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State Counsellor discusses preparations made for mobilizing volunteers



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a videoconference yesterday about the works of National Volunteers Steering Unit and the volunteers who are taking part in COVID-19 measures. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), held a videoconference yesterday about preparations made

to mobilize volunteers from the conference room of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

Those who participated in the discussions were Secretary of the National Volunteers Steering Unit, Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ma Aye

Myat Mon Moe, a member of the volunteer group from Patheingyi Township and chairperson of the Youth Affairs Committee, and Kayah State Minister for Development and Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Htay who is managing and organizing the volunteers.

The State Counsellor began the discussions by saying that there were not enough health-care workers in conducting COVID-19 prevention and control activities; this was especially because the number of people being kept in quarantine centres was quite large, hence the

need to place special reliance on the help of volunteers; as more than one thousand returnees were coming in daily through borders, in the long run this number would become quite large; in quite a number of countries there were no facility

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No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 5 June, total figure remains at 236

Updated at 8 pm, 5 June 2020



Recovery Update on 5 June 2020 after two consecutive tests



Ministry of Health and Sports (Translated by Aung Khin)

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Union Information Minister discusses development of Myanmar film industry, preparations for its centenary celebration



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting for development of Myanmar film industry in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint discussed the development of Myanmar film industry during the meeting held at the Central Printing Factory of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu road, Yangon, yesterday. The Union Minister

chaired the meeting which was also attended by U Kyi Soe Tun, the patron of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and its Chairman U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin.

In his opening speech, the Union Minister talked about the centenary of Myanmar film in-

dustry in coincidence with other 100th anniversaries in 2020 and the preparations of ministry since the last year for successful holding of the centenary.

Film Director U Kyi Soe Tun, U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin and the members of MMPO presented their

plans for development of Myanmar film industry amid the impacts of COVID-19, resumption of production and reopening of movie theatres and consideration about celebration of the centenary.

In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, the chairman of steering committee for organizing the centenary event of Myanmar film industry, held a coordination meeting with members of respective sub-committees.

At the meeting, the Union Minister explained preparations for the event, and some possible restrictions on the celebration amid COVID-19 disease although campaigns were conducted on newspapers and televisions.

He also remarked a timely decision should be made by August on the scale of event in October, while the works for publish-

ing a commemorative magazine and paper-reading session should be started at an appropriate time ahead of centenary.

Acting Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Aye Kywe briefed on the preparatory works for the event, followed by the discussions of officials from the sub-committees.

The onset of Myanmar film industry was marked on the day when the film 'Metta and Athura' was screened on 13 October 1920.

The centenary event is being prepared by a steering committee, a work committee and 16 sub-committees with the three aims to convey the message on the history of Myanmar film industry, to promote it, and to serve for the interest of country and people.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

ASEAN convenes special tourism meeting on COVID-19

THE ASEAN Tourism Crisis Communication Team (ATCCT) held a special video-conference on COVID-19 on 4 June.

Malaysia chaired the meeting which was attended by representatives from ASEAN tourism authorities, the office of the ASEAN Secretary-General, and ASEAN Tourism Marketing Coordinator.

The meeting discussed situation reports on the implementation process of decisions made at the ASEAN Tourism Ministries videoconference on COVID-19 held on 29 April. It also discussed verifying the Terms of Reference for the ATCCT, the current situation of COVID-19 and exchanging experiences of reducing restrictions, and having

ASEAN member nations upload information related to the disease on the ASEAN website to prevent disinformation.

Deputy Director-General Daw Khin Than Win of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and officials participated in this online meeting and submitted the latest results implementing the decisions made at the meeting on 29 April and a news sharing mechanism for tourists and tourism companies. They submitted upgrading process of the website platform for sharing COVID-19 information from the ASEAN Tourism Marketing Promotion Agency, advised the meeting chairperson to use the current platform to share information, discussed current COVID-19 situations of member nations, expe-

riences in lessening restrictions, status on reopening tourism businesses, and the rotating duty of ATCCT chairperson.

According to the ATCCT's Terms of Reference, Cambodia will be hosting the ASEAN Tourism Forum for 2020/2021

and assume the role of ATCCT chairperson with Indonesia as vice-chairperson.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The ASEAN Tourism Crisis Communication Team holding the videoconference on COVID-19 on 4 June. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar citizens queuing for immigration processes at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Relief flight brings back 133 Myanmar citizens to home on 5 June

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International carried back 99 citizens from the Republic of Korea and 34 citizens from Canada and the United States, totalling 133 persons, yesterday evening after they were stranded in these countries due to suspension of international flights amid COVID-19 pandemic.

On arrival at the Yangon International Airport, officials from

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 in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

As per the directives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and in

coordination with other relevant ministries in Myanmar and the Myanmar embassies in respective countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged relief flights and chartered planes to bring back Myanmar people from foreign countries.

A total of 3,109 people have been repatriated to Myanmar so far.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

State Counsellor discusses preparations made for mobilizing volunteers



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discusses requirements of volunteers in handling quarantine centres and increasing number of overseas returnees at the border crossings. **PHOTO: MNA**

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quarantines; even rich countries insist on home quarantines; it was thought that in home quarantines infections can spread quickly and hence quite dangerous; and that it was safer for the people to have facility quarantines and this was the reason for having facility quarantines; in making such arrangements there were not enough health-care workers and this was the reason for collaborating with volunteers; volunteers had been helping right from the beginning; after some time they become tired; lack of proper support equipment and lack of help and

support led to the realization that there should be support from the Union Government; this was the reason why a volunteers cooperation programme was initiated.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discussed the need for assistance from the Union Government for the volunteers to enable them to work in the long term; a mechanism was needed to enable them to perform part-time services; the need for public participation in COVID-19 control measures; arrangements made for volunteers such as accommodation, transportation, rest, systematic participation in safety, and training programmes; the need for the Union Government

to give recognition to the volunteers for their contributions; how training programmes were conducted for them; the formation of volunteer support groups in respective townships, and how volunteers have been systematically assigned to perform their duties in shifts at the quarantine centres.

Ma Aye Myat Mon Moe recounted her experiences as a volunteer at a facility quarantine centre and her worries about this work; difficulties of volunteers about meals and living inside the quarantine centre, problems in helping the quarantined persons, the existing number of PUI at the facilities quarantine in Pathein

Township, preparations for more returnees, the needs for conducting capacity-building course online and other requirements.

Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Htay presented the situation regarding the compilation of the list of volunteers in Kayah State; arrangements made for quarantined persons at the community-based facilities quarantine centres; and services being provided by volunteers at the fever clinics.

The State Counsellor gave comments and advice in order to ensure coordination and made her concluding remarks. She said that the health workers and volunteers faced the max-

imum exposure; making sure that quarantined persons were free from mental stress was an honourable task; necessary instructions would be given to the Ministry of Health and Sports to provide protective equipment and materials to the volunteers; special measures would be taken to ensure that all the needs of the quarantine centres were supplied and fulfilled; action would be undertaken to provide online courses for volunteers; only then would all the volunteers across the country be able to participate effectively in COVID-19 prevention activities; the COVID disease could still linger on for some time; in the coming month also returnees coming in from across the border could be quite substantial; the help and assistance of volunteers to provide care to the returnees at the quarantine centre was very much in need; since the COVID period could still remain for a long time, it would be essential to systematically build up and nurture the strength of volunteers; that she valued and depended upon the strength of the volunteers; without the strength of the volunteers, the work of prevention and control of COVID could not be accomplished in full measure; finally, responsible officials need to design an effective mechanism to enable volunteers to easily present their needs and requirements.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC ponders increasing polling stations to curb COVID-19 during elections

TO mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the General Election in November later this year, the Union Election Commission said it will increase the number of polling stations to reduce large gatherings and ensure the election is held as scheduled.

“Since the COVID pandemic is still here, we are considering splitting polling stations with 2,000 to 3,000 voters into smaller ones,” said UEC member U Myint Naing at a press conference yesterday.

As Myanmar citizens and migrant workers return from overseas and neighbouring countries due to complications

caused by the coronavirus, the UEC said they will carefully scrutinize and register them into the electoral roll.

There have been speculations that the elections in Myanmar might be postponed due to the spread of COVID-19 but U Myint Naing said the elections will be held in November, as it has been done in past years.

“There’s still time before the elections begin. There are no changes. It will be held in November, just as we’ve said before,” he said.

The 2010 General Election were held on 7 November and the dates were announced 2

months and 24 days in advance while the 2015 General Election was held on 8 November with the dates announced 4 months in advance. The UEC marked 2019 as the year for compiling the electoral roll for the 2020 General Election and they announced they have done so. They began compiling in June 2019 and will ensure the elections are held within the five norms.

The UEC held a coordination meeting from 2 to 4 June to designate the constituencies and polling stations accordingly during the spread of COVID-19.

—Kaytar
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

41 Myanmar citizens repatriated from Nepal by military aircraft

A special flight of the Ministry of Defence brought back 41 Myanmar citizens from Nepal yesterday.

As they landed at the Mingaladon airbase at 4:30 pm, officials from 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 and the respective hotels in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks, according to the report of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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MoHS holds talks on motions approved at Pyithu Hluttaw

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presided over a meeting at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the progress on implementation of approved proposals at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

The Union Minister remarked the proposals of Hluttaw representatives would be very beneficial to both public and the ministry, and it is required to prioritize the proposals.

He added that some approved proposals can be implemented in short term, while some others need more time, either by the MoHS individually or in coordination with the relevant ministries and civil organizations.

