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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 7 July 2020

We all need to continue our cooperative efforts to show that we are stronger than COVID and that we are endowed with superior strength to survive: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote that after half a year of the COVID period, everyone at home and abroad should continue their cooperative efforts to show that we are stronger than COVID and that we are endowed with superior strength to survive on her Facebook page yesterday. This was what she wrote:

According to the latest data received since yesterday, there are (24,304) persons still under quarantine; all over the country there are (6,195) quarantine centres; those who are coming back from abroad: Kachin, Kayah, Taninthayi, Shan, Yangon airport, still continue to make up a total of over (1,000) per day.

We understand that those who are living abroad wish to return quickly; however, if we permitted them to return “en masse” without proper arrangements, we would not be able to provide them with the necessary health care. Because infected persons are

“In the interest of everyone, we have restricted the number of flights coming into the country. Those citizens who are waiting to return please be patient.

included among the returnees, we not only have to make arrangements for monitoring and inspection but

also have to consider providing treatment if needed. As more persons return home, not only do we have to consider the fact that there might not be enough quarantine centres, we also have to make preparations to ensure that we have sufficient hospitals, medicines, medical staff and healthcare workers.

In the interest of everyone, we have restricted the number of flights coming into the country. Those citizens who are waiting to return please be patient. Don't think that the rules are too restrictive. In some countries, they still have infected persons to the tune of 10,000 per day.

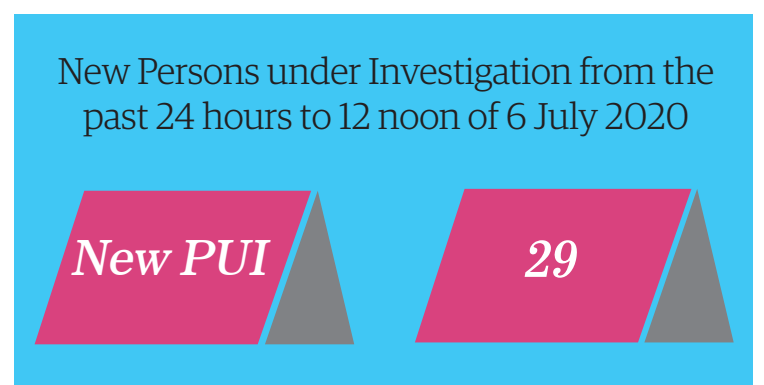
We have passed half a year of the COVID period. Everyone at home and abroad should continue their cooperative efforts to show that we are stronger than COVID and that we are endowed with superior strength to survive. ■

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 316 after three new cases reported on 6 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 316 after three new imported cases from UAE were reported on 6 July, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the 316 confirmed cases, six died, 245 have recovered and 228 have been discharged from hospital.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 6 July 2020



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"People are the key"

Union Supreme Court hears general civil appeals

THE Supreme Court of the Union heard five general civil appeal cases (writs) at 9:30 pm yesterday.

Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Myint Aung and U Myo Tint led the hearings at courtroom No.1. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar, Japan sign exchange of agreement on Human Resource Development Scholarship



Myanmar and Japan sign scholarship programme for post-graduate degrees on 6 July. PHOTO: MNA

EXCHANGE of agreement regarding the provision of Human Resource Development Scholarship by the Government of Japan to the Government of Myanmar was signed by U Bharat Singh, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Mr Maruyama Ichiro, Am-

bassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The assistance of 6.27 billion Japanese Yen is earmarked for human resource development in the education sector and will provide scholarships for post-graduate studies, 44 Master degree

students and 4 Ph.D students, in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Human Resource Development Scholarship programme under Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) has been in operation in Myanmar since 2001. A total of 545 Fellows have benefited from the programme. —MNA ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification (124/2020)

2nd Waning of First Waso, 1382 ME
(6th July 2020)

Public Announcement for dissolution of political party

1. The Union Election Commission permitted the 88 Generation Brotherhood Party to register as a political party with Registration No. 127 of Notification (74/2020) on 24-3-2020.
2. The 88 Generation Brotherhood Party was unable to legally organize the required number of party members in the allotted period of time and thus failed to meet provisions in Section 12, Sub-section (a-vii) of the Political Parties Registration Law.
The Union Election Commission, in its plenary meeting (20/2020) held on 2-7-2020, made the decision to terminate the registration of the party as a political party and also dissolve it, in line with Section 12-(b) of the Political Parties Registration Law.
3. It is hereby announced that the 88 Generation Brotherhood Party has been terminated and the party has been dissolved as of 6 July, 2020.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman

Union Election Commission

Tatmadaw takes action against officials responsible for deadly landslide in Phakant

THE Tatmadaw has filed charges against officials responsible for the security measures of mining sites near Wheykha Village, Phakant Township, where landslide occurred on 2 July, according to a press release of the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

The press release also said authorities are continuing the search for people missing in the accident that left 172 workers

dead and 54 injured.

The Tatmadaw has already recalled a commander tasked with security issue and the Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Kachin State to their military duties since 3 July.

The Tatmadaw is pursuing all necessary course of action and working in line with regulations to replace the vacant minister position. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

Trade Mark Ads

Call

Thin Thin May,

09251022355

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 316 after three new cases reported on 6 July

FROM PAGE-1

Three more cases of COVID-19 on 6 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
314	37	Male	Tamway Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kamayut Township)
315	39	Male	Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kamayut Township)
316	29	Male	Sangyaung Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kamayut Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

Come hell or high water!

We need zeal and perseverance to realize our goal. Once in a boat race in Pathein, rowers stopped paddling and lifted their oars when they achieved a slight lead over their competitors' boat. We, the Myanmar people, too often give up before reaching our goal. We can call this a Myanmar spirit under enslavement. I warn all of you to be against this spirit. Come hell or high water, you must never give up!

(Excerpt from the last address Bogyoke Aung San delivered from the City Hall in front of Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon, on 13 July 1947)



CTU Chairperson receives delegation from International IDEA Myanmar



CHAIRPERSON of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt received the delegation of International IDEA Myanmar led by the Head of Mission Mr Mark McDowell in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed cooperation between the CTU and the Inter-

national IDEA Myanmar, increasing capacities of researchers at the tribunal, plan to use electronic technology to hold online meetings, promoting electronic judicial system, possible signing of MoUs, and collaboration on conducting researches.

The meeting was also attended by members of CTU, the permanent secretary and the deputy permanent secretary, and the deputy director-general. — MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Chairperson U Myo Nyunt meets with International IDEA Myanmar delegation on 6 July: **PHOTO: MNA**

Info for those who want to work abroad

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, in accordance with the Law Relating to Overseas Employment (1999), allows licenced overseas employment agencies to send Myanmar workers to foreign countries.

Those who want to work abroad need to meet the requirements and must avoid illegal brokers. They need to directly contact licenced overseas employment agencies to work abroad legally. They can ask for relevant information at Labour Exchange Offices under the Department of Labour, and the township offices of Migrant Workers Resource Centres.

