

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's words of encouragement for health workers and donors

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has written on her Facebook page today in the following manner:

I ended yesterday's message with a line from my favourite song "Mi Nge, renew your strength". Today, I have written the first paragraph, for those unfamiliar with this song.

We will see the red dawn of a new day, only after seeing many sunsets.

Only after struggling with staunch belief, will we see liberation and success.

Samsara is a rough and rugged road. Let's continue this journey, each one of us shouldering duties.

Mi Nge, don't give up. Only the brave shall overcome.

When you are working for the good of all, you really need to sacrifice!

I pay tribute to the health workers.

Thanking all donors who donate before the sun sets.

Sending my "Metta" to "Pan Yei Lan" (Path of flowers) music band, with fond remembrance.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)



Aung San Suu Kyi

State Counsellor

Message

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office
Notification 2/2020

5th Waxing of Kasone 1382 ME
26 April 2020

Summoning Second Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw sixteen regular session

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sixteen regular session is summoned at 1:30 pm on the 12th Wanning of Kasone 1382 ME (18 May 2020) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw
Notification 2/2020

5th Waxing of Kasone 1382 ME
26 April 2020

Summoning Second Pyithu Hluttaw
sixteen regular session

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyithu Hluttaw sixteen regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 12th Wanning of Kasone 1382 ME (18 May 2020) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amyotha Hluttaw
Notification 2/2020

5th Waxing of Kasone 1382 ME
26 April 2020

Summoning Second Amyotha
Hluttaw sixteen regular session

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Amyotha Hluttaw sixteen regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 12th Wanning of Kasone 1382 ME (18 May 2020) (Monday).

Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

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full sources of
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Two more COVID-19 cases on 26 April, total number cases reach 146

THERE have been two additional COVID-19 cases on 26 April, bringing the total number of positive cases to 146, according to an announcement from the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

The two new cases are a 32-year old resident in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, and a 48-year old from Sagaing Town, Sagaing Region.

As of yesterday, there have been 6,673 lab specimens tested and 146 who tested positive, 5 positive cases that have passed away, 9 who have recovered and discharged from the hospital, and 10 who are recovering, said the health ministry. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

COVID-19 Situation Report of Myanmar at 8:00 pm on 26 April

THE National Health Laboratory (Yangon) tested the samples of 94 persons in the first group and 48 samples at the Medical Research Department (Yangon) up to 6:00 pm on 26 April 2020. All these 142 cases were tested negative.

There are a total of 146 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 p.m. on 26 April.

Among them, 10 persons have recovered (9 persons have been discharged from the hospitals), although five persons died.

Two patients are at the intensive unit of Waibargi Hospital and the one is at South Okkalapa Hospital. The remaining patients are in good health conditions.

A total of 113 new persons are under investigation from 12 noon on 25 April to 12 noon on 26 April.

Health care for positive patients

Sr	Hospital	No. of confirmed cases
1	Specialist Hospital (Waibargi), Yangon	68
2	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital, Yangon	40
3	People’s Hospital, Kalay	6
4	People’s Hospital, Tiddim	5
5	People’s Hospital, Kengtung	3
6	Kandawnadi Hospital, Mandalay	2
7	Sao San Tun People’s Hospital, Taunggyi	2
8	People’s Hospital, Lashio	1
9	People’s Hospital, Mawlamyine	1
10	People’s Hospital, Magway	1
11	People’s Hospital, Muse	1
12	People’s Hospital, Myitkyina	1
13	People’s Hospital, Sagaing	1
	Total	132

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

THE Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Containment and Emergency Response Committee has opened the COVID-19 Call Centre in Yangon. It will be opened daily.

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

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

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives summoned to 16th regular session

THE 16th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will commence on 18 May 2020 (Monday) at 10 a.m., summoned by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and invitations have been sent to Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives can make the necessary preparations, whether they receive invitations or not, to report to the Pyithu Hluttaw office, Hall I-12, no earlier than 16 May (Saturday) and no later then 17 May (Sunday). — MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives summoned to 16th regular session

THE 16th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will commence on 18 May 2020 (Monday) at 10 a.m., summoned by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and invitations have been sent to Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives can make the necessary preparations, whether they receive invitations or not, to report to the Pyithu Hluttaw office, Hall I-19, no earlier than 16 May (Saturday) and no later then 17 May (Sunday). —MNA

Myanmar welcome back over 3,000 returnees from China at Lweje border gate

MORE than 3,000 returnees from Chin have come back to Myanmar through the border gate in Lweje Town as they feared the possible transmission of COVID-19 in neighbouring country.

From 16 and 26 April, a total of 3,205 persons have registered at the border gate with the helps of civil service employees, health workers and volunteers.

While some of them have been sent to the quarantine centres in respective areas, a total of 348—266 males and 82 females— are kept at the quarantine centres in Lewje despite no symptoms of COVID-19.—Tun Tun Naing (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



PHOTO: TUN TUN NAING (IPRD)

“People are the key”



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds the video conference with the stakeholders to continue the Early Childhood Intervention and the Early Childhood Care and Development in Myanmar amid the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses childcare programmes with stakeholders

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a video conference meeting with the stakeholders to continue the Early Childhood Intervention and the Early Childhood Care and Development in Myanmar amid the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Together with Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, the meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, the directors-general, officers of regional offices, and representatives of UN agencies and INGOs.

They discussed alternative ways for childcares, including educational TV programmes, during the COVID-19 crisis.

Participants at the meeting from UNICEF Myanmar, the Leprosy Mission Myanmar, Plan International Myanmar, Save the Children, the World Vision International, Kayin Baptist Church and the Pan Pyo Latt Foundation discussed creation of educative campaign animation videos for both children and their mothers.

Officials from the Social Welfare Department presented the works of their offices in collecting data of requirements for the families in the ECI project, providing assistance and alternative ways for services of volunteers while they are impossible for home services.—MNA

(Translated by Augn Khin)

Myanmar Competition Commission issues restrictions on increasing sales

MYANMAR Competition Commission issued Order (2/2020) on 25 March, exercising its power conferred under Article 56-(b) of the Competition Law.

The order is directed at businesses (excluding the service industry) and aims to foster free and fair competition, develop fair competition in the market unilaterally, receive equitable benefits and protect the public interest by issuing the following compulsory restrictions on increasing sales.

- (a) Advertising or the use of other methods to increase sales need are required to use language, symbols, images and data that assures correct responsibility or certain guarantee.
- (b) The use of language, symbols, images and data that may mislead, misinform, coerce, deceive or confuse the public is prohibited.
- (c) The use of language, symbols, images and data that may either damage the reputation of another business, negatively affect their benefit or hinder their work processes is prohibited.
- (d) The use of language, symbols, images and data that imitates or can be confused with other businesses is prohibited.
- (e) Businesses that wish to advertise the support or accreditation of a certain organization need to possess genuine data of support or be able to submit upon request.

All businesses are required to adhere to the compulsory rules mentioned above. Failure to comply will result in either managerial action or penalization from the Myanmar Competition Commission.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Strong winds damage school, houses in Seikphyu Tsp



ON 26 April, 3pm, strong winds blew off the roof of a building of basic education high school in Kone Village and some houses in Alaepaing Ward of Seikphyu Township, Magway Region.