The Union Minister continued to say that the implementation of proposals will depend on available finance, time and human resources. He also explained

the ministry's prioritized plans on non-communicable diseases and cancers.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein discussed the ministry's pledges on the motions and proposals at the Hluttaws.

Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Kan Kaung from the Non-communicable Disease Prevention and Control Division reported on the progress in implementing the proposal of Pyithu Hluttaw MP from Sedoktara constituency about promotion of awareness and prevention plans to reduce cancer diseases.

Dr Kyaw Kan Kaung also presented about the works on a proposal to reduce and control tobacco consumption and chewing betel and another proposal to make a coordination in prevention of non-communicable disease among the ministries,



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the meeting on implementation of Pyithu Hluttaw approved proposals yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Director of Food and Drug Administration Department (Food) Dr Ohnma Soe Win and Director of Public Health Department (School Health) Dr Phyu Phyu Aye discussed actions on the proposal about prohibition

from selling junk foods at schools.

Deputy Director-General U Tun Myint Oo from the Sports and Physical Education explained promotion of sports among young generation through specific plans and budgets.

Officials from the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports made discussions and recommendations at the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management meets online for rehabilitation works

THE ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) for 2020 held its coordination meeting online yesterday on rehabilitation works of the committee.

Director General Dr Ko Ko Naing from the Natural Disaster Management Department performed as a joint chairman of the meeting which focused on the five-year work plans for 2021-2025 period to reduce losses and damages caused by natural disasters in ASEAN region.

The participants, including the joint chairman of committee from Indonesia and representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Laos, the Philippines and Thailand, reviewed their experiences, lesson-learnings, challenges and gaps in implementing the previous five-year period from 2016 to 2020, as well as future plans and time frame for the next round.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management for 2020 holds the coordination meeting online yesterday on rehabilitation works of the committee. **PHOTO: MNA**

Manipulating video about AA terrorist news goes viral online

A broadcast news of Myanmar Radio and Television was manipulated and posted on social media on 21 May evening.

The news was transformed into a fake video clip, changing the voice of newscaster from the original words of 'AA terrorists' into the 'Tatmadaw terrorists'.

The fake voice was inserted while the mouth movements were a blur due to poor quality download from internet. However, background pictures and presentation in sign language were in still for a moment in replacing the voice.

It was discovered that the misleading video clip reached social media at around 6:30 pm, and over 1,000 online users shared it in three hours.

Although some viewers wrote comments about the fake video footage, some persons did not know that it was just a counterfeit one. Authorities have advised the public to be aware of fake news, false news, rumours, hate speech and instigation of acts of unrest without believing them groundlessly, not to share unreliable news and to have media and information literacy in preventing negative impacts on society.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

SWRR Ministry donates more COVID-19 aid to IDP camps



THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is supporting IDP camps across the nation with the means to protect themselves against COVID-19.

In that regard, the ministry provided 40 bottles of hand sanitizers, 20 bags of lime powder, 962 bars of soap, 1,298 surgical masks, 2 thermometers, 2 hand speakers, and 2 vinyl posters and 2 memory sticks

An official hands over the medical item to an internally displaced person in MraukU, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

with awareness campaign information to 2 IDP camps in Tanai Township, Kachin State.

Similarly, the ministry provided 5,078 bars of soap, 10,156 cloth masks, 2,690 bottles of hand sanitizers, 12 hand speakers, 12 thermometers, and 12 vinyl posters and 12 memory sticks with awareness campaign information to 12 IDP camps in MraukU Township, Rakhine State.

In addition to humanitarian aid, the ministry also promotes awareness on COVID-19 and provides motivational services in Nay Pyi Taw Council and the states and regions.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Japan-Myanmar sign exchange of notes on economic, social development programme

THE Exchange of Notes on rendering assistance to Myanmar by Japan was signed by Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh and Japanese Ambassador Mr Maruyama Ichiro. According to the Notes, the Japanese Government will provide grant of two billion Japanese Yen for Economic and Social Development Programme in Myanmar. This grant will contribute to

the medical equipment, such as Intensive Care Unit beds, Medical monitors, Radiography systems and Portable Ultrasound Scanners.

This assistance will support the better healthcare environment of Myanmar and strengthen the ongoing efforts for prevention and controlling of Coronavirus Disease 2019, COVID-19.—MNA ■



Japanese Ambassador Mr Maruyama Ichiro (L) and Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh (R) signing the Exchange of Notes on Economic and Social Development Programme. PHOTO: MNA

Black bean, pigeon pea prices slightly up because of foreign demand



Merchants evaluate quality of the pigeon and black beans at the Commodity Wholesale Centre in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW

By Nyein Nyein

THE prices of black bean (called urad in India) and pigeon pea are rising a bit in the local market with the demand from abroad also on the increase, according to the bean market.

At present, the price of the black bean is K975,000 per tonne while that of pigeon pea is K780,000 per tonne.

In the aftermath of Myanmar water festival in April, the prices of black bean ranged from K995,000 to K1,000,000 per tonne while that of pigeon pea reached K800,000 per tonne, said Secretary U Min Ko Oo of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

With the changing in the bean import policy of India, which is the main importer of Myanmar bean, the bean merchants are observing closely the bean market, according to the bean merchants.

Although India is set to import 400,000 tonnes of black bean for the next fiscal by March 2021, it changed its policy and narrow the import deadline to three-month period, according to an announcement from India released on 22 May.

With the amended import policy of India, Myanmar is unlikely to export the entire quota (400,000 tonnes) of black bean to India for 2021 Fiscal within three months as there is inadequate

stock in the domestic market, he added.

Currently, Myanmar has around 250,000 to 300,000 tonnes of black bean stock. It is unlikely to export the entire quota of 400,000 tonnes to India. Besides, it is impossible to ship all of them to India's port within three months, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

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

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trading resumes in Maungtaw border

THE Maungtaw border trading suspended because of the outbreak of coronavirus is now resuming the operation starting from last week of May.

The trade with Bangladesh via Maungtaw border was suspended starting from 10 April. Now, those who come back to Myanmar by cargo ship from Bangladesh must be quarantined and undergo medical checkup, according to the Maungtaw Border Traders' Association.

Myanmar mainly exports onion, aquatic products and ginger to Bangladesh. The bilateral trade between the

two countries reached over US\$0.1 million monthly, according to the association.

The border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh reached \$746 million as of 29 May in 2019-2020 fiscal, according to a report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Usually, Myanmar's exports exceed imports in the bilateral trade with Bangladesh conducted by either sea or land. In the bilateral border trade, goods are moved mainly through Sittway and Maungtaw trade stations. —Aye Maung ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Coronavirus Fund loans over K12 bln to 376 hotels, tourism enterprises

By Nyein Nyein

More than K12 billion loans have already been provided to 376 hotels and tourism enterprises from the coronavirus relief fund, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The committee to draft a plan to remedy the possible economic impacts caused by coronavirus is providing the loans via COVID-19 relief fund. From the first to the fifth time, the committee provided K2,741,000,000 loans to 148 tourism enterprises and K10,084,900,000 loans to 228 hotel industries.

Moreover, the committee has designated the remedy priority sectors as CMP businesses, hotels and tourism businesses

and SMEs, which are dramatically impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. Then, K100 billion have initially been established as coronavirus fund including K50 billion from the government operation fund permitted from the Union government and K50 billion from the social welfare fund.

Within three months from 9 April to 2 June, about K37.5509 billion loans were provided to 1,016 businesses, according to the committee to draft a plan to remedy the possible economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

The committee provided K5.6968 billion to 85 enterprises for the first time, K4.495 billion to 113 enterprises for the second time, K3.5466 billion to 111 enterprises for the third time, K15.079

billion to 417 enterprises for the fourth time and K8.7335 billion to 290 enterprises for the fifth time.

Those permitted to receive the loans will be scrutinized per the bank procedures. If those businesses have been sued by some banks, the loans will not be provided to them. The remaining applications are still being scrutinized to provide the loans, according to the committee.

The committee to draft a plan to remedy the possible economic impacts caused by coronavirus was formed on 13 March with U Thaug Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations as the chairman. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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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.

Myanmar-China association donates disinfection channels to YCDC

Myanmar-China Exchange and Cooperation Association receives honorary certificate for donation of disinfection channels to YCDC.

PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

Myanmar-China Exchange and Cooperation Association donated disinfection channels to help the prevention of the COVID-19

to Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) on 4 June, it is learnt.

At the ceremony, YCDC

Vice-chairman and Vice Mayor U Soe Lwin received the machines to be used in disinfections.

The donation ceremony was held in YCDC meeting hall-1 at 2 pm on 4 June attended by YCDC Vice-chairman and Vice Mayor U Soe Lwin, Secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Joint Secretary U Thant, committee member U Win Myint Than, the head U Nyan Lin Soe, legal advisor U Kyaw Thet Lin and U Aung Sand Myint and U Aye Min on behalf of Daw Khin Khin Lay, the chairperson of Myanmar-China Exchange and Cooperation Association.

At the ceremony, the vice mayor gave the thankful speech while the legal advisor U Aung San Myint explained their activities and objectives of the dona-

tion on behalf of the chairperson of Myanmar-China Exchange and Cooperation Association. Then, Vice Mayor U Soe Lwin gave the certificate of appreciation to U Aung San Myint.

The association donated two disinfection channels worth K 1.8 million to YCDC with an aim for the YCDC staff and public who come to the YCDC office for their office work.

The association donated continuously the daily allowances towards the protection against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). In the third week of May, the association donated surgical masks, PPE suits and disinfection channels worth Ks 18 million to Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee. — Myint Maung

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***1,190 Myanmar workers return from Thailand via border bridge on 5 June**

MYANMAR has accepted 1,190 migrant workers returning from Thailand on 5 June since opening Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) for repatriating migrant workers facing difficulties caused by COVID-19 on 1 May.

