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In the post COVID period, I hope with the strength of the people, our country will become more united and stronger: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote yesterday on her Facebook page that in the post COVID period, she hoped that with the strength of the people, Myanmar would become more united and stronger.

This was what she wrote: It was the 1st of June. The nature of time is really strange. Taken from one point of view, it is not something that all living beings can own or control. It moves on by itself, never looking back on anyone, not caring at all for anyone.

Looking at it from another point of view, time seems to be as though it is something created by yourself. Whether it is fast or slow depends on you. A day can be very long whereas years can zip past and disappear. What a long time that was. Sometimes when you really ponder about this, you might find that the time has not been that long. Actually it is not time that is playing

... If we can overcome this challenge, it would be a success not only for the present but also for generations to come.

tricks on us, it is our mind playing tricks on us. How long have we all been in the world of COVID. When we really begin to count it has been only 5 or 6

months. That was not too long. However, during this period, all of us had to change behaviours which we have been used to since we were born. It was a great challenge.

If we can overcome this challenge, it would be a success not only for the present but also for generations to come. An authoress once said that moments of honour in the history of a country can become sources of strength to overcome difficult periods for ages to come. It is the strong belief which tells us that we have overcome big difficulties before; this time around also we can overcome.

With the strength of the people, I hope our country would become more united and stronger in the post COVID period.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

83 citizens repatriated from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea

MYANMAR citizens who wanted to come back from Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The Myanmar Airways International carried 83 persons in the relief flight arranged by the government through Sydney.

On arrival at the airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period at the designated places in line with the guidelines of immigration and healthcare

processes.

Due to the temporary suspension of international flights, Myanmar nationals from foreign countries faced difficulties to return to Myanmar. In accordance with the directives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Myanmar Embassies and other relevant ministries in Myanmar, arranged relief flights to bring back 2,830 Myanmar citizens as of 1 June. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



83 Myanmar citizens arrive back from Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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PYITHU HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw decides not to recall its Speaker through majority votes

THE 16th regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw held its final day after the 6 meetings yesterday, with the major decision to vote against a motion for recalling its Speaker.

After the debates of 24 representatives, there were 132 votes for, 243 against the motion, with 5 abstentions to turn down the proposal submitted by some Hluttaw representatives in accordance with Section 117 of Pyithu Hluttaw Bylaw 2013.

Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein also announced the recall motion did not win majority votes to pass in line with the

by-law section 119 (a).

In his concluding remark, the Deputy Speaker acknowledged the coordination of Hluttaw representatives and the staff members of Hluttaw office in their works for successful holding of 16th session.

He also urged the MPs to work in the front line of prevention against the COVID-19 in their respective constituencies, while they are maintaining responsible attitudes for the reputation of Hluttaws.

— Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Pyithu Hluttaw holds its final-day meeting of 16th regular session yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw concludes 16th regular session after 6 meetings

THE 16th regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw was concluded after the 6th day meeting yesterday.

MP U Ko Ko Naing from the Sagaing Region constituency 8 asked about the guarantee for voter rights and for the convenience of voters in the 2020 General Election.

U Myint Aung, the member of Union Election Commission, answered preparations for the elections, including conducting voter education, coordination with state departments and civ-

il organizations and arrangements for the persons with disability.

Questions to MoE

MP U Kyaw Toke from Mandalay Region constituency 7 asked about developments of school libraries and reading habits, MP U Bwe Khane from Chin State constituency 3 about budget allocation for construction of a two-storey RCC 120x30 ft classroom building at the middle school in Zantalan (b) village of Thantlang Township of

his constituency in 2020-2021 financial year, MP U Naing Thiha from Mon State constituency 7 about construction of a two-storey RCC 130x30 ft classroom building at Lamine Town of Ye Township in his constituency in 2020-2021 financial year, MP Dr Zaw Lin Htut from Mon State constituency 9 about a one-story 90x30 ft school building at the basic primary school (post) in Binhlaing Ward of Thaton Township in his constituency in 2020-2021 financial year.

The questions were an-

swered by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

Government's procurement and selling of property bill

MP U Khin Myo Win from Taninthayi Region constituency 12 and MP Dr Khun Win Thaung from Kachin State constituency 11 and U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe from Taninthayi Region constituency 10 discussed the bill on the government's procurement and selling of property.

The 16th session of second Amyotha Hluttaw was held

from 18 May to 1 June, with the six meetings in which the MPs raised 43 asterisked questions and 131 non-asterisked questions, tabling two motions of condolences for the death of two MPs, discussing bills and bylaws.

The committees of Amyotha Hluttaw held 13 meetings and the Research, Public Relations and International Relations Department of Amyotha Hluttaw issued two short papers for the MPs.— Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Myo Thien Gyi.



MP U Kyaw Toke.



U Myint Aung, the member of Union Election Commission.



MP U Ko Ko Naing.



MP U Bwe Khane.

Notification to MSMEs negatively affected by COVID-19 prevention measures

1. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry began implementing JICA SME Two-Step Loan Project in 2015 to promote the MSME sector. The first phase of the project is completed and the second phase is underway with K64 billion remaining to give out as loans.
2. The ministry and JICA have agreed to give out loans from the remaining K64 billion to MSMEs whose business had suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic and its preventive measures by offering

them at a yearly interest rate of 5.5 per cent to 10 per cent depending on their ability to provide collateral. The loan period varies from 3 to 5 years for the loans with periods under 3 years having a 6-month grace period, and loans ranging from 3 to 5 years having a 1-year grace period. The maximum loan amount for each business is K300 million.

3. MSMEs have interests in acquiring these loans contact the following banks for additional infor-

mation: (1) Myanma Economic Bank, (2) Co-operative Bank, (3) Ayeyarwady Bank, (4) Myanmar Citizen Bank, (5) Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank, (6) Myanmar Oriental Bank, (7) SME Development Bank, (8) First Private Bank, (9) UAB Bank, (10) KBZ Bank, and (11) Myanma Apex Bank.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

“People are the key”

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 15 June 2020

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry re-strictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 31 May 2020 by the Ministry’s announcement dated 15 May 2020.
 - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the aforementioned entry re-strictions until 15 June 2020.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 1 June 2020

Myanmar COVID-19 figure reaches 228 as 4 more cases reported on 1 June

FOUR more cases of COVID-19 were reported in Myanmar on 1 June, making the country’s total tally 228.

All these four cases are men who returned from India.

Out of these confirmed cases, six died, 138 persons have recovered and 128 have been discharged from hospitals, according to the report of Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA

Union Supreme Court passes judgements on appeal cases, hears special civil appeal cases



The Union Supreme Court hears cases in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

The Union Supreme Court passed judgements on five special criminal appeal cases and eight special civil appeal cases, along with hearing six special civil appeal cases yesterday. Chief Justice of the Union Su-

preme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court Judges led the judgments at Union Supreme Court room number 1 in accordance with orders, directions and guidelines of National-Level Com-

mittee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Ministry of Health and Sports. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Four Defence Services personnel test positive for COVID-19 in YGN

Four Tatmadaw officers who returned from training in India on 24 May tested positive for COVID-19 during their second lab test by the National Health Laboratory yesterday.

The 4 officers were among 18 Tatmadaw officers who returned on an MAI relief flight and initially tested negative for COVID-19 on the first lab test while being placed under quarantine in Yangon Region

Command.

However, when the Ministry of Health and Sports announced on 30 May that 9 men and 8 women who returned with the 18 officers on the same flight tested positive for COVID-19, a second lab test was conducted and revealed the disease-positive results for the 4 officers.

The office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence

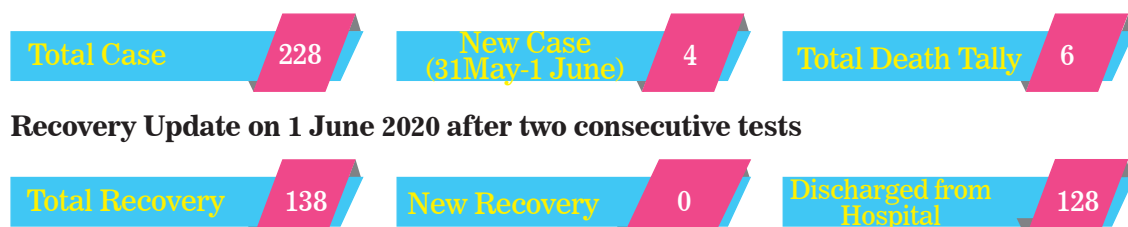
Services reports that the officers have been transferred to the Defence Services Liver Hospital (Mingaladon) and that their health conditions are stable.

