieve a better normal - a greener, more equitable normal. How? A recent survey of 230 economists in 53 countries suggests that green, climate-friendly stimulus measures are the best options for an economic rebound, offering the highest economic multipliers in the short- and long-terms.

Even before the pandemic, the UN determined that climate action could trigger \$26 trillion in economic benefits by 2030, create more than 65 million new jobs and avoid 700,000 premature deaths from air pollution. Governments have no shortage of options when it comes to directing a green, equitable stimulus package. They can offer support to the construction industry to develop energy efficient and zero-energy buildings. This is a high employment sector, and investments can be quickly implemented.

It may be tempting to scale up funds for infrastructure like roads, but that funding can go to improved and greener public transport systems to service more people. More public transit capacity will reduce the load on roads and reduce air pollution and emissions.

The lockdown has shown it's possible to lean more heavily on IT to decentralize business operations, reducing time lost and carbon produced in commutes and travel. Governments should now consider incentives to companies that invest in IT solutions for their operations.

Many industries will be looking for bailouts to bounce back. There is no time like the present for governments to include terms that will require companies to work toward climate neutrality. Airlines supported by governments should be asked to make stronger commitments and take bolder action to reduce emissions, which will be needed anyway for the industry to guarantee long-term sustainability and employment for the millions who rely on it. The example is being set by those governments who have made their support dependent on energy efficiency targets and shifting short haul flights to rail.

Bailouts to the auto industry can be directed to investments in e-vehicle and battery production, and efficiency technology. Where bailouts should not happen is in the fossil fuel sector. Developing Asian countries account for nearly one-third of global fossil fuel subsidies. The COVID-19 recovery period is the right time to end



Battery-electric buses have noticeable environmental benefits over diesel and natural gas buses in the form of fewer greenhouse gas emissions. Chinese-made electric buses in Santiago, Chile. PHOTO: CLAUDIO REYES/AFP

these subsidies, and ensure there are no new investments in coal. The savings to governments can support investments in areas like public health and renewable energy. This is one answer to the question of where stimulus money will come from.

Across Asia and the Pacific, governments have scarce financial resources to apply toward recovery measures at the scale needed. This underlines that existing resources must be deployed to policies with the highest economic multipliers. It also implies that finding additional revenue will be a priority. Putting a price on carbon

emissions and reforming subsidies for agriculture and fossil fuels can be especially effective with oil prices at record lows, when the social impact of removing subsidies will be lessened. Measures like feebates - which impose a fee on high-carbon vehicles and give a rebate to low-carbon cars - to incentivize greener transport and energy efficiency improvements provide more options for increasing revenue.

Green bonds can also finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Outside China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, green bonds

are scarce in the region. Now is the time to capitalize on a proven idea to support a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a message from nature. So is the ongoing climate crisis. Normal isn't working. We need to build back better.

Armida Alisjahbana is the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Inger Andersen is the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme

India media fear pandemic finally brings end of the newspaper era

INDIAN newspapers, which just a few months ago had defied the global trend by gaining circulation, are now buckling under the weight of coronavirus losses that have killed some off and critically wounded other big names.

Newspapers have remained a mainstay in the country of 1.3 billion people in recent years, when the rise of digital news has seen sales slump around the world.

But as a result of a lockdown that started on March 25 dailies were unable to print, delivery boys were attacked by householders fearing they were also bringing the virus and -- crucially -- advertisers fled.

Normal sales drop

And according to some estimates, normal sales of more than 50 million newspapers a day across the country fell by two thirds.

Hundreds of journalists have been laid off or seen wages slashed and in Mumbai, one charity is organizing food parcels for unemployed reporters.

"India resisted the digital onslaught for a



Indian newspapers, which just a few months ago had defied the global trend by gaining circulation, are now buckling under the weight of coronavirus losses. PHOTO: AFP

long time but now some city papers have gone and some of the national papers must be worrying about how will they get readers back," one editor told AFP.

English newspapers in Pune and Goa closed this month and nationals such as the Hindustan Times and Times of India, which had a circulation of more than two million before the crisis, have laid off scores of staff, cut wages and closed offices.

The Hindustan Times said in an email to staff that it was losing about \$500,000 a day.

The Mathrubhumi regional newspaper, based in the southern state of Kerala, has seen advertising fall from up to \$6 million a month to \$500,000, said joint managing director Shreyams Kumar.

'Pretty grim scenario'

Indian newspapers had been hit by a faltering economy even before the pandemic, but N. Ram, a director of the group that publishes The Hindu daily and other regional papers, said events had become critical as advertising has "collapsed".