The school roof was 45 feet and the roofs of 7 houses in the ward were blown away and a house fell over; although no human or animal were harmed. — Ko Zwe (Anyar Myay)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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7 quarantine centres in Mawlamyine ready for returnees from Thailand

LOCAL authorities have set up seven community based facility quarantine centres in Mawlamyine, the capital of Mon State, to keep returnees from Thailand for 21 days.

"Myanmar returnees from Thailand are expected to enter Myanmar at the end of this month. We have prepared for their 21-days quarantine at the university campus, education facilities and the Transit Centre.

A total of seven places could accommodate about 2,800 persons," said U Wai Lin Tun, the administrator of Mawlamyine Township.

There are now nearly 300 persons under the community based facility quarantine at the university dormitories.

More quarantine centres



The quarantine centre for returnees from Thailand in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: WAI LIN (IPRD)

will also be established in other nine townships in Mon State for the returnees from Thailand at the end of this month.—Wai Lin (IPRD)
(Translated by Aung Khin)

People with no regular income in Kawthoung receive fishes, masks from wellwishers

A civil society in Kawthoung Township , Thanintharyi Region, is donating fishes and face masks to the people are vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The volunteers form the Kam Nee A Phyu Yaung civil society distributed foods and masks at the homes of locals who have no regular income during the pandemic, while they were conducting awareness campaign to follow guidelines in prevention of this disease.

Ko Thein Naing Oo (a) Ko Moe Tein, the leader of this group, said, their helps were aimed to tackle livelihood problems amid restriction measures against the COVID-19.



Wellwishers donate fishes and face masks to a woman in Kawthoung. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

On 26 April, fishes and face masks were given to a total of 500 households in Shwehinthar Ward and Shwezinyaw Ward.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Bago Region reports 10-major crimes with 306 cases in 2019



Police officers patrolling in Bago. PHOTO: MPF

BAGO Region's police have reported 10-major crimes with 306 cases in 2019, amid police patrols and sustained enforcement.

Bago Region's police are conducting the strict patrol, immediate response to calls and follow-up investigations and law enforcement to reduce the crimes.

The police's last year data showed 10-major crimes including 143 murder cases, two robberies, 12 murders, four burglaries, six animal thefts and 139 rape cases, totalling 306 cases.

The 241 cases were filed

lawsuits under the Penal Code, whereas six were closed.

Regarding the drug trafficking, the police seized cocaine, ice drug and drugs and took actions against 236 convicted criminals under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substance Law.

As preventative measures, the police has carried out awareness talks about drugs at schools in the region for more than 100 times. They also conducted public campaigns about human trafficking.—Tin Soe (Bago)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mandalay Region conducting preliminary inspections in food factories to resume business

THE Supervision Committee for Mandalay Region Industrial Zone starts inspection tour to some factories whether they are in line with health guidelines in order to resume their business operations, said committee chair U Khin Maung Hla.

“We go on an inspection tour to the factories that have submitted their preventive measures on COVID-19. We check whether the factories follow the health guidelines or not. About 15 food factories have been inspected. On 26 April, we went on an inspection tour with five teams. Over 100 factories in the region have requested the committee for inspection,” he added.

The inspection teams are comprised of officials from the Supervision Committee on Industrial Zone, the General Administration Department, the Health Department, the Directorate of Labour, the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department.

The state has urged people to work from home for certain businesses. They check if the factories have marked off six-foot distance for social distancing and have prepared the mandatory face mask and glove for every individual worker, systematic seating plan for transportation, thermometers, handwashing basin, systematic waste management, enough green space and healthy food. They also ensure that the factories must be ready for their workers to send the hospital if the common symptoms of coronavirus infection are found.

The workers can make a complaint if they are forced to work during the mandatory inspection period of factories and workshops, said an official of the Confederation of Trade Unions in Myanmar (CTUM).

The factories and workplaces in the respective industrial zones across the country will undergo mandatory inspection between 20 and 30 April to re-



Officials conduct inspection tour to a factory in Mandalay to resume business operations.
PHOTO: THANT ZAW MIN, MYINT SOE

sume their operations, in line with the regulations and guidelines on coronavirus infection issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population announced.

During the inspection, pharmaceutical factories, food production factories, other factories, workplaces and departments that are ready for re-operating in accord with health instructions, factories and workplaces with more

than 1,000 workers, and other factories, workplaces and departments are prioritized in order; the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population stressed.—Thant Zaw Min, Myint Soe
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Fresh meat and vegetables home delivery at affordable prices

WE Love Yangon philanthropic group will be selling fresh vegetables and meat in areas of Yangon under lockdown by partnering with township development committees.

We Love Yangon EC Member Ko Zaw Win Khaing said they wanted to help people under lockdown who will have limited mobility by providing them with groceries at affordable prices and delivering it to their homes. He said a YCDC member experienced in handling meat and vegetables will be leading the group as they know what temperature

will keep the groceries fresh.

South Okkalapa Township development committee chairman U Kyaw Zeyar Win said they have trucks go around their wards every week to sell groceries at affordable prices and deliver it to people’s homes upon request. He said they only rest on Sundays and they only need to partner with We Love Yangon as they have everything prepared already. He said they already formed We Love Yangon South Okkalapa.

We Love Yangon is a community-based organization that

has been selling and delivering groceries at affordable prices, without making any profit, to people’s homes since the early days of COVID-19. They also deliver donations from donors regarding COVID-19 and their cooperation with YCDC is another step in their supportive journey towards the city of Yangon.

We Love Yangon will offer Package A, B and C. Package A contains 6 pyis of rice, 50 viss of sunflower oil, one peitha of onions, 10 chicken eggs, 5 sardine cans, chili powder or similar product, 5 packets of coffee and Quaker Oatmeals and 5 instant noodle packets for K16,000.

Package B contains 6 pyis of rice, 50 viss of sunflower oil, one peitha of onions, 10 chicken eggs, chili powder or similar product, 5 packets of coffee and Quaker Oatmeals for K12,000.

Package C contains 6 pyis of rice, 50 viss of sunflower oil, one peitha of onions, chili powder or similar product for K10,000.

To order the packages, please contact 09669978151, 09669978152, 09669978153, 09669978154, 09669978155, 09756517105 between 10am to 4pm.—Aye Min Thu, Zarni Maung
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



We Love Yangon philanthropic group is selling fresh meats and vegetables in areas of Yangon placed on lockdown.
PHOTO: AYE MIN THU, ZARNI MAUNG

Imports up \$1.87 bln in current fiscal H1: MOC

THE value of Myanmar’s imports between 1 October and 3 April in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 has stood at US\$10.9 billion, an increase of \$1.87 billion from \$9.027 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of imports in the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses groups rose significantly in the current fiscal.