The Tatmadaw will continue to investigate and quarantine all those who have been in contact with the infected officers. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

4 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 1 June: Total figure stands at 228

Updated at 8 pm, 1 June 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 1 June 2020

New PUI

29

MoPFI discusses economic relief loan with IMF

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win held a virtual meeting with the Mission Chief of the International Monetary Fund yesterday.

During the meeting with Mission Chief Mr Shanaka Jayanath Peiris, the Union Minister discussed the Letter of Intent (LOI) signed by him and the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung to IMF Managing Director Ms Kristalina Georgieva concerning the acquisition of an IMF loan of US\$ 700 million.

They also discussed the MoU to be signed between MoPFI and the central bank, how the loan will be used in Myanmar's COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) and the list of purchas-

es that will be made.

This loan of \$ 700 million will be granted under the IMF's Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument programmes to leverage the national deficit that will rise due to COVID-19. The loan was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 26 May and is waiting for approval at the IMF's board of directors meeting on 26 June.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win, U Sett Aung and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, IMF Resident Representative for Myanmar Mr. Neil Kumar Saker, MoPFI's permanent secretary and department heads. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and the Central Bank of Myanmar holds meeting with IMF on Letter of Intent and loan plan. PHOTO: MNA

UNICEF supported vaccines, test kits arrive in Myanmar

A special flight carrying regular vaccines and COVID-19 test kits landed in Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon.

The medical items and equipment were purchased through UNICEF by the Ministry of Health and Sports for the national vaccination programme that will be resuming.

The special flight was arranged by UNICEF and is part of the organization's continuous support in Myanmar's push against the disease.

The cargo contained 10,000 test kits for COVID-19 and 1.16 million regular vaccination vials and will be distributed to relevant departments of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

UNICEF and the Myanmar government collaborated with WHO, Gavi (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) and other affiliated organizations to bring the vaccines to Myanmar.

UNICEF also supplied COVID-19 test kits to Myanmar with the help of Gavi in May and WHO has also supplied medicine and other items for controlling and treating the disease.

India, China, South Korea, Singapore and Japan have also supplied medicine, equipment and medical assistance to Myanmar concerning COVID-19. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The special flight carrying regular vaccines and COVID-19 test kits is seen at the Yangon International Airport on 1 June. PHOTO: MNA

1,043 Myanmar citizens return from Thailand through Myawady border on 1 June

A total of 1,043 Myanmar citizens returned home from Thailand through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2) of Myawady border town in Kayin State yesterday.

Among them, the 308 persons took 15 buses from Mo Chit Bus Terminal in Bangkok to Myanmar under negotiations of the two governments and arrangement of Myanmar Embassy in Thailand, while the remaining 735 persons came back home in their own schedules.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

Myanmar migrant workers have been repatriated from Thailand since 1 May, and a total of 12,687 persons have arrived back home until now.

The latest group of returnees included 647 males and 396 females from different regions

and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



An official (left) checks the body temperature of a baby in its father hands in Myawady on 1 June. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

4 new cases of COVID-19 at 8 pm, 1 June 2020

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
225	32	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Yangon Region)
226	36	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Hospital	Positive	
227	32	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Hospital	Positive	
228	27	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Hospital	Positive	

80,000 companies register via MyCO in two years: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

THE number of total company registration on the online registry system, MyCO, has touched about 80,000 in nearly two years since its establishment of the online platform, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Since then, more than 30,754 new companies and 46,377 existing companies have registered and re-registered on MyCO, bringing

the total number of registered companies to 77,131 by May-end.

Normally, MyCO is receiving more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month. The number of companies registered on the MyCO stood at 1,816 in August 2018, 2,218 in September, 1,617 in October, 1,431 in November, 1,364 in December, 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August, 1,181 in September, 2,059 in October, 1,615 in November and 1,772 in December respectively. This year, the figures of registered companies reached 1,415 in January, 1,298 in Febru-

ary and 1,015 in March, but only 348 companies were registered in April. The registered companies rose a bit to 798 in May, as per data of the DICA. At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform instead of manual filings, according to data provided by the DICA.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A)

of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

A total of 12,555 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified any

company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for late filing of AR and K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Garment manufacturers show enthusiasm to turn to mask, PPE production



Textile workers sewing on production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

By Nyein Nyein

THE foreign direct investments keep flowing into the country amid the COVID-19 crisis, and some garment manufacturers eye production of the mask and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), which are the basic health and safety requirements during the pandemic, said Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"The foreign enterprises are steadily entering the country amid the coronavirus. Some investors asked about potential investments. Some factories request to change business from garment production to mask and PPE. At the recent meeting of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), they decided to sort out this proposal in a short time. Also, they have responded to those submitting proposals. Those enterprises adapt to changing market conditions due

to coronavirus. The mask-wearing culture will keep going for the long term. The production is both for domestic and foreign markets. They have made an inquiry about the quality and price of the masks for the domestic market as well," he said.

Additionally, the FDI inflow is not affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Maybe they have already prepared for investment from earlier, he added.

"Sixty per cent of enterprises have asked for investments prior to the pandemic. The remaining 40 per cent of businesses come to discuss amid the pandemic. This shows the coronavirus impact has not affected the foreign investment sector yet. MIC is attempting to grant more reliefs," he added.

The agro-based value-added production enterprises and factories that need large labour force are prioritized, according to the DICA.

Myanmar has attracted FDI

of \$4.1 billion in the current financial year and it is likely to reach FDI target of \$5.8 billion, said Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations at the Webinar held on 29 May, led by AustCham Myanmar.

According to a press statement issued recently by the DICA, 175 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the MIC and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal and brought in the capital of over \$3.15 billion.

The FDIs flowing into Myanmar exceeded US\$4.18 billion between 1 October and 22 May in the 2019-2020 financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments of \$91.85 million in the Special Economic Zones, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports exceeded \$11 bln as of 15 May

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 October and 15 May in the 2019-2020 financial year shot up to US\$11.23 billion from \$10.5 billion registered in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, indicated the data by the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure reflects an increase of \$730.9 million compared with the year-ago period.

Of the seven export groups, agriculture, fisheries, minerals and other goods showed an increase in exports. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products and finished industrial goods declined.

Export values were registered at \$2.6 billion for agro products, \$60.6 million for livestock, \$612.7 million for fishery products, \$1.2 billion for minerals, \$98 million for forest products, \$5.8 billion for manufactured goods, and \$786.98 million for other goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture

and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are increasing, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is decreasing.

The CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion in order to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment.

— Ko Khant
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Workers prepare for fish export at a cold storage factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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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.

COVID-19 aid reach Shan, Rakhine IDP camps

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement continued their assistance to IDP camps across the nation and supplied three hand speakers and three memory sticks with COVID-19 awareness information to 3 IDP camps in Kutkai Township, Shan State.

On 30 May, the ministry also supplied 5,958 cloth masks, a thermometer, 624 bottles of hand sanitizers, two hand speak-

ers, and two memory sticks and vinyl posters with COVID-19 awareness information to two IDP camps in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State.

The Ministry is also conducting awareness raising campaigns and providing motivational support in Nay Pyi Taw Council and the states and regions. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

An official (centre right) presents relief items to a local man. **PHOTO: MNA**

MCDC to sell over 500 affordable apartments through drawing-lots system

A drawing of lots ceremony to sell apartments to government personnel is in progress at City Hall in Mandalay on 1 June 2020. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

MORE THAN 500 apartment units of Mya Yee Nanda affordable housing complex, developed by Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), will be sold through drawing-lots system.

Initially, apartments for 293

government personnel have been selected by Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin and members of the MCDC by drawing lots on 1 June at City Hall in Mandalay. Those who won the draw again participated themselves in draw-

ing lots to choose the apartments yesterday.

A total of 586 units of six-storey buildings will be sold to the government staff and retired staff, private company employees and the people in instalment

or prompt payment.

"The drawing of lots is scheduled for 293 government staff on 1 June, 117 retired staff on 2 June, 119 people on 3 June and 57 private company staff on 4 June, totalling 586 units by drawing of lots in the open system.

Those selected can buy the units starting on 5 June as their preferred payment system; instalment or prompt payment," said U Soe Min Thein with the MCDC's Engineering Department (Building and Warehouse).

The apartments measure 661 square feet and have been priced according to the floor. Ground floor units cost K28.84 million, first-floor units K25.75 million, second-floor units K23.175 million, third-floor units K21.115 million, fourth-floor units K19.57 million, and fifth-floor units K18.025 million.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Strong wind affects over 10,000 in Magway in April-May

MAGWAY REGION experienced 118 strong wind events between 1 April and 31 May, affecting 10,980 local people.

Strong wind wreaked havoc in the region in the past two months. A total of 115 houses collapsed and 2,681 houses are partially destroyed. And, 2,776 households were hit hard by the strong wind, leaving four injured and three dead. One religious building also collapsed, and 58 more buildings are partially destroyed.