Only the overseas employment agencies that hold licence from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and their legal agents can send Myanmar workers to foreign countries. Apart from them, legal actions will be taken against anyone who recruits workers for overseas employment or anyone who operates illegal overseas employment agency.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses animal health bill



Parliamentarians hold talks on bill for the animal health and development on 6 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discussed the controversial bill for the animal health and development yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U

Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, the deputy chairperson, the joint-secretary, committee members, the chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development Committee, the chairman and secretary of the Amyotha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and

Fishery Development Committee, and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and officials from Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

1,142 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 6 July



Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand via No.2 border bridge in Myawady Town on 6 July. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG**

A total of 1,142 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No.2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 6 July.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady

District Administrative Office U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this bor-

der has been 42,230 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 690 males and 452 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Statement of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission(MNHRC) on the Multi-Party Democracy General Election

Statement No. (9/2020)

1. The Union Election Commission announced on 1 July 2020 that the Multi-Party Democracy General Election for Hluttaws will be held on 8 November 2020.
2. Paragraph (3) in Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the will of the people will be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be held by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. The right to vote freely is recognized as a basic human right of human beings and a political right as well. Accordingly, each and every one eligible to vote shall have the right to cast the vote freely in accordance with their wishes.
3. Conducting the multi-party general election is the essence of democracy. While voting is the responsibility of every citizen, it is essential that the results of the election fully meet the desires of the people. To enable the enjoyment of the right to vote freely, polling stations and related arrangements must be secure, as well as easily and conveniently accessible for all the able, the disabled and the elderly.
4. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission welcomes the Multi-Party Democracy General Election which will be held on 8 November. It is expected that the General Election would be fair, transparent, all the eligible citizens have the right to vote freely. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission shall also be observing on the ground and hopes the election results will fully meet the desires of the people.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 6 July 2020

More Myanmar citizens return home through Chinese border

MYANMAR citizens continue to return from China through the border crossing at Chinshweh Town in Laukkai Township, Kokang Self-Administered Zone.

Local authorities helped the repatriations of 37 person on 1 July and 24 persons in the following day, providing them with facemasks, arranging trans-

portation to each of their homes, and transferring them to Lashio.

These people— 32 men and 29 women—were from Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Ayeyawady Region, Shan State and Nay Pyi Taw.

From 30 April to 2 July, the local COVID-19 committee has

transferred 6,992 men and 5,638 women to the officials in respective areas. —Zin Zin (IPRD) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Local authorities conduct medical tests to the returnees from China. **PHOTO: ZIN ZIN**



Compare of foreign tourist entry from international airports and border checkpoints

Sr	International airports and border checkpoints	June 2019		June 2020		Remark
		Tourist	Business	Tourist	business	
1.	Yangon Airport/ Sea Port	36,011	14,765	1	267	
2.	Mandalay Airport	24,304	3,705	0	0	
3.	Nay Pyi Taw Airport	188	353	0	11	
4.	Myeik Airport	0	0	0	0	
5.	Tachilek	4,153	173	0	0	
6.	Myawady	948	2,638	0	0	
7.	Kawthoung	52	56	0	0	
8.	Hteekhee	22	5	0	0	
9.	Tamu	195	18	0	0	
10.	Reedhorda	6	1	0	0	
Total		65,879	21,714	1	278	

Note – Although international inbound flights are being suspended as from 30 March 2020, the foreign visitors entered Myanmar by special flights for COVID-19 measures.

Compare of foreign tourist entry from international airports, sea ports and border crossings

Sr	Month	2018-2019 financial year			2019-2020 financial year		
		Tourist	Business	Total	Tourist	Business	Total
1.	October	52,647	21,005	73,652	91,836	27,590	11,9426
2.	November	77,498	21,482	98,980	115,898	27,488	143,386
3.	December	82,474	19,538	102,012	127,950	24,967	152,917
4.	January	93,125	18,689	111,814	123,622	26,032	149,654
5.	February	102,016	24,612	126,628	46,879	21,948	68,827
6.	March	95,932	23,693	119,625	14,479	21,979	36,458
7.	April	71,148	22,848	93,996	0	61	61
8.	May	67,410	22,123	89,533	0	102	102
9.	June	65,879	21,714	87,593	1	278	279
Total		708,129	195,704	903,833	520,665	150,445	671,110

Note – Although international inbound flights are being suspended as from 30 March 2020, the foreign visitors entered Myanmar by special flights for COVID-19 measures. —MNA

India's low demand slashes black bean prices in domestic market

INDIA'S low demand on pulses and beans has brought down the black bean prices in the domestic market, said an official of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Regarding the importation of 400,000 tonnes of black beans for the next fiscal year, India has narrowed the import deadline by August-end. It has also granted import licences to some companies. However, due to the spread of coronavirus infection, India's companies reduced the import volume.

The prevailing prices of black bean stand at around K985,000 per tonne, whereas the price jumped to above K1 million per tonne in June-end. The domestic market witnessed a sharp fall of K25,000 per tonne with the drop in India's demand in the first week of July.

The traders are closely observing the market with the changes in India's policy on bean



A worker piling the bag of beans in a warehouse in Mandalay. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

importation. Now, the growers have already sold out the beans and they are in the hands of traders. It is really hard to meet the import deadline.

"The changes of policy reflect on the unguaranteed market for the domestic growers. The sudden change in policy burdens the growers, raising

confusion," said an official of the association.

The country has around 250,000 tonnes of black bean stocks. It is unlikely to export

the entire quota of 400,000 tonnes to India, he continued.

The supply chain of Myanmar's beans — the growers and traders are facing hardships due to short period of rapid change.

"The country lays down policy for its national interest. India's move is possible to protect their farmers as India's beans will be harvested in September. This is why they shrank the deadline to August-end 2020. If the yield is not good in September, they will surely make an extension for the import period. If not for poor yield, the import period will end as scheduled," the traders guessed.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black bean that India demands. Besides Myanmar, other beans such as pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas, are also grown in Australia and Africa, the association stated.

— Ko Khant
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Voluntary surrender of business licences approved for 43 petrol stations

By Nyein Nyein

THE business licences of 43 petrol stations have been invalidated as they wanted to stop running the operations, according to an announcement of Petroleum Products Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MoEE).

They are located in Nay

Pyi Taw; Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady regions; and Mon and Shan states, according to data of the department.

They submitted the business closure reports within four years (from 2017 to 2020) to revoke the licence.

They all are voluntarily willing to withdraw their business

licences, said Chairperson Dr Win Myint of Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

"Some petrol stations reported surrendering their licence as they want to close their businesses. Some stations have been suspended their licence for three months to a year as they are incompliant with the rules. Most of them are fined. The voluntary surrender of the licence means they are hard to keep running the businesses," he added.

Some of them with voluntary surrender are famous stations in Yangon Region.

At present, a total of 2,725 private fuel oil stations have been opened in the regions and states.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

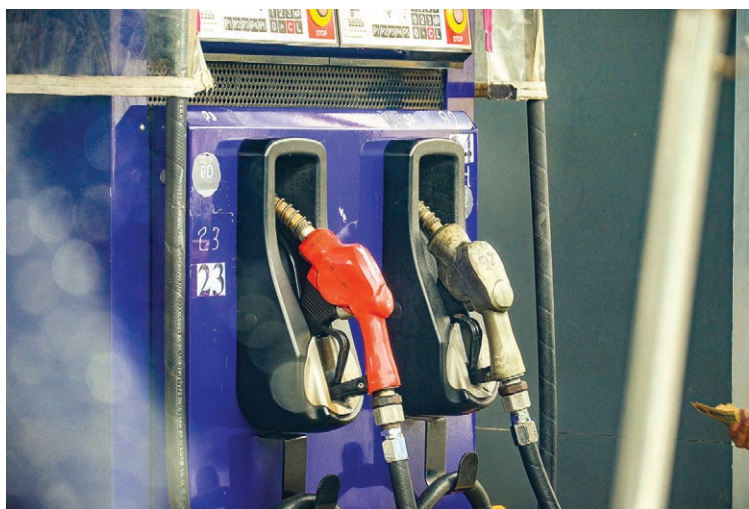


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Myanmar's external trade tops \$27 bln as of 26 June

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 26 June in the 2019-2020 financial year was registered at US\$27.7 billion, an increase of \$1.95 billion compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at \$25.78 billion, according to data released by the ministry.