During the H1 of the current fiscal, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$4.2 billion. The figure was \$1.42 billion higher compared to the same period in the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar

imported consumer products worth \$1.85 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed an increase of \$170 million compared with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up a large share of Myanmar’s imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. In the current fiscal, imports of raw materials jumped to \$3.6 billion from \$3.4 billion registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth \$1.16 billion were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector. — GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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WARNING AGAINST EASING MEASURES

WHO warns over virus immunity as global death toll nears 200,000

THE World Health Organization warned on Saturday recovering from coronavirus may not protect people from reinfection as the death toll from the pandemic approached 200,000 around the globe.

Governments across the world are struggling to limit the economic devastation unleashed by the virus, which has infected nearly 2.8 million people and left half of humanity under some form of lockdown.

The United Nations has joined world leaders in a push to speed up development of a vaccine, but effective treatments for COVID-19, the disease caused by coronavirus, are still far off.

But with signs the disease is peaking in the US and Europe, governments are starting to ease restrictions, weighing the need for economic recovery against cautions that lifting them too soon risks a second wave of infections.

The WHO warned on Saturday that there is still no evidence that people who test positive for the new coronavirus and recover are immunised and protected against reinfection.

The warning came as some governments study measures



Children in Spain were allowed out for the first time in six weeks as the country eased lockdown measures. PHOTO: AFP

such as “immunity passports” or documents for those who have recovered as one way to get people back to work after weeks of economic shutdown.

“There is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from #COVID19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection,” WHO

said in a statement.

“People who assume that they are immune to a second infection because they have received a positive test result may ignore public health advice,” it said.

On Friday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres asked for international organi-

sations, world leaders and the private sector to join the effort to speed up development and distribution of a vaccine.

Any vaccine should be safe, affordable and available to all, Guterres said at a virtual meeting, which was attended by the leaders of Germany and France.

Absent though were the

leaders of China, where the virus first emerged late last year, and the United States, which has accused the WHO of not warning quickly enough about the original outbreak.

The spread of COVID-19 is increasing other medical risks as well with the WHO warning nearly 400,000 more people could die from malaria because of disruption to the supply of mosquito nets and medicines.

Saturday marked World Malaria Day, a disease which the WHO said could kill around 770,000 this year, or “twice as much as in 2018”.

Early stages

With more than four billion people still on lockdown or stay-at-home orders, governments are debating how to lift restrictions without causing a spike in infections and how to revive economies battered by weeks of closure.

The daily death toll in Western countries seems to be falling, a sign hopeful epidemiologists had been looking for, but the WHO has warned that other nations are still in the early stages of the fight.

SOURCE: AFP

FAULTY MASKS

China seizes over 89 million shoddy face masks

CHINA has confiscated over 89 million poor quality face masks, a government official said Sunday, as Beijing faces a slew of complaints about faulty protective gear exported worldwide.

Demand for protective equipment has soared as nations across the globe battle the deadly coronavirus, which has infected around 2.9 million people.

But a number of countries have complained about faulty masks and other products exported by China, mostly for use by medical workers and vulnerable groups.

China’s market regulators had inspected nearly 16 million businesses and seized over 89 million masks and 418,000 pieces of protective gear as of Friday, said Gan Lin, deputy director

of the State Administration of Market Regulation, at a press conference.

Regulators had also seized ineffective disinfectants worth over 7.6 million yuan (\$1.1 million), she said.

It is unclear how much of the confiscated goods were destined for markets abroad.

In a bid to eliminate poor-quality products, China released new rules Saturday saying even non-medical masks must meet both national and international quality standards.

Exporters must file a written declaration that their medical products meet the safety requirements of the destination country, the ministry of commerce said in a statement.

The tighter rules come after

several countries including Spain, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Turkey were forced to recall hundreds of thousands of shoddy masks and pieces of protective gear imported from China.

The Canadian government last week said that about one million face masks purchased from China failed to meet proper standards for healthcare professionals.

Dutch health officials last month recalled over half a million Chinese masks -- which had already been sent to hospitals -- after complaints that they did not close over the face properly, or had defective filters.

China is producing more than 116 million masks per day, according to official figures.

It has exported more than



China released new rules Saturday saying even non-medical masks must meet both national and international quality standards. PHOTO: AFP

one billion masks this year so far, commerce ministry official Li Xingqian told reporters.

China has also signed contracts to export medical materials worth \$1.41 billion to 74 countries and six international organisations, he added.

In the first two months of the year, a staggering 8,950 new manufacturers started produc-

ing masks in China, according to business data platform Tianyancha.

Despite the nationwide crackdown, businesses were continuing with illicit production of medical equipment since it was a way to earn “quick money”, Chinese customs official Jin Hai said earlier this month.

SOURCE: AFP

TRACING

Australia launches app to trace coronavirus contacts

AUSTRALIA has launched a smartphone app to trace people who come in contact with coronavirus patients despite privacy concerns that authorities insisted Sunday were unwarranted.

The COVIDSafe app uses a phone's Bluetooth wireless signal to store information about people's interactions, and can be accessed by health officials if a person contracts coronavirus.

Australia's chief medical officer Brendan Murphy said the app would speed up a "laborious process" for health authorities tracking down users who have been within 1.5 metres of someone who has the virus.

"What this will do is give a list of the mobile phone numbers of those people who have been in contact within that distance for 15 minutes or more," he said.

"That could lead to some-



Authorities in Sydney have reopened some beaches for walking, running, swimming and surfing. PHOTO: AFP

one being contacted a day or two earlier than they otherwise may have been."

Australia has recorded just

over 6,700 cases of COVID-19 and 83 deaths from the virus.

The rise in infections has slowed considerably in recent

weeks, with just 16 new cases recorded across the country Sunday. Health officials say widespread take-up of the app

would help them to ease tough restrictions on movement and gatherings. Just under half of Australia's population would need to download the program for it to be an effective tool.

The app is free and sign-up is voluntary, despite initial suggestions it could be made mandatory.

In an effort to alleviate privacy concerns, users can provide a fake name and police cannot access the data to investigate crimes, while all information is automatically deleted after 21 days.

"What we have done is strip back the function so it has one job and one job alone and that is that if you are positive, to be able to make that available only to the state public health authorities, with nobody else having access," health minister Greg Hunt said.

SOURCE: AFP

HIGH DEMAND

German start-up in global demand with anti-virus escalators

TANJA Nickel and Katharina Obladen were still in high school when they patented an idea to disinfect escalator handrails using UV light.

A decade later, their small German start-up UVIS can barely keep up with orders from around the world for their coronavirus-killing escalators and coatings for supermarket trolleys and elevator buttons. "Everybody wants it done yesterday," Obladen, 28, told AFP at the company's workshop in central Cologne.

"The pandemic has made businesses realise they need to invest in hygiene precautions for staff and customers. It's gone from nice-to-have to must-have."

As Germany begins to relax some lockdown restrictions, the start-up's five-person team has

been inundated with requests from shops, offices and cafes eager to reopen to a public newly aware of the health risks lurking in shared spaces.

Contest

Friends since kindergarten, Nickel and Obladen were 17 and 18 years old when they entered an inventors' competition.

Worried about the swine flu pandemic at the time, they wanted to come up with something to make public places germ-free.