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 17th June, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 18th June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, fairly widespread in Magway Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Chin and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate to strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th June, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th June, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်၊ စာအုပ်များ အား နိုင်ငံတော်အဆင့်ရှိ ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. Contact: 01-8604530

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
ကြော်ငြာရောင်းချမှုနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများအနေဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ကိုဆက်သွယ်သွားနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us. HOTLINE 09-974424848

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest

By U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

Introduction

May I start with a well-known and universally accepted old proverb, "Knowledge is power". And in this connection, I would also like to quote an extract from a famous speech of Abraham Lincoln, known as the father of freedom from slavery in the United States of America's history. It reads: "With malice toward none; with charity for all, with firmness in the right." So, with firmness, I would like to assert that "knowledge is power". Ignorance or lack of knowledge is a shame and sin. Well, to be free from a shame and sin in our life, we should go on learning to gain knowledge. Learning is a life-long process. "No educative process is ever the end, it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living".

Knowledge and Human Resources are inseparable. "Reading makes the people developed and that the developed people go on reading."

Well, what does investment mean? "Investment in some-

thing means the act of investing money in something." And "invest something in something" means to buy property, shares in a company etc in the hope of making a profit".

In connection with the topic "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest; may I mention some more writings about knowledge and education". They know enough who know how to learn "Only the educated are free". The more we study, the more we discover our ignorance. And often in the modification, the more we know, the more we don't know. Mr Benjamin Disraeli, a famous writer, again said, "To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge".

I would also like to present to you Myanmar proverbs and some words of wisdom, "on knowledge and education", translated into English by myself, an old learner.

"In this world of ours, education, knowledge, skill, art and craft are really our true friend". The light of knowledge and skill is really so bright and brilliant

that each and everyone, all and sundry have got to wonder at that.

"Of the lights, fire light, moon light and sun light; moon light is brighter than firelight. Sun light is brighter than moon light. Ah, the light of knowledge is the brightest of them all. No light is there brighter than the light of knowledge. As such, Lord Buddha has preached. Therefore, all and sundry, each and everyone should strive to acquire knowledge. A good knowledge is just like a Badihabin tree, a tree of plenty and an inexhaustible stores. The western scholars have also asserted that "brain is just like a muscle". You use it or you lose it. So, if you want to keep your brain sharp, active and alert, go brain-jogging." "Go brain-jogging" means read, read and read. As a matter of fact, learning is a never-ending process. We live to learn and learn to live. A day without learning is a day lost". So, Let us go on learning continuously to get the best interest in our investment in knowledge.

In brief, I would like to advise you on the strength of the following words of wisdom to keep on learning and get better everyday.

- "Knowledge is not static. It is accumulating and expanding all the time. In the quest for knowledge there must be a strong will and perseverance."
- "We should create a desire and dedication to update and upgrade ourselves continuously."
- "Knowledge is power" seems to have quite a following these days."
- "The object of education should be to increase the usefulness of man, usefulness to himself, and usefulness to others."

And in conclusion, may I also advise you, in view of corona virus global pandemic, that we should seek knowledge about the global pandemic by constantly learning from the news media about the protective and preventive measures from that pandemic, by staying at home, by wearing masks,

when going outside, by washing hands quite often and keeping a physical distance from each other. We have a saying. If informally translated into English, I think, it may read. It is knowledge and wisdom that safeguard one's life and longevity. It is fate or destiny that plays a decisive role in making wealth, well-being or fortune.6

Reference

- (1) A book of essential quotations Edited by Eric Partridge.
- (2) U Thant, United Nations Organization Secretary-General (Retired)
- (3) Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English. Sixth Edition
- (၄) ဤလောကမှာတတ်ပညာ၊ မှန်စွာမိတ်တောင်းပ။ ပညာအရောင်ထွန်းလင်းပြောင်များမြှောင်အံ့ဩကြ။
- (၅) မီးရောင်၊ လရောင်၊ နေအရောင်၊ ဉာဏ်အရောင်လွမ်း၍မိုး၊ သိပ္ပံသမား၊ အာဘာနတ္ထိ၊ မြတ်မုနိ၊ ဟောရီကျမ်းကိုကိုး။ ဌိကြောင့်များစွာ၊ ဌတကာပညာရအောင်ကြိုး။ ပညာတောင်းမှာ၊ ပဒေသာ၊ သုံးရာမကုန်နိုး။
- (၆) အသက်ကို ဉာဏ်စောင့်၊ ဥစ္စာကိုတံစောင့်။

India media fear pandemic finally brings end of the newspaper era

FROM PAGE-9

The group expects to lose millions of dollars. "We don't know when the advertising market will recover," he told AFP. According the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), Indian newspapers and magazines used to attract about \$3 billion dollars of advertising a year.

Magdoom Mohamed, WAN-IFRA business development manager in India, said newspapers lost 75-85 percent of their advertising in March and April alone.

While Indian media groups are starting to invest heavily in online news, Ram said the advertising did not compensate for the sudden losses.

Indian journalists feel they have been badly treated by the panic measures, with wages cut and often paid late.

Many say they have been going out to cover tragic stories on the coronavirus without proper protective equipment. "I came back one day to be told there was a pay cut," said one at the Indian Express.