Myanmar's foreign trade has shown a 10 per cent increase, year over year, under the incumbent government. Myanmar targets to reach total trade value of \$34 billion and export is estimated about \$18 billion in the current fiscal, said an official from the ministry.

The Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to boost export, enhance value-added production, reduce export barriers and provide trade financing services.

In the current fiscal, both maritime and border trade recorded an increase compared with the year-ago period, with exports estimated at over \$13 billion and imports valued at \$14.7 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from CMP (cutting, making, and packing) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

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

At present, CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid coronavirus consequences. As a result of this, manufacturing export, mainly CMP garment, showed a drop amid the pandemic shock, the businesspersons pointed out.

— Ko Htet
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

Pilgrims to Bagan-NyaungU surpass over 1,000 on weekends

BAGAN cultural heritage zone, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was eerily empty due to the tight restriction period of the pandemic and it has now received about 450 pilgrims per day on average, according to Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Earlier, the historical temples in the ancient city were packed with a large number of pilgrims and tourists throughout the year. The temples and religious buildings in Bagan-NyaungU cultural zone were closed to contain the spread of coronavirus disease. Now, the temples are reopened between 9 am and 4 pm. About 450 pilgrims come to the zone per day in the weekdays, and more than 1,200 were seen at the weekends.

Over 1,000 visitors are seen in the famous historical temples of Bagan city; Shwezigon Pagoda, Lawkananda Pagoda, Tuyintaung Pagoda, Tantkyitaung Pagoda, Htilominlo Temple, Ananda Pagoda, Bu Pagoda, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple, Sulamani Temple, Payathonezu Temple, Mahabodhi Temple, Manuha Temple, Gawdawpalin Temple, Myazedi Temple, Nan-



Number of visitors has drastically declined at ancient temples and pagodas in Bagan heritage Zone.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

paya Temple, and other famous pagodas during the weekends, according to the board.

The pilgrims are registered on the data of the pagoda trustees' board. The visitors must wear masks and wash hands, in line with health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, said U Tin Hla Oo, secretary of Trustees Board.

Earlier, during the high season from November to April, Ba-

gan is packed with local pilgrims and tourists. They used to visit Bagan to observe the temples and stupas and view the sunset. The horse-riding businesses, motorcycle and electric bike rental businesses, hotels, motels, and guesthouses were earning well in the high season, along with souvenir businesses. Those businesses created jobs for residents.

The local tourism indus-

try is battered by coronavirus pandemic and those engaged in local transport rental business (sidecar, boat, horse-riding, car, e-bike, cycle, motorcycle), hotels and guesthouses, restaurants and souvenir shops are suffering from this. The businesses relying on tourism are nearly closed amid coronavirus negative impacts.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Upgrade of Pathein jetty to complete in July-end

THE upgrade of the main jetty of Pathein town in Ayeyawady Region has finished 91 per cent and the construction is slated to complete in July-end, said U Sein Lwin, head of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR).

"The project was allocated K922.3 million from the allowed budget of Ayeyawady Region government and supplementary funding of K233 million. The project is scheduled to finish at the end of July. The jetty will stand at 480 feet, with an extension of

90 feet from the original length of 390 feet, he said.

Family Nest Co., Ltd won the tender to construct the extended Pathein Jetty. The construction started on 28 December 2019 and the work is planned to complete in July-end 2020.

Pathein Jetty is pivotal in the transportation of local goods to other regions and states. Upon the completion of the project, it will facilitate the shipment of fishery and agro products of the region. — Myint Maung

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

A line of concrete foundation is seen at Pathein jetty upgrade project i.
PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry

and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

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

This is the time we should be on our guard

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 don't turn out to be for nothing.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 17 June 2020)



Japanese man donates 100,000 yen for Myanmar citizens

A Japanese man donated 100,000 yen for Myanmar citizens stranded in his country amid the outbreak of COVID-19.

Mr Kamiura Naoki from Toride city of Ibaraki prefecture presented the cash to Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Myint Thu on 3 July.

The Japanese well-wisher conducted workplace safety trainings at the Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa for six years and has friendly relationship with the people from host country.—Aung Thura

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Mr Kamiura Naoki presents 100,000 yen at Myanmar Embassy in Japan. PHOTO: MNA

Fossil thought to be animal head discovered in Yenangyaung

A goatherd discovered a fossil thought to be an animal head near an oilfield in northwest of Twingone Ward in Yenangyaung Township, Magway Region.

The local ward administrator, U Yan Khaing, said on 6 July that the goatherd Ko Maung Maung Han discovered the fossil while he was tending goats about

one and half months ago.

The ward administrator and members of Yenangyaung Chitthu Group visited the goatherd to see the fossil, and they thought

it might be a remain of an animal head. Then they informed the Township Administrator and relevant officials about the fossil.

Magway Region Archaeology Department Deputy Director U Myint Thein, Yenangyaung Township Administrator U Man Ko Haw, relevant officials, and lecturers from Geology Department of the Yenangyaung Degree College inspected the fossil at around 2 pm on 6 July.

Samples of the fossil will be sent to the Magway Geology Department for examination, and authorities and experts will dig for more fossils.—Ko Soe Gyi

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Excavation of the fossil near an oilfield in Yenangyaung Township. PHOTO: KO SOE GYI



Local authorities visit the place where animal head-like fossil was found. PHOTO: KO SOE GYI

Fish conservation should follow through with education, punishments, along with livelihood programmes for violators

WHILE the highest number of the endangered Ayeyawady dolphins was found this year since 2010, the killing of five dolphins in six months has blown the lid off a big challenge from the illegal battery-shock fishing and pollution in the river.

The survey carried out this year by the Wildlife Conservation Society of Myanmar (WCS) found 79 dolphins in the river.

Though the conservation of the Ayeyawady dolphins, which are facing the risk of extinction, is considered on the right path, the species are often prey to electrofishing, which has been banned nationwide.

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

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

From 2017 to 2020 to date, about 20 fishing boats were seized and three fishermen were arrested for the use of electric shocks for fishing.

Despite education programmes and penalties for violators, fishermen still use the battery shock fishing and toxic chemicals not only in the Ayeyawady River but also in other rivers nationwide.

The situation has shown that it would be difficult for the villagers who are relying on fishing for their livelihood to avoid illegal or legal fishing if they could not get income from other sources.

Just education is not enough to fight illegal fishing. Violators would be thinking about their jobs and livelihoods while the people, authorities and conservationists are deeply concerned about saving the endangered species and the sustainability of fishing stocks in rivers and creeks.

In a bid to prevent fish resources from extinction in the country, the district and township fisheries departments should draw up projects to eliminate illegal fishing methods along with livelihood programmes for those who are relying on fishing for income.

Before alarm bells ring, the authorities should step up efforts to conserve not only the endangered Ayeyawady dolphins but also the country's fish resource.

If the numbers of fish decline, it will threaten the dolphins too.

