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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 7 May 2020

I am hoping for the quickest return to normalcy and will work hard for it: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that she hoped for the quickest return to normalcy and that she would work hard for it. This is what she wrote:

Having to stay at home can be for many reasons.

It could be for many reasons such as illness, tiredness, house arrest or for being occupied fully with religious practices. The last reason is, of course, the best one.

I heard that one of my friends spent about 7 hours each day with religious practices and that this friend was able to go to bed with a peaceful mind with satisfaction.

I feel empathy for this friend and I am also encouraged.

Having to stay at home to prevent COVID infection spread and having to

stay at home for other reasons may have similarities as well as differences. One day, one time, on one occasion, books about COVID experiences will

come out.

I have heard that the amount of commuters and traffic has increased in Yangon. As the largest number of

I have heard that the amount of commuters and traffic has increased in Yangon. As the largest number of COVID infected cases have been found in Yangon, there is a special need to follow the health guidelines and rules with great care.

COVID infected cases have been found in Yangon, there is a special need to follow the health guidelines and rules with great care.

I understand that there may be a need to go out of the house for many reasons, for example, for work. That's why I want a return to normalcy soonest. I will work hard for it. However, at this time you need to have patience. Please have patience. At a point in time in the future, you could write about how you tolerated with patience.

One effective method to prevent the spread of this disease is to wear the mask systematically. I am thinking of organizing a Mask competition to encourage the habit of wearing masks. Are you interested? This is something you can do from home!

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)



Myanmar nationals from Thai, Bangladesh return by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) brought back 135 Myanmar citizens from Thailand landed in Yangon International Airport around 8p.m. yesterday.

Similarly, 37 students attending the Asian Universi-

ty for Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh, and a Myanmar citizen stranded in Dhaka were brought back to Myanmar on a MAI relief flight yesterday evening.

The National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Con-

trol and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) gave guidelines on retrieving the Myanmar citizens while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated with the Myanmar embassies in Bangkok and Dhaka and their local govern-

ment ministries.

The Myanmar citizens from Thailand and Bangladesh will be quarantined at designated facilities or hotels for 21 days in line with directives issued by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

and the Ministry of Health and Sports. The two ministries and the Yangon Region government will be collaborating to ensure a positive experience during the quarantine.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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“People are the key”

Devotees perform meritorious deeds on Kasone Full Moon Day in Nay Pyi Taw

MEMBERS of the public in Nay Pyi Taw visited pagodas and religious edifices for the Full Moon Day of Kasone yesterday.

While the Kasone Full Moon is an auspicious day for Buddhists, the current spread of the global pandemic, COVID-19, and directives from the government have prevented large gatherings of devotees as in the previous years.

A member of the board of trustees of Uppatasanti Pagoda said the pagoda is open from 10 am to 4 pm and they have arranged hand basins and hand gels for visitors. He said the number of visitors has significantly decreased this year due to the spread of COVID-19. He said the board of trustees arranged for the ceremony of pouring water at the sacred Banyan tree to be conducted with a small number of people.

Similarly across Nay Pyi Taw, people visiting the Eternal Peace Pagoda, Yan Aung Myin Pagoda, Phaung Taw Chatma Pagoda, Koekhamgyi Pagoda, Sardusaya Datpaung Pagoda,

Lawka Yan Hnein Pagoda, and local pagodas in wards and villages wore face masks and maintained a 6-foot distance between each other.

Even though the Full Moon Day of Kasone is auspicious for Buddhists, many citizens chose to perform merit in their homes at order to mitigate the chances of spreading COVID-19.

Daw Khin San from Le-wei said families and relatives would normally gather and visit pagodas all day during Kasone but they are paying obeisance to the image of the Buddha at home because of the current global pandemic. She wished for all of Myanmar to be free from the virus soon.
—Han Lin Naing

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

People watering the Bodhi tree in Dhatu Jaya Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: AYE THAN



People paying homage to the Buddha statue at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on the Kasone Full Moon Day yesterday. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**



Full Moon Day of Kasone celebrated in Mandalay under MoHS guidelines



People watering the bodhi tree in a pagoda in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MAN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

KASONE Full Moon Day festival was celebrated with pouring water at Bodhi Banyan trees in the residential wards of Mandalay yesterday under the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports.

While famous pagodas and temples are temporarily closed for ensuring social distancing and prevention of community gatherings amid the outbreak of COVID-19, local people poured water at the sacred Banyan trees in the religious compounds. They participated in the ceremony with certain distances and not more than five persons in wearing face masks.

A participant at the ceremony said, “Although we cannot celebrate the Kasone festival

very joyously this year to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we poured water at the Bodhi Banyan trees in making wishes for the end of this disease across the world.”

In previous years, Bodhigon Pagoda in Mahaangmyay Township was crowded with people who came to celebrate the annual water pouring festival at the Bodhi Banyan tree planted by the late King Mindon. However, the event did not take place at this significant place this year due to measures against the COVID-19.—Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Cloth Mask Campaign aims to distribute 50,000 face masks in Kayin State

MORE than 50,000 cloth masks will be freely distributed in seven townships of Kayin State, according to an announcement by the Cloth Mask Campaign made in the temporary market of Hpan-an's Ward (3) yesterday morning.

The youth volunteer organizations carrying out the campaign will be led by State Minister for Social Affairs U Bo Bo Wai Maung. The campaign focuses on educating the public on the proper use of cloth masks and their importance in minimizing a person's expenses as they can wash and reuse compared to surgical masks that are discarded. The local social affairs minister and youth volunteers distributed 1,500 cloth masks to the vendors and customers at the temporary market yesterday.



A volunteer donating masks to a vendor in Kayin State.
PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN

They demonstrated proper use of cloth masks and its advantages. They encouraged the habit of wearing face masks and will continue to distribute more than

50,000 cloth masks and disseminate information in other townships. — Saw Myo Min Thein

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Electricity and Energy Full Moon Day of Kasone, 1382 ME 6 May 2020

1. The National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has made an announcement on 23 April 2020 for the extension of orders, notifications, public announcements and directives issued by 30 April 2020 to 15 May 2020. Therefore, during this extended period from 1 to 15 May, the period of exemption (free) of electricity bill will be extended for the category of domestic consumption (up to 75 units) used by public, religious organizations, and local civil services organizations, (excluding embassies, UN and international agencies).
2. Therefore, bill will not be charged (free) on the electricity from 1 to 75 units.
3. Bills will be collected in specific levels of power consumption from 76 units and above for the category of domestic consumption. Except local social organizations included in non-governmental organizations of non-domestic consumption with special exemption, all the remaining users will have to pay the bill in line with the previous rate.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Update on COVID-19 surveillance 8:00 pm, 6-5-2020

1. On the evening of 6-5-2020, the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) released the results of 94 lab specimens from persons under surveillance and in quarantine, 172 lab specimens from the Department of Medical Research, and 56 lab specimens from the Tatmadaw 1000-Bedded Hospital (2) in Nay Pyi Taw. The results show that all 322 lab specimens tested negative for COVID-19.
2. There are currently 161 positive COVID-19 cases in Myanmar as of 8 pm on 6-5-2020.
3. A total of 50 old confirmed cases tested no longer having the virus after being retested twice as of 6-5-2020.
4. There have been 6 deaths from among the virus-positive patients.
5. There have been 81 new persons under surveillance between 12 pm of 5-5-2020 to 12 p.m. of 6-5-2020.