The migrant workers are returning from numerous parts of Thailand after acquiring approval of the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand.

The returnees are given medical examinations and have other necessary matters

arranged for them by Kayin State Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung, Deputy District Administrator U Aung Chan Nyein, District Police Lt-Col Thet Linn Oo, Township Administrator U Phyo Zaw Ko and other officials.

The returnees from yesterday included 684 males and 506 females, adding to a total of 18,181 Myanmar migrant workers that have returned thus far. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)Returnees from Thailand tested their body temperatures at Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) on 5 June. **PHOTO: MNA****Illegal drug production gear seized in Tachilek**

OFFICERS of the Drug Enforcement Division and security forces in Tachilek, Shan State, arrested three men and confiscated numerous equipment used for manufacturing illegal drugs and firearms from

them between 3 to 4 June.

Police officers stopped two vehicles driven by two men identified as Hein Min Htike and Min Min Latt around 3 pm on 3 June and confiscated a blending machine, a drying ma-

chine with 'BLOMYUT' labelled on it, a machine for imprinting, and 100 bags containing 20,000 small packets each used for packaging drugs.

Upon further investigation, the police arrested a man

named Sai Aung Kham near Meyan joint inspection gate, Tachilek Township around 4 pm and raided his house in Yan Aung Myay Ward of the same township at 5:45 am on 4 June.

Police confiscated 4,000 psychotropic tablets, 0.8 kilos of the drug ICE, 4 guns and their related cartridges and bullets, 3 hand grenades, 6 machines for producing tablets, 3,916 molds for the drugs, 800 mold heads, and 69 bags each containing 20,000 smaller bags for packaging the illegal drugs.

Myanmar Police Force reports they have opened a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law against the three men.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)Bulk of illegal drugs and related items were confiscated in Tachilek on 3 and 4 June. **PHOTO: MPF**

Endorsement of Myanmar Standards Adoption

IN accordance with duties and function of section 5, article b and vested mandate of section 33 article (b) of Law on Standardization, National Standards Council endorses the following 264 standards to adopt as Myanmar Standards.

(CONTINUED FROM 5-6-2020)

14	MMS IEC 60245-8:1998+AMD1:2003+AMD2:2011 - Rubber insulated cables - Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V - Part 8: Cords for applications requiring high flexibility
15	MMS IEC 60269-1:2006+AMD1:2009+AMD2:2014- Low-voltage fuses - Part 1: General requirements
16	MMS IEC 60269-2:2013+AMD1:2016 -Low-voltage fuses - Part 2: Supplementary requirements for fuses for use by authorized persons (fuses mainly for industrial application) - Examples of standardized systems of fuses A to K
17	MMS IEC 60269-3:2010+AMD1:2013+AMD2:2019 -Low-voltage fuses - Part 3: Supplementary requirements for fuses for use by unskilled persons (fuses mainly for household or similar applications) - Examples of standardized systems of fuses A to F
18	MMS IEC 60269-4:2009+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2016 - Low-voltage fuses - Part 4: Supplementary requirements for fuse-links for the protection of semiconductor devices
19	MMS IEC 60320-1:2015+AMD 1:2018 - Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes - Part 1: General requirements
20	MMS IEC 60320-2-1 :2018 - Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes - Part 2-1: Sewing machine couplers
21	MMS IEC 60320-2-2:1998 - Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes - Part 2-2: Interconnection couplers for household and similar equipment
22	MMS IEC 60320-2-3 :2018 - Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes - Part 2-3: Appliance couplers with a degree of protection higher than IPX0
23	MMS IEC 60320-2-4 :2018 -Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes - Part 2-4: Couplers dependent on appliance weight for engagement
24	MMS IEC 60335-2-101 :2002 +AMD1:2008+AMD2:2014 -Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety Part 2-101: Particular Requirements for Aroma Vaporizers
25	MMS IEC 60335-2-11 :2019 -Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety Part 2-11: Particular Requirements for Tumble dryers
26	MMS IEC 60335-2-12:2002+AMD1:2008+AMD 2:2017 -Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety Part 2-12: Particular Requirements for warming plates and similar appliances
27	MMS IEC 60335-2-13:2009+AMD1:2016 - Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety Part 2-13: Particular Requirements for deep fat fryers, frying pans and similar appliances
28	MMS IEC 60335-2-14:2016+AMD1:2019 -Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety Part 2-14: Particular Requirements for Kitchen machines
29	MMS IEC 60335-2-24:2010 +AMD1:2012+AMD2:2017 -Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-24: Particular requirements for refrigerating appliances, ice cream appliances and ice makers
30	MMS IEC 60335-2-25 :2020 -Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-25: Particular requirements for microwave Ovens, including combination microwave ovens
31	MMS IEC 60335-2-34:2012+AMD1:2015+AMD2:2016 -Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-34: Particular requirements for motor-compressors
32	MMS IEC 60335-2-35:2012+AMD1:2016 - Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-35: Particular requirements for instantaneous water heaters
33	MMS IEC 60335-2-36 :2017 -Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-36: Particular requirements for commercial electric cooking ranges, ovens, hobs and hob elements
34	MMS IEC 60335-2-4:2008+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2017 -Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-4: Particular requirements for spin extractors
35	MMS IEC 60335-2-7 :2019 -Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety – Part 2-7: Particular requirements for washing machines
36	MMS IEC 60335-2-73:2002+AMD1:2006+AMD2:2009- Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-73: Particular requirements for fixed immersion heaters
37	MMS IEC 60335-2-9 :2019 - Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-9: Particular requirements for grills, toasters and similar portable cooking appliances

38	MMS IEC 60400 :2017 -Lamp holders and starter holders for tubular fluorescent lamps and starterholders
39	MMS IEC 60432-1:1999+AMD1:2005+AMD2:2011 -Incandescent lamps - Safety specifications - Part 1: Tungsten filament lamps for domestic and similar general lighting purposes
40	MMS IEC 60432-2:1999+AMD1:2005+AMD2:2012 - Incandescent lamps - Safety specifications - Part 2: Tungsten halogen lamps for domestic and similar general lighting purposes
41	MMS IEC 60432-3 :2012 -Incandescent lamps - Safety specifications - Part 3: Tungsten halogen lamps (non-vehicle)
42	MMS IEC 60454-3-1:1998+AMD1:2001 -Pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes for electrical purposes - Part 3: Specifications for individual materials - Sheet 1: PVC film tapes with pressure-sensitive adhesive
43	MMS IEC 60598-1:2014+AMD1:2017 - Luminaries - Part 1: General requirements and tests
44	MMS IEC 60598-2-1:1979/AMD1:1987-Luminaries. Part 2: Particular requirements. Section One: Fixed general purpose luminaries
45	MMS IEC 60598-2-2 :2011 -Luminaries - Part 2-2: Particular requirements - Recessed luminaries
46	MMS IEC 60598-2-3:2002+AMD1:2011 -Luminaries - Part 2-3: Particular requirements - Luminaries for road and street Lighting
47	MMS IEC 60598-2-20:2014/COR1:2016-Luminaries - Part 2-20: Particular requirements - Lighting Chains
48	MMS IEC 60598-2-5 :2015 -Luminaries - Part 2-5: Particular requirements - Floodlights
49	MMS IEC 60598-2-4 :2017- Luminaries - Part 2: Particular requirements - Section 4: Portable general purpose luminaries
50	MMS IEC 60598-2-8 :2013-Luminaries - Part 2-8: Particular requirements - Hand lamps
51	MMS IEC 60669-2-1:2002+AMD1:2008+AMD2:2015 -Switches for household and similar fixed electrical installations - Part 2-1: Particular requirements - Electronic switches
52	MMS IEC 60669-2-2 :2006 -Switches for household and similar fixed electrical installations - Part 2-2: Particular requirements - Electromagnetic remote-control switches (RCS)
53	MMS IEC 60669-2-3 :2006 -Switches for household and similar fixed electrical installations - Part 2-3: Particular requirements - Time-delay switches (TDS)
54	MMS IEC 60745-2-1 :2003/AMD 1 :2008 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-1: Particular requirements for drills and impact drills
55	MMS IEC 60745-2-11 : 2003/AMD 1 :2008 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-11: Particular requirements for reciprocating saws (jig and sabre saws); Electric Jig and Saber Saws (up to 60 mm)
56	MMS IEC 60745-2-14 :2003/ AMD 1 :2006 /AMD 2 :2010 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-14: Particular requirements for planers; Electric Planers (up to 500 W)
57	MMS IEC 60745-2-15 :2006/AMD 1 :2009 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-15: Particular requirements for hedge trimmers; Electric hedge trimmers and Grass shears (up to 750 W); Trimmers (up to 300 W)
58	MMS IEC 60745-2-17 :2010 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-17: Particular requirements for routers and trimmers; Electric Routers and trimmers (up to 500 W)
59	MMS IEC 60745-2-4:2002+AMD1:2008 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-4: Particular requirements for sanders and polishers other than disk type; Electric Sanders (up to 300 W)
60	MMS IEC 60745-2-3:2006+AMD1:2010+AMD2:2012 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-3: Particular requirements for grinders, polishers and disk-type sanders; Electric Grinders (up to 100 mm)
61	MMS IEC 60745-2-5 :2010 -Hand-held motor-operated electric tools - Safety - Part 2-5: Particular requirements for circular saws; Electric Circular Saws and circular knives (Cutting Blade up to 160 mm)
62	MMS IEC 60745-2-7 :1989 -Safety of hand-held motor-operated electric tools. Part 2: Particular requirements for spray guns for non-flammable liquids; Electric spray guns for non-flammable liquids (up to 100 bars)
63	MMS IEC 61347-1:2015+AMD1:2017 -Lamp controlgears - Part 1: General and safety requirements

(TO BE CONTINUED)

People's participation is a must to overcome challenges ahead

GLOBAL economic losses will likely cause an estimated 34.3 million additional people to fall below the extreme poverty line in 2020, derailing shaky progress on the 2030 development agenda, a UN report on the world economic situation shows.