"During the two-month period, the victims of strong winds have been provided

contributions for food and construction of the house. Those people from collapsed houses have been supported 17 emergency items, totalling K123.7 million," said U Myint Soe, head of Magway Region Disaster Management Department.

Last year, there were 143 cases of strong wind in the region. The regional disaster management department handed out K210.2 million for those who have been affected by the strong winds. —Zayyatu

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Two children walk near a house destroyed by strong wind in Magway Region. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU**

DR Congo reports fresh Ebola outbreak



The newest Ebola outbreak is the 11th in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1976. PHOTO: AFP

KINSHASA (DR Congo)— DR Congo reported a fresh Ebola outbreak in its northwest on Monday, the latest health emergency for a country already fighting an epidemic of the deadly fever in the east as well as a surging number of coronavirus infections.

The 11th Ebola outbreak in the vast central African country's history comes just weeks before it had hoped to declare the end of the 10th in the east.

Health Minister Eteni Longondo said that “four people have already died” from Ebola in a district of the northwestern city of Mbandaka.

“The National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB) has confirmed to me that samples from Mbandaka tested positive for Ebola,” Longondo told a press conference on Monday.

“We will send them the vaccine and medicine very quickly,” he said, adding that he planned to visit the site of the outbreak at the end of the

week.

The capital of Equateur province, Mbandaka is a transport hub on the Congo River with a population of more than a million.

Equateur province was previously hit by an Ebola outbreak between May and July 2018, in which 33 people died and 21 recovered from the disease.

“This is a province that has already experienced the disease. They know how to respond. They started the response at the local level yesterday (Sunday),” Longondo said. **The eastern epidemic**

The Ebola epidemic in the country's east has killed 2,280 people since August 2018, and officials had hoped to be able to proclaim it over on June 25.

For it to be officially over, there have to be no new cases reported for 42 days -- double the incubation period.

The eastern epidemic was just three days away from being declared over on April 10

when a new case was reported.

Seven new cases were then recorded, including four deaths, two recoveries and one patient who fled, and the clock was restarted on May 14.

The World Health Organization also extended its Public Health Emergency of International Concern designation for the epidemic, which has mainly affected the North Kivu province.

Two experimental vaccines have been widely deployed to fight the outbreak, with more than 300,000 people vaccinated across the country.

However efforts to contain Ebola in the east have been hindered by attacks on health workers and conflicts in the country's volatile region, long riven by militia killings and ethnic violence.

The eastern Ebola outbreak is the second worst in history, after an epidemic in 2014 killed about 11,000 people — mostly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. — AFP

North Korea to reopen schools as virus fears ease

SEOUL (South Korea)— North Korea will reopen schools this month after shuttering them over the coronavirus pandemic, reports said Monday.

Pyongyang has not confirmed a single infection but has imposed strict rules, including closing its borders and putting thousands of its people into isolation.

The new school term -- initially scheduled to start early April -- has been repeatedly postponed, although some universities and high schools were allowed to resume classes in mid-April.

“New semesters will begin at elementary, middle and high schools nationwide from early June, and quarantine measures have been put in place for the reopening of nurseries and kin-

dergartens,” Yonhap news agency reported, citing the North's state radio.

“Education authorities have been asked to furnish thermometers and hand sanitisers at every gate of schools and classrooms and offices, while workers at schools and nurseries have been advised to stick to anti-virus principles,” it added.

Analysts say the North is unlikely to have avoided infections from the virus, which first emerged in neighbouring China and went on to sweep the world, and that its ramshackle health system could struggle to cope with a major outbreak.

The number of coronavirus infections worldwide has risen to more than 6.1 million, with around 370,000 dead across 196 countries and territories. — AFP



People wearing face masks walk across a street before the Ryugyong hotel (back C) on the occasion of the 108th birthday of late North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, known as the 'Day of the Sun', in Pyongyang on 15 April 2020. PHOTO: AFP

S. Africans rush to liquor stores as booze ban lifts

SOWETO (South Africa) — Scores of people lined up outside liquor stores in South Africa's township of Soweto on Monday, waiting to buy drinks for the first time in nine weeks after a ban on alcohol sales was lifted.

Buying booze was prohibited when Africa's most industrialised economy went

into lockdown on March 27 to stem the spread of coronavirus.

The ban -- meant to ease pressure on emergency wards and prevent a feared spike in domestic violence -- was lifted for home consumption on Monday as South Africa moved to level three of its five-tier shutdown.

The mood was festive in

Soweto, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, where customers carrying crates of empty beer bottles waited out the meandering lines, some stationed in their cars, blasting loud music from their stereos.

“We are overwhelmed, over the moon, so excited,” said queuing customer Bongani Khumalo.

“This place is jamming,” he exclaimed, adding that celebrations were expected throughout the township.

“I'm here to buy my beloved beer,” said 31-year-old nurse Anele Mapoma.

“It has been a while since I had a taste of that foam and burping (so) I am here so early to satisfy my habit,” he said.

Another Soweto resident, who asked not be named, said she had been looking forward to “this day for an entire month”.

“I had to wake up super early to be here so I'm all good now,” the 24-year-old said as she stood outside a liquor store in the suburb of Pimville, wearing a face mask and dark hoodie. — AFP

People should not only stay at home but physically distance with one another whenever in public, a new phenomenon - 'New Normal' culture ahead

NEWS stories, both online and in printed media across the globe, vindicate that it has become a highly essential part of daily life for all to confine themselves to their homes and keep physical distancing, at least 2 meters to be exact, while going outside with facemask being put on since the infected cases and death tolls of the coronavirus pandemic have been rampantly occurring all over the world, with no exemption for our country.

State leaders and health authorities have also been advising all these basic behaviors in a real-time manner since the first outbreak and spread of the viral disease late last year in China. States and regional governments are consequently reaching out to the public by issuing necessary and respective orders or instructions in regard to health awareness on the deadly pandemic amongst the people inclusive of all strata of life based on 'No one is left behind' principle.

The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control, and Treatment of COVID-19 and Emergency Response Committee for new coronavirus-affected Businesses were systematically established following the first case had emerged on 23 March 2020 in Myanmar. Authorities at different levels have been sparing no strenuous efforts in cohesive collaboration with the stakeholders concerned to deter the coronavirus disease as well as to mitigate the severe blows on the economy.

People came to realize that they should abide by the dos and don'ts of the national-level committees, ministries of health and sports and labour, and states/regional governments so that they can be accustomed to wearing masks, washing hands, and staying at homes or distancing physically from one another, at market-places, workplaces, offices, super stores, etc.; however the word 'gathering' has now gone and left unheard, untold, and unused for a while, hasn't it?

Donations in cash and kinds like basic foodstuffs, medicines, and medical equipment are generously given in every corner of the entire nation, even at the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, shelters and prisons.

Though it may have the worse effect, we may say the better alternative of coronavirus pandemic has made a plethora accumulation of government support and assistance as well as international aid for the people and the whole country. Our front line heroes such as doctors, health workers, healthcare providers and volunteers are working with valour in this war against the global viral infection.

The Union Government is steadfastly implementing all-round preventative measures against the new coronavirus disease. When Myanmar citizens and migrant workers were stranded in foreign countries due to travel restrictions, the Union Government systematically made arrangements for their repatriation by relief flights. This is why, every individual or citizen should not only heed all the health awareness guidelines, but cooperate in self-preventive measures against the pandemic to protect others also, so that we all can be prepared for the "New Normal" culture ahead!

Coronavirus: latest global developments

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

More than six million cases
The pandemic has killed 370,261 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year, according to an AFP tally at 1900 GMT on Sunday, based on official sources.

There have been more than six million cases registered in 196 countries and territories.

The United States is the worst-hit country with 104,051 deaths. It is followed by Britain with 38,489, Italy with 33,415, Brazil with 28,834 and France with 28,802.

Trump delays G7
US President Donald Trump announces he will delay the Group of Seven summit, headed by the US this year and scheduled to take place in June by videoconference.

Trump had said he might hold the gathering in-person,

though German Chancellor Angela Merkel declined outright, followed by varying reactions from other members.

The G7 could now take place in September, Trump says, or it could take place after the US presidential election in November.

Spain seeks lockdown extension

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez says he will seek parliament's approval to extend Spain's state of emergency one final time, which would keep the lockdown in place until June 21.

The sixth extension since March will need to be ratified on Wednesday by the parliament.

Lift and spike in Bangladesh

Bangladesh lifts its lockdown, with millions heading back to work in densely populated cities and towns even as the country logs a record spike in deaths and new infections.

