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Wednesday, 29 April 2020

State Counsellor holds video conference with recovering COVID-19 patients



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with patients, recovering from the COVID-19 infection, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the National Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, held a video conference yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw with one patient who has been confirmed positive and two patients who are recovering

from COVID-19.

Those who took part in the video conference with the State Counsellor were anesthesiologist Dr Myint Myint Sein (Case-30) and the two men who have started to recover from the disease Ko Taung Swan Khaing (Case-01) from Ketal village of Tiddim Township in Chin State and Ko Kyaw Lin Htet (Case-04)

from Chanmyatharzi Township in Mandalay Region.

After words of greeting from the State Counsellor, Ko Taung Swan Khaing presented his experiences, especially warm treatment by doctors and nurses, during his quarantine period and how he conducted himself to recover from the disease; Dr Myint Myint Sein, who has been

confirmed positive, related her experiences in providing medical treatments to the COVID-19 patients, what she had to do to ensure health safety, and how she is struggling to recover from the disease; Ko Kyaw Lin Htet who is recovering from the disease recounted his experiences after he became infected with the disease, his experiences during

the recovery phase and the basic requirements at the Kandawnadi hospital. In response to the discussions, the State Counsellor talked about the need to follow the health-related directives, rules and regulations; and the measures and plans to be undertaken by the State to fulfill the requirements.

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Three more new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, total cases reach 149

COVID-19 Situation Report of Myanmar at 8:00 pm on 28 April

1. Laboratory tests of the Department of Medical Research have shown 3

positive cases of COVID-19 in out of 87 samples when the results came out at 6 pm on 28 April. The remaining 84 were tested negative. Meanwhile, the National Health Lab-

oratory (Yangon) reported at 7:00 p.m. 28 April on its first group of 58 tests, showing all negatives.

2. There are a total of 149 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on

28 April.

3. In laboratory tests, 6 patients were found negative for two times (Case 6, 19,20,24,25 and 29).

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PWDs included in project for responding to COVID-19: MSWRR



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds the video conference to discuss measures for People with Disabilities in response to the COVID-19. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the chairman of the Working Committee on Rights of People with Disabilities-PWDs, held a video conference with PWDs COVID-19 Emergency Response Joint Committee yesterday, discussing measures for including PWDs in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The digital meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and directors-general of the departments under the ministry and representatives of the PWDs Emergency Response Committee which was formed with the Federation of the People With Disabilities and 31 associations for PWDs.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said the Union Government has also considered the rights of

vulnerable citizens in response to the COVID-19 disease and also included the people with disabilities in the fight against the disease.

He disclosed that a project being drafted by his ministry in response to the COVID-19 would not left the country's people with disabilities behind it.

According the project, the ministry has made information about the COVID-19 accessible for the PWDs through sign language and graphics.

The Union Minister also pledged to implement the programme, which is proposed by the emergency response committee, to provide cash assistance to the PWDs and their families.

He also stressed the implementation of the project with solidarity as it has made a rapid assessment to the needs of the PWDs in the COVID-19 period, especially in the area of raising awareness about the COVID-19.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye also pledged to provide PWD-friendly facilities at the quarantine areas through coordination with the representatives of the PWDs associations and Federation.

Afterwards, the officials of the PWDs COVID-19 emergency response joint committee discussed the matters related with assistance being provided by the committee, future cooperation areas, establishing the quarantine facilities for PWDs and counselling service.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

H&T Ministry seeks cooperation from private tourism sector to promote outbound services in post-COVID-19 period



Union Minister U Ohn Maung addresses the meeting to prepare for tourism booming in the post-COVID 19 period. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Hotels and Tourism has sought cooperation from the tourism industries in preparation for tourism booming in the post-COVID 19 period as it has relaxed rules.

Speaking at the digital meeting with regional authorities and representatives from the tourism industries, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung said the ministry has exempted licence fees and renewable fees for businesses connected with the travel industry in efforts to heal the sufferings from COVID-19 crisis.

The ministry also suspended the deadline for the paying the hotel rents and land lease fees to the State.

The Union Minister urged the private tour operators to provide systematic services to the visitors.

He also informed the participants of the meeting that the ASEAN's ministerial-level special digital meeting on tourism will be held on 29 April and World Tourism Organization's Healing Solutions for Tourism Challenges Digital Meeting on 7 May.

The Union Minister also urged the participants of the meeting to discuss the ways for promoting the outbound tourism through the quality and systematic services.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U

AA abduct policeman in MyaukU

A policeman was forcibly taken by AA terrorists in MuarkU Township, Rakhine State, on 26 April. A police lance corporal and two privates were attacked on the way back to the local police battalion as they returned from the market, according to the report of Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.

The eight AA terrorists in civilian dress attacked them with sticks and knives before they abducted one of the privates.

Security forces, in coordination with local people, are searching for the policeman, the report said.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Military sends relief aid for IDPs, locals in Paletwa

BLOCKADE of transportation routes by AA terrorist group in Paletwa area, Chin State, has halted commodity flows, causing the hike of commodity prices and shortage of food-stuffs for the civilians, civil service employees and internally displaced persons .

Security forces could send essential food items donated by Chin State government, Tatmadaw families and INGOs to Paletwa Township from 19 to 24 April despite attacks of the AA terrorist group.

On 26 April, some 40 military trucks were used to convey rice, cooking and beans from Sami Town to Paletwa. These food items will be distributed to the IDPs and local people in residential areas of Paletwa.

Some military vehicles have left Matupi Township for Paletwa on 25 April, carrying food and commodities donated by the World Food Programme, but are stranded at Sami due to bad weather conditions, road damages and AA attacks.

These essential food items will be conveyed to Paletwa under the favourable weather conditions.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

State Counsellor holds video conference with recovering ...

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In her concluding remarks, the State Counsellor said that it was possible to overcome the COVID-19 disease; that it was necessary to build one’s own inner strength by oneself and that this was possible; that it was necessary to transform it into strength; that it was important to encourage each other and provide mutual support. She said the first point was the importance of self, the importance of self-reliance and the fact that only you can provide protection to yourself.

The second important thing was your society. It was important for your society to provide you with support. All citizens should have self-confidence. They should learn how to live properly. They should provide compassion and warmth to each other.

They should help with “cetana” in whatever way they could. It was believed that if they acted in this way, even though this was a period characterized by weaknesses in human resources to physical resources, all difficulties could be surmounted.

She ended by saying that she wanted to give encouragement to everyone and wished to send “metta” to all. She said she extended her good wishes for a speedy recovery by the power and strength of “metta”, and for all of them to have well-being and happiness as they recovered their health. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing and Aung Khin)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with patients recovering from the COVID-19 infection yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MIC okays five projects in oil and gas, real estate, services sectors

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) approved five projects yesterday in the services sector, oil and gas sector and real estate sector, with investments amounting to US\$ 64.594 million and Kyat 10,840.134 million.

The meeting also allowed additional investments in three existing projects.

The decision were made at the

regular meeting via Video Conferencing system, yesterday morning. Chairman of the MIC, Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Vice-Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint and members of the Commission participated in the meeting from their respective offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

By the end of March 2020, the countries with the largest invest-

ments in Myanmar are Singapore, the People’s Republic of China and Thailand.

The oil & gas sector accounted for 26.94%. This was followed by the power sector, accounting for 26.26% and the manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.18% of the total permitted amount of foreign investment. — MNA

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 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)



Union Minister U Thaung Tun and members of the Myanmar Investment Commission attend the video conference with officials from respective offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Three more new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, total cases reach 149

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It means that 16 persons have recovered. They have been allowed for leaving hospitals and

staying in isolation. Five positive patients have died until now.

4. A total of 89 new persons are under investigation

from 12 noon of 27 April to 12 noon of 28 April.