The coronavirus is expected to slash the global economic output by \$8.5 trillion over the next two years, according to the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects mid-2020 report, which the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs released on Wednesday.

The report also shows that the global economy is projected to contract by 3.2% this year, marking the sharpest contraction since the Great Depression in the 1930s. While high-income economies will contract by 5% in 2020, low-income countries will shrink by 0.7%.

Already, the majority of the 17 goals were off track in 2019, well before the pandemic. The economic losses will create additional roadblocks for the scattered advancements on the entire 2030 agenda.

It is clear that the COVID-19 crisis is affecting different groups in different ways, and there are groups that are already behind that will fall really behind.

Countries, including Myanmar, that are already struggling with poverty, conflict, or natural disasters are being hit by COVID-19.

Like other countries, we are also facing a huge challenge in managing the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to prepare to tackle unemployment problems leading to poverty during and post COVID-19.

After a five month period fighting COVID-19, it has been found that we have defeated the COVID-19 to a certain extent thanks to the health workers and volunteers who are doing their duties with compassion, governmental staff who are performing their duties daily to keep the governmental machinery in operation, donors who contributed their assistance with loving kindness and Cetana to the areas which required their help, and volunteers with golden hearts for their efforts in patiently solving social problems and conflicts.

To overcome the challenges ahead, we need to understand that "people's participation is a must".

We are confident that our people can come through this crisis with resilience and understanding.

Ban Ki-Moon: The Lesson from COVID-19 is that We Need More, Not Less, Global Cooperation | Opinion

BY Mr. BAN KI-MOON



Former UN chief Ban Ki-Moon. PHOTO: THOMAS PETER / POOL / AFP

GLOBAL leadership has been sorely absent in the face of the gravest threat to human life in more than a century. Instead of unity, there is political acrimony. Instead of heeding the advice of experts, they are sidelined, undermined. Instead of international co-operation, there is finger-pointing. COVID-19 has become a blame game of international politics.

I need not dwell on the consequences of this colossal, collective

failure of global leadership. The pandemic is still spreading, its death toll now in the hundreds of thousands. The global economy is at a standstill. Hundreds of millions of people are unemployed, and as hunger grows, so will civil strife. According to the UN, a quarter of a billion people may starve this year. What progress we have made on reducing poverty and malnutrition and our other social development goals could be wiped out within months.

In our hyper-connected world, where misinformation spreads faster than the virus, this blame game will get us nowhere. Tweets are no substitute for good policies and political action. It's time to put an end to political bickering and focus on the job at hand: containing the pandemic. To further politicize the current health emergency is not only immoral and irresponsible; it is almost criminal.

Trust is the key to building an effective global response to COVID-19. We know that measures to contain the virus have

been most effective in countries where citizens have a high degree of trust in their governments. And we know that global co-operation has succeeded in stopping deadly pathogens in the past. Smallpox was eradicated with a global immunization campaign led by the World Health Organization. At a critical moment of an Ebola outbreak in Africa in 2014, the UN Security Council pronounced it a threat to international peace and security, and dispatched its first ever mission to combat a disease.

If we have been unable to apply the lessons learnt from previous epidemics, it is because trust between governments, and in our multilateral institutions, is at its lowest ebb. Never have we needed it more. Only by working together will we be able to devise rapid responses to health emergencies such as COVID-19. Shutting down borders and cities, hoarding medical supplies, every man for himself: that is not the answer.

We need new ways of working to rebuild trust in collective action

for the common good. A global platform, where best practices and success stories and the most updated data and information can be shared, would be a good place to start. The platform would encourage all stakeholders, including health professionals, researchers, the pharmaceutical industry and policy-makers, to engage in a professional and non-partisan way. It would be a first step towards improving global coordination on rapid responses to health emergencies, while building consensus on how to prevent or deal with future ones.

We need international co-operation, too, on how to reopen our economies and our borders safely. We need commonly agreed international rules to allow travel to resume without again becoming a vector for the deadly virus. And to achieve this we need to tone down the politics and maximize openness and co-operation based on the best available information and data.

Secondly, when the time

comes to rebuild, we must rebuild better, with a different set of priorities. As Pope Francis reminds us, nature never forgives. How can we presume to remain healthy in a world that is sick? We need to invest in public health, in social safety nets such as a minimum living wage, in education, sanitation and clean water, in green energy and climate action. In short, we must revive our economies by investing in people and the planet. We can no longer pursue short-term economic growth at the expense of everything else. The Green Deal proposed by the European Union is timely, but it is not a quick fix. In Europe and elsewhere, we need a shift towards long-term green growth.

Hand-in-hand with this, we need to address the deep inequalities in our global economic systems. Inequality is the root cause of every modern social disease, from poverty to terrorism. Inequality stokes fear and sows mistrust. It is the poorest, less-privileged members of our

societies who are dying in greater numbers from COVID-19. They are bearing the brunt of hunger and unemployment brought by the virus. Emergency relief for the loss of income during the pandemic is necessary, but we need to move beyond short-term compensation towards long-term investment in social inclusivity.

We know that COVID-19 will not be the last pandemic, but it is the one by which our leaders and political systems, including our multilateral institutions, will be judged based on fairness, transparency, openness and inclusiveness. We must not fail our citizens. We must rebuild trust in international co-operation to mount an effective response and be better prepared for the next emergency, when it comes.

Ban Ki-moon is the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations. The views expressed in this article are the author's own.

Supporting MSMEs vital to economic recovery in backdrop of pandemic

By Sayar Mya (MOFA)

UNWELCOME arrival of the first case of COVID-19 stepped into Myanmar soil on 23 March 2020, bringing in more volatility. As of 5 June 2020, total thin figure reaches (236) cases and the death tally remains (6) only.

Analysts and state leaders expected in advance the chancy and dicey of pandemic, and that the necessary plans have been already rolled out with the formation of responsive bodies.

In her capacity as the Chairperson of the National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19), State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech at the meeting on control measures of the disease on 26 March 2020.

Responding to the pandemic, the meeting held at the Presi-

dential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw was attended by Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and ministers of Region/State governments and officials.

The meeting discussed three Covid-19 cases in Myanmar; treatments given to them, containment of the disease to those who had close contacts with them and the places they visited, transportation arrangements for migrant returnees from Thailand to their homes, accommodation for them before they arrive back to respective destinations, community-based facility quarantine for them and other measures against the Covid-19.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave guidance and decisions based on matters presented at the meeting.

People are requested not to panic, but to remain calm and follow the advice from the health

authorities on COVID-19.

What is most important is to get medical treatment early. As soon as a person gets symptoms, he should go to the nearest healthcare center immediately, without procrastination.

State Counsellor wrapped up by saying it is hoped that people know the "Four wrongful paths". A wrongful path is a path which is wrong. What pushes onto the wrongful path are: Intention, Hatred, Fear, and Ignorance.

It is important we should not be pushed onto the wrongful path with regard to the COVID-19 disease that other countries are facing.

Our government will release up-to-date information in real-time all information that the people need to know. She concluded that the "People are the key".

As this article is not meant

for healthcare education, the writing would moves to "Supporting MSMEs".

COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)

In an effort to meet the current exigencies faced by Myanmar as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government had, on 27 April 2020, launched the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

The CERP comprises seven goals, 10 strategies, 36 action plans and 76 actions, each with an estimated timeline and designated authority in charge, covering a range of fiscal and social measures.

- 1. Goal 1: Improve macro-economic environment through monetary stimulus
- 2. Goal 2: Ease the impact on

the private sector through improvements to investment, trade & banking sectors

- 3. Goal 3: Easing the impact on laborers and workers
- 4. Goal 4: Easing the impact on households
- 5. Goal 5: Promoting innovative products and platforms
- 6. Goal 6: Health care systems strengthening
- 7. Goal 7: Increase access to COVID-19 response financing
- 8. Conclusion

Under goal 2, the measures to ease the impact of the pandemic on specific sectors are as follows:

- a. To ease impact on private sector firms through:
 - i. Provision of low-cost funds by:

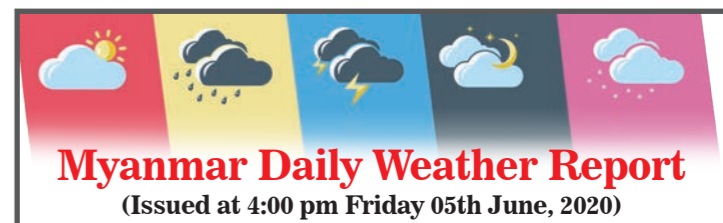
A. offering MMK 100 billion worth of one-year working capital loans focused on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) and companies in the hotel and tourism sectors at an interest rate of 1 percent per annum.

B. Ensuring access by microfinance institutions (MFIs) to low-cost funding.

C. Expediting the merger between Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) and Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) to facilitate the expansion of existing pilot commercial lending programs to affected townships.

Delusion of grandeur is to be avoided by all stakeholders in the implementation of MMK 100 billion worth of one-year working capital loans in MSME sectors.