AIDS fight failures show need for 'fair' COVID-19 response: UN

MILLIONS have died needlessly from AIDS-related causes due to lack of access to existing therapies, the UNAIDS chief said, calling for a fairer approach to tackling the coronavirus pandemic.

Winnie Byanyima recalls with anguish how two decades ago in her hometown in Uganda, she and others struggled to scrape together funds to help a close friend, who was suffering from HIV, to obtain the antiretroviral treatments she needed.

"At that time it was about \$800 a month... Her salary was less than \$100 a month," Byanyima told AFP in an interview, describing how her friend Jane would sometimes pull together enough for one month of treatment, only to be forced to skip the next one.

"She died six months before the price came down from \$10,000 a year to \$100 a year."

Byanyima, 61, took the reins nearly a year ago at UNAIDS, the Geneva-based Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS.

Speaking as her organization launched its annual report, Byanyima hailed the "tremendous progress" in the fight against HIV/AIDS since the pandemic began four decades ago, including more than halving annual deaths from the peak of 1.7 million in 2004 to 690,000 last year.

But she decried that since the beginning, the development of treatments and the ongoing search for a vaccine had largely been left to the private sector.

She called for a dramatic shift in tactics as the world faces the towering challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

'People's vaccine'

She urged countries to "learn from the bad experience from

AIDS, when medicines were found, but it took 10 years before people in our region in Africa could benefit."

"If you count in terms of 10 years how many lives were lost, we're talking of millions."

To avoid a similar scenario with the novel coronavirus, UNAIDS has been among the most vocal proponents for the development of a "people's vaccine", and for equitable and fair access to any treatments found.

"This time, let us have a common pool," Byanyima said.

The World Health Organization launched a global initiative in April to speed up the development and production of COVID-19 tests, vaccines and treatments, and to ensure fair access.

Byanyima stressed the need to make sure that every region and every country be given access to buy vaccines and treatments at an affordable price and that they "distribute to people for free",

serving health workers and the most vulnerable people first.

"It can't be that (the) wealthy come and book out supplies and everybody else dies waiting while those who are not at risk but happen to be rich are vaccinated," she said.

She condemned reports that the United States and some European countries were booking out supplies of one of the most advanced candidate vaccines, being developed by Astra Zeneca and Oxford University.

Washington has also announced that it has bought up more than 90 percent of the global stock of the anti-viral drug remdesivir to treat COVID-19.

"This is not fair. This virus is hitting everybody," Byanyima said. "We need global solutions... Not a me-first solution."

'Off track'

The rush to find vaccines and

treatments against COVID-19, in which governments are pumping billions of dollars into research projects, exposes the "failure" of the old model of letting pharmaceutical companies' drive for profits lead the way on medical research and development, Byanyima said.

And changing the model to address the coronavirus crisis could have far-reaching benefits, including perhaps speeding up a search for an HIV vaccine, she said.

"If we can align the world behind a new model for developing and distributing health technologies, definitely this will impact solutions for HIV as well as for others," she said.

Byanyima pointed to a large number of diseases affecting poor countries that have no treatments because companies have determined that investing in their development would not pay off financially.

"Lives have to come before profits," she said.

The coronavirus pandemic, meanwhile, risks significantly worsening the global HIV/AIDS situation.

Byanyima warned that the world was "already off track" and would miss the target of bringing AIDS-related deaths below 500,000 by this year, while more than 12.5 million of the 38 million people living with HIV are still not receiving treatment.

"Coronavirus is threatening to blow us even more off track," she said, pointing to her agency's warning that disruption of antiretroviral therapy could lead to more than 500,000 extra deaths in Africa alone.

And gains against mother-to-child transmission could be set back 10 years. This is "totally unacceptable," she said.— AFP

Climate economics Nobel may do more harm than good

THERE are many reasons humanity has failed to rein in climate change despite decades of dire warnings.

The inertia of an energy system overwhelmingly powered by oil, gas and coal; half-a-trillion dollars in fossil fuel subsidies every year; leaders too corrupt or feckless to push for systemic change; rich folk reluctant to consume differently, and poor folk eager to consume more — all are huge obstacles to slowing, much less stopping, the global warming juggernaut.

Leading scientists and economists, however, say there is another impediment to climate action that merits closer scrutiny: the profoundly influential work of 2018 Nobel economics laureate William J. Nordhaus.

Nearly half-a-century ago, while other economists obsessed over resource scarcity, Nordhaus understood that environmental degradation was probably a greater long-term threat to economic growth. He predicted with uncanny accuracy the danger-zone levels of CO2 pollution we see today.

"I think of climate change as a menace to our planet and to our future," Nordhaus, an economics professor at Yale since 1974,



The file photo taken on 15 January 2019 shows pine trunks piled near Brocas, in the Landes area, southwestern France, 10 years after Klaus storm devastated the forest. Climate change, with drier summers, endanger the young pine trees and the renewal of the forest, a highly significant economic product for the region, AFP reports on 2 June 2020. PHOTO: AFP

said in collecting his profession's most coveted prize.

His ground-breaking 1991 study weighing the costs and benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions evolved into the standard toolbox for calculating the economic damages — now and in the future — of climate

change. It also established carbon taxes as a key policy lever for promoting green growth.

By the time, however, Nordhaus gave his acceptance speech in Stockholm, his models — out of sync with both the galloping pace of global warming and new ap-

proaches in the field of economics — were probably doing more harm than good, say experts.

Exhibit A is Nordhaus' conclusion that the cost — measured in lost economic growth — of capping global warming under three degrees Celsius overwhelms the benefits of avoided impacts.

"It is simply not aligned with climate science," said Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. "It is an unequivocal finding in the natural sciences that a 3C warming is a disastrous outcome for humanity," Rockstrom told AFP.

If climate scientists have long raised red flags about Nordhaus' work, criticism among economists — with a few exceptions, such as the late Martin Weitzman of Harvard, another environmental economist — has been more recent.

But no less categorical.

Nordhaus' model — known as DICE, or Dynamic Integrated Model of Climate and the Economy — "is so badly flawed that it shouldn't be taken seriously," Columbia University professor Joseph Stiglitz, who won an economics Nobel of his own in 2001, told AFP.

"In fact, it's dangerous because we don't have another planet we can go to if we mess this up. The message he's been conveying is foolhardy."

For Gernot Wagner, an economist at New York University who has spent much of the last decade forging an alternative

approach to the economics of climate change, it is a matter of timing.

"If he had won the Nobel Prize 20 years ago, it would have helped climate policy," Wagner told AFP, adding that Nordhaus "absolutely" deserved the award.

"But the fact that he won it two years ago is, in many ways, a step back."

Social cost of carbon

Experts interviewed by AFP outlined two core criticisms of Nordhaus' work, one ethical and the other from the perspective of Earth System scientists such as Rockstrom.

Nordhaus declined to "respond individually" to emailed questions detailing these critiques, which he said were "generally half-right".

"My main point is that — outside of the European Union — we have not taken even small steps to slow climate change in this century," he told AFP.

"We need national mechanisms (such as carbon taxes and support for technologies), and international cooperation (such as a carbon compact). That is where my efforts today are directed."

SEE PAGE-10

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release No 26/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 4 July.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 4 July.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 8 July issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 6th July, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 7th July, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Southern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, (Northern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th July, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th July, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Coronavirus: latest global developments

PARIS (France) — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

531,789 dead

The pandemic has killed at least 531,789 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year, according to an AFP tally at 1900 GMT on Sunday based on official sources.