Inspired by New York City's use of ultraviolet radiation to sterilise drinking water, they designed a UV light box that can be built into escalators to disinfect handrails, with the radiation destroying the DNA of disease-causing micro-organisms.

They asked their families for help filing the patent. "They knew us and knew we would stick with it," Obladen recalled.

After finishing university, the pair founded UVIS in 2016 with seed money from programmes for start-ups. They remain a rare example in Germany of women running an engineering firm.

This year, the duo added an antimicrobial coating to their line-up, not based on UV technology. The invisible coating can be sprayed onto surfaces to destroy mould, bacteria and viruses like the novel coronavirus, using the self-cleaning properties of titanium dioxide.

Dangerous

Europe's largest elevator and escalator makers — Thyssenkrupp, Schindler, Otis and Kone — were early customers, putting the women's ultraviolet light boxes, called Escalite modules, in escalators in malls, hospitals and train stations. But the coronavirus has seen demand explode. "We've already surpassed our revenue target for 2020," said 27-year-old Nickel, declining to give figures.

Interest has been especially strong in Europe and Asia. The start-up recently shipped over 30 escalator modules to Singapore.

SOURCE: AFP



Co-founder Katharina Obladen (R) and student Leon Rottmann test out modules -- the idea to use UV light boxes was inspired by New York's use of ultraviolet radiation to sterilise drinking water. PHOTO: AFP

NEW SOLUTIONS

New technologies boost non-contact services amid COVID-19 epidemic

AS China is carefully restoring production to boost an economy hit by the COVID-19 epidemic, the country is planning to further promote the wave of innovative business models that surge in the country's fight against the virus.

The International Data Corporation forecasted that the epidemic will bring opportunities for online classrooms and education, remote offices and online activities, 5G industry applications, unmanned commerce and services and fresh food e-commerce in relation to the accelerating rise of contactless businesses and services.

AI ON FRONTLINE AND IN LIFE

Speak to the elevator and it will take you to the floor you want. A voice-controlled elevator system has been put into use in a hospital in Beijing to reduce the risk of cross-infection.

Developed by SoundAI, a technological company in Beijing, the voice-controlled elevator system was installed in the Haidian Hospital. It uses artificial intelligence technologies such as voice recognition and interaction design, allowing passengers to control the elevator without pressing the button.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Technicians work on a second generation disinfection robot in a technological company in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, Feb. 11, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI ZIHENG

Preparation is key to containing COVID-19 disease in coming rainy season

MYANMAR adopted plans to address nine natural disasters under the categories of urban fire, forest fire, flood, earthquake, storms, tsunami, drought, landslide and frost, following the 2008 Cyclone Nargis.

But, today, we need to review our yearly plans, in accordance with the changing types of natural disasters and modern technologies.

If we do not make adequate preparations for the coming monsoon season, which will enter amidst the global outbreak of COVID-19 disease, we could face life-threatening consequences.

In particular, the coming of the monsoon rains risks worsening the situation of those people sheltering in the displaced camps in our country.

The first rain of 2020 is expected to fall at the end of April and early May, because a low-pressure area forming in the Bay of Bengal would be intensified into stronger cyclonic winds between April 30 and May 3, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Our preparations and preparedness for storms during the period of the COVID-19 crisis must take into account the quarantine facilities, along with aid for Stay-At-Home programmes, prevention and containment measures against the COVID-19 disease at internally displaced camps, and more.

We must continue to diligently make preparations for these possible situations, which are predictable.

While cyclone and monsoon preparedness activities are being carried out, it is vital to prioritize public health-related preparations complying with the COVID-19 guidelines in the IDP camps.

To ensure that COVID-19 does not take hold and spread rapidly at the IDP camps, Stay-At-Home rules, facilities for quarantine and providing regional hospitals with medicines and special equipment are vital.

We would like to urge civil societies, local NGOs and UN agencies to stand in solidarity with the people in IDP camps to address the risks of coronavirus in the camps.

It is clear that all of us can only be safe if we ensure that everyone is kept safe, because COVID-19 disease does not discriminate.

Working together, we will ensure that refugees have safe and sanitary living conditions during an additional, potential public health emergency.

We must make every effort to ensure that the coming monsoon season does not exacerbate the current spreading of the COVID-19 virus throughout the country.

■ ■ ■

Tatmadaw's role in striving for national development with might and main

The Tatmadaw is always striving to become the powerful, efficient and patriotic armed forces reliable for the people and the State.



Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein hands over essential medical products to officials from China as a gift for Chinese people.

THE Tatmadaw born during the independence struggle has served the national duties, with devotion and efficiency during the successive periods. It is also playing the respective role in developing the country during the administration of the government in office.

In doing so, the Tatmadaw is always striving to become the powerful, efficient and patriotic armed forces reliable for the people and the State.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win attended the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok from 10 to 12

July 2019, and exchanged views on multi-sectors. The meeting approved the Concept Paper on Establishment of ASEAN Military Medicine Conference presented by Myanmar.

The Union Minister led a delegation, and attended the opening ceremony of CISM Military World Games (Wuhan 2019)



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win meets with Myanmar athletes at the opening ceremony of the CISM Military World Games (Wuhan 2019) in China.



The meeting on preventing the recruitment and use of children as soldiers being held.

in Wuhan, Hubei Province, the People's Republic of China on 7 October 2019.

The Union Minister and delegation then attended the 9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing from 20 to 22 October. At the meeting views on overcoming of challenges and strengthening of multi-country defence cooperation that will support regional peace and stability and prosperity were exchanged.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win attended the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat and the 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Bangkok from 16 to 19 November 2019 and exchanged views on regional and international security issues and the establishment of friendly partnership.

The Union Minister for Defence and delegation took part in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat and the Informal ASEAN-Australia Defence Ministers Meeting from 18 to 20 February 2019 in Hanoi, Viet Nam and exchanged views on regional and international secu-

rity based on common interest. The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat issued the Joint Statement by The ASEAN Defence Ministers on Defence Cooperation against Disease Outbreaks.

The meetings enabled Myanmar to cordially shared its views on its stand in defence matters with ASEAN countries, explain Myanmar endeavours in connection with issue of Rakhine State, its stance in implementing the ASEAN projects and prospects to enhance friendship.

Myanmar successfully hosted 11th ADMM Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine Meeting and Handover Ceremony of the ADMM-Plus EWG on MM Co-Chairmanship at M-Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from 6 to 10 October 2019. The meeting focused on friendship among the medical forces of the various countries, sharing experiences, establishing bilateral and multiple cooperation and sharing medical knowledge and medical equipment handling techniques. Myanmar and India handed over the chairmanship duty to Brunei and Australia.

Cooperation with UN on Monitoring and Reporting on preventing the recruitment of juveniles as soldiers

The Ministry of Defence and the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN CTFMR) signed an action plan to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers on 27 June 2012. The committee to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers was formed with 13 members.

The Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar and the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN CTFMR) jointly held meetings at the Ministry of Defence for three times during the fourth year.

Multiplier courses to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers were held under the arrangement of the respective military commands and 681 officers and 3121 other ranks have completed the courses. The military commands are also holding the courses every two months.