5. Test results from the National Health Laboratory

(Yangon) on the samples of PUIs and isolated persons will be published.
(Translated by Aung Khin)

COVID-19 Laboratory results of Department of Medical Research
8: 00 pm, 28 April 2020

Samples tested at DMR on 28 April afternoon (Samples from NHL+ DMR)	87
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) (new positive case) (NHL+ DMR)	3
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) (negative case) (NHL+ DMR)	142

Positive cases of COVID-19 from laboratory tests at Department of Medical Research
At 8:00 pm, 28 April

Case No.	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with COVID-19 confirmed cases	Hospital for medical treatment	Result	Remark
147	43 yrs	Male	Tamway Township, Yangon	Yes (C-133, 142, 134)	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital, Yangon	Positive	They were kept under restriction.
148	19 yrs	Male	South Okkalapa, Yangon	Yes (C-128)	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital, Yangon	Positive	
149	15 yrs	Male	South Okkalapa, Yangon	Yes (C-128)	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital, Yangon	Positive	

* No positive case of COVID-19 in the samples of remaining 142 persons

MNA, MAI to launch relief flights for Myanmar citizens

MYANMAR National Airline (MNA), the state-owned airline, will launch the relief flights to bring back Myanmar citizens from Singapore, Bangkok and New Delhi (India) while Myanmar Airways International (MAI) will launch the Incheon-Yangon relief flights to bring back Myanmar citizens from South Korea, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

With the decision made by the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control, Treat-

ment of the coronavirus pandemic at its second coordination meeting held on 23 April 2020, the relief flights will be launched to bring back Myanmar citizens after coordinating with the Myanmar embassies in Singapore, Bangkok and New Delhi (India). After coordination, the details of the flight schedules such as dates, times and routes will be announced in time, according to the MNA announcement.

Moreover, MAI will launch its relief flights to South Korea on 30 April, 3, 4, 8, 15, 22, and 29

May to bring back Myanmar citizens from South Korea with the permission of the authorities.

Those who wish to come back to Myanmar shall have to register themselves with the Myanmar embassy in Seoul, South Korea. The flights will be launched depending upon the number of seats. The Myanmar citizens from South Korea are urged to follow the rules and regulations related to the quarantine process and the necessary instructions issued by the related authorities.

Those who wish to come back to Myanmar by relief flights may book the tickets and make the payment at the MAI check-in counter, in Incheon airport.

The Ministry of Health and Sports and DCA on March 29 announced that the landing of all international commercial passenger flights would not be allowed at Yangon International Airport and any other airports in Myanmar starting from 30 March to prevent and control coronavirus disease. —Aye Cho
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 2,000 suffer from strong winds in Magway Region

A total of 2,061 persons from Magway region were affected by the strong wind in April. The strong wind damaged houses on 9 April in Magway region, said U Myint Soe, the regional head of Magway Region Natural Disaster Management Department.

The Magway Region Natural Disaster Management Department has provided relief materials such as food and con-

struction materials worth over K16.6 million to those affected by the strong wind.

“The strong wind started on 9 April in Magway region and it occurred in 10 townships. The strong wind damaged 230 houses in Magway township and 194 houses in Sinbaungwe township. This year, the towns are badly damaged by the strong wind. The department has provided

relief support rapidly,” he added.

Because of the strong wind, a total of 9 houses collapsed and 493 houses were a bit damaged. Also, a total of 2,061 people from 502 households suffered from the strong wind, according to the Magway regional head.

The strong wind blew in Salin township and Seikphyu township on 25 April, having destroyed 45 houses. Now, more

than 200 people suffered while three cows were killed. So, the department provided the relief items including rice enough for a week consumption and the construction materials worth K1,976,300, according to Magway Region Natural Disaster Management Department. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MRF suggests 18 points to government amid Coronavirus pandemic



A man carrying a sack of rice in a warehouse. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

By Nyein Nyein

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has submitted 18 suggestions to the government on 27 April, including an increase of cultivation loan up to K200,000 per acre during the coronavirus pandemic.

MRF requested the government to allow the farmers who own more than 10 acres to 100 acres to get access to cultivation loan by Myanma Agriculture Development Bank.

Furthermore, the federation asked loan plan for seed production industry including growers.

They also suggested to form district-level agriculture coordination groups to provide technical and financial input, hiring service for agricultural mechanization and better link to collaborate the farmers and the related organizations to have systematic supply chains.

Additionally, loan schemes with cheaper interest rate are also suggested for the farmers' groups and rural cooperatives who want to set up village-level small warehouses and dryers.

The millers called for medium or long-term loans at much fairer rate to expand their businesses and upgrade their ma-

chines in their existing factory compound.

Moreover, international loan scheme for rice and value-added productions of agricultural products, electricity generation from rice-husk, rice bran oil production, construction of cold-storages and large modern warehouses, fertilizer production and distribution, agro mechanization services were mentioned in the points of suggestion.

Besides, the federation asked for the reduction of electricity bill during the coronavirus crisis.

(Translated by EMM)

Individual trades exceed K28 bln at borders in 2019-2020FY H1

TRADES conducted by Individual Trading Card (ITC) holders touched K28.08 billion at the borders in the first half of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Trade Department has issued 46 cards in October-March period, and card holders have conducted trades worth K28.08 billion. While imports exceeded K25.8 billion, exports were valued at just K2.28 billion.

The Myawady border recorded the highest trade value at K17.6 billion in the current fiscal, according to the Commerce Ministry. But, the figure only reflects imports as individual trading card holders did

not export goods through the Myawady border in the H1.

The value of trades carried out by individual card holders stood at K321 million at Tamu, over K8.4 million at Muse, K173.5 million at Tachilek, K32.25 million at Lweje, K479 million at Kampaiti, K843 million at Kawthoung, K549.6 million at Reed, K5.1 billion at Mawtaung, K2.76 billion at Hteekhee, and K160 million at Kengtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Individual trades topped K737 million in the period from 21 November, 2012 to 31 March, 2013; exceeded K6.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY; crossed 9.3 billion in the 2014-2015FY; stood at over K6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY;

rose above K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY; touched K45.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY; K22.5 billion during the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018); and K9.38 billion in the 2018-2019FY.

Trading with the use of ITC is based on local currency. Hundreds of exports and imports items have been allowed for individual trading at the borders.

The trade department has issued 1,733 cards so far to boost trades. Businesspersons can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has permitted trades of up to K15 million per day over five days.

— Ko Htet

(Translated by EMM)

CBM issues directive No. 8/2020 to change interest rates

THE Central Bank of Myanmar has released its directive No.8/2020, dated 27 April 2020, on its bank rate, deposit rate and lending rate.

The full text of directive is as followed:

The Central Bank of Myanmar has reduced its bank rate from 8.5 per cent to 7 per cent, aiming to support economic development of the country. It has also changed the deposit rate and lending rate as follow:

- (a) Minimum Bank Deposit Rate, Saving Bond and Maturity Deposit will be lowered by 2 per cent less than the CBM rate (7.0% to 5.0 %)
- (b) The Maximum Bank Lending Rate (Secured) for the collaterals of the following items will be 3 percent more than the CBM rate (7% to 10%)
 - Land and property, gold and jewellerys, diamonds and other precious gems, saving bonds, treasury bonds, fixed deposits, collateral securities, transferable letter of credit, loans from pledge or credit guarantee
 - Loans based on collaterals approved by the Central Bank of Myanmar on a timely basis.
- (c) Except the above-mentioned collaterals in paragraph (b), the Maximum Bank Lending Rate in Secured or Unsecured will remain at 14.5%
- (d) The maximum rate of banks includes commitment fee and management cost.

These new rates will take effect on 1 May 2020.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

CBM makes third interest rate cuts this year

BY Nyein Nyein

“We welcome the interest rate cut. The businesses have been slowing even before the spread of coronavirus disease, especially the construction sector. The market is remained cool. Some are facing financial hardship to pay bank loans and the coronavirus consequences worsen the situation more. Some businesses have suspended. Having said that, we are so happy with the interest rate cut and want further reductions as central banks worldwide turn to low interest rate or zero interest rate. It's better to see that the interest rate is lower to be aligned with the neighbouring countries,” he said. The Central Bank has cut its interest rates three times and the changes on the rates will take effect on 1 May 2020.

The CBM cut the interest rate by 0.5 per cent as per the directive issued on 12 March 2020, and on 24 March 2020, it made additional cut of 1 per cent.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) cut interest rate third time this year, intending to stimulate the country's economy, it stated on 27 April 2020.