Ministry of Health and Sports

Number of lab specimens tested by the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on 6-5-2020 (First batch)	94
Number of lab specimens tested by the Department of Medical Research on 6-5-2020	172
Number of lab specimens tested by the Tatmadaw 1000-Bedded Hospital (2) on 6-5-2020	56
Number of new COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) positive results	0

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

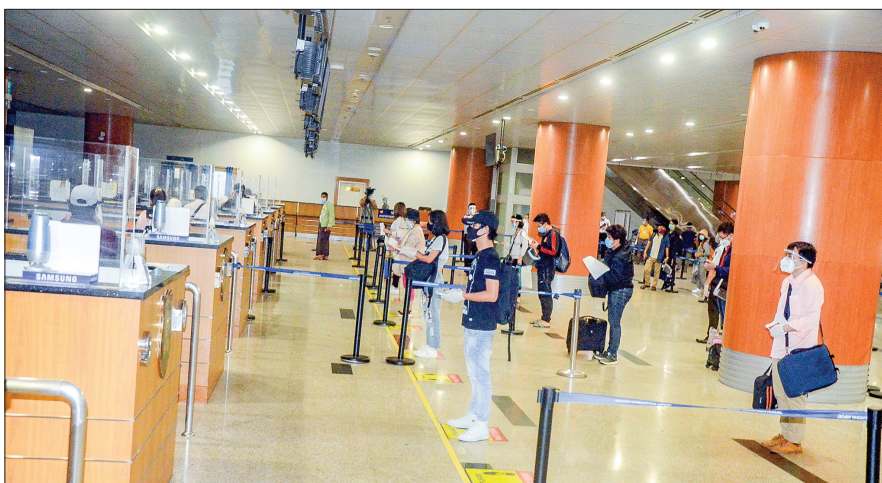
56 persons tested negative despite close contacts with COVID-19 patient soldier

THE news has been released on 4 and 5 May about COVID-19 infection to a member of Defence Services in Nay Pyi Taw Command area, and quarantine of 363 persons with contact to him; their specimens were tested by the COBAS 6800 analyzer at the No.2 Defence Services General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw, and found negative (Negative).

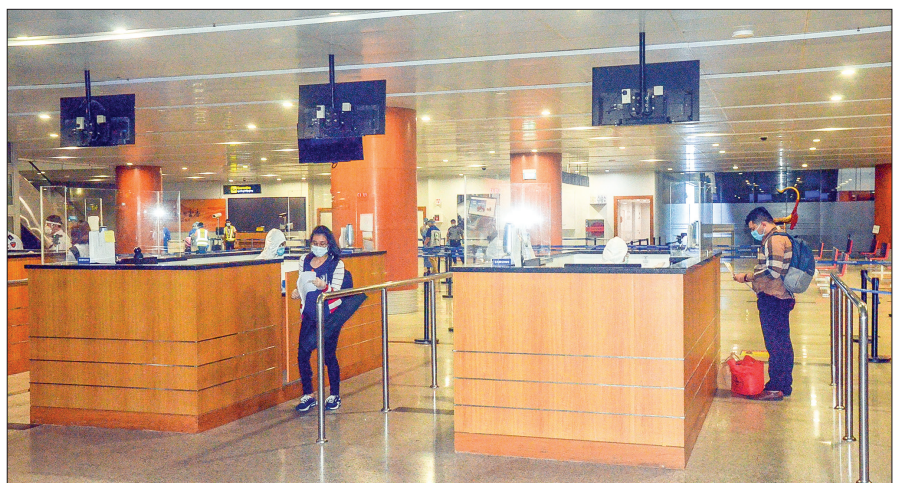
Moreover, the remaining 56 persons in close contacts with the infected soldier were also tested by the COBAS 6800 analyzer in Nay Pyi Taw, and all the results have shown negative (Negative).

The infected soldier is receiving medical treatments at the Defence Services General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw, and he is in good health conditions. Meanwhile, those with negative results remain under quarantine in accordance with guidelines of COVID-19, according the report of the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar nationals arrived back from Thailand conducting their immigration processes at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



Myanmar nationals arrived back from Bangladesh conducting their immigration processes. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

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

MR repairs sleepers at Yangon Central Railway Station



The Yangon Railway Station being repaired. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE

WITH the concrete railway sleepers laid at Yangon Central Railway Station damaged, the railway sleepers laid in Platforms 2, 3 and 4 are being repaired for the safety of the commuters with the guideline of Yangon Division 7 chief engineer (civil) of Myanma Railway (MR), said an official from MR.

U Kyaw Lwin, the assistant

engineer (civil) from MR said, "The railway sleepers are damaged by the rain and the litters dropped by the passengers onto the railway from the coaches. We have difficulty repairing the sleepers as they are damaged. Therefore, we could not repair the existing rail lines. So, we need to replace the existing sleepers with the new ones. Our

chief engineer used nine steel rails for the circular railway. So, we will replace the old rails with the new ones."

Among other platforms, platform 2 is important. With a decline in the number of passengers because of coronavirus spread, we are upgrading the railway this time. The railway is 1,744 feet long. Platform 1 is

currently being used by the passengers, he added.

The railway of Platforms 3 and 4 have already been replaced. The replacement of the rails and the sleepers in platform 2 will be made within a month.

U Kyaw Htet Zaw, the junior engineer (1) from MR said, "We are hearing noise because of the damaged railway. Therefore, we are upgrading the railway. The railway has been constructed for many years and so many rails are damaged already. The 29-foot railway is controlled by 17 sleepers. Most of the 17 sleepers are badly damaged now. So, we need to replace them with the new ones. We need to replace 269 sleepers in Platform 2." Initially, MR conducted upgrading of the Yangon circular railway for the commuters. Additionally, MR is upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay railway. So, MR has urged the passengers to follow the rules and regulations when they are onboard the trains.

MR is upgrading the circular railway, railway stations, locomotives and coaches and railway over passes/bridges for the passengers to be able to travel conveniently. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over K5 bln worth riverbank project to be implemented in Mandalay

MORE than K5.3 billion worth riverbank protection project will be implemented next year. The project will be implemented along Ayeyawady river and Dokehtawady river in 2020-2021 fiscal year, said U Kyaw Myint Than, the head of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System in Mandalay Region. The project will be implemented in 21 villages.

Besides, the department has targeted to allocate K900 million for four river waterway conservation projects. The project will be implemented after the regional Hluttaw Affairs Committee has permitted.

"This year, the regional government has allocated over K5 billion for riverbank protection project. We will choose 20 priority places. Both Ayeyawady and Dokehtawady rivers are on the important list. The remaining places from other villages are prone to floods caused by the collapse of the

riverbanks," he added.

Although over K16 billion have to be allowed for 50 villages which have submitted permission to implement riverbank protection projects this year, the regional government has allocated only over K5 billion for 21 villages.

"The riverbank protection projects must start before the river water rises. And the projects must be finished before July. This year, the department will invite tender to the private companies which will comply with the tender rules. Then, the companies will be inspected by

the department and the third party," he added.

In 2019-2020FY, the department is implementing riverbank protection projects in 20 villages of Mandalay region. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Over K5.3 billion worth riverbank protection project will be implemented next year.

PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

23 Myanmar nationals return home through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2 on 5 May



An official drops hand sanitizer onto the hands of migrant worker as she returns from Thailand.
PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

A total of 23 Myanmar migrant workers returned home from Thailand through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) at 6:30 pm on 5 May, according to an official report.

The bridge was opened for Myanmar migrant workers from 6 am to 6 pm on 5 May. However, only 23 Myanmar nationals could enter only on 6:30 pm with a spe-

cial permission of the Kayin State Government, officials added.

"Myanmar and Thai authorities discussed the issue of returnees. Some Myanmar workers need to wait for approval from Thailand and we have received permission at 5:45 pm. The bridge will be closed at 6 pm. Thus, we reported to the Kayin State Government to extend the opening

hour of the bridge for Myanmar nationals," said Kayin State Hlutaw representative U Thant Zin Maung on 5 May.

A total of 182 Myanmar migrant workers have returned to Myanmar from 1 to 5 May, but no returnee on 6 May. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar nationals seen near the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) on 5 May.
PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

Tatmadaw transit centres providing healthcare services to COVID-19 quarantined persons

TRANSIT centres of Defence Service in Nay Pyi Taw and Hline Township in Yangon are providing quarantined persons for COVID-19 disease with accommodations and medical services.

On 5 May, the Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw accommodated 6 men returned from China, another 6 men and 5 women from border towns Muse, Laukai, Lwejewel, Myawady and Kengtung, while the Transit Centre in Hline Township received 4 men and 1 woman returned from China, 4 men came back from Thailand and 1 man from Laukai.

A PUI was also transferred from Hline Township's

transit centre to a hospital due to suffering gastritis on 5 May.

The transit centres in Nay Pyi Taw and Hline Township have discharged 8 persons and 1 person as they have spent 21-day quarantine with approval documents and the Tatmadaw arranged vehicles for their return to homes.

The Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services has reported at 7 pm on 5 May that the Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw is quarantining 295 people and 123 people are at the Transit Centre of Hline Township. These persons are in good conditions of health. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

80 acres of green gram grown with GAP system in Monywa

ABOUT 80 acres of land were put under cultivation of green gram with GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) system in three villages of Monywa township, said Daw Ah Mar Kyi, the head of the Agricultural Department in Monywa. These three villages are Ma Yo Taw village, Thit Sint village and Nyaung Phyu Pin village. "These 80 acres of green gram are now blossoming. The officials from the Agricultural Department have inspected the GAP green gram farming," she added.

About 80 acres of green grams in Monywa township started to be grown in February 2020. The department has provided the training to the local farmers to be able to grow the crops under the GAP system. Therefore, interested farmers started to follow the GAP sys-

tem. The local farmers have to take care of their crops to reduce the contents of chemicals in the crops until they reach the consumers.

"If we start with the GAP system, we have to grow in accordance with the 16-point rules. We have to send the soil to the laboratory in upper Myanmar to test whether the soil contains the poison or not. We allow the farmers to grow only under the GAP system if the soil does not contain the poison," she said. There is also an undesirable problem with the seeds. So, we need to choose good quality ones. The Agricultural Department staff are also inspecting the GAP system applying farmland to ensure that the local farmers are not growing with the use of pesticides and fertilizer. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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 is opened daily.

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 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 have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

Hidden food rations of ARSA terrorists seized in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces confiscated food rations hidden by the ARSA terrorists near Khamaungseik village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

For the security of western part of Myanmar, troops are patrolling the border with Bangladesh day and night.

On 29 April, at about 1,500 metre north of border post BP-41, two members of ARSA and two other persons who attacked security forces by land mines and smuggled narcotic drugs were arrested in shooting death, with a impoverished land mine, other explosives and illegal drugs.

On 2 May, two police members were wounded in the ambushes of ARSA terrorists near BP-41 from the Bangladeshi side.

On 7 am yesterday morning, security forces confiscated dry food rations hidden near 3,000 metre west to Khamaungseik village and between BP-40 and 41 near the borderline.

On 8 April, ammunition, some sorts of military equipment, an identity card of UN-HCR issued for the refugee camps in the other country, 6 rice bags with WFP logo and 40 bottles of cooking oil were also discovered near 2,500 metre west of Khamaungseik village.

The Office of Commander in Chief Defence Services has also reported that ARSA and AA terrorists are receiving relief aid donated by NGOs/INGOs and private donors to the IDP camps.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



The cooking oil bottles and food rations hidden by the ARSA terrorists. PHOTO: MNA

AA terrorists kidnap villager in Taungup Tsp

A group of AA members abducted a man named U Than Shwe from his home in Buu Shwe Maw Village of Taungup Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

They reportedly carried him off towards Lamu Creek situated to the west of the village yesterday. U Than Swe, 52, and his wife were at their home when the AA terrorist group arrived around 1:30 am.

The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services says U Than Shwe was

an ordinary working man who also served as chairman of the village's COVID-19 Protection Committee.

The report also said that the AA terrorists members have been disguising as security and police officers and civilians to attack and kidnap innocent civil servants and local residents. Security forces are collaborating with local residents to retrieve the kidnapped persons—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

THE ASEAN INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION (ASEAN-IPR) INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) based in Jakarta, Indonesia is seeking for an Executive Director to lead the Institute's efforts as ASEAN'S research institute for the term of three years from 19-10-2020 to 18-10-2023. Detail information including responsibilities and qualifications are available at <https://asean-aipr.org/resources/vacancy-executive-director/> and <https://asean.org/opportunities/vacancies-asec/>.

Notification on COVID-19 prevention in IDP camps

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

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

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Price of mung beans lowers by K10,000 per tonne in early May

THE mung beans are traded at a bargain price in early May compared with the price of April-end, as per Bayintnaung market's data.

Mung bean is priced around K960,000 per tonne in the first week of May in Yangon market, showing K10,000 per tonne lower than last week's price.

The growers have already sold out their beans but the market has been manipulated by the traders in the recent days.

India has earlier extended the period for import quota of 250,000 tonnes of mung beans by April-end and made a further extension to 15 May, due to coronavirus impacts.

As India has market requirement on beans, especially mung bean. India imposed a nationwide restriction as of mid-April and extended it to slow the spread of coronavirus disease. As a result of this, supply chain disruption affects trade. Upon the licenced traders seeking request to extend the period, India notified extension of import quota by 15 May.

For the current fiscal, India

has increased the quota limit from 150,000 to 400,000 tonnes to reach the market's demand, according to a trade notice released by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade under India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 12 December 2019.

India has earlier stated that the further increased quota of 250,000 tonnes has to arrive at India's port by 31 March 2020. Due to the coronavirus impacts, they made the extension two times.

At present, more than 150,000 tonnes of mung beans have been shipped, according to the association.

India experienced a low yield of mung beans due to erratic weather last year. Under the provincial government's approval, more mung beans are purchased beyond the previous quota limit, driving up the mung bean price up to above K1.3 million per tonne.

Myanmar assures adequate supplies of mung bean for India's market, yet the coronavirus consequences slow the trade flow, Secretary U Min Ko Oo of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Seeds Merchant Association (MPBSSMA) told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) on 20 April.

Moreover, India's Commerce Department has announced on 17 March 2020 to

import 400,000 tonnes of mung beans for the 2020-2021FY as per the amended 2015-2020 Foreign Trade Policy of the Central Government.

Myanmar is the main supplier of mung beans to India. Con-

cerning other types of beans, Myanmar has to compete against Australian and African markets, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Foreign investment creates over 136,000 jobs in Oct-April 2019-2020FY

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic and foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and other regional and state investment committees created about 150,000 jobs in the seven months of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

During the October-April period, the foreign enterprises created over 136,000 jobs for locals, including the recruitment of new local employees by the existing foreign investment projects, as per data from the DICA.

Additionally, domestic en-

terprises created over 12,000 jobs for local people in the current fiscal, added by expanding employment by the existing domestic businesses.

Moreover, the existing domestic and foreign businesses employed about 4,000 expatriate workers.

According to a press statement issued recently by the DICA, 162 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the MIC and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal.

Myanmar has attracted foreign direct investments of more than US\$3.35 billion between 1 October and 28 April in the 2019-

2020 financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises. With the inclusion of \$91.85 million in investments in the special economic zone, the FDI totalled \$3.446 billion.

Domestic investments by Myanmar citizens, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises, reached K1,251 billion and \$253.216 million as of 28 April in the current financial year, according to a press release issued by the MIC.

During the period, 73 local enterprises were allowed to invest in various sectors, with an estimated capital of over K985 billion and \$159.8 million.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic investments touch K1,251 bln, \$253 mln in current fiscal

DOMESTIC investments by Myanmar citizens, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises, have reached K1,251 billion and US\$253 million over the half of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to a press statement issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Between 1 October and 28 April in the current fiscal, 73 local enterprises were allowed to invest in various sectors, with estimated capitals of over K985.8 billion and \$159.8 million.

Domestic investments have flowed into the real estate, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

To simplify the verification of investment projects,

the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the government require the permit from the commission. Besides, those businesses that have large capital investments exceeding \$5 million and that may have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be approved by the DICA's proposal assessment team.

With a fast-track way to set up a business in Myanmar having been introduced, investors can apply to the MIC or the state and regional Investment Committees to get their investment proposals endorsed, depending on the business type.—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Keeping dengue in mind amidst the battle against COVID-19

WHILE battling the spread of the coronavirus, the Ministry of Health and Sports is also planning to fight another deadly disease at the national level during the coming rainy season – dengue fever.

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, the number of dengue cases in 2017, 2018 and 2019 reached about 80,000, with some 450 deaths.

There is no typically prescribed medicine to offer treatment for dengue fever, except for relief from pain. And it is worth remembering that the number of yearly deaths caused by dengue fever is higher than COVID-19 fatalities, so far this year.

Dengue should not be taken lightly, as it has directly affected more people than COVID-19.

The number of dengue cases is often observed to increase at the beginning of the four-month rainy season, which starts in June.

As the rainy season is drawing near, we should also focus on other diseases, such as waterborne diseases and influenza, along with leptospirosis, which occurs during the rainy season.