"While the media has been facing the strain, the fact that it moved so fast to do these salary cuts at a time when there is extreme uncertainty and anxiety - it's

very unethical," Geeta Seshu, co-founder of the Free Speech Collective said.

"They have been showing a lack of concern for their employees."

The main media groups are concentrating more on the future of the business, say analysts.

Consultancy KPMG had predicted before the pandemic that advertising revenue for newspapers would remain stable for a few years.

"Now all that has changed," said the newspaper editor, speaking on condition of anonymity as he had been told not to discuss company business.

"It was only the over-35s who read newspapers and even they have had to get their news from digital sources and television for more than two months."

N. Chandramouli, chief executive of TRA Research, said that even before the pandemic, newspapers and television channels had laid off thousands of staff because of an economic slowdown.

"Now it is a pretty grim scenario for the media world" with advertisers scared to spend, and media companies "have their back against the wall for survival".

SOURCE: AFP

Third repatriation flight for Myanmar nationals from Malaysia lands in Yangon 17 June

MYANMAR has allowed relief and charter flights for bringing back the citizens stranded in foreign countries due to suspension of international airlines, repatriation of foreigners and carrying overseas businesspersons and experts.

A charter flight of MT Ratu Chemical/Oil Products Tanker from the ENRA Group Bhd to get back its workers who completed their duties in Yetagun offshore field in Dawei landed at the Yangon International Airport

yesterday morning with 134 Myanmar nationals who stranded in Malaysia with the help of this company and the Myanmar embassy in Kuala Lumpur. They have been tested negative for COVID-19 in Malaysia, and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period at the designated places and the respective hotels in line with the regulations of immigration

and medical checks at the airport.

As per the directives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Myanmar has arranged three repatriation flights to bring back home a total of 334 citizens to date. The fourth and the fifth groups of Myanmar nationals from Malaysia will return home on 19 and 27 June, according to the report of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar citizens returned from foreign countries are checked body temperature at the Yangon International Airport on 17 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

All Sino-Myanmar border trades drop as of 5 June

SINO-MYANMAR border trade has registered a decrease of US\$211.47 million between 1 October and 5 June in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Data from the Ministry of Commerce showed the value of Sino-Myanmar border trade at all five borders touched \$4.082 billion in the current fiscal, which significantly plunged from \$4.29 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

This FY, border trade values totalled \$3.36 billion at Muse, \$115 million at Lwejel, \$351.6 million at Chinshwehaw, \$243.9 million at Kampaiti, and over \$4.09 million at Kengtung. The Commerce Ministry's data showed a drop in trade value at all those borders. The decline in trade is attributed to the trade suspension and trade delay due to the tight security measures of the coronavirus pandemic.

At present, China has been stepping up border control meas-



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

ures to contain the spread of the viral disease. Therefore, Chinese buyers do not come to Myanmar borders in light of the pandemic fears, forcing Myanmar truck

drivers to leave for Wanding area to sell the goods.

Next, the export of agricultural products is often halted, on account of China clamping

down on illegal goods. Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by Chi-

na is too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation are often happening at the border.

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Oil prices show slight boost in June

THE domestic fuel oil market shows a slight increase in oil prices this month compared with late April, according to the local oil market.

At present, fuel oil was pegged at K450-490 for Octane 92, K580-600 for Octane 95, K520-550 for diesel and K530-560 for premium diesel on 17 June according to the data released by Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

"Oil prices plunged in recent days. However, it is increasing now. Domestic oil prices depend upon the world market. There's nothing more than this," Chairperson Dr Win Myint of Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association told the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

The figures reflect an increase of K60-100 per litre compared with the prices registered in April.

The oil and gas sector has been crashed during coronavirus outbreak. Oil price went negative on 20 April as there is no place to store all the crude the world is producing, but not using. The global market was broken, leading domestic oil price plunge to more than 50 per cent in April against Jan-

uary's prices.

Oil markets are recovering from the collapse in demand caused by the pandemic, but fully recovering may not materialize until 2022, the global market observer reported.

For now, oil markets remain highly fickle depending on the coronavirus impacts and demand. In the global markets, oil prices stood at around US\$40.5 per barrel for Brent oil and \$37.8 per barrel for WTI crude oil on 17 June 2020.

On 8 January 2020, domestic oil prices were pegged at around K905 per litre for Octane 92, K995 for Octane 95, and K985 for diesel and premium diesel. Then, the prices in the domestic market have been extending its drop.

On 22 April 2020, the oil prices touched a low of K310-330 per litre for Octane 92, K440-455 for Octane 95, K445-465 for diesel, and K455-475 for premium diesel, according to the domestic oil market.

On 10 October 2018, due to an increase in global crude oil prices and the weakening of the Kyat against the US dollar, oil prices had touched a high

of K1,065 per litre for Octane 92, K1,115 for Octane 95, K1,085 for diesel, and K1,105 for premium diesel.