'Everything will be different'
Pope Francis, speaking in a video message to mark the feast of Pen-



Visitors view one of Raphael's Rooms in the Vatican Museums (Musei Vaticani) which reopen to the public on June 1, 2020 in The Vatican, while the city-state eases its lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 infection, caused by the novel coronavirus.

Jerusalem mosque reopens

Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, Islam's third holiest site, reopens after a more than two months, with new measures in place.

Worshippers have their temperatures taken and staff distribute masks, while tape on the floor inside the mosque and on the stones outside mark where people should pray at a safe distance.

Saudi Arabia too

Mask-clad worshippers flock to Saudi mosques that reopen nationwide, except in the holy city of Mecca.

Worshippers are instructed to bring their own prayer mats and to perform the cleansing ritual, or ablution, at home, instead of in mosque grounds.

Emirates to cut 'a few' jobs -

Emirates Airline says it will cut "a few" jobs but the Dubai carrier, the largest in the Middle East, does not specify the extent of the layoffs. —AFP

tecost, says the post-pandemic world will be changed for "better or worse" by the coronavirus cri-

sis."Once we emerge from this pandemic, we will not be able to keep doing what we were do-

ing, and as we were doing it. No, everything will be different," he says.

Tackling Myanmar's climate crisis with solar

By Athira Nortajuddin

THE ASEAN Post recently published an article on extreme climate in Myanmar and its threat to the locals, agriculture, ecosystems and more. It is said that Myanmar is one of the most vulnerable countries at risk of climate crisis. Extreme droughts and flooding in recent years and cyclones such as Nargis have affected millions of locals and cost thousands their lives. Natural disasters are one of the major impacts of climate change.



Minbu Solar Power plant in central Myanmar was launched in June, 2019. PHOTO: MNA

According to a report by Myanmar's Ministry of Planning and Finance titled, 'Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030', the country penned several action plans to address the climate situation. One of the strategies is to scale-up the use of renewable energy resources in the country. The report also stated that Myanmar will embark on a low-carbon, green economy development trajectory that prioritises the efficient use of natural resources.

Today, hydropower is the main source of energy powering electricity generation in Myanmar, making up two-thirds of the

total electricity produced in the country. The rest comes from fossil fuels, with gas as the main fuel followed by coal and oil. In 2018, electricity generation from hydropower generated a record 4,200 terawatt hours (TWh), which is the highest ever contribution from a renewable energy source, according to the International Hydropower Association (IHA), an organisation that represents the global hydropower sector.

Despite the benefits of hydropower, this form of renewable energy is not entirely free of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as the release of carbon dioxide (CO2) tends to happen during the construction of dams for hydroelectricity. The building of hydropower dams has also sparked concerns about biodiversity loss and environmental disasters.

Some argue about the advisability of building dams, especially large ones, as it might affect people living downstream. Dam failures could be catastrophic as flooding might occur. According to media reports, there has been stress on major rivers posed by dams, especially the Thanlwen Ayeyawady and Salween rivers that flow down from the Myanmar mountains and Himalayan glaciers.

Based on the 'Myanmar Climate Change Strategy 2018-2030', a report by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) in the country, climate change such as

heat waves could affect power generation and distribution as the number of very hot days rise. The generation of hydropower, a main source of renewable energy and revenue for Myanmar, may suffer from prolonged and unpredictable periods of drought, and intense rainfall.

Consequently, in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030 report, developing an appropriate energy generation mix is crucial, including carefully managing the balance between renewable and non-renewable sources.

Currently, only about 40 to 50 per cent of the population have access to electricity in Myanmar. While in rural areas, the number further drops to as low as 20 percent. According to 'Myanmar: Solar investment opportunities' published by SolarPower Europe – a Belgium-based organisation which advocates the use of solar – Myanmar has introduced an ambitious renewable energy goal, which is to increase the share of renewables in electricity production to eight percent by 2021 and 12 percent by 2025.

In 2019, Myanmar's State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi launched the initial phase of the country's first commercial solar-power plant in Minbu, Magwe Region, adding 40 megawatts (MW) of power to the national grid. The power-plant is part of a longer-term goal which is to achieve 100 per cent electrification by 2030. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi added that the country

will not rely on any single source of energy.

Based on the SolarPower Europe report, the life-time cost for solar power plants is rather economical. Apart from that, solar power can effectively counter-balance the electricity shortage during the dry season, while not occupying too much grid capacity during the rainy season. Media reports stated that Myanmar produces between 2.9 gigawatts (GW) and 3.1 GW of electricity – which is just enough for 44 percent of the country's population of 55 million people. However, the Minbu solar-power plant alone is said to be able to generate five percent of the nation's current power demand.

Myanmar's energy needs are largely met with hydropower, but its environmental, geopolitical and social costs are now growing concerns for the country. Solar energy is said to be one of the most eco-friendly energy generation sources – despite some of its flaws such as the decrease of solar radiance by 50 percent during the rainy season, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). However, solar energy has the potential to help Myanmar on its journey to a greener future and to electrify the entire country in 10 years.

(This article was previously covered in the Asean Post.)

Myanmar Gazette Heads of service organizations appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. U Thet Swe General Manager News and Periodicals Enterprise Ministry of Information	Managing Director News and Periodicals Enterprise Ministry of Information
2. U Aung Kyaw Soe Deputy Permanent Secretary (Deputy Director-General) Union Minister Office Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population	Director-General Immigration Department Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
3. Professor Dr Tin Tin Kyaw Pro-Rector (Academic) University of Nursing, Yangon Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Nursing, Yangon Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports

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

The Office of the President has issued Press Release 21/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 30 May.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 30 May.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 3 June issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) invites ASEAN Nationals to apply for the following position EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia is seeking for an Executive Director to the Steering Committee of ARMAC for a non-renewable term of three years. Detail information including functions and qualifications are available at <http://aseanmineaction.org>.

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Deadly Tropical Storm Amanda hits El Salvador, Guatemala

SAN SALVADOR (El Salvador) — Tropical Storm Amanda triggered flash floods, landslides and power outages as it barreled through El Salvador and Guatemala Sunday, killing 14 people, authorities said, warning of further heavy rain to come.

El Salvador President Nayib Bukele declared a 15-day state of emergency to cope with the effects of the storm, which he estimated to have caused \$200 million in damage, but which weakened later in the day as it moved into Guatemala.

Amanda, the first named storm of the season in the Pacific, unleashed torrents of floodwater that tossed vehicles around like toys and damaged about 200 homes, the head of the Civil Protection Service William Hernandez said.

The fatalities were all recorded in El Salvador; Interior Minister Mario Duran said, warning that the death toll could rise.

One person is still missing, senior government official Carolina Recinos added.

“We are experiencing an



At least 14 people were killed when Tropical Storm Amanda struck El Salvador, unleashing heavy rain, landslides and flash floods across the country. PHOTO: AFP

unprecedented situation: one top-level emergency on top of another serious one,” San Salvador mayor Ernesto Muyschondt said, referring to the coronavirus pandemic.

He added that half of those

killed died in the capital, and that 4,200 people had sought refuge in government-run shelters after losing their homes or being forced to leave because they were in high-risk areas.

In some flooded areas, sol-

diers worked alongside emergency personnel to rescue people.

“We lost everything, we’ve been left with nowhere to live,” said Isidro Gomez, a resident of hard-hit southeastern San Salvador, after a nearby river over-

flowed and destroyed his home.

Another victim, Mariano Ramos, said that at dawn residents of his San Salvador neighbourhood were slammed by an avalanche of mud and water. An elderly man died in the area, officials said.

El Salvador’s environment ministry warned residents of the “high probability” of multiple landslides that could damage buildings and injure or kill people.

Nearly 90 per cent of El Salvador’s 6.6 million people are considered vulnerable to flooding and landslides due to its geography.

In neighbouring Guatemala, officials said roads had been blocked by at least five landslides and some flooding was reported, but no evacuations were underway.

Even though Amanda weakened to tropical depression status, Guatemalan officials warned that heavy rain would continue, with swollen rivers and possible “landslides affecting highways ... and flooding in coastal areas.” —AFP ■

China accuses US of selfishness, blackmail over cutting ties with WHO

BEIJING (China) — China on Monday accused the United States of “selfishness” after President Donald Trump said he would terminate the US relationship with the World Health Organization.

Washington and Beijing have clashed repeatedly on different topics and on Friday Trump said he would sever ties with the UN health body, which he had previously accused of being too lenient with China.

The WHO’s massive loss of funding from the US comes as the deadly coronavirus — which surfaced in a Chinese province late last year — rages on.

“The international community generally disagrees with such US acts of selfishness, evasion of responsibility, and undermining of international cooperation against the epidemic,” said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a regular press briefing on Monday.

He added the WHO “cannot possibly serve only one country, and should not follow

the will of the country that pays the most to it”.