More than 11 million people have been infected in 196 countries and territories.

The United States is the hardest-hit country

with 129,718 deaths. It is followed by Brazil with 64,265, Britain with 44,220, Italy with 34,861 and Mexico with 30,366 fatalities.

Iran toll record

Iranian health authorities announce 163 new deaths, the country's highest official one-day toll since the outbreak began in the country in February.

Morocco surge

Morocco reports 698 additional infections, its highest one-day increase, with numerous cases dis-

covered in a fish canning factory in the southern port city of Safi, which is quarantined overnight and its some 300,000 inhabitants are placed under total lockdown.

South Africa's military response -

Dozens of military medics are deployed to help combat the pandemic in South Africa's third most affected province, where there has been a surge in infections.

The deployment to East Cape province comes a day after the



A worker walks amidst cardboard beds inside the campus hall of spiritual organization Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB) which has been converted into a 10,000 beds COVID-19 coronavirus care centre in New Delhi on 6 July 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

country recorded more than 10,800 new cases, its biggest single-day jump.

Sharp rise in India

India adds a record

number of cases in a day, closing in on Russia as the world's third-most infected nation.

The health ministry reports just under 25,000

cases and 613 deaths in 24 hours -- the biggest daily spike since the first case was detected in the country late January.

—AFP ■

Climate economics Nobel may do more harm than good

FROM PAGE-9

If disagreements over Nordhaus' signature accomplishments were no more than ivory tower squabbles, it wouldn't matter if his once pioneering ideas have slipped behind the curve.

The discussion, however, is anything but academic. Indeed, the stakes — whether humanity thrives or merely survives — could hardly be higher.

“What makes his contributions all the more notable is the deep influence they have had on policy — something that cannot be said for every Nobel laureate,” Yale economist Kenneth Gillingham, a Nordhaus co-author, said approvingly.

Nowhere is that influence more in evidence than with something called the “social cost of carbon”, which quantifies the damages caused by global warming, and points to the policy actions — namely, a price on carbon — needed to curb emissions.

“If there's a holy grail of climate economic analysis — a single number that attempts to summarise the immense complexities of climate change — it's the ‘social cost of carbon’,” said Wagner.

Nordhaus was the first economist to apply a cost-benefit analysis to global warming by, in his words, “weighing the cost of reducing emissions and slowing climate change, on the

one hand, with the reduction in damages, on the other.”

How much, in other words, are we willing to pay today to avoid climate impacts 50, 100 or 200 years from now?

To make that calculation, Nordhaus needed to put a price on something that had never been given a dollar value: a tonne of CO2 pollution.

‘Discounting’ future generations

For Nordhaus, that magic number is about \$40 a tonne, and should rise gradually over time as the global economy transitions from brown to green.

“It was crucial in determining the US social cost of carbon under Obama. This in turn was used, at least indirectly, as a benchmark for the US commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement and the Clean Power Plan,” said Wagner.

But while Nordhaus is celebrated, even by his critics, for pioneering the concept, the way he applied it has been found wanting.

Determining the price of carbon pollution requires estimating how much damage climate change will do in the future, and to do that economists apply something called a discount rate to the impact of, say, sea level rise or more frequent heat waves 50 or 100 years from now.

The reasoning is

straight-forward: assuming the global economy continues to grow, societies will be richer in the future and — with better technology and more money — can cope more easily with those impacts than today.

Economists using this classic approach commonly discount future damages by four or five percent, compounded annually.

But such a high rate, scientists and some economists say, vastly downplays the risk to future generations.

Let's say climate damages in 2120 are estimated at \$2 trillion, and the annual investment needed today to avoid them is about one percent — \$860 billion — of global GDP, as proposed by British economist Nicholas Stern in his landmark 2006 Stern Review.

If those future impacts are discounted at four to five percent per year, their “value” a century from now drops to \$15-\$39 billion — 20-30 times less than the cost of avoiding them.

But if those same impacts are discounted at 0.5 percent instead, as recommended by Stern and others, the value of those damages a century from now exceed \$1 trillion, making one percent of GDP a worthwhile investment.

Underestimating the costs of climate change means that “world leaders understand neither the magnitude of the risks

to lives and livelihood, nor the urgency of action,” Stern commented shortly after the 2018 Nobel were awarded.

Ammunition for sceptics -

For Michael Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University, Nordhaus' “heavy social discounting inappropriately down-weights devastating impacts that fall disproportionately on future generations, arguably violating basic ethical considerations”.

Nordhaus' calculus also challenges a global political consensus that is already fraying at the edges.

The 2015 Paris climate treaty calls for holding the rise in temperature to “well below” 2C compared to preindustrial levels, and the UN's climate science panel (IPCC) subsequently concluded in a landmark report — unveiled, ironically, on the same day that Nordhaus was awarded his Nobel — that 1.5 C is a far safer guardrail.

His ideas “provide ammunition not only to climate sceptics, but to major actors that feel more comfortable with the status quo,” said Rockstrom.

“It allows them to say, ‘If the optimal temperature for the economy is 3C, well then we can continue burning fossil fuels over the next century without any significant problems’,” he added.

“I hear this line of argument when confronted with the executive leadership at Shell, BP, ExxonMobil, the car industry and energy utilities.”

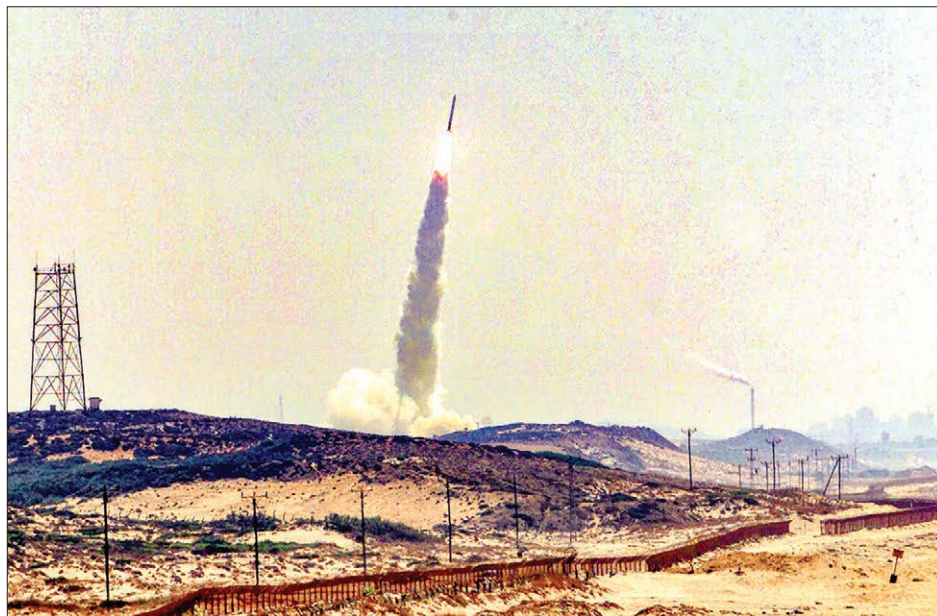
Ultimately, climate economics is all about measuring risk and uncertainty, and this is where Nordhaus' ideas come in for a drubbing from natural scientists and some economists, who confront the same challenge.

In the 30 years since Nordhaus' foundational work, tens of thousands of studies — summarised periodically by the UN's climate science panel, the IPCC — have shown that global warming is advancing more quickly than once thought.