Myanmar imported nearly \$1.8 billion worth 3.3 million tonnes of diesel and gasoline over the past seven months (Oct-Apr) of the current fiscal year, showing an increase of 400,000 tonnes valued \$56 million compared to the corresponding period of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between October and April of the current fiscal, Myanmar imported \$1.14 billion worth 2 million tonnes of diesel and 1.3 million tonnes of gasoline with an estimated value of over \$740 million, as per data of the Commerce Ministry.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally.

Normally, Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore, with monthly volumes touching 200,000 tonnes for gasoline and 400,000 tonnes for diesel. There are about 2,000 fuel stations and over 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar's exports up over \$500 mln as of 5 June

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S exports have witnessed an increase of over US\$500 million as of 5 June in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 compared with the year-ago period, according to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's exports between 1 October and 5 June in the current fiscal shot up to US\$12.1 billion from \$11.6 billion registered in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the figure reflects an increase of \$503 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Similarly, the imports this year exceeded \$13.73 billion, which rose from \$12.34 billion registered in the same period of last year, showing an increase of \$1.39 billion.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has been granting reliefs to facilitate trade amid the pandemic period.

The Department issued \$12.777 billion worth 7,433 import/export licences through online platform over the past two months, to ensure smooth trade.

The ministry launched the online licensing system for export

and import businesses starting from 1 April, with a view to reduce the person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of viral disease.

This being so, under the new service, the process of licence applications, fee payment and receiving licences can be done online. The trade department offers an online system for over 700 export/import items.

Additionally, the MPU eCommerce pay started on 8 May. Following the coronavirus pandemic impacts, the validity of importer and exporter registration that will expire between 27 April and 30 July 2020 has been extended until 30 July, according to the notice of the Trade Department.

Moreover, the ministry has exempted licence fees on pharmaceuticals and medical raw materials.

Next, the licence fees collected as per the notice of the Ministry issued on 10 October 2019 were changed to K30,000 for each.

For the Customs clearance process, the time to send electronic data to the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) of Customs Department was changed at 10 am from the previous timeline 12:30 pm.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

China launches crackdown on online copyright infringement



In this July 21, 2014, a man browses the Internet on his smartphone, in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BEIJING — Chinese authorities launched a nationwide campaign to crack down on online copyright infringement and piracy.

The crackdown, which will run from June to October 2020,

was initiated by the National Copyright Administration in collaboration with several other ministries.

During the campaign, law enforcement departments will target copyright infringement

of audio-visual works, including films, short videos, and those transmitted through streaming media, said a statement released by the authorities.

E-commerce platforms will also be under scrutiny in the special operation, said the statement, noting harsh measures will be taken to curb online sales of pirated books, audio-visual products and electronic publications, among others.

Regulators will also focus on fighting copyright infringement on social networking platforms, and in the field of online education and training.

The crackdown is the 16th national campaign targeting online copyright infringement since 2005—Xinhua ■

US homebuilding jumps 4.3% in May: government

WASHINGTON — New home construction in May rose 4.3 per cent compared to April, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, as activity began to resume despite the coronavirus pandemic.

However the pace of homebuilding hit a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 974,000, far short of what analysts had forecast and 23.2 per cent below May 2019, according to the data.

The modest rebound followed a steep decline in April after the nationwide shutdowns to contain the spread of COVID-19 took effect, although the decline was revised upwards

to be less severe than initially reported.

Most of the increase was in construction of apartment buildings, as the pace for single-family homes was flat, according to the report.

But housing starts continued to fall in the South and Midwest, while rising in the Northeast and surging nearly 70 per cent in the West.

Despite the tepid gain, analysts at Oxford Economics called the data the start of a “slow recovery.”

“We look for strong demand, improving homebuilder confidence and an ongoing shortage

of supply to support growth in housing starts over the rest of the year, but we still expect starts to be down on average across 2020 overall,” they said in an analysis.

In fact, building permits jumped 14.4 per cent in the month, indicating there are more projects in the pipeline.

Low interest rates are expected to continue to drive demand, and a separate report from the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) showed home loan applications jumped eight per cent in the latest week, while purchase activity was the highest in 11 years.—AFP ■



The pace of homebuilding rose in May but remained 23.2 per cent below the same month in 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Adidas rejects allegations of workplace racism

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — German sportswear maker Adidas on Wednesday rejected claims by employees that it was not doing enough to combat racism, after the “Black Lives Matter” protests revived debate about a lack of diversity in the firm.

“We strongly reject all statements” made in a letter sent by 83 employees to the supervisory board, an Adidas spokesman told AFP.

The workers had called for an investigation into the human resources department and the setting-up of an anonymous forum to discuss discrimination, Adidas confirmed to AFP after the demands were first reported in the Wall Street Journal.

“Adidas and Reebok have always been and will always be against discrimination in all forms,” the company said, adding that “black employees have led the response” and that a “third party investigator” would monitor its policy.

In the letter and in social media posts, employees targeted human resources chief Karen Parkin’s description of racism at Adidas as “noise” that was only discussed in America at an all-

hands meeting of the group’s subsidiary Reebok last year.