The US has been the WHO’s biggest contributor, but in April Trump suspended funding, accusing it of not doing enough to curb COVID-19’s initial spread and of being too soft on China. While Trump said there was a need for “answers from China on the virus”, Beijing has furiously denied allegations that it downplayed the threat when the pathogen first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

On Monday, Zhao said “in the face of the epidemic, any suppression or even blackmail of the WHO is a disregard of life, challenge to humanitarianism, and destruction of international cooperation”.

He said China would “play its due role as a responsible big country” and support the WHO in taking on a position of leadership in tackling the virus, calling on the international community to unite and increase political support and funding for the body.—AFP ■

West Bank poverty may double over pandemic as annexation looms

RAMALLAH — Poverty in the occupied West Bank may double as Palestinians are hit by the coronavirus, the World Bank warned Monday, just weeks before Israel aims to kick-start plans to annex parts of the territory.

The United Nations has warned that such a move by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government would stifle financial and aid flows to the Palestinians and “most likely

trigger conflict”.

Israel may start the annexation process as soon as July 1 with the support of US President Donald Trump, who in January published a peace plan that was roundly rejected by the Palestinians. The UN warned in a report Sunday that, without improved relations between the two sides and if annexation goes ahead, “the achievements of the Palestinian government over the last

quarter century will fade.

“The peace and security situation will worsen, and a hardened and more extremist politics on both sides will inevitably result,” it said. The annexation plans loom weeks after Netanyahu forged a unity government following more than a year of political deadlock, and as both Israel and the Palestinian territories are assessing the impact of the pandemic.—AFP ■

Yahoo to offer social media firms AI tech that detects abusive posts

TOKYO — Yahoo Japan Corp. said Monday it will provide social media firms with artificial intelligence technology that can detect abusive and other inappropriate online posts following the death of a Japanese professional wrestler and reality TV star that is believed to be linked to cyber-bullying.

The internet portal site operator announced the measure after Hana Kimura, 22, a cast member of the popular reality

show “Terrace House,” was found dead in a suspected suicide late last month after becoming a target of hateful messages on social media.

Following her death, the Japanese government is also considering revising a law to simplify procedures for identifying individuals who make defamatory online posts, aiming to compile draft legislation by the end of the year.

Yahoo said that of some

290,000 comments posted daily on its news portal site, it deletes around 20,000 entries that its AI technology deems abusive or having a low correlation with the content of the news story.

“Following recent reports on an extremely tragic incident, Yahoo! Japan will further strengthen countermeasures” for the safe use of its services, the company said in a statement.—Kyodo News ■

Google rejects call for huge Australian media payout

SYDNEY (Australia) — Google has rejected demands it pay hundreds of millions of dollars per year in compensation to Australian news media under a government-imposed revenue sharing deal.

The company's top executive in Australia said Google made barely Aus\$10 million (US\$6.7 million) per year from news-linked advertising, a fraction of a government watchdog's estimates for the sector.

In an effort being closely watched around the world, Australia is set to unveil plans to force major internet firms to share advertising revenue they earn from news featured in their services.

The country's competition regulator, the ACCC, has estimated that Google and Facebook together earn some Aus\$6 billion (US\$4 billion) per year from advertising in Australia.

Leading news publishers have demanded the two companies pay at least 10 per cent of that money each year to local news organizations, which they

say have lost the vast majority of their advertising revenue to the global technology giants.

Mel Silva, Google's managing director for Australia, dismissed such figures as wildly unrealistic.

"We all agree that high-quality news has great social value, but we need to understand the economics as well," Silva said in a blog post Sunday. She said Google last year earned just Aus\$10 million in revenue from clicks on ads placed next to news-related search queries.

"The bulk of our revenue comes not from news queries, but from queries with commercial intent, as when someone searches for 'running shoes' and then clicks on an ad," she said.

Silva also denied ACCC arguments that the tech firms gain significant "indirect benefits" from displaying news since the content draws users to their platforms.

News "represents only a tiny number of queries" on Google, accounting last year for barely



Google has denied it makes anything like the money the Australian government says it does from domestic advertisers. PHOTO: AFP

one per cent of actions on Google Search in Australia, she said.

Job cuts

The Google executive said her company on the other hand provided Australia's news media with "substantial" value by sending people to their websites.

"To put it plainly, a lot of people (Australians and beyond) click from Google through to Australian news websites, which gives publishers the chance to make money by showing them ads or

turning them into paying subscribers," she said.

She said Google search accounted for 3.44 billion visits to large and small Australian news publishers in 2018, valuing those referrals at more than Aus\$200 million per year for the news companies. Google's position bodes ill for negotiations which the ACCC hopes to pursue between Google, Facebook and Australian media companies over a mandatory "code of conduct" governing issues such as revenue sharing,

curbing disinformation and protecting user privacy.

The regulator suggested last month that Australian publishers might need to organise a "collective boycott" of Google and Facebook if voluntary negotiations on the code of conduct fail.

Silva said Google was prepared to take part in the process, but added that "it's important to base decisions on facts, not inaccurate numbers and unfounded assertions". The ACCC has until the end of July to draw up the final code, which the government has said it will quickly implement.

Google and Facebook have had a huge impact on media companies across the globe as they capture the lion's share of online advertising spending.

In response to falling revenues, exacerbated by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Australian outlets have permanently or temporarily closed more than 150 newsrooms, slashing more than 20 per cent of jobs in the sector since 2014. —AFP ■

'Saudi game of thrones': pressure grows to release jailed prince



Jailed Saudi Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz apparently espoused no political ambitions. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON (United Kingdom) — A \$2 million US lobbying effort and petitions from European lawmakers are piling pressure on Saudi Arabia to release a philanthropist prince jailed for two years without charge amid an intensifying royal crackdown.

The detention of Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz and his father since January 2018 is part of a clampdown under de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that has ensnared not

just potential rivals but also figures posing no visible challenge to his hold on power.

The dangerous power plays have also swept up family members of Saad Aljabri, a former aide to another detained prince and top intelligence official, who fled to Canada and holds key state secrets.

The most unlikely target is Prince Salman, a multilingual 37-year-old educated at Paris's Sorbonne University,

who apparently espoused no political ambitions and earned a reputation of being a "walking blank check" for funding development projects in poor countries.

"This is not just an unlawful arrest," an associate of the prince told AFP. "This is daylight kidnapping. This is a forced disappearance."

After being detained for around a year in the high-security Al-Ha'ir prison near Riyadh and later in a private villa with his father Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the prince was moved to a secret detention site in March, multiple sources told AFP.

He was mysteriously returned to the villa last week to be reunited with his father; three of those sources said.

It remains unclear why he was moved to the secret site. His telephone calls to his family are monitored by Saudi intelligence, the sources said.

But his return may be a tentative sign that international pressure for his release is working. Saudi authorities did not respond to a request for comment on the case. — AFP ■

Facebook slams 'severe' Singapore misinformation law

SINGAPORE — Facebook said Monday Singapore's use of an online misinformation law is "severe" and risks stifling free speech, after the company was again forced to block a page in the city-state.

It was the latest criticism from the tech giant over legislation that empowers ministers to tell internet platforms to put warnings next to posts they deem false and order the blocking of pages.

Fringe political website the National Times Singapore was accused of making false statements via its Facebook page, including a claim that "every criticism" of the government had been outlawed under the disinformation law.

The site was ordered to erect a banner flagging it was false -- but it refused, and Facebook was ordered to block access to the site's page in Singapore.

Asked about the government request to block the page, Facebook said the company was "legally compelled" to comply.

But a spokesperson added that "blocking orders like this are severe and risk being misused to stifle voices and

perspectives on the internet".

"Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, and we work hard to protect and defend this important civil liberty around the world."

The page was run by anti-government activist Alex Tan, who lives in Australia and has been repeatedly accused of spreading falsehoods on a variety of subjects.

Four Facebook pages that he operates have now been blocked, according to authorities.

A Singapore government website aimed at debunking untrue information claims that Tan "continues to publish falsehoods that distort the public's understanding of the (misinformation) law and how it has been implemented".

Other tech giants, including Google and Twitter, as well as rights groups have expressed concerns about the law, which came into force in October.

The government's political opponents have also raised concerns that it is being used to suppress criticism ahead of elections expected within months. —AFP ■

Artist Christo who wrapped Reichstag in fabric dies aged 84



Christo made transforming internationally known landmarks his speciality. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOFIA (Bulgaria) — The artist known as Christo, who made his name transforming landmarks such as Germany's Reichstag by covering them with reams of cloth, died on Sunday aged 84, his official Facebook page announced.

Christo Vladimirov Javacheff died of natural causes at his home in New York City, the statement said.