The CBM slashed annual interest rate by 1.5 per cent, from 8.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

According to the directive, the minimum bank deposit rate will be lowered to 5.0 per cent, while the maximum lending rate would be 10 per cent for collateralized loans (land and buildings, gold, diamonds and precious stones, savings certificates, government treasury bonds, fixed deposits, credit certifications, pledge and credit guarantees), and 14.5 per cent for non-collateralized loans.

The maximum lending rate is all-inclusive of management fees and other charges. The businesspersons welcome further reductions of interest rate, said Dr Soe Tun, a businessman.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 25 April 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Myint Swe who lives in Aungthukha Village, Pob-bathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 April 2020, police searched a motorcycle driven by Myint Swe, 42, son of U Shwe Thaung, who lives in Aungthukha Village, and Aung Thu Moe, 24, son of U Kyaw Win, who lives in Shwekyarpin Ward, Zabuthiri Township on the Sesu Village road, Dekkhinathiri Township and arrested them together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Aigayhar)MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Kyi Hlaing who lives in Ywathar Village, Phaung-pyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distrib-uting and selling illegal drugs.	On 22 April 2020, police searched a motorcycle driven by Ma Myint Hlaing, 35, daughter of U Net Tuu, who lives in Ywathar Village, Phaungpyin Township and Myo Wai, 25, son of U Aye Tun, who lives in Tharnantaw Village, Mawlaik Township near Nat shelf of Ywathar Village in Phaungpyin Township and arrested them to-gether with heroin. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Kyi Hlaing, 37, son of U Tin Hlaing, who lives in Ywathar Village, but police did not find any narcotic drugs. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)81/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Hekin Vil-lage, Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region.	On 19 April 2020, police arrested Aung Win, 57, son of U Phoe Din, who lives in Hekin Village, together with heroin near Baipin dodge, Hekin Village, Kyunhla Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kyunhla)MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Nay Zaw (a) Maung Zaw who lives in Yataung At-win Village, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 24 April 2020, police searched the house of Nay Zaw (a) Maung Zaw, 34, son of U Aye Thet, who lives in Yataung Atwin Village, Kyunhsu Township, and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Thazin)MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 6(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in War-phutaung Village-tract, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region.	On 23 April 2020, police searched the house of Wai Yan Min (a) Nyaung Oo, 32, son of U Kyaw Thein, who lives in Warphutaung Village-tract, Yamethin Township, and arrested him together with ‘88/1’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yamethin)MaYa(pa)15/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Bilar who lives in Thuwunna (ka) Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 21 April 2020, police arrested Ma Shila (a) Pyone May Tun, 20, daughter of U Tin Tun, together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets on Thiri Marlar street, Thuwunna (kha) Ward, Thingangyun Township. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Bilar (a) Hla Win, 25, son of U Yarkut, who lives in Thuwunna (ka) Ward in the same township. Police did not find any narcotic drug for his house. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Thuwunna)MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Sub-stances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Depart-ment, so far a total of 1,076 cases have been opened files as of 25 April 2020. A total of 1,656 people, including 1,385 men and 271 women had been arrested with 8,944.1514 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 41,544.33886 g of opium, 665.27 g of low-quality opium, 53,252.76 g of speciosa powder, 12,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 532,277 stimulant tablets, 10,311.67 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 596.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200

Fax Phone No. — 067-590233

Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Food donations requested for elephants in temporarily-closed camps

THE elephant camps of Myanma Timber Enterprise, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation were suspended temporarily starting from 25 March to prevent and control coronavirus disease, said Assistant Manager U Myo Min Ko of Palin Kanthayar elephant camp, which is located beside the Ayeyawady River near Ah Nauk Palin village in Nyaung U Township.

A total of 22 elephant camps in states and regions have been closed temporarily, he added.

With the systematic conser-vation of the elephant camps, MTE has opened the elephant camps in the states and regions to conserve the elephants, to boost the economic and job op-portunities of the residents who rely upon the elephant-based

tourism camps, to enable the people to gain knowledge on the nature and behaviour of the ele-phants, to enable them to love the elephants and to create places for recreation and relaxation for the local and foreign travellers, said Assistant Manager U Kyaw Kyaw Tun of the Hmaw Yaw Gyi elephant camp from Kyauktaga township in Bago region.

Although the elephant

camps are closed to the visi-tors, the staff with the elephant camps have to continue to do their work as usual. Even though the elephant camps were closed temporarily, the food could be donated for the elephants in this period. The foods for elephants are sugarcane, banana, coconut, watermelon, corn, navier grass also known as Pennisetum pur-pureum, cucumber, mango and other fruits.

People can donate the foods for elephants. The buffet food for seven elephants will cost be-tween K30,000 and K50,000 for one meal while the buffet food worth K100,000 will be for the whole day in the elephant camp opened in Nyaung U township, said U Myo Min Ko. —Maung Maung Htein (Kyaukpadaung)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

COVID AND WOMEN

By UN Secretary -General

EARLY signs are that the COVID-19 virus poses a greater direct health risk to men, and particularly older men. But the pandemic is exposing and exploiting inequalities of all kinds, including gender inequality. In the long term, its impact on women’s health, rights and freedoms could harm us all.

Women are already suffering the deadly impact of lockdowns and quarantines. These restrictions are essential – but they increase the risk of violence towards women trapped with abusive partners. Recent weeks have seen an alarming global surge in domestic violence; the largest support organization in the UK reported a 700 per cent increase in calls. At the same time, support services for women at risk face cuts and closures.

This was the background to my recent appeal for peace in homes around the world. Since then, more than 143 governments have committed to supporting women and girls at risk of violence during the pandemic. Every country can take action by moving services online, expanding domestic violence shelters and designating them as essential, and increasing support to frontline organizations. The United Nations’ partnership with the European Union, the Spotlight Initiative [link], is working with governments in more than 25 countries on these and similar measures, and stands ready to expand its support.

But the threat to women’s rights and freedoms posed by COVID-19 goes far beyond physical violence. The deep economic downturn accompanying the pandemic is likely to have a distinctly female face.

The unfair and unequal treatment of working women is one reason why I went into politics. In the late 1960s, as a student volunteer doing social work in poor areas of Lisbon, I saw women in very difficult situations, doing menial jobs and carrying the weight of their extended families. I knew this had to change – and I have seen important change in my lifetime.

But decades later, COVID-19 threatens to bring back these conditions and worse, for many women around the world.

Women are disproportionately represented in poorly paid jobs without benefits, as domestic workers, casual labourers, street vendors, and in small-scale services like hairdressing. The International Labour Organization estimates that nearly 200 million jobs will be lost in the next three months alone – many of them in exactly these sectors.

And just as they are losing their paid employment, many women face a huge increase in care work due to school closures, overwhelmed health systems, and the increased needs of older people.

And let’s not forget the girls who have had their education cut short. In some villages in Sierra Leone, school enrolment rates for teenage girls fell from 50 to 34 per cent after the Ebola epidemic, with lifelong implications for their wellbeing and that of their communities and societies.

Many men, too, are facing job losses and conflicting demands. But even at the best of times, women do three times as much domestic work as men. That means they are more likely to be called on to look after children if businesses open while schools remain closed, delaying their return to the paid labour force.

Entrenched inequality also means that while women make up seventy per cent of healthcare workers, they are vastly outnumbered by men in healthcare management, and comprise just one in every ten political leaders worldwide – which harms us all. We need women at the table when decisions are taken on this pandemic, to prevent worst-case scenarios like a second spike in infections, labour shortages, and even social unrest.

Women in insecure jobs urgently need basic social protections, from health insurance to paid sick leave, childcare, income protection and unemployment benefits. Looking ahead, measures to stimulate the economy, like cash transfers, credits, loans and bailouts, must be targeted at women – whether they are working full-time in the formal economy, as part-time or seasonal workers in the informal economy, or as entrepreneurs and business owners.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clearer than ever that women’s unpaid domestic labour is subsidizing both public services and private profits. This work must be included in economic metrics and decision-making. We will all gain from working arrangements that recognize people’s caring responsibilities, and from inclusive economic models that value work in the home.