“I should have chosen a better word,” Parkin said in a response posted to the company intranet on June 12. “Should I have offended anyone, I apologize”.

Adidas has set up a telephone hotline for its roughly 60,000 employees worldwide — 10,000 of them in the US — to report problems within the company.

“We are now concentrating our efforts on making progress and creating real change immediately,” the Bavarian group said Wednesday.

On June 10, Adidas had already announced that 30 per cent of new hires would be people from black or Latino backgrounds.

And it vowed to spend \$20 million over four years on programmes to support black communities in the US.—AFP ■



Adidas denies claims that it is not doing enough to combat racism. **PHOTO: AFP**

Norwegian Air returns to European skies

OSLO — Low-cost airline Norwegian announced Wednesday it was reopening 76 European and domestic routes starting July 1, after months of keeping most of its fleet grounded due to the new coronavirus.

Norwegian, which has only kept eight aircraft in service to cover domestic flights, will roll another 12 planes out of the hangar, opening up routes to destinations such as London, Paris, Nice, Spain and Greece from Scandinavian capitals.

“Feedback from our customers has shown that they are keen to get back in the air and resume their travels with Norwegian beyond the current domestic services that we have been operating,” CEO Jacob Schram said in a statement.

“Norwegian is returning to European skies with the reintroduction of more aircraft to serve our key destinations which will ensure that we remain in line

with competing carriers,” Schram added.

Passengers will have to adjust to some changes as flights resume.

Face masks will be required for anyone over six years old and no meals or drinks will be served onboard.

Already in financial straits before the COVID-19 pandemic, Norwegian has been hit hard as the new coronavirus heavily impacted demand for air travel.

On the verge of bankruptcy in May, the airline adopted a rescue plan that included converting part of its debt into new shares, enabling it to qualify for guarantees from the Norwegian government of a total of three billion Norwegian kroner (\$315 million or 280 million euros).

The tentative resumption of European flights will allow around 200 pilots and 400 cabin staff, who had been temporarily laid off, to return to work.—AFP ■

Japan's May exports, imports log biggest year-on-year fall in decade

TOKYO—Japan's exports and imports in May both posted the largest year-on-year drops in more than 10 years, reflecting rapidly weakened domestic and overseas demand as the coronavirus pandemic continued to slow economic activities globally, government data showed Wednesday.

Exports plunged 28.3 per cent from a year earlier to 4.18 trillion yen (\$39 billion), the sharpest drop since a 30.6 per cent decline in September 2009 in the wake of the global financial crisis, according to a preliminary report by the Finance Ministry. Exports were down for the 18th consecutive month. —Kyodo ■

London mayor takes pay cut over virus funding cut fears



Khan warned he could make cuts to police, fire and transport services without additional funding from the government. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON—London's mayor announced Wednesday he will take a 10 per cent pay cut due to a

budget crisis caused by the coronavirus outbreak, as he urged the government to help Britain's

stretched local authorities.

Sadiq Khan said the capital faces a budget shortfall of nearly

£500 million (\$628 million, 560 million euros) over the next two years because of an "unprecedented" income loss from the crisis.

The Labour mayor warned he could make cuts to police, fire and transport services without additional funding from the government, which he accused of risking "a new era of austerity".

"COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on London's public finances," he said in a statement, warning many local authorities across the country were in a similar position.

"I will do everything in my power to persuade ministers not to force another era of austerity on local and regional government.

"It's only right that I should volunteer for an immediate pay cut in these extremely difficult circumstances." —AFP ■

Australian economy on track for recovery from COVID-19: central bank



Early morning traffic on the Harbour Bridge in Sydney on Friday. The New South Wales state relaxed COVID-19 restrictions around public gatherings and businesses. PHOTO: AFP

SYDNEY—Australia's economy is on track for a gradual recovery from COVID-19, but faces the threat of a second wave of infections along with the rest of the world, according to minutes from a central bank meeting released on Tuesday. At the meeting held earlier this month, Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) officials pointed to the chance of a second wave of infections as a potential global stumbling block.

"Should widespread contagion resume, with a return of lockdowns, confidence would suffer and cash flow would be strained," the report said. RBA officials were broadly optimistic about the country's success in containing the virus so far, leading to an earlier opening up of businesses than initially expected, and the possibility that a downturn would be

shallower than expected. Federal government stimulus measures were credited as instrumental in protecting the economy from collapse, with some households actually better off in terms of income under the pandemic.

"Households that were already receiving welfare payments had additional payments, and the JobKeeper programme and increased JobSeeker payments had supported incomes for others. In some instances, households had received more income than usual," according to RBA.

However figures show that along with a contraction in spending in late March and April, many Australians had lost their jobs or seen a drop in the number of hours worked, which fell by 9 per cent overall in April.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (043N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (043N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0132 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0132 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (030W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (030W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



Indian Border Security Force soldiers guard a highway leading towards Leh, bordering China, in Gagangir. PHOTO: AFP

China agrees with India to resolve border tensions through talks

BEIJING—China's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that it has agreed with India to resolve their latest escalation of military tensions on the contested border through dialogue.