The Bulgarian-born artist worked in collaboration with his wife of 51 years Jeanne-Claude until her death in 2009.

Their large-scale productions would take years of preparation and were costly to erect; but they were mostly ephemeral, coming down after just

weeks or months.

"Christo lived his life to the fullest, not only dreaming up what seemed impossible but realizing it," said a statement from his office.

"Christo and Jeanne-Claude's artwork brought people together in shared experiences across the globe, and their work lives on in our hearts and memories." In accordance with Christo's wishes, the statement added, a work in progress, "l'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped", would be completed.

The event is now scheduled to be shown from September 18, 2021, having been postponed from this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■

Japan skies lit up with fireworks to brighten mood amid virus

TOKYO — Simultaneous fireworks displays coloured the night skies in Tokyo and other parts of Japan on Monday, with fireworks makers hoping the sight will cheer the nation up as it struggles with the coronavirus pandemic.

With many of the fireworks festivals during summer cancelled or postponed, pyrotechnicians nationwide have joined to launch the "Cheer Up! Hanabi Project." To avoid drawing crowds, the organizers initially intended to keep the date, time and location under wraps, but later went public with the date.

On top of having no audience, the fireworks will only last about five minutes, compared to the usual one hour or longer for most fireworks festivals.

"People are facing tough times now because of the coronavirus. We thought what could we do? So we decided to do what only we can do, which is to set off fireworks in the hope of providing encouragement," said Kohei Ogatsu, director of the Tokyo-based Marutamaya

Ogatsu Fireworks Co.

Ogatsu, 38, is one of 11 people taking the lead in the project. The idea was conceived in April, and in early May, the organizers sent a fax to about 300 companies explaining what they planned. About 160 firms across Japan are set to participate.

"The fireworks also carry our wish for the

coronavirus outbreak to be contained," said Ogatsu, the director of Marutamaya Ogatsu Fireworks, which dates its founding to 1864. It is one of the groups involved in the Sumida River summer fireworks festival.

Ogatsu added that unbeknownst to many, fireworks in Japan were born as a response to an epidemic. The first event,

he said, was held in 1733 following an outbreak of cholera to pray for the souls of those who died and for an end to the disease.

"As we face gloomy news due to the virus, people often tend to look down but when fireworks are set off, we look up. I hope we can help people do just that," said Ogatsu. — Kyodo News ■



Fireworks are set off in Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, on 1 June 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

National Gallery Singapore launches online festival for children to play, learn with art

SINGAPORE — A first-ever online art festival for children to play, learn and create with art was launched Monday in Singapore, as part of efforts to bring more art experiences to audiences amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Presented by the National Gallery Singapore, its biennial children's festival, Small Big Dreamers, returns for its second edition with a digital twist, said the National Gallery Singapore in a media statement. This year's "#SmallBigDreamersAtHome" festival runs

from Monday to March 28, 2021, even as the gallery remains temporarily closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. An interactive website will host fun and engaging activities for children aged six to 12, featuring close to 30 interactive games, hands-on activities, and videos inspired by artworks from Singapore and Southeast Asian artists. These are designed to let them unleash their inner artist while learning about artworks within the national collection and beyond. —Xinhua ■

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Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number
1.	Foison Weeder	Le Paung That	Bispyribac-sodium 20% WP	P2019-4733
2.	Veyong Brothers	Hmo Sone Shin	Azoxystrobin 200g/l + Difenconazole 125g/l SC	P2019-4695

Japan's socioeconomic activity picking

TOKYO — Japan on Monday further eased restrictions on social and economic activities in urban areas that were imposed to fight the spread of the new coronavirus, paving the way for children to return to school in the Tokyo metropolitan area for the first time in three months with some conditions.

A week after a state of emergency in the Tokyo and Hokkaido regions was lifted amid a fall in the number of new infections, most parts of Japan have now entered the phase of putting more emphasis on rebuilding their economies battered by the pandemic, while taking precautions against a second wave of infections.

A Kyodo News survey found that 38 of Japan's 47 prefectures had completely withdrawn requests for shops and leisure facilities to suspend operations.

Some constraints remained in Tokyo, which has seen the highest number of infections in the country at about 5,250. But the capital, with a population of roughly 14 million, went ahead Monday with its second stage of loosening



A visitor disinfects his hands at Tokyo Skytree on 1 June 2020, as it reopens after being closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

business restrictions, including the reopening of most facilities such as cinemas, sports gyms and cram schools.

Students wearing face masks also reunited with friends and teachers across the country, with many schools dividing them into groups and asking them to attend at different times to avoid crowding. At some schools, teachers also checked students' temperatures before they entered.

Tokyo Skytree, a major tourist draw in the capital, reopened for the first time in three months while asking visitors to wear face masks and sanitize their hands, refusing entry to those confirmed to have a fever.

"I came here wearing a face mask, but there is still a part of me that is afraid of getting infected so I want the coronavirus (pandemic) to come to an end quickly," said Tetsuo Shinyu, 56, a freelance photographer who last vis-

ited the site the day before the 634-metre tower was shut in March.

In Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture, Tokyo Disney Resort remained closed, while long lines formed before the opening of the neighbouring Ikspiari shopping complex.

"I am now used to checking body temperature and sanitizing," said Kanae Kawashima, 49. "I will avoid crowds and will leave quickly once I finish shopping." — Kyodo News ■

Indian companies continue to cut staff at fastest pace in May: PMI data

MUMBAI — Indian companies reduced staff at the quickest pace in May as per the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) survey released Monday reporting a second consecutive month of decline, but marginally up following April's record decline.

The rate of workforce contraction accelerated to the fastest in the survey's history, eclipsing the previous record set in April, according to a statement by IHS Markit, a London-based global information provider that compiles the PMI survey.

The weak demand due to the COVID-19-led disruption ensured lower production, forcing domestic manufacturers to reduce workers during the month under review, said the statement.

"The further reduction in May highlights the challenges that businesses might face in the recovery from this crisis, with demand remaining subdued while the longevity of the pandemic

remains uncertain," said Eliot Kerr, an economist at IHS Markit.

The seasonally adjusted PMI index in May rose marginally to 30.8 from 27.4 in April, but lower than 52.7 in May last year. A figure of above 50 indicates expansion, while a sub-50 print signals contraction.

Faced with a further deterioration in demand conditions, companies continue to cut back production midway through the second quarter, but the severe reduction was slower than April's unprecedented decline, the statement said.

Raw-material prices continued to fall, as suppliers cut prices in an attempt to secure orders. The benefit of lower cost was passed on to the customers.

Indian manufacturers remained optimistic towards the one-year business outlook, anticipating a return of growth once all coronavirus-related restrictions are relaxed. —Xinhua ■

Asia markets rally on virus hopes, Trump's Hong Kong action

HONG KONG (China) — Hong Kong led an Asia-wide market rally Monday as investors breathed a sigh of relief after Donald Trump fell short of imposing strict measures against China, while a further easing of virus lockdowns continued to provide support. However, violent anti-racism protests across the US have fuelled worries of a pick-up in coronavirus infections and more pain for the world's top economy, just as it prepares to ease restrictions. Dealers had sold up ahead of a news conference Trump called regarding China's plan for a new security law in Hong Kong, but his actions were not as severe as feared. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (022W/023E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (022W/023E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below rodenticide, registered by Bayer Thai Co., Ltd., under the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, from Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch) to Myanmar Frontline Co., Ltd. Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number
Racumin (Powder)	Coumatetralyl 0.75% CP	Full	F2019-2125

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)- PH : 01-8382710 (Ext. 40600)

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NIPPON MENARD COSMETIC CO., LTD. a company incorporated under the laws of Japan, at 130, Torimi-cho 2-chome, Nishi-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi 451-0071, Japan, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks:-

BEAUNESS

Reg. No. 4/5167/2017

This trademark is used in respect of the following description of goods:

"Soaps, dentifrices, cosmetics, natural perfumery prepared from vegetable natural perfumery prepared from animals, synthetic perfumery, compound perfumery and incenses and fragrances; cosmetics for skin care and acne-preventing; skin lotions; facial washes; bath salts; beauty masks in Class 3".

SARANARI

Reg. No. 4/5168/2017

This trademark is used in respect of the following description of goods:

"Cosmetics; massage creams, other than for medical purposes; facial washes; beauty lotions; emulsions, gels and lotions for skin care; eye creams; perfumes; soaps and detergents, dentifrices, perfumery, fragrances and incenses, namely, jasmine oil, clove oil, peppermint oil, vanilla oil, rose oil, bergamot oil, lavender oil, natural musk, ambergris, synthetic perfumery, food flavorings prepared from essential oils, fumigating incenses (Kunko) and perfuming sachets; false nails; false eyelashes in Class 3".