They have also revealed multiple thresholds in the Earth climate system that, once crossed, would see Nature itself accelerating global warming, either by adding more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere (permafrost melting, forest fires) or absorbing more of the Sun's radiative force (melting of the mirror-like Arctic ice cap).

Nordhaus' models — which presume that changes will be gradual and linear — fail to recognise the potential and danger of these “tipping points”, scientists say. Nor do they adequately allow for low probability impacts that may have catastrophic costs.





File photo taken on 6 September 2004 shows a rocket carrying Israel's new-generation spy satellite Ofek 6 takes off from Palmahim, south of Tel Aviv. **PHOTO: AFP**

Israel launches new spy satellite

JERUSALEM—Israel launched a new reconnaissance satellite early Monday, the defence ministry said, its latest asset to be deployed against arch-enemy Iran.

“The Israel Ministry of Defence and Israel Aerospace Industries have successfully launched the ‘Ofek 16’ reconnaissance satellite” at 4:00 am local time (0100 GMT), the ministry said in a statement.

The “electro-optical reconnaissance satellite

with advanced capabilities... will undergo a series of tests,” it added.

Minister of Defence and Alternate Prime Minister Benny Gantz hailed the development.

“The successful launch of the ‘Ofek 16’ satellite overnight is yet another extraordinary achievement” for Israel’s defence sector, he said.

“Technological superiority and intelligence capabilities are essential to the security of the State

of Israel... We will continue to strengthen and maintain Israel’s capabilities on every front, in every place.”

Neither statement gave further details on the satellite’s mission, but Israeli public radio said it would be used to monitor Iran’s nuclear activities.

Israel has long sworn to prevent its nemesis from obtaining atomic weapons.

The Islamic republic denies its nuclear programme has any military dimension.—AFP ■

Chinese troops seen withdrawing from flashpoint Himalayan valley: Indian army

NEW DELHI (India) — Chinese troops have started removing tents and other structures from a contested Himalayan valley where they fought a deadly battle with Indian soldiers last month, Indian army sources said Monday.

Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in brutal hand-to-hand fighting on June 15 in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh, sending tensions soaring between the nuclear-armed neighbours. China has acknowledged it suffered casualties but not given figures.

The two sides have since held military and diplomatic talks and said they want a negotiated settlement.—AFP ■

Southwestern Japan hit by more heavy rain as death toll rises to 44

KUMAMOTO (Japan) — More torrential rain struck Japan’s southwestern region of Kyushu on Monday, causing flooding and mudslides in areas other than Kumamoto Prefecture, where at least 44 people have been confirmed dead, with rescuers racing against the clock to save others still missing following the weekend’s deluge.

The weather agency issued its highest-level warning on heavy rain for parts of Fukuoka, Nagasaki and Saga prefectures, urging people to take all possible measures to protect their lives.

It also said residents in those areas should be on high alert through Tuesday morning. As of 6 pm, more than 330,000 people from about 142,500 households were ordered to evacuate, according to a Kyodo News survey based

on information provided by local authorities.

As for Kumamoto, Miyazaki and Kagoshima prefectures, about 254,000 residents were instructed to evacuate as of early Monday afternoon.

Of the 44 fatalities in flood-ravaged Kumamoto, 14 were from the Senjuen nursing home near the Kuma River, which overran its banks at 11 locations and broke one levee, according to the prefectural government.

Ten people remain missing, and one is feared dead, it added. About 6,100 homes along the river were submerged, and roughly 1,060 hectares of land were flooded, the infrastructure ministry said, adding that 11 bridges were destroyed.

A number of communities are isolated due to severed roads, among other damage, with more

than 80 schools being closed in Kumamoto Prefecture.

Kyushu Electric Power Co. said about 4,000 homes in the prefecture continued to be without electricity as of Monday afternoon.

Some 1,500 people had taken shelter at 86 evacuation centers across the prefecture as of Sunday afternoon as the downpour caused mudslides and floods, severing roads and leaving many houses without water or power.

“The water level of rivers suddenly rose in the Saturday rain. I am worried because I don’t know how the rain is today,” said Shoko Matsunaga, 49, who has been staying at an evacuation center in Ashikita since Sunday evening with her 2-year-old grandchild.—Kyodo News ■



People rest at a temporary evacuation centre in the flood-ravaged city of Hitoyoshi in Kumamoto Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on July 6, 2020, after deadly torrential rain. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

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Stock markets rally on economy recovery hopes

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Stock markets rallied Monday, with further signs of economic recovery resonating with investors more than a surge in coronavirus infections worldwide.

The easing of lockdowns is providing hope the global economy will bounce back from an expected recession this year, with England's pubs reopening at the weekend and tourist attractions around Europe now either open or planning to.

Better-than-forecast data on US jobs creation and factory activity have also provided a boost to confidence, as have hopes for a vaccine, which observers say is key to kickstarting any recovery.

"European markets have taken their lead from China, with the world's second largest

economy seeing a huge uptick" with its main stocks index closing up nearly six per cent, noted Joshua Mahony, senior market analyst at IG trading group.

Traders have piled back into stocks in a major way in recent months — with the help of vast government and central bank support — and analysts have suggested the gains are also being helped by a fear of missing out on the rally.

"The global economic data and positive coverage on potential COVID-19 vaccines and treatments represent a... whirligig of positive news that is overwhelming gnarly headline flows around the daily virus case counts in the US," said AxiCorp's Stephen Innes.

Shanghai led the gains, soaring to its highest level in more than two



File photo taken on 10 December 2018 shows a trader walks past a display showing financial data at the offices of CMC Markets in the City of London. PHOTO: AFP

years, while Hong Kong finished up 3.8 per cent at levels not seen since early March.

But there remains trepidation on trading floors as new infections

spike around the world.

Some US states are reporting record daily increases, with a number of officials considering reimposing lockdown measures, while Brazil

and India are also seeing worryingly large rises.

And Australia said it would effectively seal off the state of Victoria from the rest of the country as authorities struggle to

control a surge in cases.

For the first time since the global pandemic began, the border between Australia's two most populous states -- Victoria and New South Wales — will be closed, beginning midnight Tuesday, officials from both states said.

The outbreak sent Sydney falling 0.7 per cent.

"For now the positive data surprises and huge fiscal and monetary stimulus are the overwhelming forces," National Australia Bank's Rodrigo Catril said in a note.

"But the increase in COVID-19 infections, not just in the US, means that they need to be closely monitored — the introduction of more severe containment measures has the potential to derail the positive vibes in markets." —AFP ■

Argentina to renew offer to creditors, extends negotiation: president

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) — Argentina will make creditors an improved offer and extend negotiations on restructuring \$66 billion in debt through the end of August, President Alberto Fernandez said Sunday.

"The new offer will be made known today. It will be open until the end of August. It is an enormous effort we are making. It's the maximum effort we can make," Fernandez told radio Milenium.

The deadline for concluding the negotiations with bondholders had been set for July 24, but will now be pushed back to August 28 in an effort to reach an agreement to restructure \$66 billion in bonds issued under foreign law.

The bonds repre-

sent roughly a fifth of the country's \$324 billion debt, which amounts to around 90 per cent of its GDP.

The government's latest offer should be published in its official bulletin and then presented to the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York.

A government source told AFP the new proposal would be for "close to \$53" for every \$100, compared to the original offer of \$39 per \$100, which was rejected by a majority of the bondholders.