This pandemic is not only challenging global health systems, but our commitment to equality and human dignity.

With women’s interests and rights front and centre, we can get through this pandemic faster, and build more equal and resilient communities and societies that benefit everyone.

Source: UNIC

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nay Pyi Taw Council Order No. 44/2020

7th Waxing of Kasone 1382 ME
28 April 2020

Announcement to departments/organizations and common people coming to the Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw

1. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is spreading in the world, including Myanmar with the increasing number of cases. Myanmar has transformed the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) into a national-level central committee on 13 March to promote preventive measures.
2. To prevent the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw, those who come to Nay Pyi Taw from other areas, or those who go to other areas from Nay Pyi Taw and coming back to Nay Pyi Taw will need to abide by the following guidelines—
 - (a) For visitors to Nay Pyi Taw—
 - (1) They need to show resident document of respective town/ward/village when they come to Nay Pyi Taw for any reason
 - (2) Those who are from the townships with stay-at-home order due to positive cases coming to Nay Pyi Taw without official approval, or without invitation document to Nay Pyi Taw will have to stay at the community based facility quarantine of Nay Pyi Taw Council for 21 days
 - (3) Those who come to Nay Pyi Taw with invitation letter, despite living in the townships with stay-at-home order due to positive cases, for doing works with Union-level organizations and ministries, would be allowed entering Nay Pyi Taw only when they are not tested suspected symptoms at the checkpoints.
 - (4) Despite living in the townships with stay-at-home order, foreign diplomats and employees of the UN agencies and the INGOs will need to show approvals for works with relevant ministries for entering Nay Pyi Taw only if they have no suspected symptoms in medical tests at the checkpoints.
 - (5) Staff members of organizations and companies which have been allowed for works outside the respective townships with stay-at-home order need to show approvals of relevant ministries for entering Nay Pyi Taw only if they have no suspected symptoms in medical tests at the checkpoints.
 - (6) Those who come to Nay Pyi Taw from the township with no infection despite its Region/State with positive case, and those who come from Region/State with no positive case to Nay Pyi Taw would be allowed for entering Nay Pyi Taw only if they have no suspected symptoms in medical tests at the checkpoints.
 - (7) Those with suspected symptoms will be taken to a hospital for medical treatment.
 - (b) For residents in Nay Pyi Taw
 - (1) Evidence on visited areas of Regions/States must be shown on their return to Nay Pyi Taw
 - (2) Those who failed to show evidence on the visited areas and who refused to show it, or concrete evidence on the return from the areas with stay-at-home order must stay at the community based facility quarantine for 21 days.
 - (3) Those who returned from the area with no confirmed cases, but its Region/State with infection, and those who returned from Region/State with no infection, must be allowed for entering Nay Pyi Taw agree for medical tests only if they have no suspected symptoms in medical tests at the checkpoints.
 - (4) Those with suspected symptoms will be taken to a hospital for medical treatment.
3. People need to follow this announcement. Those who make false statements on the address and the visited area and refuse for inspection will be filed under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.
4. This announcement will be implemented commencing 30 April 2020, and it will be restored until it is substituted with another one.

Dr Myo Aung
Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council
(Unofficial Translation)

People with disabilities must not be left in response to COVID-19 crisis

ACCORDING to the World Health Organization, people with disabilities-PWDs are at high-risk of infection due to their physical, mental and cognitive impediments. Quarantining, social distancing and working from home are almost impossible due to their everyday dependence on caregivers. We must do more to make sure our people with disabilities are not left behind in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

It should be noted by the people that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has adopted and implemented a plan taking into account the needs of the PWDs in its emergency response to the COVID-19. It also includes cash assistance programme for the WPDs.

Another welcome step taken by the ministry is that it has carried out a rapid assessment of the needs of the WPS in the face of the COVID-19 disease. Local authorities and ministries concerned are urged to continue their cooperation in efforts to effectively implement the project.

Under the project, the ministry has made information about COVID-19 accessible through graphics and sign language interpretations. We should keep the awareness about COVID-19 on this trajectory to ensure that any information of COVID-19 is not out of reach of WPDs.

Efforts to provide relief and support to PWDs during the COVID-19 crisis must include the needs of people with disabilities.

The needs of our people with disabilities are the same as the needs of all of us all over the country – the immediate ramping up of production of personal protective equipment, like ventilators and face masks, not only for hospitals, but also for home-based providers of care for people with disabilities.

People with disabilities are especially vulnerable if we lack proper protective equipment during this time of COVID-19 crisis.

Besides, most markets, Covid-19 testing and quarantine centres should be disable-friendly, as PWDs are at high-risk.

People with disabilities are entitled to life, human decency and the pursuit of happiness, just like all Myanmar people – and the government and the people must fight together to protect these rights, especially during this time of crisis.

According to the experiences we gained in the past, we do believe that we can overcome any challenges together with the people.

■ ■ ■

Fourth-Year Performances of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw

By Nandar Win
PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW

Within the period of 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020, 19 new laws have been enacted and 10 existing laws have been amended.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat.

BALANCING in reciprocal motion, the three branches of sovereign power namely, legislative power, executive power and judicial power of Myanmar are striving in building the democratic federal union and peaceful and developed nation.

Legislative bodies namely two Hluttaws are mainly shouldering the duties such as that of the development of the nation; that of the protection of the interest of the people; that of the socio-economic development of the people; that of amending, annulling, revoking, and enacting laws if and when they are not in conformity with the interest of the citizens lacking in democratic standard and human rights norm.

The second Pyithu Hluttaw, formed with (321) Hluttaw Representatives -- being elected from (11) political parties including (5) independent elected representatives -- and (110) Hluttaw Representatives nominated by the Tatmadaw, totaling (431) Hluttaw Representatives, is shouldering responsibility of legislative duties on behalf of the people.

With much enthusiasm, the Hluttaw Representatives are endeavoring to the best of their abilities in the implementation such as that of peace and development, that of democratic rights, human rights, stability and rule of law, emergence of democratic federal union as aspired by the citizens. Moreover, they are fulfilling as much as possible on the desire, aspiration and development of the people from various constituencies.

The Second Pyithu Hluttaw convened on 1 February 2016,



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and delegation receive red carpet welcome during their visit to the Republic of Korea on 2 October 2019.

and on the same day elected U Win Myint, Hluttaw Representative of Tamwe Constituency, as Hluttaw Speaker. It elected U T. Khun Myat, Hluttaw Representative of Kutkai Constituency, as the Deputy Speaker.

When Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint assumed duty as President of the nation, the vacant folio of Hluttaw Speaker

Central Committee.

During the fourth-year period, Hluttaw Speaker U T. Khun Myat made friendly visits to two foreign countries. He successfully hosted on (39) occasions to the foreign leaders namely Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Mr. Suchart Tanchaen, First Deputy Speaker of the

While meeting the guests, U T. Khun Myat endeavoured in the tasks such as that of enhancing friendly relations between the two countries and further cooperation between the two parliaments; that of exchange of views on legislative matters; that of trade and investment between the two countries; that of the cooperation on technical matters; and that of the exchange of views on human resources development.

Certain positive changes have been witnessed on the road to democratic transition of the country endeavored by the Second Pyithu Hluttaw during the four years time. The performances over the reform process during the fourth-year as explained by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T. Khun Myat are submitted to the esteemed readers.

Certain positive changes have been witnessed on the road to democratic transition of the country endeavored by the Second Pyithu Hluttaw during the four years time

is filled up with U T. Khun Myat, Hluttaw Representative of Kutkai Constituency, on 22 March 2018 at Second Pyithu Hluttaw seventh regular 31st Meeting.