SEE PAGE-10



BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea, South and East central Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 06th June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan(North and South), Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Sagaing Region, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Chin and Kayah States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon- Taninthayi Coasts and slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h.Wave height will be about (6 - 9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon- Taninthayi Coasts and about (4 - 6) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th June, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Naypyitaw and Mandalay Region and widespread in Yangon Region.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Well-wishers continue donation to COVID-19 Committee

COMPANY, organization and individual donors donated financial assistance and hospital supplies to the National Central Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment in Nay Pyi Taw.

The list of the well-wishers who donated financial assistance and hospital supplies to the National Central Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment till 3 June, 2020 are following.

No	Donor's Name	Items	Quantity	Estimated Value (Kyats in million)
1	Wai Aung Kabar Gems Company Limited	Laboratory equipment for COVID-19 testing in Taunggyi, Mawlamyine and Lashio	3	924.2
2	Fund Committee for Mandalay City Development	Laboratory equipment for COVID-19 testing at Public Health Laboratory in Mandalay and National Health Laboratory in Yangon	2	809.2
3	U Ko Ko Htoo, Daw Sandar Aung, and their son Min Thiha Htoo and their daughter Su Thiri Htoo and (MIP) staff families	Mask, Hand sanitizers, Gloves, PPE, Goggles, Thermometer, and Disinfectant spray		555
4	U Aung Myint Swe (TENG FEI AISA Group Co Ltd)	personal protective equipment for COVID-19		127.8
		Ventilator	2	
5	Kan Pwint Oo Mining Co. Ltd	PPE, Gloves and Face Shield		90
6	Golden Pinya	Surgical mask	300,000	80
		Infrared Thermometer	600	
7	Teng Fei Asia Group Co.Ltd through Daw Khin Kyi Foundation	personal protective equipment for COVID-19		75.4
8	Europe and Asia Commercial Foundation	Infrared Thermoscan	2	69
9	Innwa IT and Mobile (GMT) Co Ltd, U Tin Tun and Daw Myint Myint Htay, U Nyo Htwe and Daw Shwe Ei Ei San	Infrared Thermometer and personal protective equipment for COVID-19		52.4
10	Zuellig Pharma Co Ltd	Medicines and personal protective equipment for COVID-19		22.8
11	Model Pharma	VTM	3,240	22.6
12	Thurein Aluminium Distribution	Oxygen Generator	1	15
13	Biz Partner Group	Portable X'ray	1	14
14	Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association	Thermal Scanner	5	14
15	AYAR-MED Myanmar Co.Ltd	Non-Contact thermometer, Digital BP Cuff, Nebulizer		11.7
16	KYMS Co.Ltd	Infusion pump	1	5
		Syringe pump	1	
				2888.565

Further donor lists will be announced soon.

National Central Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Supporting SMEs vital to economic recovery in backdrop of pandemic

FROM PAGE-9

Total of (126,237) or approximately 99.4 per cent of all businesses in Myanmar are classified as SMEs. On average, SMEs in Myanmar account for 50-95 per cent of employment and contribute 30-53 per cent of GDP in ASEAN member states.

The Government recognizes that SME entrepreneurship will define the country's future national economic development.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a significant role in most economies. According to the World Bank, they represent about 90 per cent of businesses and 50 per cent of employment worldwide.

SMEs are one of the largest sources of job creation and growth in developing econo-

mies around the world. They can not only generate jobs but can also be a source of innovation, wealth creation and poverty reduction, making significant contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Widely accepted notion to do MSMEs business in Myanmar are as follows.

- Convenient store;
- Travel agency;
- Cell phone loading or recharge shop;
- Tea stall;
- Tuition centre;
- Juice kiosk;
- Tailoring shop;
- Mobile food stations.

Start & Improve Your Business "SIYB" is a management training programme with a focus on starting and improving small businesses. It is one of the biggest global management training systems used for the

support of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) currently on the market. It is an advisable programme using in Myanmar.

Reeling from pandemic, a collapse of SMEs would imply job losses, consumption and demand fall, and potential financial risk due to an increase in the non-performing loan (NPL) portfolios that can generate systemic effects on the banking sector.

Normally, a nonperforming loan (NPL) is considered in default or close to default. In banking, commercial loans are considered nonperforming if the debtor has made zero payments of interest or principal within 90 days, or is 90 days past due.

Grapple with loss, other problem is the irresponsible borrowing of the SMEs that have a limited financial clev-

erness. The excessive expectations of the future income without understanding the basic consistent patterns in the economy can cause serious financial problems in business.

With the backdrop of pandemic, the slump of personal income and the decreasing market value of assets financed by the bank can lead to the situation in which the takeover of assets from debtors cannot redeem or trade in all their debts.

Due to the inability of many loan applicants to make a responsible decision, the Central Bank regulative instruments for commercial banks play an important role in reducing the problem of non-performing loans (NPL).

Reasons behind high NPL rates

The main factors behind

the high NPL proportion in banks can be either inappropriate credit risk management or irresponsible borrowing and also lending or economic downturn in a country. Other possible reasons could be poor supervision and governance, aggressive lending and acquisition strategies, high exposure to sectors that were most impacted by the financial crisis such as real estate and lax credit controls.

In conclusion, the banks are required in paying more attention to the supervision and management of the risks, and thus reducing the amount of bad debt. With this good start from the banking sector, the concept of "Supporting MSMEs" would yield the greater good of the country in the post scenario of COVID - 19 pandemic.

■ ■ ■

India-China military commanders to hold talks on June 6 to resolve border issue



A Chinese soldier (L) next to an Indian soldier at a border crossing in a file photo. PHOTO: AFP

NEW DELHI — Military commanders of India and China will hold talks in Moldo on Saturday morning to address the ongoing tussle in Eastern Ladakh between the two countries over

the heavy military build-up by the People's Liberation Army along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) there.

"During the talks to be held at Moldo in Chinese territory

opposite Chushul in Ladakh, 14 Corps Commander Lieutenant General Harinder Singh will hold discussions with MajGen Liu Lin, who is the commander of the South Xinjiang Military

Region of the Chinese People's Liberation Army," said the Indian Army sources.

The two sides have held close to a dozen rounds of talks since the first week of May when the Chinese sent over 5,000 troops to the LAC.

In the last few days, there has not been any major movement of the People's Liberation Army troops at the multiple sites where it has stationed itself along the LAC opposite Indian forces.

India and China have been locked in a dispute over the heavy military build-up by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) where they have brought in more than 5,000 troops along with the Eastern Ladakh sector.

The Chinese Army's intent to carry out deeper incursions was checked by the Indian security forces by quick deployment. The Chinese have also brought in heavy vehicles with artillery guns and infantry combat vehicles in their rear positions close to the Indian territory.—ANI ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China urges U.S. not to meddle in internal affairs over 1989 protest

BEIJING — China on Friday demanded the United States not meddle in its internal affairs, a day after the White House released a statement condemning the military crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

"We urge the United States to abandon ideological prejudice, manage its own affairs, and stop using human rights, religion and Hong Kong-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters.

Regarding the Tiananmen protest, "China has chosen the correct development path" and "it also received the heartfelt support of the broad masses of the people," he said. Thursday marked the 31st anniversary of the incident.—Kyodo ■

Japanese key index of business conditions drops to lowest on record in April

TOKYO — The Japanese government on Friday maintained its assessment that the economy in April had "worsened," with its index of business conditions dropping to the lowest level since record keeping began.

According to the Cabinet Office, the coincident index of business conditions for the recording month dropped 7.3 points from March to 81.5 against the 2015 base of 100.

The decline marked the sharpest drop since comparable data became available in January 1985, the government's figures showed.

The figure retreated for a

third straight month, the office's data showed, and came on the heels of a 4.9-per cent decline logged in March.

Using terminology to describe its lowest evaluation of the assessment of the economy for the ninth consecutive month, the Cabinet Office maintained that the world's third-largest economy is "worsening."

The index in the reporting period was adversely affected by a sharp fall in shipments of durable consumer goods, these includes goods such as cars and motorbikes, a government official explained.

The official said slump-

ing demand for steel products also weighed heavily on the index in the recording period.—Xinhua ■



Demand for steel products also weighed heavily on the index in the recording period. A file photo of a worker walking through a steel factory. PHOTO: AFP

Cambodia police refuse probe into Thai activist 'disappearance'

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian police on Friday ruled out a probe into the alleged disappearance of a self-exiled Thai democracy activist after a rights group said he had been abducted in broad daylight from outside his Phnom Penh apartment.

Wanchalearm Satsaksit, a sharp critic of the Thai government led by ex-general Prayut Chan-O-Cha, was dragged into a black car on Thursday evening, according to Human Rights Watch.

Citing several witnesses and CCTV from security cameras, HRW says he was on the phone with a colleague when he was taken by "a group of armed men".

But on Friday, Cambodian police said they knew nothing of the alleged disappearance.

"We don't know about it, so what should we investigate?" Chhay Kim Khoeun, the spokesman of Cambodian National Police told AFP.

— AFP ■

Verdict on Malaysian ex-PM Najib's corruption case set for July 28

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian court on Friday set July 28 as the date it will deliver a verdict on former Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak in a corruption trial linked to a multimillion-dollar scandal involving a state investment fund.

The case concerns the alleged transfer of money totalling 42 million ringgit (about \$10 mil-

lion) from a former unit of state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad, or 1MDB, to his private bank accounts between December 2014 and February 2015, when he was prime minister.

Najib, 66, is charged with three counts of money laundering, three counts of criminal breach of trust and one count of abuse of power. He has pleaded

not guilty to all of them.

The verdict date was set after the defence made its closing arguments at the Kuala Lumpur High Court.