Fernandez said the conversations with creditors "are going well" and expressed hope "they end well."

Argentina has yet to reach an understanding with creditors over interest rate reductions or grace periods.

In recession since 2018, the Argentine economy has been further punished by the coronavirus pandemic. The International Monetary Fund estimates the economy will contract by 9.9 per cent this year.

With the backing of the IMF, Fernandez has insisted that any deal with creditors be sustainable so that the country can meet its obligations over the long term.

"If this is analyzed rationally, what we are asking is not that (the creditors) lose, but that they stop earning what they earned in excess," Fernandez said, accusing his predecessor Mauricio Macri's government of agreeing to terms not seen anywhere else. —AFP ■



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(မင်းထွဋ်)
ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်

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Oscar-winning composer Ennio Morricone dead at 91



Composer Ennio Morricone poses with the Oscar for Best Original Score, "The Hateful Eight," in the press room during the 88th Oscars in Hollywood on 28 February 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

ROME (Italy) — Ennio Morricone, one of the world's best-known and most prolific film composers, died in Rome on Monday at the age of 91.

Tributes poured in for the man who composed the music for about 500 films, including his old childhood friend Sergio Leone's 1966 spaghetti western "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and Quentin Tarantino's "The Hateful Eight" for which he finally

won an Oscar in 2016.

Morricone died in hospital where he was being treated for a fractured femur following a fall, according to a statement from lawyer and family friend Giorgio Assuma.

Morricone "passed away in the early hours of July 6 with the comfort of his faith", the statement said.

He remained "fully lucid and with great dignity right until the

end," it added.

'He made us dream'

Tributes began pouring in for the maestro soon after his death was announced.

"We will remember forever and with infinite gratitude the artistic genius of maestro Ennio Morricone," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said.

"He made us dream, he moved us and made us think, writing unforgettable notes that will remain forever in the history of music and cinema," he said on Twitter.

Italian film actress Monica Bellucci said of Morricone that "there are people who have the ability to make the world better because they know how to create beauty," while Gilles Jacob, the former head of the Cannes film festival, described him as the "emperor" of film music.

Famed Italian conductor Riccardo Muti called Morricone "a master for whom I nurtured friendship and admiration," describing him as an "extraordinary musician" who could jump with ease from film scores to classical music. — AFP ■

UK flights to Greece resume July 15

ATHENS (Greece) — Direct flights from Britain will resume on July 15, the Greek government said Monday in a bid to reopen the country to one of its leading sources of tourism income.

"In cooperation with the British government and following expert recommendations... direct flights from the UK to all Greek airports will resume from July 15," government spokesman Stelios Petsas told report-

ers. Some 3.5 million travellers from Britain visited Greece in 2019.

In line with EU recommendations, Greece is currently accepting direct flights from 14 non-EU countries -- including Australia, Canada, Japan and Uruguay.

But Britain, in addition to the US, Russia, Turkey and Sweden, have so far not been deemed safe enough for visitors to be allowed back. — AFP ■

Kenya to reopen to international flights

NAIROBI (Kenya) — Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Monday announced a "phased reopening" of the country, with the resumption of international flights from August 1 as well as the lifting of internal travel restrictions.

The move comes as pressure mounts to kickstart the country's ailing economy after nearly four months of coronavirus restrictions that have devastated key industries such

as tourism. Kenyatta said in a televised address that "international air travel into and out of the territory of Kenya shall resume effective 1 August 2020."

He also announced the lifting of a ban on movement in and out of the capital Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa and northeastern Mandera.

However, a curfew from 9 pm to 4 am will remain in place for another 30 days, effective immediately. — AFP ■

France's Louvre reopens after 16-week virus shutdown

PARIS (France) — The world's most visited museum, the Louvre in Paris, reopened Monday after nearly four months of coronavirus closure, with a restricted number of visitors enjoying a rare chance to view the "Mona Lisa" without the usual throngs.

Several dozen visitors queued outside the vast former palace of France's kings, eagerly awaiting the opening at 9:00 am (0700 GMT) as the famed museum hopes to start recuperating losses estimated at more than 40 million euros (\$45 million) due to the lockdown.

The museum's most popular draws, including Leonardo's Mona Lisa, the Venus de Milo, and the Louvre's vast antiquities collection will be accessible.

But galleries in which social distancing is more difficult, about a third of the total, will remain off-limits and visitor numbers were capped at 500 per half hour in a bid to reduce contact between people and lower coronavirus transmission risk.

Face masks are compulsory

and no snacks or cloakrooms were available.

Tickets must be bought beforehand online, and were sold out for the first day of reopening after the Louvre's longest closure since World War II.

"Some 7,000 people have reserved tickets, normally we host about 30,000 people" per day, said museum director Jean-Luc Martinez, who expects tough months and years ahead.

The museum will not get any anywhere near the 9.6 million visitors it hosted last year -- down from a record 10 million in 2018. Nearly three-quarters of its visitors in a normal year are from abroad.

Solidarity

For Nicole Lamy, a 21-year-old visiting from Brussels, the limit on ticket sales was "an opportunity to see the Mona Lisa up close and not in a crowd. It's a bit selfish but I think I'm lucky with my first visit to the Louvre."

Also in the queue was Arzel Bertrand from Maisons-Alfort



People arrive at the Louvre pyramid designed by Chinese architect Ieoh Ming Pei, the entrance to the Louvre Museum in Paris, on 6 July 2020, on the museum's reopening day. **PHOTO: AFP**

southeast of Paris, who said he and his friends also came early seeking a more solitary museum experience.

"We thought it was the first day of the reopening, that there might be fewer people than usu-

al, and we wanted to walk around the Louvre without anyone."

But they also came in a show of cultural solidarity.

"It is very important that cultural establishments can welcome the public because we

need it, and they need the public, too, to survive. So we're here for that, too," said Bertrand.

Several measures were put in place to allow ticket holders to keep a safe distance from one another. — AFP ■

China warns Canada of ‘consequences’ over Hong Kong interference

BEIJING (China) — China warned Canada on Monday that it would retaliate over Ottawa’s response to a new national security law in Hong Kong, threatening to sink their troubled diplomatic relations to new lows.

Canada last week suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong and halted exports of sensitive military gear to the financial hub as Western nations voiced concern about the legislation’s

impact on the city’s special rights.

“China strongly condemns this and reserves the right to make further response. All consequences arising therefrom will be borne by Canada,” foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at a regular briefing.

“Any attempt to put pressure on China will never succeed,” Zhao said.

“China urges Canada to immediately correct its mistakes

and stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs and China’s internal affairs in any way, so as to avoid further damage to China-Canada relations.”

Relations between Beijing and Ottawa have deteriorated since Canadian authorities arrested top Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou in December 2018, and China later detained two Canadians, including a former diplomat.—AFP ■



The file photo taken on 5 December 2017 shows Chinese and Canadian flags taken prior to a meeting with China’s President Xi Jinping and Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. PHOTO: AFP

India becomes third hardest-hit country for virus cases

NEW DELHI (India) — India announced Monday that it has nearly 700,000 coronavirus cases, taking it past Russia to become the third-hardest-hit nation in the global pandemic.

The health ministry said 697,358 cases had now been recorded, a rise of 24,000 in 24 hours, while Russia has just over 681,000.

The United States and Brazil have the highest numbers of cases but India’s tally is not expected to peak for several

more weeks and experts predict the one million figure will be passed this month.