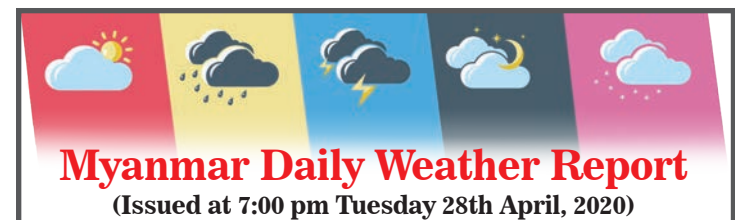
Hluttaw Speaker U T. Khun Myat is the Chairman of Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) and the Patron of Second Hluttaws convening Central Committee. He is also the Chairman of Development Programmes

House Representatives of Thailand; Mr. Kim Jaewon, Chairman of Korea – Myanmar Inter-parliamentary Friendship Association; Mr. Yamaguchi Natsuo, the Upper House MP and the Chief Representative of Komeito party of Japan; a number of foreign ambassadors (with residences in Myanmar and outside Myanmar) and high dignitaries from international organizations.

Q: Kindly explain us on the enacted laws and the successful performances at the Hluttaw during the fourth-year period.

A: First of all, allow me to extend my sincere best wishes for the well being of mind and soul of the entire national brethren of the Union.

SEE PAGE-10



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29th April, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin State and scattered in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th April, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th April, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th 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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Fourth-Year Performances of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw

FROM PAGE-9

As Hluttaw Speaker in the fourth-year of my tenure, I have the honour in convening five regular sessions of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw. In the regular Hluttaw sessions, the new laws have been enacted and some existing laws have been amended, added, and annulled after due consideration and scrutiny in accordance with the Hluttaw working procedures whether the laws are in conformity with the democratic standard and norms in the interest of the state and the people.

Within the period of 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020, (19) new laws have been enacted and (10) existing laws have been amended.

On 19 August 2019, the Union Parliament of Myanmar, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, has enacted “Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Law”. It replaces the old Land Acquisition Act (1894) as well as to provide a legal framework for resettlement and rehabilitation for the first time in Myanmar.

The Child Rights Law was enacted in July 2019 vide Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 22/2019.

Moreover, total of (35) laws - - - including six-laws in

connection with the National Planning Law, the Budget Law, and Custom laws - - - have been approved.

Q: Please share with regards to the questions being raised at the Pyithu Hluttaw.

A: Our Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives, on behalf of their constituencies, raised questions and also submitted proposals with the intent for the developments programmes. The questions and the proposals are in line with the relevant Pyithu Hluttaw laws, and Pyithu Hluttaw By-laws. During the fourth-year, there were (1,145) questions with asterisks; (251) paperwork related questions; and (5,468) questions without asterisks; totalling (6,864) questions being raised. The questions were responded with proper answers.

Among the queries, four most interesting questions have been responded through the Myanma Gazette and the government newspapers. The most positive question was “Whether the Myanmar born expatriate physicians, who regained back former citizenship with Permanent Residency in Myanmar, would be accorded with normal treatment without any restriction and restraint



The 15th regular meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January, 2020.

similar to other countries?”

Q: Please explain us on the approved proposals being tendered at the Pyithu Hluttaw.

A: There are (41) accepted and approved proposals being raised at the Pyithu Hluttaw. One proposal was “In Myanmar, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is being suggested and urged to move ahead with tangible and valid policy guidelines in establishing (100) per cent electricity supply in the country by 2020”. The other proposal was “The Union Government is being suggested and urged to adopt a policy guideline for implementation in offering priority and support in appointing the Primary Assistant Teachers according to the requirement at the village schools in ethnic nationalities areas”.

In summary, (77) proposals were submitted and that

(41) proposals accorded with approval; that (31) proposals kept for record purpose; that (2) proposals denied approval; and that (3) proposals being set aside.

Q: Kindly share us the outcomes of the foreign visits.

A: During the fourth-year period of Second Pyithu Hluttaw, I have had friendly visit to two foreign countries. One visit was 34th ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok; and the other visit was ROK at the invitation of the Speaker of Parliament of Korea.

During the visits, the discussions were conducted such as that of enhancing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries; that of the cooperation between the Parliaments of two countries; and that of the exchange of views on legislative matters in the Parliament.

Q: Please add if there is

any topic.

A: Our Pyithu Hluttaw is doing our jobs to the best of our ability in quest of internal peace, the national reconciliation, and the national unity as desired by the people. Moreover, we are serving the people by enacting laws that are beneficial to the state and the people. We are also keeping the three branches of sovereign power namely, legislative power, executive power and judicial power of Myanmar balancing in reciprocal motion.

In conclusion, as the Speaker of the Hluttaw, I pledge and promise to the best of my ability to carry on with the tasks for the emergence of Democratic Federal Union; to go ahead for the success of peace process; and to endeavour for the creation of stronger legislative structure.

I am thankful to all.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein taking the oath of office in the presence of the Chairperson on 22 March, 2018.



Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives signing in the attendance book.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and delegation pose for a documentary photo with Prime Minister of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 December, 2019.

Overcoming as One: COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP

IN order to overcome the immediate negative impact of COVID-19, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry has issued on 27 April a comprehensive economic stimulus plan namely “Overcoming as One: COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP” having 7 Goals, 10 Strategies, 36 Action Plans and 76 Actions, covering a broad range of extraordinary fiscal and monetary measures, combined with a set of human-focused and common-sense policy responses.

The CREP is accordingly designed to meet the current exigencies Myanmar faces in ways that reaffirm our long-term strategic direction. It consists of policies and proposals that are as realistic and implementable as they are bold and hopeful. The CREP is scrupulous in matching outlays with financing, whether this is via budgetary reallocation, innovative private-sector partnerships, or through arrangements with multilateral financial institutions and other development partners.

Foreword

For the first time in our nation’s history, our people are faced with an invisible threat to both life and livelihood. The current COVID-19 pandemic will have dire consequences for both global growth and prosperity, and thus poses unprecedented health and economic challenges to Myanmar. No part of our economy may be considered to be immune.

While we must come together in the fight against COVID-19 our past offers us no blueprint for the future. Our collective response must be both comprehensive and well-coordinated. I draw strength from the knowledge that both our public and private sector will rise to this new challenge, sustained by, and working in partnership with, individuals and communities, both regional and international.

This COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan seeks to mitigate the inevitable economic impact posed by COVID-19 while establishing foundations that will facilitate Myanmar’s rapid economic recovery, using all available policy instruments to the fullest possible extent, and as part of a coordinated whole-of-nation response.

This Comprehensive Response Plan balances the needs of all stakeholders while leaving no-one behind. The significance of COVID-19 induced tax revenue shortfalls cannot be downplayed, with anticipated revenue underperformance requiring reallocations of government spending to create space for COVID-19-related outlays, and policies. However, such reallocations shall not come at the expense of hard-fought-for fundamental social and economic freedoms now enjoyed in Myanmar. Nor shall our nation’s economic response involve cutting down our social services or increasing taxes on labour and investment.

Make no mistake, COVID-19 has cast its long shadow across our country, our economy and our people. Yet, by acting now, decisively, we can ease the economic burden faced by individuals and households, strengthen the capacity of our frontline healthcare workers – our nation’s new heroes – and shore up our nation’s macroeconomic position so that, once this is over, we will be ready to face the future from a position of strength.

As has so often been the case throughout our nation’s proud history, in trying times we have to rely on the strength and fortitude of our people. We are all in this together. For a time at least, we must be willing to bear one another’s burdens. I am confident that with a shared national spirit, compassion, industriousness and ingenuity, Myanmar will triumph.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BOT	Build-Operate-Transfer
CERP	COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan
CMP	Cut-Make-Pack
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
G2P	Government-to-People

GAD	General Administration Department
GoM	Government of Myanmar
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRD	Internal Revenue Department
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korean International Cooperation Agency
MADB	Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank
MCCT	Maternal and Child Cash Transfer
MEB	Myanma Economic Bank
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MIFER	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
MoALI	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
MoCOM	Ministry of Commerce
MoCON	Ministry of Construction
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEE	Ministry of Electricity and Energy
MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sports
MoHT	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
MoLIP	Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population
MoPFI	Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry
MoSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
MSDP	Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan
MSME	Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises
NPL	Non-Performing Loan
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
SSB	Special Separation Bonus
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation

Overview & Structure

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered off the biggest downturn in the global economy since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Millions of people around the world have lost jobs, public finances have come under immense strain, financial markets have teetered between complacency and crisis, while flows of trade, investment, and people have been severed. Policy countermeasures that emerged in the face of profound uncertainty have been confused, but also inspiring in their creativity.