No doubt, we will have to face the two diseases at the same time soon, which will require intensive attention from the health care system to prevent great harm to the population.

Containing the dengue outbreak depends on how we systematically and effectively manage the public health services.

The yearly outbreak of the Aedes mosquito-borne disease has been creating a panicked situation in densely populated areas.

The vector-borne disease is caused by the daytime bites of the Aedes mosquitoes. Its larvae are born in clean rain water that collects in littered containers, such as green-coconut shells, along with the hundreds of types of pots and cans thrown away after being used.

By using the same strategies, such as high public awareness about COVID-19, we can prevent dengue fever by eliminating dengue hot spots.

Meanwhile, the increased hand hygiene our people are practicing daily in the face of COVID-19 can be considered the bright side of the global pandemic, as hand washing is crucial to ensure reducing health-care associated infections, including seasonal flu from other pathogens, which account for an estimated 8 million deaths each year throughout the world.

Continuing the battle against the crippling COVID-19, and coping with the creeping outbreak of dengue fever, appears to pose a dual challenge to the health authorities. However, we are confident that the COVID-19 strategy, with the participation of the people, will be useful in the war to be waged against two diseases at one time.

Accomplishments of Nay Pyi Taw Council in the fourth year

By Nandar Win
Photo: Zaw Min Lwin (IPRD)

Nay Pyi Taw Council's actions support national development in one way or another

NAY PYI TAW is one of the ASEAN's 26 cities which would be established as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network.

After Nay Pyi Taw was designated as an initial city for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network in 2018, Nay Pyi Taw Council adopted the action plans and implemented them to ensure quality environment and infrastructure meeting



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung.

criteria of a smart city in Nay Pyi Taw.

Following is excerpts of the answers from the interview with Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung.

Q: Achievements of the Nay Pyi Taw Council in fourth-year period

A: Nay Pyi Taw Council is implementing the tasks laid down in accordance with the State's policy to building a federal democratic

country.

During the fourth-year period (during 2019-2020) fiscal year, the Nay Pyi Taw Council is implementing 1,757 projects, with a budget of over K100 billion. In the first-year period of the incumbent government, the Nay Pyi Taw Council implemented 1,431 projects, with the budget of over K41 billion; in the second year period, 1,392 projects with over K 42.4 billion, and in the third-year period, 1,880 projects with over K90 billion.

Q: Achievements in the education sectors

A: In the fourth-year period, the Nay Pyi Taw Council is implementing 393 projects. During this fiscal year, 69 new school buildings will be constructed. Besides, 8,562 teachers were appointed in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in this fiscal year. Win Pyithit Foundation and Korean donors installed water purifiers at three high schools in three townships; DB Insurance Company built one one-storey hall and Soe Electric Foundation, an eight-unit housing for teachers. Over 200,000 students are attending classes at 784 schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Libraries were opened at 565 schools under the guidance of the State leaders. Students were motivated to partake in the central level sports events under the multiple development programs.

Schools hold commemorative



People paying homage to the Buddha image at the Uppatasandi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

essay, poem and arts competitions on the significant days including the birthday of General Aung San.

Q: Health undertakings

A: Nay Pyi Taw Council is providing public healthcare with five central level hospitals, two district level hospitals, and 15 township level hospitals. Moreover it implemented 19 work programmes at an expense of over K 4,982 million in the fourth year. Various kinds of vaccines have been provided at clinics in addition to hospitals to extend the coverage of the vac-

ination programme. The number of facilities of the private sector including hospitals has been extended to 250 in Nay Pyi Taw. The committees to prevent, contain and treat Covid-19 are holding meetings every week in the Union Territory. Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is operating round the clock in monitoring and informing about the infection. It has already made contact numbers available.

Covid-19 Surveillance Teams of the Public Health Department are checking and monitoring daily all the passengers arriving at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport since 26 January. Staffs of the Township Public Health Department Offices are checking the body temperature of the guests staying at the hotels in Nay Pyi Taw every day and monitoring them.

The teams are visiting the hospitals at the central level and other stages to find out whether they have any coronavirus suspected patients and conducting Community Surveillance on returnees every day.

Health awareness campaigns against Covid-19 have been conducted in the township of Union Territory. On 18 March this year, the Nay Pyi Taw Council issued

an order stating the instructions to be followed and urging departments, entrepreneurs and public to collectively take part in the Covid-19 prevention, containment and treatment activities.

Q: Progress of the agriculture sector

A: The Nay Pyi Taw Council Area has a large number of villages in its eight townships, and its main business is agriculture. So, priority is being given to the development of rural areas for the progress of the agriculture sector: The Nay Pyi Taw Council Area put 171,969 acres under paddy during the previous rainy season, and produced 14.5 million baskets of paddy. Per acre yield of the crop was 84.79 baskets. It has targeted to grow 20,443 acres of summer paddy, and has already put 3434 acres under the crop. It also put 340,046 acres under other crops including corn, beans and pulses and oil crops. Its rice sufficiency is at 100.31 per cent and cooking oil sufficiency is at 137.32 percent.

Q: Irrigation development in Nay Pyi Taw

A: Nay Pyi Taw implemented 148 irrigation projects at a cost of over K 8555 million in fiscal year 2019-2020. They included the im-

provement of the irrigation system, dredging, canal building, and erection of Check Structures on outflow canals, embanking, main canal upgrading and retaining walls. The Union Territory is using World Bank loans in implementing irrigation projects apart from the budget allotment of the State. It is building the left canal of Hsinthay Dam in Tatkon Township at a cost of over K 3064 million approved by the State for fiscal year 2017-2018. When completed, the canal will irrigate nearly 8000 more acres in the area. Apart from the World Bank, loans are coming from other financial sources for the irrigation sector.

Q: Endeavours for progress of farming

A: The Union Territory is developing the aqua and animal farming as it is a rural based area. It distributed K 3 million for cattle breeding in Weigi village in Pyinmana Township and disseminated livestock knowledge for the locals. Nay Pyi Taw also conducted courses on Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) and Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) for several times. It also produced cow pups through artificial insemination.



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung meeting with people from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

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"Keep Clapping"

“လက်ခုပ်တီးလို့ဆက်လက်အားပေးရက်ပြုကြပါစို့”

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 06th May, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 07th May, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Northern Shan and Chin States and isolated in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Shan(-South and East), Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 07th May, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 07th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 07th May, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting 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 Kye 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

SEE PAGE-10

Accomplishments of Nay Pyi Taw Council in the fourth year



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung meets with public at the opening ceremony of Shwekhel Inn school in Nay Pyi Taw.

FROM PAGE-9

Q: Extension of the nation's electrification coverage

A: Two mega dams in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are generating clean energy for the capital city. Of the eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Zabuthiri and Zeyathiri are cent per cent electrified townships, and of the 796 villages of the area, 580 are electrified. Seventy-seven villages will get power under the Nay Pyi Taw Council budget, and 20 villages under the National Electrification Project. A total of 30.78 miles of 11 Kv open wire cables and 26.25 miles of 400-volt open wire cables will be replaced with insulated cables in fiscal year 2019-2020 to reduce black-outs and brownouts and electrical hazards.

Q: About the undertakings for sufficient potable water supply

ply

A: Nay Pyi Taw has a population of over one million, and of them over 400,000 are government employees. Nay Pyi Taw Development Council is carrying out the task of supplying water for staff quarters of the capital. Nay Pyi TawDC implemented 115 projects at a cost of K 1,970 million in fiscal year 2019-2020 during the fourth year in eight townships. The projects included tube-wells, pumping stations, spring water supply systems, and plumbing and water tanks.

Q: Undertaking for socio-economic development

A: Nay Pyi Taw is implementing 172 work programmes at an expense of over K 11,906 million during the fourth year. It will take preventive measures against flood, bank erosion, and

carry out dredging and water-courses management in four townships. It has completed 95% of the staff housing and hostel project, it is implementing with the allotted budget of K 50 billion.