Any fraudulent imitation or counterfeit or unauthorized use of the said trademarks will be dealt with according to the law.

For NIPPON MENARD COSMETIC CO., LTD.

Daw Khin Khin Zaw, LL.B, LL.M, Advocate

LawPlus Myanmar Ltd.

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Dated: 2nd June 2020

Clashes outside White House as US cities under curfew

WASHINGTON (United States) — Police fired tear gas outside the White House late Sunday as anti-racism protestors again took to the streets to voice fury at police brutality, and major US cities were put under curfew to suppress rioting.

With the Trump administration branding instigators of six nights of rioting as domestic terrorists, there were more confrontations between protestors and police and fresh outbreaks of looting.

Violent clashes erupted repeatedly in a small park next to the White House, with authorities using tear gas, pepper spray and flash bang grenades to disperse crowds who lit several large fires and damaged property.

Local US leaders appealed to citizens to give constructive outlet to their rage over the death of an unarmed black man in Minneapolis, while night-time curfews were imposed in cities including Washington, Los Angeles and Houston.

One closely watched protest was outside the state capitol in Minneapolis' twin city of St. Paul, where several thousand people gathered before marching down



Police move toward demonstrators gathered outside the White House. PHOTO: AFP

a highway.

"We have black sons, black brothers, black friends, we don't want them to die. We are tired of this happening, this generation is not having it, we are tired of oppression," said Muna Abdi, a 31-year-old black woman who joined the protest.

Hundreds of police and National Guard troops were de-

ployed ahead of the protest.

At one point, some of the protestors who had reached a bridge were forced to scramble for cover when a truck drove at speed after having apparently breached a barricade.

The driver was taken to hospital after the protestors hauled him from the vehicle, although there were no immediate reports

of other casualties.

The New York Times said he was later arrested.

There were other large-scale protests in cities including New York and Miami.

Washington's mayor ordered a curfew from 11:00 pm until 6:00 am, as a report in the New York Times said that President Donald Trump had been rushed by

Secret Service agents into an underground bunker at the White House on Friday night during an earlier protest.

Gucci, Rolex stores ransacked

Looting was reported Sunday night in Philadelphia and the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Monica, and images on Fox TV showed ransacked Rolex and Gucci stores in New York city.

Officials in LA -- a city scarred by the 1992 riots over the police beating of Rodney King, an African-American man -- imposed a curfew from 4:00 pm Sunday until dawn.

"Please, use your discretion and go early, go home, stay home," the city's mayor Eric Garcetti said on CNN.

The shocking death last Monday of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, at the hands of police in Minneapolis ignited the nationwide wave of outrage over law enforcement's repeated use of lethal force against unarmed African Americans.

Floyd stopped breathing after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.—AFP ■

Thousands face homelessness in Greek refugee relocation push

PIRAEUS (Greece) — Abdelkader Rahmoun hasn't slept in days.

The 44-year-old Syrian and his family are among thousands of recognized refugees about to lose the temporary homes they were given under Greece's asylum seeker housing scheme.

As of Monday, authorities will start moving more than 11,200 people out of flats, hotels and camps on the mainland, to make room for other asylum seekers currently living in dismal island camps.

Rahmoun's family has been

given until the end of June to vacate his small EU-funded flat in the port of Piraeus. But he has little confidence that they will find alternative accommodation by then.

"We risk finding ourselves on the street," the haggard former taxi driver and father of two told AFP.

Greek officials say housing must be secured for other vulnerable asylum seekers on the islands, many of whom "sleep under trees", Manos Logothetis, the migration ministry's asylum secretary, said earlier this week.

The migration ministry says the ESTIA accommodation system, managed by the UN refugee agency UNHCR, is designed for asylum seekers.

Once they become full-fledged refugees they have the right to apply for Greek tax and social insurance numbers, and should therefore find jobs, the ministry says.

Refugee support groups note that although this is technically true, in reality applicants face insurmountable difficulties.

The country was recovering from a decade-long debt crisis and jobs were already scarce before the coronavirus pandemic, which is expected to bring additional layoffs.

Refugees with precarious incomes also face reluctance from Greek landlords when they seek to rent lodgings on their own.

"UNHCR is seriously concerned about thousands of recognised refugees expected to leave Greece's reception system from the end of May," Boris Cheshirkov, UNHCR spokesman in Greece, told AFP.

"Recognized refugees are

expected to leave assistance but they do not have effective access to social benefits and support," he said, adding that the language barrier is a further impediment.

The International Organization for Migration runs a separate integration programme, HELIOS, that offers language courses, help with job-hunting and accommodation support.

But at most the scheme can assist only 3,500 people at a time.

As he is now expected to fend for himself, Rahmoun says his monthly benefit of 400 euros (\$440) will also be cut.

The family from Idlib changed homes several times to protect themselves from bombardment during Syria's civil war, before eventually fleeing the country.

Now, after "struggling to survive" for the past decade, they must "start from zero again", Rahmoun said.

Several neighbours in the block of flats where Rahmoun's family live face a similar predicament.

Out of 10 families in the building, six have been told they must leave in June.—AFP ■

Nigerian troops kill 4 in airstrikes on gunmen camp

ABUJA — Four gunmen were killed when the Nigerian military launched airstrikes to destroy a logistics warehouse of a "criminal gang" in the country's northwest region, the military said on Monday.

In a statement reaching Xinhua in Abuja, the military said the weekend bombardment of the gunmen's camp in the Birnin Kogo area of the northwestern state of Zamfara followed credible intelligence.

An attack aircraft that scrambled to engage the target had scored accurate hits on a large structure within the camp, used by the gunmen group to store their ammunition and other logistics items, the statement said.

The military said the warehouse went up in flames, as a result of its volatile contents, leading to its complete destruction.—Xinhua ■



Greek authorities will start moving more than 11,200 refugees out of flats, hotels and camps on the mainland. PHOTO: AFP

Thais seek sun and surf as officials re-open some beaches



People take a dip in the water at the main beach in Pattaya on June 1, 2020. People flocked back to some of Thailand's famed sandy beaches on 1 June, keeping well apart but enjoying the outdoors, as authorities lifted coronavirus restrictions for the first time in more than two months. **PHOTO: AFP**

PATTAYA (Thailand) — People returned to some of Thailand's famed sandy beaches Monday, keeping well apart but enjoying the outdoors, as authorities eased some coronavirus restrictions for the first time in more than two months.

In Pattaya, visitors marvelled at the clarity of the turquoise-blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand, as pensioners eager for exercise promenaded along the beach.

Social distancing rules still applied, with local authorities ordering beachgoers to stay at least a metre (three feet) apart.

German expatriate Heidi Glemeau, one of the first people who took an early morning dip in the water, said she stopped at the sight of the empty, open beach on her way to the bank.

"I couldn't resist the temptation," she told AFP. "It's become a paradise just like it was 30 years ago."

Not all beaches were closed during the lockdown, and not all re-opened Monday.

Phuket, in the south, is still off-limits, while sleepy Hua Hin remained open throughout.

Thailand has been under various lockdown restrictions since mid-March, when authorities declared a state of emergency against the coronavirus — shuttering malls, leisure centres and public spaces, including its famed beaches.

Despite recording the first case of the virus outside epicentre China as early as January, official records show the kingdom escaped the worst of the disease relatively lightly, record-

ing just over 3,000 infections and 57 deaths.

Some experts say, however, a lack of testing may mask the true toll. Regardless, the exodus of foreigners and a ban on new arrivals hit the economy hard — particularly as the country is so reliant on tourist dollars in resorts such as Pattaya.

Tourism revenues dropped by 40 percent in the first three months of the year, and the government has warned the virus' impact on the second quarter will be more severe.

A major tourist destination with an infamous nightlife and red-light district, Pattaya has turned into a virtual ghost town.

Bars and clubs remain shuttered, however, and it is not clear when normal activity will resume.—AFP ■

Speeding van crashes into parked truck in Nepal killing 12

KATHMANDU — An overcrowded van crashed into a parked cargo truck in Nepal late Sunday, killing 12 passengers and injuring 22, officials said Monday.

The speeding van was carrying 34 passengers and traveling along a stretch of highway that passes through the forest of Banke National Park, some 360 kilometers southwest of the capital Kathmandu.

All of the passengers were Nepali nationals returning home from India, said Ram Bahadur Kurungwang, chief administrator of Banke district.

"Two of the injured people are receiving treatment for critical injuries," Kurungwang said by phone from the district.

Bir Bahadur Oli, police chief of the district, told Kyodo News that the van was traveling so fast that the impact pushed the parked truck about 45 meters.

"The truck was loaded with seventeen tons of rice," Oli said, adding the van was speeding to avoid security checks. He confirmed that the road where the accident happened was in good condition.