"We certainly don't want to see more conflicts," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters.

On Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaisankar during a telephone conversation that Beijing and New Delhi will protect peace in the border area, his ministry said.

India's Army said in a statement on Tuesday that 20 Indian soldiers were killed during a "violent face-off" with Chinese

troops on the border in the Himalayas -- the first deadly clash between the two countries in 45 years.

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted on Wednesday that "The loss of soldiers... is deeply disturbing and painful. Our soldiers displayed exemplary courage and valour in the line of duty and sacrificed their lives in the highest traditions of the Indian Army."

It remains uncertain whether China and India can find enough common ground to ease strains, given that the leaders of the two nations are unlikely to readily make a compromise on the issue to maintain public support, foreign affairs experts said.

Both Beijing and New Delhi have accused the other of crossing the 3,488-kilometre-long Line of Actual Control that separates the two sides.

While India has also voiced eagerness to sit down at the negotiating table, it has claimed, "On the late-evening and night of June 15, a violent face-off happened as a result of an attempt by the Chinese side to unilaterally change the status quo there."

Since taking office in 2014, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to revitalize the country's lackluster economy. Still, the pace of growth has been slowing for the past few years, undermining public support for him.—Kyodo ■

Indonesia jails Papuan activists for treason

JAKARTA —A group of Papuan activists was jailed for treason by an Indonesian court Wednesday over anti-racism protests last year in a case that sparked fears of a clampdown on free speech.

Unrest erupted across Indonesia's easternmost territory and in other parts of the country in August after the arrest, racial abuse and tear-gassing of dozens of Papuan students in the central city of Surabaya.

The uprisings, which left dozens dead, sparked renewed calls for Papua's independence from Indonesia, which took over the mineral-rich region in the 1960s. A Papuan vote to remain in the archipelago nation, held during that period, was widely viewed as a sham.

On Wednesday, the court sentenced Buchtar Tabuni, a leading figure in Papua's independence movement, to 11 months in jail.

The panel said Tabuni, 41, used the anti-racism protests as cover to push for self-rule through street demonstrations and social media campaigns.

"If his acts are left unpunished then it will become a threat to the integrity of the country," said presiding judge Sutarmo, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

Tabuni's sentence -- handed down over video link because of social distancing prompted by the coronavirus -- was far lower than the 17 years sought by prosecutors, but the activist said he would consider an appeal.—AFP ■



Buchtar Tabuni's sentence was handed down over video link because of social distancing prompted by coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

Taliban raids on Afghan security posts kill 18

KABUL —Taliban fighters killed at least 18 Afghan security personnel Wednesday in two attacks on checkpoints in the north, officials said, the latest violence ahead of expected peace talks. In one pre-dawn raid, militants killed 12 Afghan security force members when they stormed a checkpoint in Jawezjan province, Maroof Azar, spokesman to the governor, told AFP. He said four security personnel were captured by the militants and five Taliban fighters were killed in the fighting. The ministry of defence confirmed the attack and said six of its soldiers were among the dead. The Taliban spokesman for the group's fighting forces, Zabihullah Mujahid, gave a higher toll. Separately, Taliban fighters were blamed for a raid on an army outpost in Kunduz. Six soldiers were killed in fighting that lasted about five hours, said Aminullah Iddin, a member of the provincial council.—AFP ■

N. Korea to deploy troops to two demilitarized areas near border

BEIJING/SEOUL—North Korean troops are redeploying to two areas that had been demilitarized under agreements with the South, official media said Wednesday following Pyongyang's demolition of a joint liaison office, in a sign that their recent efforts at reconciliation have gone up in smoke.



FILE PHOTO: South Korean soldiers patrol along a barbed wire fence Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea, on the South Korean island of Ganghwa on April 23. PHOTO: AFP

The Korean Central News Agency also reported that Kim Yo Jong, sister of leader Kim Jong Un, has rejected South Korean President Moon Jae In's offer to send special envoys to North Korea, saying she "made known the stand that we flatly reject the tactless and sinister proposal."

In a statement carried by the news agency, Kim Yo Jong also criticized Moon's offer in a speech earlier in the week of inter-Korean dialogue, saying he had "reeled off a string of shameless and impudent words full of incoherence."

The South later rebuked North Korea for snubbing Moon's offer to send the envoys, saying disclosing the unannounced proposal was an "unprecedented and irrational act." Moon's office also said that remarks Kim Yo Jong had made directly critical of the president were "very rude" and could not be tolerated, warning they would lead to a loss of trust between the leaders of the two Koreas.