Q: Arrangements of the rule of law and community peace

A: The anti-drug drive is designated as a national task in enforcing the rule of law and community peace in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Apart from a large haul of drugs, Nay Pyi Taw has seized arms, ammunition and explosives and arrested seven male and three female suspects. Nay Pyi Taw authorities also seized 68 unlicensed cars and 14 unregistered motorcycles in the fourth year. They could also impound over 529 tons of various kinds of illegal timber valued at over K 17

million. The capital has a 24-hour crime monitoring system with the use of 470 CCTV cameras. Moreover, it received a budget of over K 4,454 million for erecting the e-Government Network, the e-Lte Network and the Command and Control Centre.

Q: Tourism promotion activities

A: Ngalike Dam was established as an ecotourism site of Nay Pyi Taw last year, where elephant riding and feeding is available, and over 200 are visiting the site every day. Nay Pyi Taw will also develop a hot spring into an internationally attractive destination. Vice President U Henry Van Thio led a feasibility study team for the development of Nanmongyi area, which has a splendid waterfall.

Q: Turning Nay Pyi Taw into a smart city

A: Nay Pyi Taw has been projected to become an education centre of the country in the future. Nay Pyi Taw has designated 100 acres of land for South Korea-sponsored multinational education promotion programme. Another 100 acres of land has been projected for a new ICT Park in Nay Pyi Taw.

Q: Programmes for farmers and odd job workers

A: A total of 286 cooperative societies have provided over K 5,199 million as loans and aids for 30,408 farmers. Under the programme of Thettantyaung micro finance, over K 5,596 million were disbursed to nearly 10,000 informal workers.

Q: Other undertakings

A: Cash assistance is being provided to 1,346 grandpas and 2,962 grandmas of eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw every three months. Moreover, 118 disabled persons are also enjoying financial assistance. Nay Pyi Taw provided food and construction materials worth over K 97 million for natural disaster victims in the area. It also held talks on natural disasters, conducted natural disaster alleviation courses for volunteers for 185 times. Nearly 400,000 volunteers have completed the courses.

Q: Undertaking of Nay Pyi Taw Development Council (Nay Pyi TawDC)

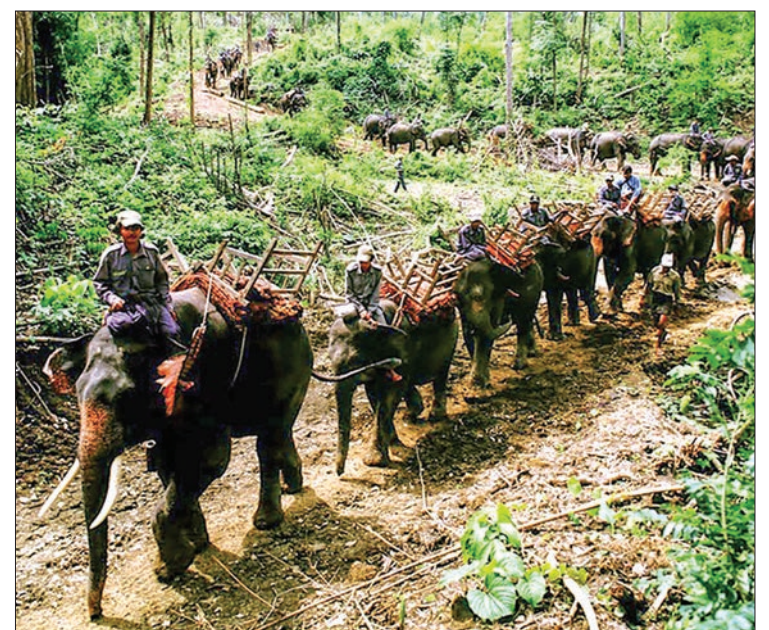
Markets Department of Nay Pyi TawDC installed wheelchairs, pathways, steel handrails, wheelchair stands and toilets for persons with disabilities, and special pathways, handrails and signboards for people with vision disabilities at a cost of over K 183 million. Engineering Department, has built 45 roads at a cost of over K 1,475 million, 61 box culverts at a cost of over K 393 million, brick canals at over K 213 million. It has spent over K 2,266 million for development undertakings.

Nay Pyi Taw Council has been carrying out development undertakings with full responsibility and accountability. It is fulfilling the main requirements including health, education, electricity, transport requirements of the public, with added momentum. Its undertakings will be supportive for national development in one way or another.

(Translated by TMT)



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung visits the isolation ward of the Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bedded Hospital.



Phoe Kyar Elephant Camp in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

GLOBAL ACCESS TO REMDESIVIR

Gilead in talks with Indian drugmakers for remdesivir production

US-based biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences said on Wednesday that it is negotiating long-term voluntary licences with several generic drugmakers in India and Pakistan to produce experimental antiviral drug remdesivir. Remdesivir is currently under spotlight for its potential to treat patients suffering from Covid-19. The US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) last week issued an emergency use authorization for remdesivir in the treatment of Covid-19 patients.

Gilead said that it is in discussions with some of the world's leading chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing companies about their ability, under voluntary licences, to produce remdesivir for Europe, Asia and

the developing world through at least 2022. Which companies Gilead is currently in discussion with were not revealed.

The announcement comes after Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Monday said that there is a confusion over the pricing and patent of experimental anti-viral drug remdesivir.

The Health Ministry had recently said that it is examining remdesivir, which was used during the Ebola outbreak, as one protocol in the treatment for Covid-19.

Gilead said it will provide appropriate technology transfers to facilitate remdesivir production, adding that it is in active discussions with the Medicines Patent Pool to licence remdesivir

for developing countries.

Producing the drug requires scarce raw materials, with their own lengthy production time, and specialized manufacturing capabilities with limited global capacity, the drug maker pointed out.

Any disruption to the supply chain impacting these scarce raw materials and other manufacturing inputs could reduce the amount of remdesivir produced and increase the time it takes to do so.

Remdesivir is being studied in multiple ongoing international clinical trials, and the safety and efficacy of remdesivir for the treatment of Covid-19 are not yet established.

SOURCE: ANI

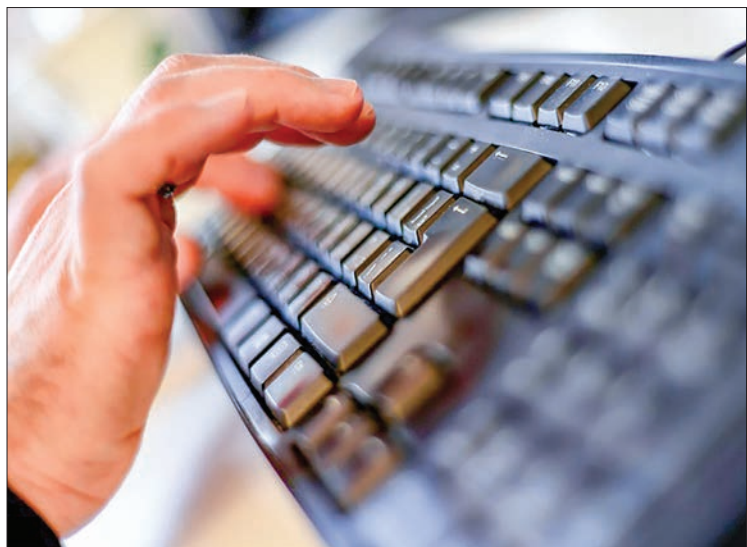


Remdesivir, a drug developed to treat Ebola patients, is being tested as a treatment for patients infected with the new coronavirus.

PHOTO: (ULRICH PERREY / AFP)

CYBER-SPIES

UK and US warn of cyber threat to health sector fighting virus



Britain and the US' cyber security agencies issued a joint warning to healthcare and medical research staff, urging them to improve their password security amid an increase in cyber attacks. PHOTO: AFP

BRITAIN and the United States warned Tuesday of a rise in cyber attacks against health professionals involved in the coronavirus response by organized criminals "often linked with other state actors".

The transatlantic allies' cyber security agencies issued a joint warning to healthcare and medical research staff, urging them to improve their password security amid the threat.

Britain's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) said they had seen "ma-

licious cyber campaigns targeting organizations involved in the coronavirus response".

The two agencies added they had detected large-scale "password spraying" tactics — hackers trying to access accounts through commonly used passwords — aimed at healthcare bodies and medical research organizations.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab echoed the warning at the daily Downing Street coronavirus press conference, noting perpetrators had "various objectives and motivations" — from fraud to espionage.

"But they tend to be de-

signed to steal bulk personal data, intellectual property and wider information that supports those aims.