Lead defence counsel Muhammad Shafee Abdullah portrayed Najib as the victim of a "scam" and a target of "misrepresentation" by alleged mastermind Low Taek Jho, a young

tycoon, and "a bunch of rogue bankers."

The fugitive Malaysian, often called Jho Low, is a one-time family friend of Najib who is accused of being the brains behind the plunder of some \$4.5 billion from 1MDB. "We have raised more than a reasonable doubt," the counsel said, pressing for Najib's acquittal.—Kyodo ■

France denies giving refuge to Venezuela's Guaidó

PARIS — France on Friday denied that Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó had been given refuge at its mission in Caracas, after Venezuela's foreign minister claimed he was hiding at the embassy.

"Mr Juan Guaidó is not at the French residency in Caracas. We have confirmed this to the Venezuelan authorities several times," ministry spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll said.

France is among more than 50 countries that recognize Guaidó as the interim president of Venezuela, after the country's opposition-controlled parliament branded President Nicolás Maduro a usurper over his 2018 re-election in a poll widely derided as rigged.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza had made the claim on Thursday, three days after Maduro hinted that his rival was "hiding" at a diplomatic location.

"We cannot enter the premises of any country's embassy whatsoever, in this case Spain or France," Arreaza said during a radio interview, adding that an arrest by force therefore "is not possible."

He made the comments when asked by a journalist about Guaidó's supposed presence at the embassy, and another leading opposition figure, Leopoldo López, at the Spanish ambassador's residence, where he has remained for more than a year.

"We hope that these gov-

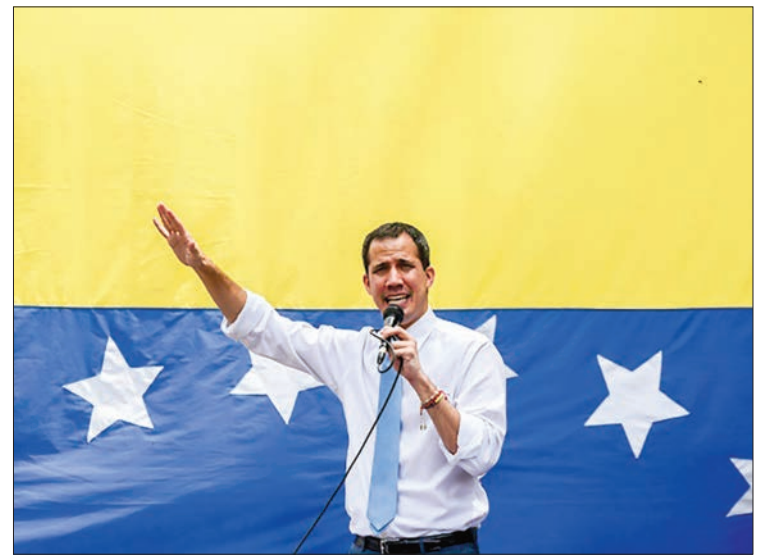
ernments will change their mind... and deliver those who wish to escape Venezuelan justice," Arreaza said.

Calling the situation "deeply irregular" he added: "It is a shame for Spain's diplomacy, it is a shame for France's diplomacy what has happened and it will take its toll very, very soon."

On Monday Maduro hinted that Guaidó was "hiding in an embassy" in a statement that the opposition leader immediately denied.

"They lie to you," Guaidó wrote on Twitter, adding that he was "with the people".

Maduro and his administration have previously labelled Guaidó a "fugitive from justice" although there is no known arrest warrant against him.



France is among more than 50 countries that recognize Juan Guaidó as the interim president of Venezuela. PHOTO: AFP

'Free elections'

Diplomatic tensions between Paris and Caracas -- already strained over the recogni-

tion of Guaidó -- have worsened further over the last months due to the treatment of the French ambassador.—AFP ■

Sweden to announce landmark decision on 1986 Palme murder



Palme was a controversial figure who infuriated Washington with his vocal opposition to the US war in Vietnam. PHOTO: AFP

STOCKHOLM — Swedish prosecutors will announce on Wednesday whether they plan to press charges or close the investigation into the unsolved 1986 murder of prime minister Olof Palme.

Palme was killed on February 28, 1986, after leaving a Stockholm cinema with his wife Lisbet to walk home, having dismissed his bodyguards for the evening.

An unidentified attacker shot Palme in the back and fled, leaving the 59-year-old dying in a pool of blood on the sidewalk.

More than 10,000 people have been questioned but authorities do not currently have anyone placed under formal suspicion.

"Chief prosecutor Krister

Petersson will announce his decision and speak about the investigation together with the head of the investigation Hans Melander," the prosecution authority said in a statement on Friday. Over the years, more than 130 people have claimed responsibility for the murder and the case files take up 250 metres of shelf space.

Christer Petersson, a petty criminal and drug addict, was convicted of the crime in July 1989 after Palme's widow identified him in a widely-criticized line-up.

But he was freed months later by an appeals court which dismissed her testimony on a technicality. Petersson died in 2004 while Palme's widow passed away in 2018.—AFP ■

Australia bans anti-racism protest citing virus

SYDNEY — An Australian court on Friday banned a Black Lives Matter protest planned in Sydney, backing government claims it could risk spreading the coronavirus.

Up to 10,000 people were expected to march in Sydney on Saturday to express solidarity with US protestors and demand an end to frequent Aboriginal deaths in custody in Australia.

On the eve of the protest, the police -- backed by prominent local conservative politicians -- launched legal action to ban the rally on health grounds.

Justice Desmond Fagan agreed, ruling that the march should be prohibited because health concerns outweighed any deferment of the right to protest.

"Everybody has given up a lot in order to defeat this disease," Fagan said, "it's not a time to throw out our caution."

Australia has detected a sustained drop in the number of COVID-19 cases, but social distancing rules remain in force and mass gatherings are not permitted.

Civil rights protests shak-

ing the United States have resonated with many in Australia -- a country that also wrestles with the legacy of a racist past.

Several protests have already taken place across Australia and the planned march in Sydney is one among several due to take place on Saturday.

Organizers hoped to highlight the high levels of imprisonment for First Nations Australians and the large number of indigenous deaths in custody -- more than 400 in the last three decades.—AFP ■



Several thousand demonstrators marched on Sunday in central Montreal, Canada, against racism and police violence, in solidarity with demonstrations in the US. PHOTO: AFP

Stalemate after fourth round of post-Brexit talks



EU negotiator Michel Barnier says failing to reach agreement will have consequences.
PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — The latest round of Brexit trade talks ended with no breakthrough Friday, as the EU and Britain stuck to long-held positions and called for negotiations to be ramped up.

The EU's chief negotiator Michel Barnier could report "no significant progress this week", accusing London of backtracking on divorce terms agreed last year. "This situation cannot go on forever," Barnier told

reporters after hundreds of officials completed four days of virtual talks on forging future EU-UK ties.

The former French minister added that any agreement must be reached before October 31 in order for it to be ratified before the end of the year.

This is when Britain will leave the EU's single market and customs union with or without a trade deal.

Barnier's UK counterpart David Frost noted

"limited" advances and asked that both sides "intensify and accelerate our work" in order to clinch the deal. Barnier said the next round of talks would take place in late June or early July as officials talked of a busy summer ahead for negotiations.

"I have no doubt that we will find common ground over the course of the summer and by early autumn at the latest," Barnier added.

Planned summit

At times frustrated, Barnier said British negotiators were seeking to backtrack on commitments already made when Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed a political declaration with EU members last year. Barnier said this declaration — legally a non-binding annex to the Brexit withdrawal agreement — could be the "only reference" for the talks.

— AFP ■

U.S. jobless rate unexpectedly falls to 13% amid pandemic

WASHINGTON — The U.S. unemployment rate unexpectedly fell to 13.3 per cent in May after hitting a post-World War II high of 14.7 per cent a month before, as the economy started to gradually reopen following a shutdown triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, data by the Labour Department showed Friday.

The U.S. economy added 2.5 million jobs in May after losing more than 20 million jobs a month before, which was the worst-ever monthly decline in nonfarm payrolls since comparable data became available in 1939.

The market consensus was a loss of 8 million jobs and an unemployment rate of 19.8 per cent.—Kyodo ■

Major oil producers to meet Saturday about output cuts

VIENNA — Top oil producing countries will meet via video conference on Saturday instead of next week, a source close to OPEC said Friday, to assess their current agreement on output cuts, as oil prices recovered somewhat on easing coronavirus lockdowns.

OPEC's 13 members led by Saudi Arabia, and their 10 allies that include Russia, had originally been due to meet June 9 and 10.

But Algeria, which currently chairs the Vienna-based organization, proposed a change of date intended, according to analysts, to better synchronize the decisions of oil producers with the timing of transactions on the oil market.

Friday's news boosted oil prices as producers appeared to move towards agreement on extending their huge output cuts,

which are aimed at soaking up surplus crude.

The countries are discussing a deal agreed in April to cut output aimed at boosting oil prices, which have plummeted due to falling demand as countries around the world have imposed strict

lockdowns to stop the spread of the new coronavirus. OPEC and the so-called OPEC+ have pledged to cut output by 9.7 million barrels per day (mbd) from May 1 until the end of June.

Under the terms of the agreement, the histor-

ic cuts would be gradually relaxed from July with 7.7 mbd taken off the market from July to December.