"We are investigating wheth-

er the van had a permit to operate during the lockdown," Oli added.

Nepal, which confirmed its first coronavirus infection in late January, has been under strict lockdown since March 24. Vehicles for essential services are allowed to operate but need a special permit.

As of Monday morning, the health ministry had 1,572 confirmed COVID-19 cases and eight deaths in the country. An additional 220 infected people have returned home after recovering, while 119,192 people are in quarantine.—Kyodo News ■

Indonesian police officer killed by suspected militant in Borneo

JAKARTA — A police officer was killed, and another officer left in critical condition after a man believed to be an Islamic militant attacked a police precinct on the Indonesian part of Borneo Island early Monday, police said.

The perpetrator was shot to death after refusing to surrender in the ensuing confrontation with police, national police spokesman Ahmad Ramadhan said, adding that they later found an Islamic State flag among his possessions.

The attack occurred at around 2:15 am when a man

carrying a sharp weapon burned a police car and attacked several officers who were on duty at the Daha Selatan Police Precinct in South Kalimantan Province.

The police have not released details about the perpetrator, including whether he was known to be associated with any militant group.

Among other items retrieved from his possessions after the attack was a copy of the Quran and a handwritten letter, calling for an Islamic holy war, or jihad, according to the police.—Kyodo News ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Malaysia ex-PM Najib's first 1MDB trial nears end

KUALA LUMPUR (MALAYSIA) — Malaysia's disgraced ex-leader Najib Razak had no knowledge of multi-million-dollar transfers into his accounts linked to the 1MDB scandal, his lawyers insisted Monday, as his first trial nears an end.

Billions of dollars were looted from Malaysian sovereign wealth fund 1MDB and spent on items ranging from high-end real estate to artwork, in a globe-spanning fraud allegedly involving Najib and his inner circle.—AFP ■

Philippine commuters face spotty transportation as lockdown relaxed

MANILA — Commuters returning to work in the Philippines' capital Manila faced spotty transportation on Monday as the country moved to relax a strict lockdown imposed in mid-March to stem the spread of the new coronavirus.

Under the relaxed lockdown, the government has eased quarantine measures in Metro Manila and allowed a wide range of companies to operate in a bid to revive the pandemic-hit economy.

But with only limited public transport services made available, partly to ensure social distancing among bus, train and taxi passengers, many commuters were left stranded on major roads or train stations, and reported late for work on Monday morning.—Kyodo News ■

Afghanistan reports 545 more COVID-19 cases

KABUL — Afghanistan on Monday reported 545 new COVID-19 cases within the past 24 hours, bringing the total tally to 15,750 cases, the country's Ministry of Public Health confirmed.

"Within the past 24 hours, 1,168 suspected cases were tested, out of which 545 cases were tested coronavirus positive in 18 provinces," the ministry said in a statement.

Eight COVID-19 patients succumbed to the virus, taking the number of people who lost their lives to 265 since the outbreak of the pandemic in the country in February.

The number of people recovered stands at 1,428 after 100 patients recovered during the period.—Xinhua ■

WLC YouTube Channel to relay best bouts every Monday in June

WLC REPLAY JUNE 2020

- LIN HTET NAING VS ZIN BO**
1ST JUNE 2020 (7 PM)
- THWAY THIT WIN HLAING VS BURUTLEK PETCHYINDEE ACADEMY**
8TH JUNE 2020 (7 PM)
- SOURIS MANFREDI VS EH YANUT**
15TH JUNE 2020 (7 PM)
- SAW MIN MIN VS SAW DARWAIT**
22ND JUNE 2020 (7 PM)
- THA PYAY NYO VS SOKHRUKH**
29TH JUNE 2020 (7 PM)

WATCH ON: **YouTube**

www.wlc.com.mm

THE World Lethwei Championship will rebroadcast some of the greatest Lethwei bouts on its WLC YouTube Channel on every Monday in June 2020, according to the championship's social media.

On 1 June, the Channel relayed the bouts between Lin Htet Naing and Zin Bo at 7 pm.

The bout between Thway Thit Win Hlaing and Burutlek Petchyindee Academy will be rebroadcast on 8 June, and the bout between Souris Manfredi and Eh Yanut will be relayed on 15 June.

The channel will also rebroadcast the bout between Saw Min Min and Saw Darwait on 22 June, and the fight between Tha Pyay Nyo and Sokhrukh Kholmurodov on 29 June.

All of the fights will be rebroadcast on the channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/worldlethwei>, at 7 pm of the respective dates.—Kyaw Khin ■

'Plain angry' Jordan joins sports world's call for change after Floyd death



Michael Jordan, who was famously reluctant to comment on social issues during his playing career, says there is "ingrained racism" in the US. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOS ANGELES (United States) — NBA legend Michael Jordan decried "ingrained racism" in the United States as the sports world's reaction to the death of unarmed black man George Floyd leapt leagues and continents.

"I am deeply saddened, truly pained and plain angry," Jordan said Sunday, as protests over Floyd's death on May 25 spawned violence and looting across the US. "I stand with those who are calling out the ingrained racism and violence toward people of colour in our country.

"We have had enough," added Jordan, who was famously reluctant to comment on social issues during his playing career.

Floyd died after a white policeman in Minneapolis held his knee on the handcuffed man's neck for several minutes.

"We need to continue peaceful expressions against injustice and demand accountability," Jordan said.

Jordan joined a chorus of voices from the NBA, NFL and other US sports demanding change for black Americans, but the demands went far beyond America.

World champion driver Lewis Hamilton lashed out at "white-dominated" Formula One for failing to speak out against racism.

Hamilton warned "I know who you are and I see you" as the Briton accused his fellow drivers of "staying silent in the midst of injustice" following Floyd's death. French footballer Marcus Thuram and England international Jadon Sancho both mounted individual protests calling for justice for Floyd after scoring

in Germany's Bundesliga on Sunday.

Thuram took a knee after his goal for Borussia Mönchengladbach in a match against Union Berlin, while Sancho marked one of his three goals for Borussia Dortmund against Paderborn by lifting his jersey to reveal a T-shirt bearing the words "Justice for George Floyd".

Thuram's gesture echoed the protest against US racism spearheaded by former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, whose decision to kneel during the national anthem at games in 2016 sparked outrage.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver sent an internal memo to the league's employees saying it shares "the outrage" at the death of Floyd — which comes in the wake of the police killing in Kentucky of emergency health worker Breonna Taylor in her home, and the fatal shooting of unarmed black jogger Ahmaud Arbery.

"We are being reminded that there are wounds in our country that have never healed," Silver said in the memo published by Yahoo.

"Racism, police brutality and racial injustice remain part of everyday life in America and cannot be ignored."

With US pro sports on hold during the coronavirus pandemic, American athletes had no chance to demonstrate on the field of play. Boston Celtics forward Jaylen Brown drove 15 hours to lead a peaceful protest march in Atlanta, Georgia.

"First and foremost, I'm a black man and I'm a member of this community," the Georgia native said.—AFP ■

Japan race cancelled over coronavirus as MotoGP looks to Europe

TOKYO (Japan) — The Japanese MotoGP was cancelled over the coronavirus on Monday as organisers said they would concentrate on holding as many races as possible in Europe this year.

The scrapping of the October 16-18 race in Motegi follows the axing of the Australian MotoGP, which was due to be held a week later.

"The situations in Japan and Europe are unpredictable," said Kaoru Tanaka, president of Mobilityland, which owns the Twin Ring Motegi circuit.

"As a result of our discussions with Dorna, the managerial body of the series, we agreed that we have no choice but to cancel the Japanese GP in order to complete the season." The first 11 races of the MotoGP season have been either postponed or cancelled, and there have been discussions about how to preserve as much as possible of the European calendar.

At the moment, the sport hopes to resume with back-to-back races at Jerez, Spain.

The first, on July 19, would be the new season-opener, with

Dorna suggesting slotting in the second race at the same circuit on July 26. A round of the Superbike Championship was also proposed for Jerez on August 2.

The opening legs, if approved, are most likely to be held without spectators, and with restrictions on the number of people allowed in the paddock.

There have also been talks about holding the French MotoGP, which was scheduled for May, in October instead.

"The MotoGP family is working very hard to be able to

restart the racing season and hold as many events as possible, and in the safest way possible," said Carmelo Ezpeleta, CEO of Dorna Sports. "(MotoGP organisers) have decided that, until mid-November, MotoGP will remain in Europe to do as many European MotoGP events as we are able to.

"Therefore, overseas events, if at all possible, should be scheduled after mid-November — which would be too late in the year for the Motul Grand Prix of Japan to be held." —AFP ■



The Japanese race is a long-standing fixture on the MotoGP circuit. **PHOTO: AFP**