"And they're often linked with other state actors," he said.

In their joint warning, the NCSC and CISA said they had identified targeting of national and international healthcare bodies, pharmaceutical companies, research organizations, and local government.

They added "the likely aim" was gathering information related to the pandemic.

The agencies advised healthcare staff to change any passwords that might be guessed to one created with three random words, as well as implementing two-factor authentication to reduce the risk of being hacked.

Paul Chichester, NCSC Director of Operations, said his agency was "prioritizing any requests for support from health organizations and remaining in close contact with industries involved in the coronavirus response".

"But we can't do this alone, and we recommend healthcare policy makers and researchers take our actionable steps to defend themselves from password spraying campaigns."

SOURCE: AFP

COVID-19 AND LUNG HEALTH

COVID-19 lockdown risks 1.4 mn extra TB deaths: study

THE global lockdown caused by COVID-19 risks a "devastating" surge in tuberculosis cases, with nearly 1.4 million additional deaths from the world's biggest infectious killer by 2025, new research showed Wednesday.

TB, a bacterial infection that normally attacks patients' lungs, is largely treatable yet still infects an estimated 10 million people every year.

In 2018, it killed around 1.5 million people, according to the World Health Organization, including more than 200,000 children.

Since effective medication exists, the world's TB response is centred on testing and treating as many patients as possible.

But as COVID-19 forces governments to place popula-

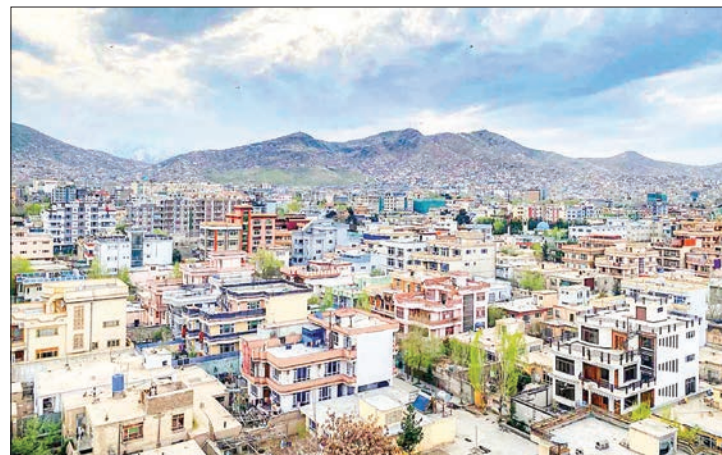
tions on lockdown, new disease models showed that social distancing could lead to a disastrous rebound in TB infections — the effects of which are set to persist for years.

This is because social distancing will make it impossible for health care workers to test vulnerable populations and for patients to access ongoing treatments.

"In spite of having drugs and treatment... we are not yet close to ending it and TB remains the biggest infectious disease killer," said Lucica Ditiu, executive director of the Stop TB Partnership.

"COVID has hit us very hard. The more people we have not diagnosed and treated the more problems we will have in the coming years."

SOURCE: AFP



Kabul on lockdown to fight the spread of Covid-19, 12 April (Abdul Hamid Nasimi/UNAMA/Flickr)

Samsung heir apologizes over corruption scandal

SEOUL — The heir to the Samsung empire bowed in apology Wednesday for company misconduct including a controversial plan for him to ascend to the leadership of the world's largest smartphone maker.

Lee Jae-yong is vice-chairman of Samsung Electronics and was jailed for five years in 2017 for bribery, embezzlement and other offences in connection with the scandal that brought down South Korean president Park Geun-hye.

The 51-year-old was released a year later on appeal but is currently undergoing a retrial.

"We are recognized for our top-class technology



Lee Jae-yong is vice-chairman of Samsung Electronics and was jailed for five years in 2017 for bribery, embezzlement and other offences. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

and products but the public eye towards Samsung is still critical," Lee said.

"This is all because of our shortcomings. This has been my fault and I offer

my sincere apology," he added.

He promised there

would be "no more controversy" over his promotion, pledging: "I will never take any actions that go against the law."

Lee bowed three times before flashing cameras at a Samsung Electronics office in Seoul, where reporters sat apart under coronavirus distancing rules.

Speaking in steady tones and swallowing occasionally, Lee -- whose grandfather founded the Samsung Group -- said he would end the line of family succession.

"I do not plan to pass down my role to my children," he said. "This is something I have thought about for a long time but have been hesitant to ex-

press it openly."

Wednesday's apology came at the request of Samsung's compliance committee, which oversees the firm's transparency in its corporate dealings.

Lee has effectively been at the helm of the sprawling Samsung group since his father and group chairman Lee Kun-hee was left bedridden by a heart attack in 2014.

The court case centred on millions of dollars the Samsung group paid Park's secret confidante Choi Soon-sil, allegedly for government favours including ensuring a smooth transition for Lee to succeed his ailing father.—AFP ■

Video game titans earnings climb as people play at home

SAN FRANCISCO — US video game titans Activision and Electronic Arts on Tuesday reported strong earnings as people staying home due to the coronavirus pandemic turn

to games such as "Call of Duty." Activision said an average of 102 million people played its games online per month in the first quarter of this year, with "Call of Duty: War-

zone" racking up more than 60 million players since its launch in March. "Our goal to connect the world through epic entertainment is more important to our players than ever before," Activision Blizzard chief executive Bobby Kotick said in an earnings release.

"In the face of so many difficulties, our employees have made certain that the joy, the engagement, and the benefits of gaming remain an effective way to help keep our 400 million players around the world connected and safe."—AFP ■



Video game titan Electronic Arts reported that its net income doubled to \$418 million on revenue that grew to \$1.4 billion in the first three months of 2020.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Volvo Cars sales in China returns to growth in April

STOCKHOLM — While demand in Europe and the United States continued to be affected by the coronavirus pandemic, sales of Volvo Cars in China returned to growth in April with showroom traffic back to normal levels.

Volvo Cars sold 31,760 cars in April, down 43.8 per cent compared with the same month last year, according to the company's press release on Tuesday. In the January to April period, Volvo Cars' global sales reached 163,649 cars, down 24.9 per cent compared with the same period last year. The share of Volvo

Cars' Recharge line-up of chargeable Volvo models doubled in the first four months, from 7 per cent to 14 per cent, compared with the same period last

year. Recharge is the overarching brand-name for all chargeable Volvo models with a fully electric or plug-in hybrid powertrain, the company said.—Xinhua ■



File: A Volvo XC90 at the first China International Import Expo in Shanghai, east China. PHOTO: XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (040N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (040N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATUMBA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATUMBA VOY. NO. (2004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT
SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V INTREPID

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V INTREPID VOY. NO. (20038) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING
Phone No: 2301928

Can Italian infrastructure reboot post-virus economy?

ROME — A sleek new bridge in Genoa built in record time is being acclaimed in Italy as a model for rebuilding the economy by investing in major infrastructure projects.

Such stimulus is sorely needed as the country slides towards its worst recession since World War II because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The government ad-

mits it badly needs to renovate crumbling roads, bridges and railways, and doing so could also save lives. Yet the possible impediments are many — from funding to political will, bureaucracy and a recent safety reports scandal.

The completion of the Genoa bridge was hailed as a sign of renewal for Italy, where over 28,000 people

have died in the coronavirus pandemic and millions risk losing their jobs due to an economically-crippling nationwide lockdown.

The hi-tech flyover “is a symbol for the whole of Italy. An Italy that can rise again, that will roll up its sleeves, that will not allow itself to be beaten,” Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said at the unveiling ceremony.—AFP ■



The completion of the Genoa bridge was hailed as a sign of renewal for Italy. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Europe's fresh food prices in flux as virus impact bites

FRANKFURT — For German office worker Nathalie, 54, there's no doubt her weekly food shop costs more than it did before the coronavirus pandemic.

“Peppers especially have become expensive,” she said, walking into her local Rewe supermarket

in Frankfurt.

It's a complaint heard across Europe as food growers grapple with the ripple effects of lockdowns to curb the outbreak that have snarled supply chains and upended demand.

Though the impact across the continent is

uneven, many shoppers are feeling the squeeze.

In Germany, fresh food prices were up nearly 10 per cent in April compared with a year earlier, according to agriculture markets consultancy AMI.