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Sunday 26th April, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 27th April, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions and Kachine State, scattered in Naypyitaw, Magway Region, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th April, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th April, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th April, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, 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 ce@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 submitted 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

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Tatmadaw's role in striving for national development with might and main



Tatmadaw men rescuing the children during the flood.



Tatmadaw men repairing the bridge destroyed by the flood.

FROM PAGE-9

Cooperation with United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on preventing the recruitment of juveniles as soldiers

The Ministry of Defence and the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN CTFMR) signed an action plan to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers on 27 June 2012. The committee to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers was formed with 13 members.

The Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar and the United Na-

tions Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN CTFMR) jointly held meetings at the Ministry of Defence for three times during the fourth year.

Multiplier courses to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers were held under the arrangement of the respective military commands and 681 officers and 3121 other ranks have completed the courses. The military commands are also holding the courses every two months.

The Tatmadaw permitted four soldiers who joined the army before reaching 18 to leave the army on 12-6-2019, 18 on 13-12-2019 in accordance with the procedures, and properly handed them back

to their parents or custodians. During the four-year period, 262 were found that they entered the army before reaching 18, and they all were transferred back to parents/custodians. Since 2012, 1006 under-18 soldiers have been allowed to leave the army, and handed over to their parents or custodians.

Ten officers and eight other ranks who recruited minors into the army faced punishment, and till now disciplinary action had taken against 28 officers and 65 other ranks.

In order to prevent the recruitment of children, the Tatmadaw has been strictly observing the provisions of the agreement of the Plan of Action in cooperation with the UN CTFMR. The proposal of the UN CTFMR to conduct National Campaign Materials one more time was aired from State-run TV and radio beginning 9-5-2017. Efforts are being made jointly with the

immediately render assistance without waiting for any order as soon as the natural disaster occurs, and to undergo training to protect the national people from any kind of disasters and dangers in time like their international counterparts.

The Tatmadaw troops discharged security duties at the fire outbreaks occurred in nine township of four regions and state during the fourth year. Moreover, the Tatmadaw helped resettled 65 families of the fire victims, repaired one monastery and 62 homes and provided healthcare for 363 victims. It also provided Ks 21.6 million worth of relief aids.

When gust destroyed religious buildings, government offices and homes in 20 townships of seven regions and states, the Tatmadaw took part in the resettlement program, repaired the damaged buildings, offices and homes and provided Ks 10.4 million worth of relief aids.



Tatmadaw men are clearing havoc on the Yay-Dawei Road.



Tatmadaw men carrying the essential utensils for people affected by floods.

Ten officers and eight other ranks who recruited minors into the army faced punishment, and till now disciplinary action had taken against 28 officers and 65 other ranks.

CTFMR to entirely end the use of child soldiers and to release the Tatmadaw from the list of child soldier using armed forces.

Search, rescue and assistance during the natural disasters

The section 341 of the State Constitution stipulates, "The Defence Services shall render assistance when calamities that affect the Union and its citizens occur in the Union." In accordance with the stipulation, the Tatmadaw has been taking part in disaster preparatory tasks to mitigate the ill effects of the natural disasters, disaster response, search and rescue operations and rehabilitation tasks.

In all seriousness, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has also instructed the Tatmadaw members to

During other disaster such as floods or earthquakes, the Tatmadaw provided healthcare services for the victims, repaired damaged buildings, conducted search and rescue operations, transported essential goods, and provided relief aids worth kyats in millions.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw always places Our Three Maing National Causes in the force, is shouldering the national defence duties brilliantly and with might and main. It is also taking part in the Government's national development endeavours with accelerated momentum. With this article, the accomplishments of the Tatmadaw in the interest of the nation and the people are honoured.

(Translated by TMT)



Some 100 people arrested a day in London for domestic violence during coronavirus lockdown

LONDON — In the six weeks up to April 19, officers across London had made 4,093 arrests for domestic abuse offences — nearly 100 a day on average — and domestic abuse calls have risen by around a third in the last six weeks, the Metropolitan Police (the Met) has revealed.

Charges and cautions have increased by 24 per cent since March 9, when people with COVID-19 symptoms were asked to self-isolate, compared to last year, said Commander Sue Williams, the Met's lead for safeguarding.

Domestic incidents, which can include family rows not recorded as crimes, have seen a

3 percent increase since last year, and jumped by 9 per cent between March 9 and April 19, said the Met Police.

There have been two domestic-related murders recorded in London as police continue to warn of an increased risk of abuse during the strict measures in place, said the Scotland Yard, metonym for the headquarters of the Met Police.

"The COVID-19 restrictions and 'stay at home' instruction is vital to managing this public health crisis, but unfortunately it has also left current and potential victims of domestic abuse even more vulnerable and isolated," said Williams.



Police officers patrol the near-deserted streets in London on April 16. PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP

The Met Police gave examples of some of the cases it has dealt with in recent weeks, including one in which police discovered that a man reported by

a victim was linked to firearms.

"Officers located him within three hours of receiving the report and searched his vehicle, finding two sawn-off shotguns. A

cannabis factory was also discovered. The man was subsequently charged and is awaiting trial," said the Scotland Yard in a statement.—Xinhua ■

'We're going out!': Spanish kids reclaim streets after weeks indoors

MADRID — After six weeks stuck at home, Spain's children were allowed out Sunday to run, play or go for a walk as the government eased one of the world's toughest coronavirus lockdowns.

Spain is among the hardest hit countries, with a death toll running at more than 23,000, putting it behind only the United States and Italy despite stringent restrictions imposed from March 14.

But unlike other countries, Spain's children were kept indoors, with only adults allowed to leave the house to buy food, medicine, briefly walk the dog or

seek urgent medical care.

On Sunday, Spanish children took to the streets of Madrid to enjoy their newfound freedom after weeks under lockdown.

Some rollerbladed while others rode bikes or pushed toy prams around, many wearing small masks to cover their faces.

"The children just went out with my wife. They're all properly equipped with masks and gloves," said Miguel Lopez, father of two children aged six and three, and who lives in an apartment in northwest Madrid.

"It's like a day out for them, it's the most interesting thing for

them in a month," Lopez told AFP.

'Super excited'

Alvaro Paredes, seven, and his brother Javier, four, were just getting ready for their big adventure.

"We are going to go out in an hour's time, going about a kilometre (0.6 miles) on scooter or bicycle to do a tour around our neighbourhood," their mother Inmaculada Paredes said.

"They are super excited, very, very impatient. They were up at 6:30 am, saying 'We're going out, We're going out!'," she said.—AFP ■



Free at last: Children reclaim the streets of Madrid after a six-week lockdown was lifted on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Italy's Conte vows to reopen schools in September

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte vowed Sunday to reopen schools by September and allow many businesses to resume in a week's time as the country emerges from a near-total shutdown.

Conte told La Repubblica newspaper that he will spell out the full details of how Italy will ease its way out of the world's longest active coronavirus lockdown by the start of next week.

He has reportedly been presented with a cautious proposal that involves a gradual

lifting of restrictions over the course of May.

Italy's official death toll of 26,384 is Europe's highest and only second globally to the United States.