Myanmar has not, and will not, escape the economic consequences of COVID-19. Already we have felt its impact: disrupted supply chain and trade flows, falls in retail and discretionary spending, a near cessation of tourism, and an understandable slump in consumer and investment sentiment broadly. In the face of this, the people of Myanmar have been characteristically



brave and resilient, but there is also much that their Government can and will do. Measures must be taken not just to ameliorate the current external crisis, but to create durable mechanisms and institutions that will propel us towards the kind of economy our people need and deserve.

This COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) is, accordingly, designed to meet the current exigencies Myanmar faces in ways that reaffirm our long-term strategic direction. It consists of policies and proposals that are as realistic and implementable as they are bold and hopeful. The CERP also carefully matches intentions to resources. Myanmar’s strong debt position and stable macro-economy of recent years mean that we are well-placed to meet much of the increased spending we need. Nevertheless, the CERP is scrupulous in matching outlays with financing, whether this is via innovative private-sector partnerships, or through arrangements with multilateral financial institutions and other development partners.

The CERP contains measures to mitigate the range of COVID-19 effects on our economy while leaving us in a position to bounce back to strong economic growth as soon as possible.

We believe our CERP is well-crafted and that Myanmar has the resilience and resources necessary not only to surmount the pandemic, but to come out the other side of it stronger and more resolved than ever to keep firmly to our path of progress and hope.

This CERP consists of 7 Goals, 10 Strategies, 36 Action Plans and 76 Actions, covering a broad range of extraordinary fiscal measures, combined with a set of human-focused and common-sense policy responses. We could say that our CERP seeks to flatten the curve without flattening our economy.

The Covid-19 pandemic remains an on-going global crisis. Accordingly, this CERP must also remain as a living document, revised constantly as circumstances and events demand.

FROM PAGE-11

Action Matrix

Action Plans	Timeline	Responsible Entity
Goal 1: Improve Macroeconomic Environment through Monetary Stimulus		
1.1. Provide Monetary Stimulus		
1.1.1. Lower Interest Rates	(a) Lower banks' deposit and lending rate ceilings by 3.0%	Done CBM
	(b) Allow the band around the reference rate to align more with market conditions	Done CBM
1.1.2. Lower Minimum Reserve Requirement on Banks	(a) Lower Minimum Reserve Requirement on banks by at least 150 bps	Done CBM
1.1.3. Conduct Credit Auctions	(a) Conduct credit auctions as necessary, to inject more liquidity into the banking and financial sector	Immediate CBM
1.1.4. Allow increased Central Bank's Financing of the Fiscal Deficit as a one-off measure	(a) As a Covid-19 measure, allow the Central Bank's financing of the fiscal deficit to increase as necessary up to a suitable level consistent with a target growth in the money supply.	End of 2020 MoPFI, CBM
1.1.5. Reduce Treasury Bonds/Bills Auctions	(a) Temporarily reduce Treasury Bond/Bill auction sales (i.e. for fiscal deficit financing) to avoid contractionary effects as a COVID-19 specific response.	Before end of 2020 MoPFI, CBM
Goal 2: Ease the Impact on the Private Sector through Improvements to Investment, Trade & Banking Sectors		
2.1. Ease the Impact on Private Sector Firms		
2.1.1. Low-Cost Funds (Increased Government Spending)	(a) Provide MMK 100 billion 1-year working capital loans to improve working capital of affected MSMEs, with a focus on MSME in the CMP and hotel/tourism sectors at 1% interest rate per annum	Done Budget Department (MoPFI), Taskforce
	(b) Ensure MFIs have full access to low- cost funding	Immediate Financial Regulatory Department (MoPFI)
	(c) Increase Fund size to MMK 200-500 billion depending on market response	Before end of 2020 Budget Department (MoPFI), Taskforce
	(d) Fast track the merger of the MEB/MADB, and use the opportunity to expand existing pilot commercial lending programs to those townships that are most economically affected	Before end of 2020 MoPFI
	(a) Government guarantees 50% of any new loans made by banks to Myanmar enterprises (up to a turnover <MMK 1 billion) for working capital, that are not beneficiaries of Action Plan 2.1.1., and conditional upon maintenance or rehire of staff as employed on February 1, 2020	Before end of 2020 MoPFI
2.1.2. Credit Guarantee Schemes	(b) Extend government guarantees to firms, existing or new, in selected high- growth sectors of the economy but	Before end of 2020 MoPFI

Action Plans	Timeline	Responsible Entity
	whose progress is judged to have been impacted by COVID-19 and its effects	
2.1.3. Tax/Fees Deferral or Waiver (Fiscal Stimulus)	(a) Defer Corporate Income Tax (Q2 payments expiring on 31 March and Q3 payments expiring on 30 June) up to 30 September 2020	Done IRD (MoPFI)
	(b) Defer Commercial Tax (payable every three-months) up to 30 September 2020	Done IRD (MoPFI)
	(c) Waive the 2% Withholding Tax on exports	Done IRD (MoPFI)
	(d) Waive annual fees charged by MoHT	Done MoHT
	(e) Defer SSB contributions for three months	Done MoLIP
	(f) Waive Specific Goods Tax for critical medical supplies and products related to the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19	Immediate IRD (MoPFI)
	(g) Waive Customs Duties and Commercial Tax related to the importation of critical medical supplies and products related to the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19	Immediate Customs Department (MoPFI)
	(h) Waive or reduce toll fees for cargo trucks on major roads/ bridges	As soon as practicable MoCON
	(a) Exempt lease fees charged to affected firms (that have leased state- owned factories for manufacturing, have made progress in their line of business, and have made regular payments in the past three months) for 3-6 months	Immediate MoPFI
	2.1.4. Exempt Lease Fees Charged to Affected Firms	
2.1.5. Tax Credits (Fiscal Stimulus)	(a) Provide 10% non-refundable tax credits on the incremental wage bill	As soon as practicable IRD (MoPFI)
	(b) Allow for a deduction equal to 125% of wages paid	As soon as practicable IRD (MoPFI)
	(c) Provide 10% non-refundable tax credits for incremental investments on capital equipment	As soon as practicable IRD (MoPFI)
	(d) Allow for a one-time increase in depreciation equal to 125% of depreciation for the current year	As soon as practicable IRD (MoPFI)
2.1.6. Loan Restructuring and Rescheduling	(a) Allow banks to restructure and reschedule existing loans extended to MSMEs that regularly pay interest and principal on a timely basis for a longer period (not more than 3 years)	Done CBM
2.1.7. Support to Farmers, Small Agri-Processors, Seed Farmers and Agri-Businesses for Planting and Income Retention	(a) Support COVID-19 communication campaigns	Immediate MoALI
	(b) Cash or lending support to smallholder farmers who have lost sales revenue or remittance income to support input purchases in time for monsoon planting	Before end of 2020 MoALI/MADB
	(c) Complement support with advice on productivity enhancement and market connectivity	Before end of 2020 MoALI

TO BE CONTINUED

CORONA AND CASH

Euro banknotes safe to touch despite coronavirus: ECB

THERE is no significant risk of catching the coronavirus from euro banknotes, the European Central Bank said Tuesday, citing lab tests that showed the germs survived far longer on other surfaces.

Cash is still widely used in the 19-nation eurozone but many shops and businesses have asked customers to switch to cards or contactless payments to avoid handling bills possibly touched by an infected person.

In a blog post, ECB

executive board member Fabio Panetta said tests by European labs showed that the survival rate of coronaviruses is "10 to 100 higher" on a stainless steel surface, like a door handle, than on euro banknotes in the first few hours after contamination.

"Other analyses indicate that it is much more difficult for a virus to be transferred from porous surfaces such as cotton banknotes than from smooth surfaces like plastic," Panetta said.

Euro notes are printed on pure cotton-fibre paper, which helps make them resistant to wear and tear.

"Overall, banknotes do not represent a particularly significant risk of infection compared with other kinds of surface that people come into contact with in daily life," Panetta wrote.