OPEC and OPEC+ are set to discuss extending the 9.7 mbd beyond June though agreement could be difficult to reach.—AFP ■



A general view shows the Saudi Aramco oil facility in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 23 November 2007. PHOTO: AFP

Australia to add tough security tests to foreign investment laws

SYDNEY — Australia will introduce tough new tests for foreign investors seeking involvement in "sensitive national security business" as part of an overhaul of its foreign investment laws, the government said Friday.

The proposed changes come as Australia has seen its relationship with its largest trading partner

China harden over Canberra's call for an independent probe into the origin of the coronavirus pandemic.

The national security tests could be applied to foreign bids on telecommunication companies, energy and utilities businesses, and entities within the defense supply chain that collect, store and own data.—Kyodo ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V DECENT

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DECENT VOY. NO. (2005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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 NEW HIGHEST SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLUE BALESTIER

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLUE BALESTIER VOY. NO. (2002003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (022S/023N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (022S/023N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T 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.

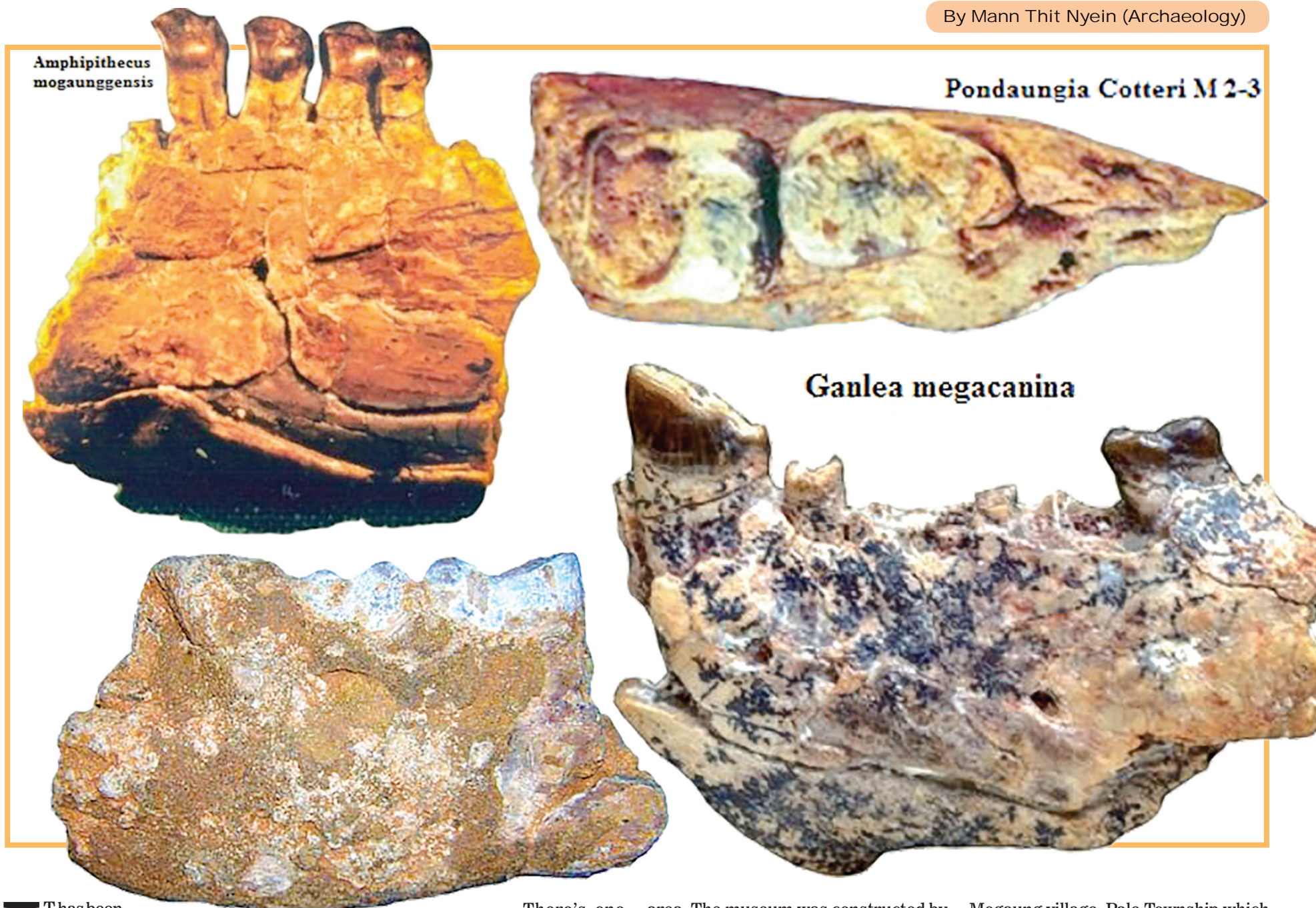
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

World famous Myanmar primates from Bahin area

By Mann Thit Nyein (Archaeology)



It has been 10 years since I start participating in Myanmar-France field survey on primate fossil in 2008. In the first year our trip to Bahin Village in Myaing Township via Pyay and Pakokku was a very difficult one. Road transport was very bad. As some rains had fallen I vividly remember reciting all the religious verses I knew as we made the journey arduously.

Bahin Village in Magway Region, Pakokku District, Myaing Township had now become a major village tract and the 27 miles journey from Pakokku to Myaing and 16 miles trip from Myaing to Bahin Village can be made on decent modern buses that ply daily to and fro. Bahin Village Tract consist of Htanaunggon, Oo Nap Yin, Shan Tone, Magyikan, Nandawya, Spaykan and Paukhaung villages and Bahin Village itself had close to 500 households. The village tract with Bahin village and seven other villages had more than 2,000 households in total.

There's one sub-high school in Bahin village in addition to one station hospital where treatments were provided full time. The major economic activity was agriculture and trade. The village market was full of buyers and sellers from Pakokku, Myaing and Monywa as well as nearby villages and in addition to having a good living standard it also had a police station that contributes toward security and rule of law.

Bahin Village also had the historical Shwe Hintha Pagoda and when the annual pagoda festival was held on the Full Moon Day of Tabaung, it attracts merchants from Pakokku, Myaing and Monywa and devotees and revellers from nearby villages. In addition to all of these, Bahin Village and its vicinity became a world famous place in archaeology after discovery of more than 40 million years old fossil remains of primates. The latest addition to this village now will be a museum displaying the fossil remains discovered in the

area. The museum was constructed by Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

Primates are any mammal of the group that includes the lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys, apes and humans. Humans and primates had similar evolutionary process. Primates were descendent of tree dwellers. The original habitats of primates are important in the study of its evolutionary process. Primate fossils from Eocene period (55 million to 38 million years ago) were found but most were found from the Oligocene period that starts about 38 million years ago.

Primate fossils such as Amphipithecus and Pondaungia from about 40 million years ago found in Myanmar was the oldest discovered in the world. Looking back, in 1914 palaeontologist G.D.P. Cotter found the first primate fossil of Myanmar in Pangan, Myaing Township. In honour of the founder, it was named Pondaungia Cotteri. In 1923 Dr. Barnum Brown found another primate fossil near

Mogaung village, Pale Township which was named Amphipithecus mogaungensis in honour of the place where it was discovered. In April 1978 Mandalay University Geology Department Lecturer U Ba Maw led 13 students on a field survey in Sagaing Region, Pale Township, Mogaung Village and found two primate teeth fossil remains. The tooth fossil remains were Amphipithecus and Pondaungia discovered by Myanmar experts for the first time. In October 1978 Mandalay University Geology Department Lecturer U Thaw Tint together with demonstrators conducted a field survey near Mogaung Village and found more primate teeth fossil remains.

On 14 February 1997 State Peace and Development Council Secretary 1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt directed Tatmadaw Office of Strategic Studies and expert geologists from Ministry of Education to jointly explore and search for fossilized remains in Pondaung and formed a Fossil Exploration Team led by Col. Than Tun which conducted exploration works

in Pale Township and Myaing Township.

Upon invitation international fossilogists also cooperated and participated in the exploration works. Now, 21 years has passed since Japan and French fossilogists has worked together with Myanmar experts and throughout this period more primate fossil remains were found.

Bahinia Pondaungisis found in the area was considered and widely accepted as the oldest primate fossil found in the world. Ganlea megacanina, a primate lower jaw fossil remain found in November 2008 at Myaing Township Pauk Khaung Village was about 38 million years old.

According to Dr. Chris Beard, palaeontologist at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History, discovery of Ganlea megacanina primate put up a new thought to the previously accepted concept of primates originating from Africa. This discovery was also important

in the study of the evolution of Myanmar primates.

The six Myanmar primates fossils Pondaungia, Amphipiteheus, Bahinia, Ganlea, Colonbine and Myanmarpithicus found in Pondaung area were of mid or late Eocene period. The search for primate fossil has been conducted since 1997 and new discovery will become rare and more difficult. As there can be instances of smuggling abroad fossilized remains it should be noted that this amount to destruction and removing our cultural and historical heritages. Now, 25 areas near the vicinity of Magway Region, Pakokku District, Myaing Township, Bahin Village where primate fossil remains were discovered were designated as protected zones. As such locals and the people of the county should come together to protect and maintain this Bahin area as an important cultural and historical heritage area.