But its number of cases has been ebbing and Italy believes its contagion rate — reported at between 0.2 and 0.7 — is low enough below the key threshold of 1.0 to try and get back to work.

"We cannot continue beyond this lockdown — we risk damaging the country's socio-economic fabric too much," Conte told La Repubblica.—AFP ■

LatAm countries beef up anti-virus measures as confirmed cases up

MEXICO CITY — These days have witnessed a further increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths in Latin America, causing governments to beef up measures to combat the pandemic.

Brazil reported 346 deaths from COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, bringing the country's death tally to 4,016, with 58,509 confirmed cases, the country's health ministry reported on Saturday.

On Saturday, the city of Rio de Janeiro announced the opening of its first field hospital to treat patients infected with COVID-19.

The field hospital, built in 19 days, now has 30 beds, 10 of which are in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). In the coming days, the hospital will have a total of 200 beds, with 100 in the ICU.

On May 1, another field hospital will open in the west of the city with a 500-patient capacity.

The Chilean Ministry of Health confirmed on Saturday that the country has confirmed 12,858 coronavirus cases, along with 181 related deaths.

The ministry said 552 new cases and seven more deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.—Xinhua ■

Bangladesh garment factories reopen, defying virus lockdown

DHAKA — Hundreds of Bangladesh garment factories defied a nationwide coronavirus lockdown to reopen on Sunday, raising fears the industry’s vulnerable and largely female workforce could be exposed to the contagion.

Big-name international brands have cancelled or held up billions of dollars in orders due to the pandemic, crippling an industry that accounts for over nearly all of the South Asian country’s export earnings. Factories shut their doors in late March but some suppliers said they were now being pushed by retailers to fulfill outstanding export orders.

“We have to accept coronavirus as part of life. If we don’t open factories, there will be economic crisis,” said Bangladesh

Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association vice president Mohammad Hatem. He said his MB Knit company had reopened part of a factory that makes clothing for Britain’s Primark and several other retailers.

Factories were “under pressure” from brands to meet export deadlines and feared the risk that billions in orders could be diverted to competing operations in countries like Vietnam or China, Hatem added.

More than four million people work in thousands of garment factories across Bangladesh, which last year shipped out \$35 billion of apparel to retailers such as H&M, Inditex and Walmart last year — second only to China.

Hundreds of those factories had resumed op-

erations over the weekend in the industrial areas of Gazipur and Ashulia, just outside the capital Dhaka.

Some 200,000 workers were likely back at work just in Ashulia, police spokeswoman Jane Alam told AFP. Mofazzal Hossain said he felt compelled to return to his factory, where he earns \$115 a month.

“The fear of coronavirus is there,” he told AFP.

“But I am now more worried about losing my job, wages and benefits.”

Labour rights leaders said they were fearful the return to work could spark an explosion of COVID-19 cases. “Its impact could be worse than Rana Plaza,” said activist Kalpona Akter, referring to the collapse of a garment factory complex in 2013 that killed 1,130 workers.—AFP ■

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st MAY 2020 (World Workers Day) and 6th MAY 2020 (Fullmoon Day of KASON) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1027 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1027 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK
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Phone No: 2301185

MUFG Bank to cut 8,000 jobs by March 2024, up from initial plan



File photo taken May 11, 2018, in Tokyo shows signs of major Japanese banks — (from L) Resona Bank, MUFG Bank, Mizuho Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking. PHOTO : KYODO

TOKYO — MUFG Bank, the banking unit of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc., plans to slash its domestic workforce by around 8,000 employees by March 2024, expanding from its earlier planned reduction of 6,000, a source close to

the matter said Sunday. The bank will implement the increased labor force reduction, equal to 20 percent of its some 40,000 employees as of fiscal 2017, through natural attrition. It expects to see retirements of workers who were hired in large numbers during Japan’s asset-inflating bubble economy of the late 1980s, and also plans to cut back on hiring.

MUFG Bank aims to step up structural reforms in the face of a difficult business environment with the

Bank of Japan’s prolonged monetary easing policy, which has squeezed profitability in the bank sector. Competition is also intensifying with startup companies using fintech.

The bank initially aimed to cut workload equivalent to 9,500 employees by promoting the introduction of artificial intelligence, but it is now looking to reduce it equivalent to more than 10,000 workers. MUFG Bank will also look to boost its scaling back of domestic branches from the current plan, under which it sought to cut the number by 35 percent by the end of March 2024 from 515 as of the end of March 2018. The number of branches offering full banking services will be slashed to about one-third, compared with the earlier plan of halving the size, as the bank is seeking to offer more online services.

The bank is also planning to increase the number of branches that will specialize in certain services, such as asset management advisory.—Kyodo ■

Lebanon bank attacked with explosive amid economic crisis

ASSAILANTS lobbed an explosive device at a bank in Lebanon Saturday, in the latest attack on financial institutions in a country facing its worst economic crisis in decades. The official National News Agency said the night-time assault targeted a branch of Fransabank in the southern port city of Sidon, damaging its

glass facade. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

The attack came a day after Prime Minister Hassan Diab said Lebanese bank deposits had plunged \$5.7 billion in the first two months of the year, despite curbs on withdrawals and a ban on transfers abroad. Lebanon is grappling with a severe lack of liquidity and an acute economic crisis that has been compounded since mid-March by a lockdown to combat the novel coronavirus.

In recent months, the Lebanese pound, which has been pegged to the US dollar since 1997, has plummeted in value from around 1,500 pounds against the

greenback to almost 3,800 on the parallel market. Banks had gradually restricted dollar withdrawals until halting them altogether last month. The country’s dire economic situation has sparked street protests that first erupted in October last year, as well as several attacks on banks nationwide.—AFP ■

Little suspense as Fed meets with US economy in crisis



Fed Chair Jerome Powell will aim to project confidence at the bank's meeting this week amid an unprecedented economic crisis. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve already cut its benchmark lending rate to zero and made unprecedented moves to bolster liquidity as the coronavirus slammed the US economy, so it is not ex-

pected to do much besides project confidence at its policy meeting this week.

Held by video conference, the gathering will lack much of the suspense of previous meetings, with analysts most interested in what the Fed and its chair Jerome Powell have to say about the future of the world's largest economy.

"He's going to basically say 'we know what we're doing,'" economist Joel Naroff said of Powell. "That doesn't mean that they've got total control, but let's face it, they were

prepared, but the government wasn't."

As the coronavirus pandemic's potential for economic destruction became clear in March, the central bank twice held emergency meetings to cut the rate, ultimately dropping it to the 0-0.25 percent range, back to where it was during the global financial crisis in 2008.

And even before businesses shut down nationwide to stop the spread of the virus, the Fed rolled out trillions of dollars in new credit lines to keep

the financial system from locking up as the economy fell off a cliff.

The two-day meeting of the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), starting Tuesday, will be the first scheduled meeting since unemployment filings surged past 26 million and key indicators of economic health plummeted.

But the FOMC has limited power to address those issues, and analysts say the central bank already has done much of what it can.

"My best guess is it's going to be a rather uneventful meeting," chief US economist at JP Morgan Michael Feroli told AFP.