The latest inter-Korean tensions, which have escalated in the wake of the scattering of leaflets lambasting Kim Jong Un's reign, could develop into a military clash in the worst-case scenario, as the North is unlikely to extend an olive branch to the South.—Kyodo ■

Putin has 'disinfection tunnel' to protect him from coronavirus



Putin (C) made a public appearance without a mask at an outdoor event on the June 12 Russia Day holiday.
PHOTO: SPUTNIK/AFP/FILE

MOSCOW — Visitors meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin at his country residence must first pass through a walk-through device that sprays them with disinfectant to protect him from the coronavirus, officials said.

The measures have provoked anger from some observers, given the authorities have ruled it is safe enough to hold nationwide referendum on July 1.

Putin has been self-isolating at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow under lockdown although he made a public appearance without a mask at an outdoor event on the June 12 Russia Day holiday.

As part of precautions to protect the president, visitors walk through the device and get sprayed from above and the side, a video posted Tuesday evening on Twitter by Kremlin pool jour-

nalists from RIA Novosti state news agency showed.

Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that two of the disinfection machines had also been installed in the Kremlin. "They were installed during the height of the pandemic," he said, adding that anti-virus measures still in place at the Kremlin were "justified and understandable where the president is concerned".

The authorities in Penza region east of Moscow where the device was made boasted that it "ensured the safety of the head of government and all those who visit him." The Penza regional government said the president's staff got in touch with the manufacturing company, which until the virus outbreak specialised in automatic cleaning equipment for industrial use.—AFP ■

Honduran president and wife test positive for coronavirus

TEGUCIGALPA — The Honduran president has said he and his wife have tested positive for coronavirus.

The Latin American nation has registered just under 10,000 COVID-19 infections, according to the health ministry, and 330 deaths.

"Over the weekend I began to feel some discomfort and today I have been diagnosed

as having been infected with COVID-19," said Juan Orlando Hernandez during a press conference on Tuesday.

The 51-year-old leader said he will telework while he is treated, and that his symptoms are mild. He said his wife, Ana Garcia, is asymptomatic.

Since the start of the pandemic in mid-March, Hernandez has been at the forefront

of the strategy to combat and prevent the coronavirus.

In many press appearances, he has promoted social isolation, the use of face masks, and hand washing.

Despite a March curfew, the number of infections has been increasing, with the military and police deployed to ensure the population remained home.—AFP ■

Facebook says to block foreign state media ads for US election

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook says it will block ads from foreign state media during the US election, as well as allowing users to hide all paid-for political messages.

The move comes with the social media giant under growing pressure over its hands-off approach to misinformation and inflammatory posts -- including from Donald Trump -- and following criticism it turned a blind eye to foreign interference in the 2016 presidential poll.

Facebook's head of global affairs acknowledged the company fell short during the contentious poll in which it has acknowledged Russia-backed content reached as many as 126 million Americans on its

platform. Nick Clegg, writing in the UK's Daily Telegraph newspaper on Wednesday, said the company would be "blocking all ads in the US during the election period from state-controlled media organisations from other countries."

Anyone running political ads on the platform would have to be authorized to do so, Clegg said, adding that between March and May Facebook had stopped "more than 750,000 political ads targeting the US from running because the advertiser had not completed the authorization process."

He said the social media giant now had more than 35,000 people working on safety and security issues, three times the

number of four years ago.

In a separate opinion piece, chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said he wanted to use the vast reach of his company for good in this November's election. The threat to democracy "is real and ongoing, but our systems are more prepared than ever."

Register to vote

Announcing a campaign aimed at getting four million people registered to vote, he said Facebook was creating a new hub with "authoritative information, including how and when to vote, as well as details about voter registration, voting by mail and information about early voting."—AFP ■

Turkey deploys troops against Kurdish rebels in Iraq

ANKARA — Turkey launched an air and ground offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq on Wednesday, in a move likely to increase friction with the Baghdad government.

The defence ministry said "commandos" moved in supported by drones and helicopters, following a bombardment with rocket launchers and artillery guns that hit more than 150 targets.

It added that the operation, dubbed "Claw-Tiger", came after a "recent upsurge in attacks on our police stations and military bases" near the Iraqi border.

Turkey carried out air strikes earlier this week that drew an angry response from Iraq, which labelled them "a violation of sovereignty".

The Turkish military reg-

ularly carries out operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in southeast Turkey and its rear bases across the border.

The operation on Sunday night was dubbed "Claw-Eagle" with raids in the northern Iraqi territories of Kandil, Sinjar and Hakurk.

'Natural right'

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party spokesman defended Turkey's actions.

"Turkey continues its effective fight against terror using its rights based on international law," Omer Celik said on Twitter.

"It is our most natural right and duty to fight against terrorists who attack our borders, citizens and security forces."

—AFP ■



The Turkish military regularly carries out operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in southeast Turkey and its rear bases across the border. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Myanmar National League II to resume on 20 July

IN line with Myanmar National League and General Aung San Shield 2020 which will start next month, Myanmar National League II will also restart on 20 July, according to the statement with the Myanmar National League.