India has registered 19,693 deaths from the virus, a much lower number than many other badly hit countries.

India’s major cities have been worst hit by the pandemic. New Delhi and Mumbai each have about 100,000 cases, with 3,000 dead in the capital and nearly 5,000 in Mumbai.

New Delhi has opened a new 10,000-bed temporary vi-

rus hospital while other cities are tightening restrictions on movement to head off a new surge in cases.

The Kerala state capital, Thiruvananthapuram imposed a new lockdown from Monday with public transport shut and only pharmacies allowed to open. The clampdown came after hundreds of new cases were reported across the state, which had been praised for its action to curtail the pandemic.—AFP ■

S. Korea court rejects child porn site operator’s US extradition

SEOUL (South Korea) — A South Korean court on Monday rejected an extradition request by the United States for a man convicted of running one of the world’s biggest child pornography websites.

Son Jong-woo, the operator of the South Korea-based dark web child porn site “Welcome to Video”, sold the content for digital cash around the world.

He was convicted of violating South Korean child protection laws and completed an 18-month sentence in April but remained in custody after he was also indicted on US federal charges in Washington, DC — where he could face a much longer punishment.

Son’s sentence was in marked contrast to several 15-year terms handed out to users convicted in the US, prompting calls to bolster South Korea’s laws against child pornography.

The Seoul High Court denied the US extradition request, saying that sending Son

overseas could “hamper South Korea’s own investigation into sexually exploitive content”, Yonhap news agency reported.

“The decision should not be interpreted as exonerating him,” the court added, according to Yonhap.

But South Koreans reacted with disgust to the ruling.

“I think I can hear the cheering from various sex criminals over today’s news,” said one Twitter user.

Another wrote: “South Korea must be the only country that lets child sex abusers go free.”

The US Justice Department said last year that 338 people linked to the site had been arrested around the world, including in South Korea, the US, Canada, Spain and Brazil.

Son’s site was “the largest child sexual exploitation market by volume of content”, it said, and relied on bitcoin cryptocurrency to sell access to 250,000 child porn videos.—AFP ■

IN Picture

Students attend open-air class in Indian-controlled Kashmir



Students attend an open-air class in Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir on 6 July 2020. The classes begin at sunrise in open ground in accordance with the precautionary rules of social distancing to fight COVID-19. PHOTO: XINHUA

Kyrgyzstan confirms 314 new COVID-19 cases

BISHKEK — Kyrgyzstan confirmed on Monday 314 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total confirmed cases in the country to 7,691.

The country’s Deputy Health Minister Mademin Karataev said that all the new cases are contacts of confirmed patients, and there are no imported cases.

Among the newly infected, 50 are medical workers, bringing the total number of contracted medical workers to 1,147, including 503 recoveries, Karataev said.

The number of patients discharged from hospitals rose by 41, bringing the total recoveries to 2,843.

Karataev reported four new virus-related deaths, raising the total number of fatalities to 92.

Meanwhile, 625 people remained hospitalized, with 22 patients in intensive care, and another 4,131 asymptomatic patients are in home quarantine.

Karataev noted that the situation in the country related to the coronavirus remains difficult.—Xinhua ■

Win Theingi Tun hopes for establishing women's football academy

MYANMAR striker Win Theingi Tun expressed her hope of helping with women's football development in the country in a recent interview with FIFA's website.

A 25-year-old said: "Our people love football

and the women's game is growing fast in Myanmar these years, particularly since the launch of the women's league. It provides young girls with the opportunity to pursue their football dreams."

"Nowadays, women's

football is drawing increasing attention from the media and all walks of life. I want to try my best to help with the women's game in our country. I am seriously thinking of establishing a women's football academy in the future if I have the

chance," she added.

She scored nine times and drew the most attention during the processes that Myanmar reached the third round of Women's Olympic Football Tournament Asian qualifiers for the first time.

She was injured in the lead-up to February's campaign in South Korea and had to watch as her side first lost 7-0 against the experienced hosts before falling to Viet Nam by a solitary goal to crash out.

Win Theingi Tun started playing football when she was 12. She came up through the ranks earning her first national team call in 2014. Earning 53 international goals, she is Myanmar's all-time top scorer. — Kyaw Khin



Myanmar striker Win Theingi Tun. PHOTO: MFF

AFC's CSR Committee organizes online CSR ambassador course

THE CSR ambassador course of Virtual Social Responsibility Summer School was conducted online yesterday.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Aurora jointly organized the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme for the youths.

U Zaw Zaw, president of Myanmar Football Federation and vice president of ASEAN Football Federation (AFC) and Asian Football Confederation (AFC), in his capacity as the chairman of the CSR Committee, made an opening remark at the course.

Students aged 16 and 17 years old from Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen joined the course.

Youth ambassadors will be selected from the course to implement programmes for helping youths to reduce their stresses and anxieties amid coronavirus pandemic.

Due to restrictions and closing schools, youths are facing difficulties that they have never experienced. Therefore, the AFC's CSR Committee implemented the programme. — Kyaw Khin

Ex-Scotland captain Laidlaw heads to Japan after 'wonderful' World Cup

PARIS (France) — Former Scotland skipper Greig Laidlaw has joined NTT Communications Shining Arcs from Clermont, the Japanese club announced on Monday.

Laidlaw, 34, retired from Test duty after last year's Rugby World Cup in Japan having been knocked out in the group

stage by the hosts in the last match of the pool.

The scrum-half also played against the Cherry Blossoms in two Tests in 2016.

The length of Laidlaw's deal was not revealed.

"Every time I visit Japan, I am welcomed with a wonderful hospitality and I look forward

to living in this wonderful country," he said.

"In addition to giving back to the team what I have learned and experienced, I hope to learn about the wonderful rugby culture of this wonderful country and to have various experiences," he added.

Former Australia back-rower Liam Gill, who had spells with French clubs including Toulon and Lyon, has also joined the outfit based in Tokyo.

Last week New Zealand fly-half Beauden Barrett signed a one-year deal with Top League side Suntory Sungoliath for a reported salary of £780,000 (\$973,000).

South Africa's World Cup winning hooker Malcolm Marx, England's George Kruis and Wales' Hadleigh Parkes are among other recent additions to Japan's financially lucrative top flight.

The format of the competition is set to change from January 2022 with more clubs and a second and third tier to be introduced on top of the current 16-side league. —AFP ■



Scotland's scrum-half Greig Laidlaw participates in the captain's run training session at Twickenham stadium in south west London on 15 March 2019 on the eve of their Six Nations international rugby union match against England. PHOTO: AFP

'We need to improve,' admits Guardiola as Man City suffer deja vu defeat



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola gestures on the touchline during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Liverpool at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 2 July 2020. PHOTO: AFP

SOUTHAMPTON (United Kingdom) — Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola admitted his side cannot lose games in the manner they did in going down 1-0 at Southampton on Sunday if they are to take the Premier League title back from Liverpool next season.

City lost for the ninth time in the league this season as Che Adams's spectacular first Southampton goal condemned Guardiola's men to defeat despite enjoying 74 per cent possession and 26 shots at goal.

"We played really well, but it was a little bit the résumé of this season. We make one mistake, they punish us," said Guardiola.

"We lost a lot of games and losing a lot of games you cannot compete to win Premier Leagues.

"We need to improve because it happened many times this season."

Just four days ago City showed what they are capable of when at their best by thrashing newly-crowned champions Liverpool 4-0. —AFP ■