Looking ahead
The pandemic has sickened upwards of 866,000 people in the US and killed more than 50,000 as of Friday, with the economic damage spread across most sectors of the economy including retail sales and manufacturing, which data shows contracting at rates not seen in decades.—AFP ■

Polish farms hit with one-two punch of virus

WARSAW — Poland's farmers have already been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, which has deprived them of seasonal workers from Ukraine. Now, an unprecedented drought is making things even worse. "Everyone's panicking. We don't know what's going to happen to us," Adrianna Bukowska-Lazarska, whose farm

usually produces more than 300 tonnes of strawberries per year near the central village of Czerwinski nad Wisla, told AFP.

Agriculture Minister Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski has warned that the drought could hurt food production, implying that while there is no risk of a shortage, prices may very well go up. President

Andrzej Duda has also expressed concern, calling on residents on Wednesday to be reasonable with their water use. "We haven't seen water levels this low since we began recording them a century ago," said Grzegorz Walijewski, spokesman for Poland's IMGW weather institute.

"The same goes for flow rates. It's never been

this bad," he told AFP, adding that forecasts for the next couple of months are not looking good either.

Poland is no stranger to droughts, but the phenomenon is getting worse.

Europe's Egypt
The EU member's Supreme Audit Office (NIK) warned last year that already only 1,600 cubic me-



Poland's farming sector is on high alert. PHOTO: AFP

tres of water is available for each Pole per year. "Our (water) resources are comparable to those

of Egypt," the office said in a report bearing the ominous title "Poland, European Desert."—AFP ■

New York plans how to return to business amid pandemic

NEW YORK — Banks are considering letting some employees keep working from home indefinitely, and staggering the shifts of those who do come into the office.

Hotels are trying to figure out a way to let arriving guests go straight to their rooms without signing in at the reception desk.

New York — the financial, cultural and tourism capital of the United States — is gingerly preparing to get back to business after more than a month of coronavirus shutdown.

"When will we return to work?" is a question on many people's minds these days," said Jane Fraser, the number two official at Citigroup. She has as-

sembled a committee of veteran bankers to come up with conservative scenarios for a return to something resembling normalcy.

Most Citigroup employees currently work from home, including CEO Michael Corbat.

Like its rivals, Citi has set up market-watching computer terminals for traders at home, although some traders have been sent to especially disinfected facilities to do their jobs.

The bank anticipates that some employees will be reluctant to return to work, with no treatment or vaccine yet available for COVID-19.

For those employees "we will want to do our best to provide them the flexibility to continue working remotely," said Fraser.—AFP ■



New York — the financial, cultural and tourism capital of the United States — is gingerly preparing to get back to business after more than a month of coronavirus shutdown. PHOTO: AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE

Invitation to Bid for purchasing of 12 MW from
Gas Engine Power Plant on Independent Power Producer
and Build-Operate-Own Basis

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity 12 MW from the **Gas Engine Power Plant** on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own (IPP/BOO) basis as follow.

Tender No.	Location	Size(MW)	Remark
G-01/EPGE/2019-2020	Kyaw 66 kV Substation, Kyaw Township, Magway Region	12	Gas (Pass Through basis)

2. The concession period shall be **3+1+1** years from commercial operation date (COD).

3. The Tender Form can be purchased either:
(a) at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Naypyitaw (or)
(b) at Ahlone Power Station, No (39), Kanner Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon Region in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within office hours from the tender announced date.
The Tender Form fees is Myanmar Kyat **100,000/-** (Myanmar Kyat one hundred thousand only)

4. The bid submission date is 27th May, 2020 at [14:00] hr. Myanmar Standard Time.

5. The bidders shall prepare the proposals in accordance with the **Invitation for Bid and Supplemental Request for Proposal (SRFP)**. Bidder's Proposals must be submitted on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.

6. The necessary information of this tender can be inquired within office hours via calling the following Phone numbers or sending email to the phahtolonetender@gmail.com :
Ph +95 9428601033, +95 92225181, +95 9972143077

Come and visit truly amazing Kachin land full sources of happiness (2)

By Thiha, the Traveller @ Thiha Lulin

Aungmyaytha suspension bridge

Not only local people but also visitors pay a visit to Aungmyaytha suspension bridge and a small creek considering it as a relaxation site. Many restaurants made of bamboo and souvenir shops attract the attention of the visitors. It is an enjoyable way that the visitors can go down for taking a shower in the small creek. Here is the shop of Cele Ma Ma who misquotes and wins the support from the whole country. It is a little distant from Myitkyina and it is nearer to Myitsone.

Shwemoetaung Yahanda Tahtaung Shinpin Myatswa Sutaungpyae Pagoda

Newly-built Shinpin Myatswa Sutaungpyae Pagoda is not so long, but it is always packed with pilgrims. It has huge objects of the chicken and the frog where photographs are taken. I feel like the creation of brown stripes for small Buddha images and statues of animals showing days and planets inside the pagoda. White elephant statues can

be seen on the area of pagoda. The inner path of the pagoda is very narrow.

Hsadon Lanakha Waterfall

Lanakha waterfall known as Hsadon waterfall is near Hsadon town and it is a very beautiful waterfall. It takes a quite long to reach Hsadon waterfall. It starts flowing from the green forest and mountain and its stream runs very fast and its view is very impressive. The beauty of meeting the stream of the waterfall from the mountain and the creek that flows at the bottom of the mountain looks very natural and pleasing. On the other side of the suspension bridge, there is a small shop where the visitors can stay and rest. There are also small shelters for those who are going to upstream area of the waterfall. It provides a green-field site where the visitors can feel the pleasant sounds of the waterfall.

Globe Stupa

The globe stupa is a truly remarkable structure as it is built on the globe. As a result it

is called the globe stupa and it is a simple name. Its environs look beautiful.

Myitsone

Myinsone is situated at about 26 miles north of Myitkyina where it is the confluence of Mali and N'mai near Tanfel village, the resource of Ayeyawady River, the lifeblood of Myanmar people. This place has become the main focus of attention by the travellers and the photographers from various parts of the country. Myitsone is a beautiful place with numerous pebbles clearly seen when it is in a low tide. When I arrived at Myitsone, its water surface area was wide as it wasn't in a low tide yet. When it is in a low tide, we can reach near the middle. At such a time, Myitsone with pebbles clearly seen looks more beautiful, said local people. The visitors can take photographs wearing Kachin traditional costumes. The rental fee of one set of Kachin traditional costumes is K2,000. The photograph fee has to be paid as well. The sunset of Myitsone is so beautiful that the visitors and those who are fond of



The photo shows Shwe Myitzu Yayle Pagoda in Myitkyina.

photographing have to wait for it.

Buddha Sasana Ngahtaung-san Pagoda

The visitors can pay obeisance to Buddha Sasana Ngahtaungsan Pagoda situated not far from Myitsone. Around there many food shops and souvenir ones can be visited. Boat ride service is also offered to the visitors and service charge is K 20,000 per boat.