In China, the central bank announced in February that it was using ultraviolet rays to disinfect banknotes in a bid to curb the outbreak.



Safer than plastic or steel. PHOTO: AFP

Panetta's blog did not mention whether any tests had been done into the contamination risks when using euro coins.

More than 340 million people across the continent use the euro currency.

Cash remains the

dominant mode of payment for eurozone consumers, the ECB said, accounting for three quarters of transactions.

It is especially popular in large countries like Germany, Italy and Spain.

Demand for cash has been "less predictable" during the coronavirus crisis, Panetta said, with some people hoarding money at home while others are spending less because of the lockdowns.

SOURCE: AFP

MOVES TO MITIGATE IMPACT OF COVID-19

US Fed expands lending programme to smaller cities

THE US Federal Reserve on Monday widened a new crisis lending programmes to grant many more cities and counties access to funds aimed at blunting the coronavirus pandemic's economic

damage.

The Fed lowered the population thresholds announced early this month in the Municipal Lending Facility (MLF) to extend the financing to US counties with a population of

500,000 or more, and US cities with a population of at least 250,000 residents.

The previous minimum was two million residents for counties and one million for cities, which limited participation to just 76 entities, including all 50 US states and Washington, DC.

"The new population thresholds allow substantially more entities to borrow directly from the MLF than the initial plan announced on April 9," the Fed said in a statement.

The central bank rapidly rolled out a series of new lending vehicles to pump cash into the US economy even before it

started to see the damage imposed by the widespread business closures and job losses.

Under the MLF, the Fed "will offer up to \$500 billion in lending to states and municipalities to help manage cash flow stresses caused by the coronavirus pandemic."

The Fed is also buying unlimited amounts of US Treasury debt and corporate bonds, as well as backstopping the Paycheck Protection Programme, which offers bank loans to small businesses.

It is also lending to larger businesses through its Main Street Lending facility.



The Federal Reserve building is seen on April 2, 2020 in Washington, DC.
PHOTO BY OLIVIER DOULIERY / AFP

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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.

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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.

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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
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AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Impact of globally-terrifying COVID-19 on economy, consequences and future plans

Saw Naing (Applied Economics)

THE infection of globally-terrifying COVID-19 is touching here and there all over the world. Global confirmed COVID-19 cases topped 2.9 million on 27 April afternoon, according to the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University. The fresh figure reached 2,994,690 with 207,270 deaths as of 2:30 pm (1830 GMT), the CSSE said. Even though general matters are directly related to health role, all other sectors are being affected. Especially, the virus infection might lead to an unprecedented effect on the global economy, according to the world observers.

Do the consequences of the coronavirus seem to be similar to 'domino effect' described by US President Dwight D Eisenhower? Or do they seem to be similar to the butterfly effect referred by Edward Norton Lorenz, an American mathematician and meteorologist? Nevertheless, the worries of coronavirus have already effects on all the countries in the world. With a series of advancements of IT and transport vehicles with high technology, the world gaining momentum of

globalization is suffering more domino and butterfly effects hit by the ongoing coronavirus crisis when compared to those of the past moments.

How are all the businesses across the world grappling with this situation? It is absolutely certain that all are struggling with such worst circumstance looking forward to a particular hope. International economic situations such as stockpile, investment, production and trade have been greatly affected. There has been a sharp decline in the financial markets. The world is now coming across a remarkable loss and a terrified situation that have not been encountered for previous decades. While the investors are worried about the future prospects for their businesses, the consequences are becoming more transparent. All the markets are suffering lack of trust. Hindrances and delays lie in economic efforts of all respective countries of the world.

Despite the fact that the world is seeing complexities of military, politics and demarcations, the wealth role has become more significant than the previous moment. For that reason, the

world of the humans has become the wealth dominant place. Different situations are changing in the world that gives special consideration of the wealth. At such a time, the largest worry of the governments is an increased unemployment taking place in their economic environments. Efforts are being put into avoiding the unpleasant situation. Every government has to prepare for aid programmes, orders and announcements, thereby aiming at protecting job opportunities of the citizens.

The coronavirus is automatically affecting the productions of the world nations. The social cost amount will be large in every sector soon. The role of banks will be more crucial and efforts will be stepped up to be able to carry out the tasks more efficiently. The central banks are planning to issue out loans with lesser interest rate to encourage the swift flow of finance. More funds have to be channeled into economic structure to avoid slow flow of finance.

Tourism is one of the hardest-hit sectors as a result of the coronavirus. This is because the government restricts people's access to travel to contain the



Tourists at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Bagan. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**

spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Changes appear in travel schedules including flight. Hotel industry, tour guide service and other related businesses have been all affected. In a short time, the effect on the international economic environment is very huge.

The efforts of the governments led to give and take policy in economic structures. The restrictions of the governments helped mitigate the prevention of the virus, but had a severe effect on multiple sectors including economy. The virus crisis caused domestic and foreign economic fields to slow the flow of finance. It, on the other hand, created liquidity problem. The purchase and the use of the rich became slower and the attention of those who have insufficient money turned only to essential goods ignoring favourite ones. No one interested individual savings.

There was a sharp decrease in the productions of the factories and the industries from the world countries. Transport restrictions caused an uneasy way to buy raw materials and the cost increased. A decline in production led to a decrease in market supply. Different forms of restrictions caused demand to decline. The virus wave had effects on international markets, regional and local ones to the small in the neighbourhood. When supply decreased, demand faced uncertainty.

Most of the countries are reviewing possible health conditions their citizens are facing in advance of the risk and guessing potentials of related businesses as well. Learning the lessons from the previous events of eco-

nomic failure, they are differently considering and preparing hoping for the best. The general situations are leading to a global recession.

The health departments inform the people of the contacts between persons that are a main cause of the virus infection. The people must follow the health guidelines issued by the ministry. We must follow social distancing that means three feet apart in the working environment. The workers have to work from home



Tourists flock over the Bund next to the Huangpu river during the third day of the Lunar New Year in Shanghai on 18 February, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**





to avoid mass gatherings and crowds. The people are instructed to follow home stay. Due to these situations, the use of online platform is becoming widespread in day-to-day life of the people.

The people get accustomed to mobile phones and social media platforms in the communication area to some degree. Most of the employees may see some difficulties as they start to work from home from now. Regarding the plan of work from home, some businesses are beginning to launch services on a trial basis only from now. Some have been

providing sale services through online since a few years ago. Anyhow despite some difficulties, an economic arena capable of using better ways of online in multiple sectors is becoming widespread in the long run. It is a more optimistic view we are now taking.

It can be said that the threat of the coronavirus resulted in the people in the country suffering worries and hardships, but it is the driving force to put our economic environment into a better society with the help of IT. In particular, conventional business type is turning into digital online

economy. The world of today has nothing to choose except for online. The future lives of the people will remain in the life of online from the 21st century.

All businesses big and small are in the process of preparing for reforming while hoping for the opportunities in the wake of the virus under control so as to overcome the most serious challenge of the Covid-19. For ensuring the constant existence of the businesses, all businesses from the top level to the grass root are making utmost effort in order to keep in touch with the customers. Previously they had a

comfort zone that is easy to pass through. But now it is a different matter for them. It has been already known to them that they are being pushed into an atmosphere of constantly innovating new necessities while thinking beyond the comfort zone.

Different people have different emotions under the different circumstances, hoping for different results. Some people have already arrived in the online world in a comfortable way. Most of the people are also trying to be present in the world of online not to lose their professions. It is thought that the services of

education, health and entertainment will be able to shift to the online. Technologies can be independently used at fair price. For that reason it is absolutely certain that the online business world will be thriving in the future.

Therefore, whatever crisis is happening, a partial business structure will be operational through online. Each business is supposed that now is the best time how to connect their businesses to online. The use of robots, drones and artificial intelligence system (AI) will become more widespread.

In Pali language, the word



Tourists climb the Great Wall in Beijing on Oct 3, 2018. PHOTO:XINHUA



Central Bank of Myanmar. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)

‘capa’ means damage. Not a catastrophe appears only from now. Humans have already encountered different forms of disaster from time immemorial. Buddhists have ever heard of the three catastrophes namely famine, war and epidemic disease. These disasters approach the humans differently. It is believed that these disasters are related to excessive greed, anger and ignorance of the humans. American computer business tycoon Bill Gates predicted in a talk show in 2015 that the pandemic not war would be threatening the world in the upcoming decades.