As the national league II has reached Week-8, its resumed tourney will open with a match of Silver Stars FC and Yaw Myay FC at Salin Stadium on 20 July.

Another match on the same day will exhibit with University FC vs Chinland FC match at South Dagon Stadium.

Next, another two matches of Week-8 include Kachin United FC vs Junior Lions FC at Padonmar Stadium and Mawyawadi FC vs Myawady FC at Salin Stadium.

In the Week-9 match-

es of the tourney on 24 July, Mawyawadi FC will play against Silver Stars FC at South Dagon Stadium; Chinland FC will take on Kachin United FC at Salin Stadium.

Then, remaining matches of Week-9 include Myawady FC vs University FC at Salin stadium on 25 July and Junior Lions FC vs Yaw Myay FC at Padonmar stadium on the same day.

In Week-10, Yaw Myay FC will take on Myawady FC at South Dagon stadium on 28 July and Junior Lions FC will play against Chinland FC at Salin Stadium on the same day.

Next, on 29 July, University FC will face with Myawady FC at Padonmar Stadium; Silver Stars FC will play against Kachin United FC at Salin Stadium on the same day.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Vic Hermans to serve as Myanmar futsal head coach



Dutch futsal star Vic Hermans who will handle Myanmar national futsal team. **PHOTO: AFC**

DUTCH futsal expert Vic Hermans, who is a former Netherlands futsal star and futsal coach, will take the duty of Myanmar National Futsal Team, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar Football Federation has recently appointed Vic Hermans as the new head coach

for the team and this is a big plan for team Myanmar to go the higher level of the Asian futsal.

Hermans will reform the Myanmar squad soon, according to the football authorities from the MFF for better movement of the team in the upcoming AFF Futsal Championship in post-pandemic.

The Netherlands star of the futsal, Hermans had served his coaching duties in Malta, Thailand and Indonesia in previous years.

He had begun his futsal professional life since 23-year-old and participated in various international tourneys to assist five-time champion of Netherland.

The golden memory for him is he achieved the most valuable player award of the 1st Futsal World Championship in the Netherlands in 1989.

In 1990, he retired from the player life and acted as an assistant coach in Netherland futsal team.

He had served for coach duties in several countries and he arrived in Indonesia team to serve futsal coach duty in 2017. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

‘Best in Germany’: Bayern clinch eighth straight Bundesliga title



Bayern's players celebrate after the German first division Bundesliga football match SV Werder Bremen v FC Bayern Munich on June 16, 2020 in Bremen, northern Germany. Bayern Munich were crowned German Bundesliga champions for the eighth year in a row on June 16, 2020 after their away win against Bremen. **PHOTO: (POOL/AFP/MARTIN MEISSNER)**

BERLIN — Robert Lewandowski said Bayern Munich had proved they are the best club in Germany after securing their eighth straight Bundesliga title on Tuesday as the Poland striker's first-half volley saw them claim a 1-0 win at Werder Bremen.

Bayern were confirmed German champions for the 30th time in the club's proud history to maintain their iron-grip on the Bundesliga shield in recent years.

“We have showed that we are the best team in Germany,” said Lewandowski.

Lewandowski struck two minutes before the break with a brilliant chest and low strike, but Bayern had to endure a nervy final 11 minutes after teenage left-back Alphonso Davies was sent off for a second yellow card.

At the end of a first 45 minutes dominated by Bremen's dogged defending and pouring rain, Bayern broke through when centre-back Jerome Boateng chipped over the top for Lewandowski to score.

It was the Poland striker's 31st league goal of the season, a career best, keeping him on course to be named the league's top scorer for the fifth time.

Head coach Hansi Flick landed the Bundesliga title in his first season in charge having stepped in when Niko Kovac was sacked last November.

Even the coronavirus lockdown could not stop Bayern's momentum, with the champions winning eight consecutive games in all competitions since the resumption of German football last month.—AFP ■

UEFA opts to keep 12-city format for delayed Euro 2020

PARIS (France)—UEFA announced on Wednesday that it was planning to keep the same pan-continental format for the postponed Euro 2020 after president Aleksander Ceferin recently hinted that the number of host cities could be reduced.

“The 12 original host cities

have been confirmed as venues for the final tournament in the summer of 2021,” UEFA said in a statement. Euro 2020, as it is still called even though it will be played in 2021, was meant to be in full swing by now, but postponing the tournament by 12 months was one of the first

big decisions UEFA took as the coronavirus crisis intensified.

“UEFA took a bold decision when it decided to postpone Euro 2020,” UEFA said.

“But in doing so, we created the space which has allowed domestic club competitions across the continent to resume,

where possible, and play to a conclusion.”

UEFA had broken with the tradition of naming one, or two countries, as tournament hosts for this edition, instead selecting 12 cities, from as far apart as Baku and Dublin. The unwieldy format allowed the

governing body of European football to spread the prestige of hosting matches across the continent.

In an interview with beIN Sports, Ceferin recently admitted to having “some issues” with three unnamed cities. —AFP ■