Washaung Dam

Don't miss to visit Washaung dam and the suspension bridge

upon arrival to Myitkyina. It takes one hour's drive. This time I did not visit Washaung dam and the suspension bridge as I had little time.

Jade Roundabout

The Jade Roundabout is illustrated with the jade loaded onto a small circular tray with stem and the words of "Myitkyina City" written with embossed print. I feel like the Jade Roundabout, a good place for taking photograph for the visitors.

Indawgyi and Shwe Myitzu Yayle Pagoda

I added Indawgyi lake to Myitkyina visiting schedule because I had to visit there. It actually takes about four hours' drive to Indawgyi lake from Myitkyina. The round trip to Indawgyi takes about a total of eight hours. It is my suggestion that the visitors should stay for one night upon arrival to Indawgyi lake. It is the largest lake in Southeast Asia and it is natural. There are no hotels in Indawgyi, but hostels. These hostels are usually intended for seasonal festivals. If the visitors stay for one night in Indawgyi, it will be okay that they can pay homage to Shwe Myitzu Yayle Pagoda. A boat ride costs K 2,000 per person. Before arriving at the ferry site, there are many small shops. The visitors can take a boat ride to the pagoda in time of the high tide. A walk to the pagoda the time when it is at its lowest level is very enjoyable. The females are not allowed



Myitsone is famous for most visitor arrivals in Myitkyina.



coming to the platform of the pagoda and they have to stay at the designated place to pay homage to the pagoda. There is a general belief that a bad weather like a storm and heavy rain might appear if the women touched the platform of the pagoda. Indawgyi scene is breathtaking in its beauty. Later the circular way for the women will be set up in order to pay homage to the pagoda. In general, local and foreign visitors

come to Indawgyi not only for religious reasons but also for bird watch ones. Pagoda festivals that are always extremely full of the pilgrims are held in March, Thadingyut and Tazaungmone.

Hophar Beach and Mya Myitzu Pagoda

While the visitors are visiting Indawgyi, they can go to nearby places of interest like bamboo-strip pagoda where I did



Shan traditional snack.



The photo shows Hsadon Lanakha Waterfall in Myitkyina.

not visit because of having a little time. But I arrived at the edge of the beach of Hophar village known as Hophar beach. Water hyacinths can be seen in the high tide. In the summertime, it is a better pleasant place capable of offering relaxation to the visitors. I also paid a pilgrimage visit to Mya Myitzu pagoda which it situated on the top of the hill. The visitors can overlook Indawgyi from the hill-top pagoda and it is very impressive view.

Environmental Conservation Education Booth

The environmental conservation education booth is set up in Indawgyi region describing

the consequences resulting from the environmental pollutions and measures designed for preventing the environment from deterioration. This booth is always open for the public free of charge.

Where to have meals

There is choice of variety for having meals. There are Kachin, Myanmar, Indian, Chinese and Thai cuisines. Loilem shop near the market is famous for Myanmar cuisine. The price is fair and the service is good. Side dishes are also offered. A variety of curries are available as well. Kachin intoxicating brew and Kachin cuisine are available at Lung Ga

Pa shop near Manaw grounds. Whenever I arrive, I go and sit there. Kachin traditional foods are also eatable. The unnamed shop on the 5th street on Shwe main road (some described it Tatkon ward) offers a variety of eatable curries to the visitors. This time I failed to arrive there. Kachin traditional foods loaded into the leaf are available at this unnamed shop.

Myitkyina has a wealth of places of interest and I got a lot of enjoyment and experience from the journey to Myitkyina. I wish all the people a safe and sound journey.



Environmental Conservation Education Booth.



Phone Myint Kyaw (Third from the Right) seen with his third prize at the Shanghai Feng Yun Club 8 Ball competition. **PHOTO: FACEBOOK PAGE OF KO AR TI**

Phone Myint Kyaw wins bronze in Shanghai Feng Yun Club 8 Ball tourney

MYANMAR'S snooker star Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ko Ar Ti won a bronze medal (Third Prize) in the Shanghai Feng Yun Club 8 Ball competition which was held in Shanghai, China from 19 to 24 April. Myanmar's Phone Myint Kyaw has competed against Chinese players in the competition and collected a bronze medal cash prize worth K2 million.

The prize money for the Champion player was K10 million, according to the organizers of the tourney.

Phone Myint Kyaw will next compete in Chinese 8 Ball tour-

ney which will begin on 28 April. The Shanghai Feng Yun Club 8 Ball tourney is a pre-preparation for the Myanmar star player for the upcoming Chinese 8 Ball competition.

Phone Myint Kyaw already arrived in China in the third week of March and he is continuously participating in some other competitions.

The group stages of the Chinese 8 Ball tourney will start on 28 and 29 April and the final round stages will be held in August 2020, according to the tourney organizers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Everton 'appalled' by Kean's house party in midst of virus lockdown

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Everton said they are "appalled" at one of their players widely reported to be Italian international Moise Kean hosting a house party contravening the social distancing measures recommended by the British government due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The 20-year-old striker filmed himself hosting the party, the Daily Mirror reported.

The Mirror says Kean sent video clips to a private Snapchat group, with the footage showing female guests giving lap dances.

The caption on one picture

was labelled 'quarantine clean'.

Everton issued a statement expressing their fury at the player's actions — they did not name Kean — on a day when the death toll in hospitals in the United Kingdom passed the 20,000 mark.

"Everton are appalled to learn of an incident in which a first-team player ignored government guidance and club policy in relation to the coronavirus crisis," read the club statement.

"The club has strongly expressed its disappointment to the player and made it clear that such actions are completely un-

acceptable."

The club added that all their staff had been informed of the government guidelines, which include one piece of exercise a day and to restrict oneself to social interaction with just those of the household.

"Everton has regularly stressed the importance of following all the government guidelines — including rules and advice for inside and outside of the home — through a series of official communications to all staff members, including players," the club said.—AFP



Everton say they are appalled by a player widely reported to be Moise Kean hosting a house party contravening British Government social distancing guidelines due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tokyo delay may harm Asher-Smith's chances, says former Olympian



Britain's Dina Asher-Smith poses with her gold medal after winning the 200m at the 2019 world championships. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO (Japan) — Dina Asher-Smith's chances of Olympic glory could be hampered by a year's delay to the Games, according to Iwan Thomas.

Reigning 200 metres world champion Asher-Smith was one of Britain's best prospects for gold in Japan this year.

But the 2020 Tokyo Games have been pushed back until July next year because of the coronavirus outbreak and British 400 metres record-holder Thomas believes an extra 12 months' preparation time could count against Asher-Smith.

"For some it'll be a good thing," said Thomas, a member of the British men's team that won 4x400m silver at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

"I felt for Dina Asher-Smith

who is mentally and physically at the top of her game.

"She might still improve but being the current world champion you are there to be shot at and people fear her a little bit.

"They would have gone in fearing her but one year on you could say she was on the crest of a wave, what a shame she's been paused.

"But for others it's a god-send to have another winter's training behind them. It's the same for everyone, advantage and disadvantage."

Thomas was set to run the London Marathon for Group B Strep Support on Sunday after his son Teddy suffered from the potentially fatal condition when he was born.—AFP