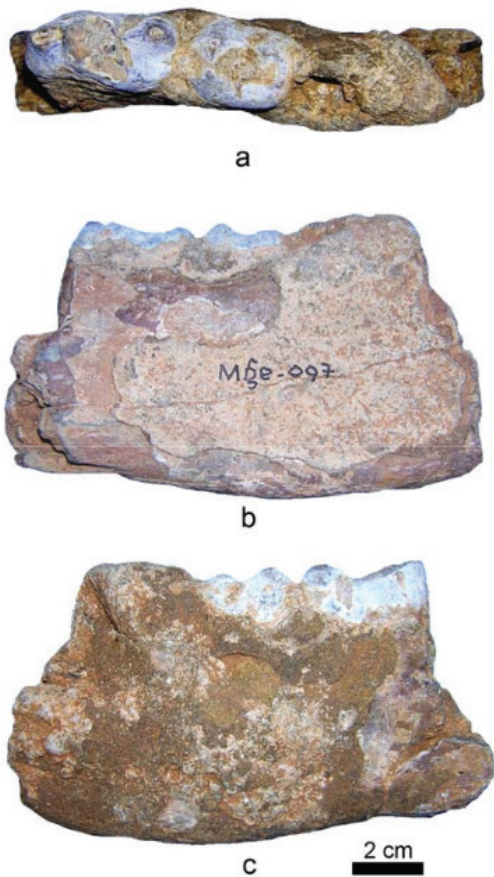
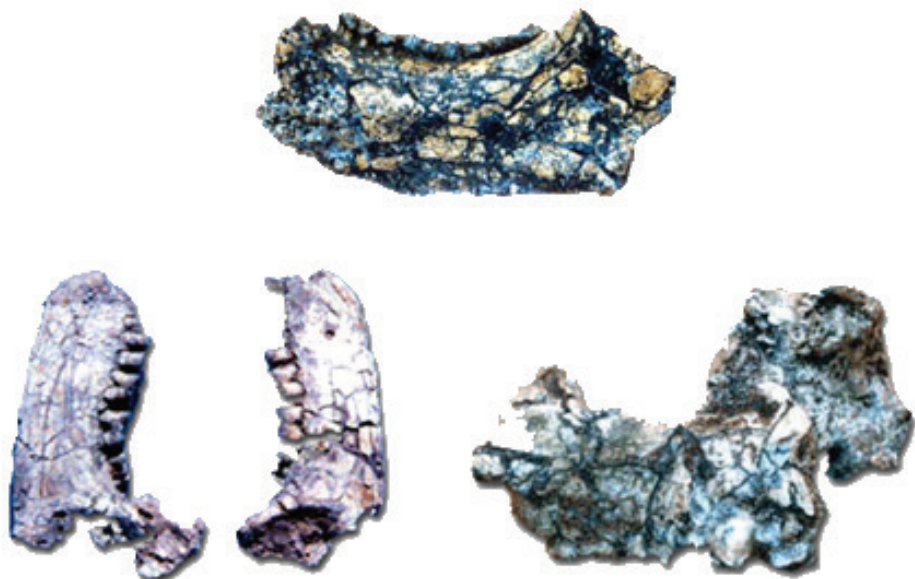


Figure 4. A right mandibular fragment with M_{1-2} of *Amphicyon* sp. (YUDG-Mge 097) from the Tebingan locality of Ayeyarwady Formation in Myanmar. (a) occlusal view; (b) lingual view; (c) labial view.



The Pondaung Primate.



Ancient Cannons being seen in front of Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace.

Ancient Cannons of Yadanabon era in Mandalay

STANDING in front of the Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace, an invaluable historic heritage of ancient Myanmar, antique cannons of Yadanabon era have reflected the advanced idea of Myanmar people and the innovative armed power of the country.

Those iron cannons were bought from the 'Woolwich' (Royal Arsenal) armament factory in England to boost the defensive strength of the country.

Originally these cannons could move only forwards and backwards, but Myanmar people upgraded them to be able to swivel around 360 degree on a carriage.

When it is needed to fire, gunpowder and a cannon iron ball were pressed into the cannon and lit the fuse to be fired.

Now, a museum is under construction in front of the Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace to display these iron cannons together with other ancient weapons. An archaeologist in Mandalay has collected some samples of iron cannon balls used in these big guns.

These historical evidences have shown that ancient Myanmar people in Yadanabon era tried to develop the country into an industrial nation, like the western countries. In this attempt, scholars were sent to western countries to establish a weapon industry and to turn the country into a modern armed power.

Myanmar successfully invented naval mines in those days.

On 16 May, 1865 in Yadanabon era, the King Mindon visited Kyauktawgyi pagoda at the foot of Mandalay hill in a royal process. During the visit, he put an artillery troop in front line, followed by six frontier troops or battalions, royal protection guards and auxiliary forces, according to an ancient Parabaik, a folding and illustrated manuscript.

Parabaik is a collection of coated thick papers used for writing and drawing in the past. These paper sheets are made from bamboo and palm leaves. Parabaiks were mainly used for writing message and information at that time.

Department of Indian Stone Inscription released the copies of parabaik in printed version, with the depicts of an artist explaining how the King visited the Kyauktawgyi pagoda in a royal process.

Ancient kings used to go outside the palace to enjoy water-throwing festival, to observe the new royal building and to do meritorious deeds. During these visits, the king was protected by 12 guard forces—six in front line and six in back line. Forts of Yadanabon ear were well protected by huge cannons. Some of those can still be found at the northeastern side of Myanansankyaw Palace in Mandalay.

—Nway Nady (Myitnge)

(Translated by GNLM)



Australia's Ashleigh Barty has not yet committed to playing the US Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

World number one Barty wary of US Open return

SYDNEY—World number one Ashleigh Barty voiced caution Friday about resuming tennis too soon, saying she needed more information before committing to the US Open in August.

The Australian, who surged to the top of the rankings last year and has stayed there since, said it was not just her but her entire team she must consider in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. "It's exciting that tennis is being talked about again and things are moving in the right direction for us to start competing," she told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"But I'd need to understand all of the information and advice from the WTA and the USTA before making a decision on the US events."

The WTA and ATP schedules have been on ice since March with action not set to resume until the end of July at the earliest.

Wimbledon was cancelled for the first time since World War II, while the French Open has been shifted from May-June to September-October.

A decision about the US Open -- played in New York, which has been a hotbed for the virus -- is yet to be made, but its main draw is scheduled to begin on August 31.

Barty said she was concerned about travel exemptions for her support staff.

While players could be exempt from a 14-day quarantine period, it remains unclear whether that also applies to their teams.—AFP ■

Thet Htar Thuzar shares her self-training experience to fans

MYANMAR'S badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar recently expressed her experience on self-workouts plus coronavirus prevention processes to her fans via video file on her social page.

Thet Htar Thuzar said that she was relying on her training though she could not do her normal training on the pitch.

Thet Htar Thuzar said that she was training in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar. Her father's friends who are badminton experts also guided her there so she is still satisfying about her self-training.

Though she did not go to badminton court in Nay Pyi Taw, she was doing good with her workouts at home, Thet Htar Thuzar stated.

Thet Htar Thuzar also shared her advice for those in quarantine: "We all must keep

our hands clean; we shouldn't touch our face or eat without cleaning our hands. Also, in this situation, we should all stop going out, but if we need to, we must wear the mask properly."

Thet Htar Thuzar also let her fans know about her plan after the pandemic that she would take international tournaments after the pandemic and she also wanted to go around the world.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Qatar completes third World Cup stadium

DOHA —Qatar announced the completion of its third stadium for the 2022 World Cup, state media reported late Thursday, as the emirate prepared to mark three years of a regional feud.

Education City stadium had been due to host the semi-final of the Club World Cup on December 18, but its opening was postponed because of delays to certification.

"The Supreme Committee

for Delivery and Legacy and the Qatar Foundation announce the completion of the preparations for the third FIFA World Cup 2022 stadium, located in Education City," the state-run Qatar News Agency reported.

The Education City ground, named for the surrounding university and research campuses, will host fixtures through to the quarter-finals.

After the tournament, half of its 40,000 seats will be donated to build stadiums in developing countries.

Two and a half years before the World Cup kicks off, Qatar has already launched the brand new 40,000-capacity Al-Janoub stadium and the refurbished Khalifa International ground.

Five new stadiums remain under construction.—AFP ■



The Education City stadium, seen here under construction in May last year, is the third to be completed among eight venues Qatar is readying for the 2022 World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

No place like home? Not in German Bundesliga

BERLIN—Various quirks of the Bundesliga's return after a hiatus of more than two months due to the coronavirus have included disinfecting match balls, banning handshakes and installing cardboard cutouts of fans, but one factor has impacted results from top to bottom - the disappearance of home advantage.

Of the 37 fixtures played since the May 16 resumption, 22 have been won by the away sides with German clubs missing the chants from their own terraces in matches held behind closed doors.

Second-placed Borussia Dortmund lost ground on leaders Bayern Munich late last month as the Bavarians won 1-0 at an almost empty Signal Iduna Park which can

hold 82,000 people and has Europe's largest standing area behind one goal.

"It's crazy, we didn't expect it would be like this," Borussia Dortmund's manager Sebastian Kehl said.

Fifth-placed Bayer Leverkusen have had experiences of both sides of the coin.

They clinched victory in all three of their games on the road including a 3-1 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach but the loss against Wolfsburg at their BayArena leaves them currently out of the Champions League spots on goal difference.

"I don't think it's a coincidence. The supporters help their team every time, and when we play away from

home without fans it's obviously easier," Leverkusen coach Peter Bosz said.

Ambitious RB Leipzig, who sit two points ahead of Leverkusen in third, have failed to win just five times at their Red Bull Arena home this campaign.

Two of those occurrences have come since the restart in draws against mid-table Freiburg and rejuvenated Hertha Berlin. "It plays a part mostly for the teams who get their strength from the euphoria from the fans and the atmosphere in the stadium," Leipzig's sporting director Makus Kroesche said. "Now we have the impression that the teams with better individual quality win more often," he added.—AFP ■