The different forms of danger capable of threatening the future world are much related to the mental changes of the humans. Although the humans are constantly making efforts in undertaking advance innovations, they will have to reduce excessive greed, anger and ignorance. Only then will the world respond to possible upcoming different forms of danger by showing great maturity.

Translated By
Htut Htut (Twantay)

Players request Shan United to adjust salary

FOOTBALLERS from Shan United recently requested their team to pay them nearly half of their salaries amid the outbreak of the COVID-19, according to the official statement issued by the football club.

Currently, all the Myanmar National League matches are being postponed and both local and foreign players of the teams are going back home last month and making their mini-training at home. Shan United FC gave full salaries to all the team's players for March on 31 March and all the team players led by Captain-cum-Goalkeeper Thiha

Sithu, key player David Htan, youth star player Nanda Kyaw and foreign player Djawa Maximum made their own decisions to receive nearly half of their salaries during the COVID-19 outbreak period. Their own decisions were aimed for the sustainable existence of their team with ease of financial situation during the global pandemic period. They have decided all the local players to receive sixty per cent of their normal salaries while foreign players to receive fifty per cent of their normal salaries, according to the statement with the Shan United. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

MNL head coaches make COVID-19 campaign via online

HEAD coaches from Myanmar National League football clubs made their COVID-19 campaign through their meeting on the video call, posted on the Facebook page of the MNL recently.

First, Hantharwady United head coach U Myo Min Tun alerted that now we are facing with global pandemic COVID-19.

Consequently, Ayeyarwady United U Myo Hlaing Win said, "As COVID-19 is affecting worldwide, even developed countries are making a lot of precautionary measures." Yangon United U Tin Maung Tun also said as there is no medicine for the cure of

the COVID-19 disease, we must take care as a saying "prevention is better than cure". Shan United head coach U Aung Naing questioned on the short meeting that, "How can we prevent from the pandemic?" Rakhine United head coach U Than Wai replied that the best way is staying home.

Next Sagaing United head coach U Zaw Lin Tun suggested wearing masks systematically.

Yadanarbon FC head coach U Aung Kyaw Moe also suggested physical distancing about six feet and Magwe FC head coach U Aung Zaw Myo focused on avoiding touching door handles

or doorknobs. ISPE head coach U Aung Naing Win also suggested to use gloves and wash hands frequently.

Then, Zwegapin United head coach U Kyaw Thu Aung Myint Tun also suggested changing clothes after arriving back home from outside, and taking a bath or shower if possible. Southern Myanmar FC head coach U Kyaw Min also recommended not to hug and kiss children. U Aung Khaing of Chin United recommended if someone is feeling sick, he or she does not hesitate to contact nearest health department. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Fate of Hundred in balance as English cricket chiefs meet

LONDON (United Kingdom) — England cricket chief Tom Harrison says the controversial Hundred has become "even more important" due to the economic damage from coronavirus ahead of a meeting that will decide the fate of the new competition.

Last week, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) further delayed the start of the 2020 season until July 1 at the earliest but said the inaugural Hundred would be on the agenda this Wednesday.

The new 100-balls-per-side format, to be played by eight franchises rather than English cricket's established 18 first-class counties, is meant to start in July.

ECB officials have long insisted it will attract a new audience vital to safeguarding cricket's future, with some matches set to be broadcast live on terrestrial television.

But public health restrictions, the problems of bringing in overseas stars and the issue of launch costs at a time of economic crisis mean a delay appears inevitable.

"We'll look at how the situation impacts the Hundred, which was envisaged as being a tournament that enabled us to widen the audience for the game," said Harrison. "With an in-stadia environment, with international players, it's going to be very, very difficult."

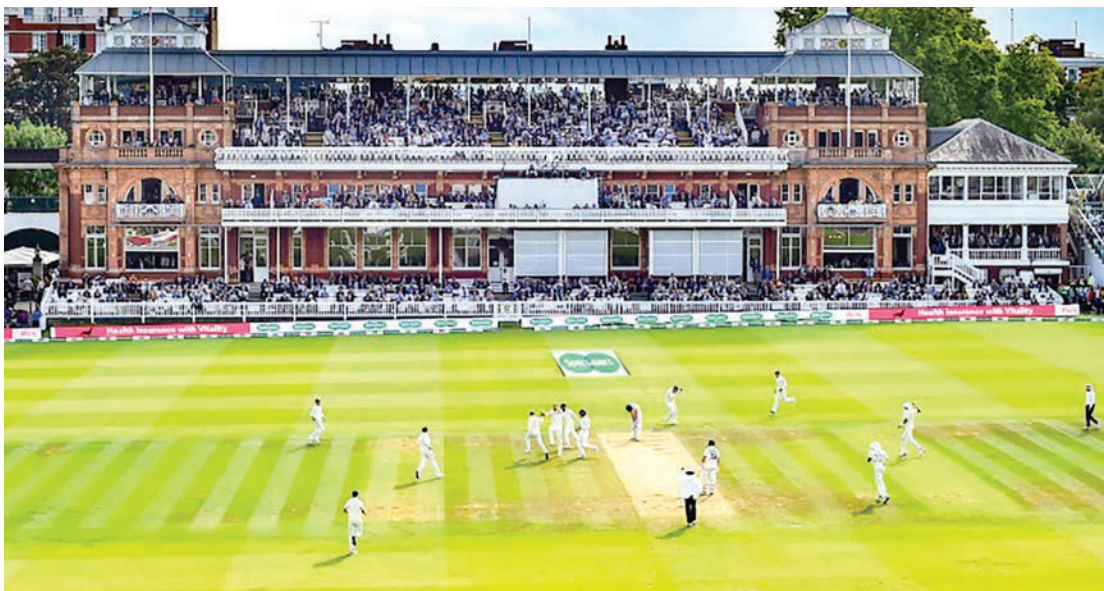
Opposition voices - Many voices within English cricket have been opposed to the Hundred from the outset, arguing there is no space for a new

format in an already congested calendar.

They say many of the ECB's aims could be achieved with better support for the existing Twenty20 Blast.

But Harrison, one of the key movers behind the competition, said current conditions made it more important than ever.

"If anything this crisis and the implications, long-term or medium-term, mean the case for the Hundred is even more important," he said. "So I don't think this in any way dilutes the case for the Hundred, it absolutely accelerates it and makes it something cricket needs to get behind." Even before the pandemic, the ECB had itself forecast the Hundred would make a loss in its first five seasons.—AFP



English cricket chiefs are set to discuss the future of the Hundred. **PHOTO: AFP**



Tokyo 2020 chief Yoshiro Mori said there was no prospect of delaying the Olympics to 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Next year's Olympics will be cancelled if pandemic not over: Games chief

TOKYO (Japan) — The postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics will have to be cancelled if the coronavirus pandemic isn't brought under control by next year, the organising committee's president warned, ruling out further delays.

The comments, in an interview with a Japanese sports daily published Tuesday, come as medical experts doubted whether the pandemic can be sufficiently contained by next year to hold an event drawing participants and spectators from around the world. The pandemic has already forced a year-long delay of the Games, which are now scheduled to open on July 23, 2021.

But Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori was categorical when asked by the Nikkan Sports daily whether the Games could be delayed until 2022 if the pandemic remains a threat next year,

replying: "No."

"In that case, it's cancelled," Mori said. Mori noted the Games had been cancelled previously only during wartime, and compared the battle against coronavirus to "fighting an invisible enemy". If the virus is successfully contained, "we'll hold the Olympics in peace next summer", he added. "Mankind is betting on it."

Masa Takaya, a Tokyo 2020 spokesman, declined to comment on a possible cancellation of the Games and told reporters that Mori's remarks were based on "the chairman's own thoughts".

But the comments will add to growing questions about the postponement, decided last month after heavy pressure on the organizers and the International Olympic Committee from athletes and sports federations.—AFP