Vegetable costs were up nearly 30 per cent, driven by price spikes for

broccoli and cauliflower that are often imported from France and Spain -- which struggled to attract enough foreign harvest workers because of border closures.

In France too, certain fruit and vegetables have become more expensive since the start of the confinement measures in mid-March, with the UFC-Que Choisir consumer association reporting a nine-per cent hike on average.

In Poland, where the farm industry has been hit with a drought on top of the coronavirus woes, apples have doubled in price over the year.

“Every few days, prices go up like crazy,” said pensioner Grazyna, choosing pork chops at a Warsaw supermarket.

But it's not just Europe's border restrictions and ensuing labour shortages, and transport bottlenecks that have hit wallets.—AFP ■



Data by the AMI consultancy shows German fresh food prices were up 10 per cent on-year in April — here Agriculture Minister Julia Kloeckner visits a weekly market near Berlin.

PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Egypt reopens slowly to revive pandemic-hit economy

CAIRO — Egypt's economy had just started to recover after years of political turmoil and militant attacks when the coronavirus crisis hit, impacting especially its vital tourism sector.

Now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government has loosened a strict curfew for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in an effort to

kickstart North Africa's largest economy.

Having shuttered shops and cafes in late March and forced millions of civil servants to stay home, it is slowly reversing some of these measures, bringing back many state workers and extending the trading hours of shops and malls.

The blessing for the emerging economy of

more than 100 million people, experts say, is that activity has kept ticking over in agriculture and construction, and especially in the vast informal sector.

“Twenty-five per cent of the workforce is in agriculture, which remains unaffected,” said Angus Blair, a business professor at the American University in Cairo.

“Many other businesses continue to remain open, albeit with reduced staff, and construction is continuing.”

Egypt's main sources of foreign currency have been tourism, remittances sent home from workers abroad, and Suez Canal revenues — which have all dropped sharply during the global lockdown in travel and trade.—AFP ■

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department of Rural Development

Invitation for Bids

Loan/Grant No. and Title: Loan 3724- & Grant 617-MYA; Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project
Contracts No. and Title: CW-04-1; Construction of Farm Roads Works
Deadline for Submission of Bids: 5 June 2020, 14.00 hours (Myanmar Time)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Department of Rural Development (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction of Farm Roads Works: Lot 1 – Farm Roads for Sagaing Region; Lot 2 – Farm Roads for Magway Region; Lot 3 – Farm Roads for Mandalay Region.
3. Bidders may bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.
4. National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage One Envelope procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Financial:

The Bidder shall have a minimum average annual turnover of MMK 450 million calculated as total payments received for contracts in progress or completed within the last three (3) years, for each of the Lots bid. The Bidder demonstrate that its financial resources less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments meet or exceed the total requirement for the subject contract of MMK 200 million for each of the Lots bid.

Experience:

The Bidder shall have participated in at least two contracts that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last 3 years and that are similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds MMK 180 million for each of the Lots bid. The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in the Bid Document Section 6 (Employer's Requirements): Farm road construction project with aggregated road length of minimum 3000 ft.

6. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:
U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of Procurement and Logistic Division, Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains (CFAVC) Sector Project, Project Management Unit (PMU)
Office No.36, Department of Rural Development, MOALI, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel # +95 67 418632 +95-9 43434333, +95-9-5144881
E-mail: ksaung@gmail.com, cfavc.pmu.doa@gmail.com, soemoemas@gmail.com, matoetoe@gmail.com, aungwaitun.npt@gmail.com, moesatpwin.npt@gmail.com
Website: www.drd.gov.mm, www.moali.gov.mm
7. To obtain the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for Construction of Farm Roads Works. The document will be sent by email. No liability will be accepted for non-receipt or late delivery.
8. Deliver your bid to the address above on or before the deadline: 5 June 2020, 14.00 hours (Myanmar Time) together with a Bid-Securing Declaration as described in the Bidding Document. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Students in China's virus centre Wuhan return to school



Senior students walk through a temperature measuring station to enter Hubei Wuchang Experimental High School in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, May 6, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEIJING — Chinese youngsters in the global virus epicentre of Wuhan filed back to class on Wednesday, wearing masks and walking in single file past thermal scanners.

Senior school students in 121 institutions were back in front of chalk boards and digital displays for the first time since their city — the ground zero of the coronavirus pandemic — shut down in January.

“School is finally reopening!” posted one user of Weibo, China's Twitter-like short messaging platform. “This is the first time that I'm so happy to go back to school, although I have to sit a monthly examination on the 8th.” Teenagers sat at individual desks spaced a metre (3.3 feet) apart, seeing their teachers in the flesh after months of distance learning.

Wednesday's back-to-school was the latest step in a gradual normalizing of life in Wuhan and surrounding Hubei province.

The city, where the coronavirus appeared late last year before spreading around the world, was locked down for 76 days and only reopened last month.

Only the province's oldest students were present on Wednesday — vocational students and seniors who are due to take the make-or-break university entrance exams.

Return dates have generally not been confirmed for junior and middle school students, although some localities have allowed their return as well.

Officials in Wuhan say students and staff must all have had virus tests before going back to school, and campuses have been disinfected and cleaned.—AFP ■

South Korea returns largely to normal as outbreak controlled



Visitors enter an exhibition hall at the National Museum of Korea in Seoul on 6 May. **PHOTO: AFP**

SEOUL — South Korea returned largely to normal Wednesday as workers went back to offices, and museums and libraries reopened under eased social distancing rules after new coronavirus cases dropped to a trickle.

The South endured one of the worst early outbreaks of the disease outside China and while it never imposed a compulsory lockdown, strict social distancing had been widely observed since March.

Employees were urged to work from home where possible

while the new school term was postponed from its March start.

Scores of events -- from K-pop concerts to sports seasons -- were delayed or cancelled, while museums and galleries were closed and religious services suspended.

But the South appears to have brought its outbreak under control thanks to an extensive “trace, test and treat” programme that has drawn widespread praise.

In a population of 51 million, its death toll is little more than 250, and new cases have slowed

to just a handful -- 13 in the past three days, all of them arriving international passengers. More than 90 of the South's imported cases are returning citizens.

At least 100 people visited the National Museum of Korea in Seoul on Wednesday morning, and the first visitors of the day -- a married couple -- were given a bouquet of flowers by staff. “Many of our colleagues also came back to work today, so we are very excited about the reopening, we are very happy,” museum spokeswoman Lee Hyun-ju told AFP.— AFP ■

Shanghai Disneyland to reopen on Monday as new virus cases decrease

BEIJING — Shanghai Disneyland will resume operations next week for the first time since Jan. 25, the theme-park's operator said Wednesday.

With the number of new coronavirus infections decreasing in China, Shanghai Disneyland will, according to CNN, on Monday become the first Disney park in the world to readmit guests.

The popular theme park will take measures to prevent the spread of the virus, such as limiting entry, offering pre-booking, and urging guests to wear face masks, as requested by the Chinese government.

Chinese state-run media, meanwhile, reported more than 110 million people are expected

to have made domestic trips during the five-day May Day holiday that ended Tuesday, indicating business activities have become more normalized in the country.

In the capital Beijing, tourist spots, including the Palace Museum, known as the Forbidden City, restarted operations for the first time in around three months. Reportedly, nearly 70 per cent of Chinese tourist destinations have already reopened.

The coronavirus, which causes the respiratory disease COVID-19, was first detected late last year in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. It has infected more than 82,000 people on the mainland and killed over 4,600, China's health authorities said.

— Kyodo ■



Tourists pose for photos with Disney characters at Shanghai Disneyland in Shanghai, east China, Jan. 21, 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

UK overtakes Italy as worst-hit country in Europe by coronavirus

LONDON — Britain has overtaken Italy as the worst-hit country in Europe by the novel coronavirus, according to the latest official figures released Tuesday.

Chairing Tuesday's Downing Street press briefing, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said another 693 COVID-19 patients have died, bringing the total coronavirus-related death toll in Britain to 29,427.

The figures include deaths in all settings, including hospitals, care homes and the wider community.

Earlier in the day, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its latest coronavirus-registered death figures, showing the total death toll has

passed 32,000, making Britain the worst-hit country in Europe followed by Italy.

The ONS uses an alternative measure as its figures are based on all mentions of COVID-19 on a death certificate, including suspected COVID-19.

The coronavirus-related death toll in Italy currently stands at 29,315.

Responding to a question by the BBC about his reaction on Britain's death toll, Raab called it a "massive tragedy" but said it is difficult to compare among different countries before the pandemic is over.

"It is important but I don't think you can make the international comparisons you are



A Love NHS (National Health Service) sign is seen outside Salford Royal Hospital in Manchester, Britain, on May 5, 2020. (PHOTO BY JON SUPER/XINHUA)

making at this stage," he said. "I don't think we'll get a real verdict on how well countries have done until the pandemic is

over and particularly until we've got comprehensive international data on all cause of mortality," he said.

Meanwhile, Raab said Britain is continuing to see evidence of the flattening of the peak of the virus.—Xinhua ■

Brazil ministers to be questioned in Bolsonaro probe



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro (C), holding his daughter Laura's hand, waves at supporters gathering outside Planalto Palace in Brasilia, on May 3, 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BRASILIA — Three top ministers to Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro will face questioning in a potentially damaging probe on whether the far-right leader obstructed justice, after the Supreme Court granted investigators' request for access Tuesday.

The case stems from accusations by former justice minister Sergio Moro, who resigned in protest last month after Bolsonaro fired the federal police chief.

In a scathing last press conference, Moro, a popular anti-corruption crusader, accused Bolsonaro of improper interference in police investigations.

He did not say which ones, but the federal police are reportedly investigating several cases involving Bolsonaro and his sons.

Supreme Court Justice Celso de Mello granted a request from investigators probing Moro's allegations to question three influential military generals who serve in Bolsonaro's cabinet: Internal Security Minister Augusto Heleno, Chief of Staff Walter Braga Netto and Secretary of Government Luiz Eduardo Ramos.

Several media outlets meanwhile published a leaked summary of Moro's own eight-hour deposition Saturday before inves-

tigators. In it, Moro mentioned the three ministers who are now due to be questioned as witnesses to and mediators in his discussions with the president on replacing then-federal police chief Mauricio Valeixo. The document says Moro told investigators Bolsonaro wanted him to ensure a new federal police superintendent would be named in Rio de Janeiro, the president's hometown, where his son Carlos, a city councilor, is reportedly under investigation over allegations he oversaw a fake-news campaign to benefit his father. Bolsonaro downplayed the leaked testimony.—AFP ■

Trump urges US to reopen as daily death toll spikes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump made his first major foray out of the White House since the coronavirus lockdown began in a push for economic reopening as the daily US death toll from the disease spiked.

It came as Britain became the country with the second most deaths in the world at 32,000, putting it above Italy in the grim ranking of national fatalities.

Elsewhere in Europe, hard-hit Spain and France reported a levelling off of figures, offering hope that life could slowly start returning to normal, but in Latin America the death toll passed 15,000.

With experts warning of a

severe global recession, many governments have been easing stay-at-home measures to try to revive reeling economies.

"We can't keep our country closed for the next five years," Trump said on a trip to a mask-making factory in Arizona, conceding that some people would be "badly affected."

And in the latest sign his administration no longer considers the pandemic its top daily priority, the White House is set to disband the emergency task force handling the outbreak.

"I think we're starting to look at the Memorial Day (May 25) window, early June window" for shutting it down, Vice President Mike Pence said.—AFP ■

Israel vows to pursue Syria operations until Iran leaves

JERUSALEM — Israel will keep up its operations in Syria until its arch enemy Iran leaves, Defence Minister Naftali Bennett said Tuesday after strikes on Iranian-backed militias and their allies killed 14 fighters.

Israel has launched hundreds of attacks in Syria since the start of the civil war in 2011, targeting government troops, allied Iranian forces and fighters from Lebanese militant group

Hezbollah.

The Jewish state rarely confirms details of its operations in Syria but says Iran's presence in support of President Bashar al-Assad is a threat and that it will continue its attacks.

Bennett, speaking to the state-owned Kan 11 television news channel, did not claim Israeli responsibility for the latest overnight strikes on Syria.—Xinhua ■

Phone Myint Kyaw leads Chinese 8 Ball tourney

MYANMAR'S pool star Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ar Ti is currently leading the standing table of the Chinese 8 Ball Tournament being held in Chao Yang, China starting from 18 April.

His fourth win over Zheng Yu Bo, a defending 8 Ball pool world champion on 5 May lifted his ranking to number one to lead the tourney.

During the decisive match,

Phone Myint Kyaw beat the world champion by a result of 21-16 and led the earlier minutes of the match by 13-7.

But Chinese player Zhen Yu Bo followed fast Phone Myint Kyaw in the other sub-matches to reach 14-12.

With a full concentration, Phone Myint Kyaw maintained his result till the final minutes and won the hard match with 21-16.

After four consecutive wins in the previous matches, Phone Myint Kyaw has collected 24,000 points, having good chance to go to next step.

The Myanmar pool star will play his fifth match on 15 May. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar pool player Phone Myint Kyaw competing in the Chinese 8 Ball tourney being held in Chao Yang, China. **PHOTO: KO AR TI FACEBOOK'S PAGE**

No talking or goal celebrations as S. Korea reboots virus-hit football

SEOUL — South Korea's football season kicks off on Friday after a two-month coronavirus delay, leading the way for the global game as other leagues strive to return to action.

Goal celebrations, handshakes and even talking are out under stringent new safety guidelines designed to prevent any contagion during games, which will be played behind closed doors.

While countries such as Be-

larus, Turkmenistan and Taiwan defied the virus to keep playing football, South Korea -- the 2002 World Cup co-hosts and semi-finalists -- are the first prominent nation in the sport to allow matches.

South Korea endured one of the worst early outbreaks of COVID-19 outside China, prompting professional sports to suspend or delay their seasons, a pattern that was repeated worldwide.

But the country appears to have flattened the curve thanks to an extensive "trace, test and treat" programme, and football's return comes after baseball started without fans on Tuesday.

The K-League is Asia's first major competition to return to action, while Europe's giants remain sidelined with only Germany's Bundesliga so far making concrete plans to resume. —AFP



Jeonbuk Motors are one of the favourites for the title. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lethwei star Yan Naing Tun takes role as pandemic front-liner



Lethwei star Yan Naing Tun, who is currently acting as a front-liner against coronavirus infection, is taking the samples of quarantined persons in Hpa-an. **PHOTO: WLC**

Lethwei star Yan Naing Tun, one of the best youth fighters of Myanmar, is currently working as a Medical Lab Technician in Hpa-an, Kayin State, according to the statement with the World Lethwei Championship.

First, Yan Naing Tun has scheduled to compete in the biggest fight of his career in the previous month in Cambodia but the match has postponed due to the global outbreak of coronavirus infection. Yan Naing Tun, a fighter, has been

working for the Ministry of Health and Sports since after his graduation and he has also won the golden belt championship tournament in 2017 (Light Welterweight) and 2019 (Light Middleweight). Pandemic-pushed dual tasks took the fighter to the coronavirus fighter instead of fighting in the ring.

As a coronavirus fighter, he is performing hundreds of swabs for the quarantined persons in Hpa-an, according to the WLC. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Germany to give green light to restart football in May

BERLIN — The German government and state leaders are set Wednesday to give the Bundesliga the green light to restart behind closed doors in May after weeks of shutdown imposed to control the spread of the coronavirus, according to a draft government agreement seen by AFP.

Politicians believe resuming matches in the first and second divisions to "limit the economic damage" for the 36 clubs is "acceptable", the document showed.

More than a dozen of the 36 teams in the two divisions are on the brink of bankruptcy, according to media reports, and the league desperately needs to recoup 300 million euros (\$325 million) it would be due from

TV contracts if the clubs are allowed to complete the season.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and state premiers will set a date for the season to resume in a telephone conference later Wednesday, with media reporting May 21 was a possible candidate.

The Bundesliga would become the first major European league to return to action.

"Restarting match activity must be preceded by a two-week quarantine, where appropriate in the form of a training camp" for players, the document read.

Teams returned to training on April 6 although sessions have followed stringent social distancing rules and players are not allowed to change at training grounds. —AFP