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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 2 July 2020

## Wouldn't it be nice to also see new worlds while you stay at home during the COVID restriction period: State Counsellor

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi asked wouldn't it be nice to also see new worlds while you stay at home during the COVID restriction period on her Facebook page yesterday. This was what she wrote:

Different people have different opinions on how to utilize their stay-at-home periods. For me, whenever I have some time, I read. At first, I was going to write "if I had time to spare". However, as I always have one work or the other, I wondered if I would ever have "time to spare". That's why you have to create your own "reading time".

Let me encourage you to read while you have time on your hands because of these restrictions. Among the things you

In this case, one person cannot be the same as the other. For me, I feel as though I enter a new world when I read. My mind penetrates the restrictions of the four walls and flies through the freedom of space;

have to read, some may be work-related reading materials. Some are work-related, some are like reading materials from school; others may be what you need to read while others may be what you wish to read.

Even though the books may be of

the same genre, interesting books are the fundamental reason for acquiring a love for reading. In this case, one person cannot be the same as the other. For me, I feel as though I enter a new world when I read. My mind penetrates the restrictions of the four walls and

flies through the freedom of space; there I encounter times periods I have not known, regions I have never seen and new ideas I have never imagined before. Wouldn't it be nice if you could also see new worlds while you stay at home during the COVID restriction period?

Together with other COVID relaxation of restrictions, my Facebook posting programme will be relaxed to three times a week on the days when I don't have any COVID-related videoconferences. However, I will pray and send "metta" to all citizens of the Union to be able to overcome all challenges in good health and peace of mind.

*(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)*

## UEC sets 8 November for General Election

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Notification No. 115/2020

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of First Waso 1382 ME  
(1 July 2020)

### Announcement on date for the Multi-Party Democracy General Election

The Union Election Commission, exercising duties and powers under the Section 399 (a) of the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Article 10 of the Union Election Commission Law and in accordance with Article 34 (c) and Rule 16 (a) of the respective Hluttaw election law, will hold the multi-party democracy general election for Hluttaws on 8<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1382 ME (8 November 2020) Sunday.

*sd/Hla Thein*  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

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# "People are the key"

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

### Notification No.83/2020

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of First Waso 1382 ME  
(1 July 2020)

## Law to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Imports

The Law to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Imports, passed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 35/2019, shall enter into force on 1 July 2020, as per Section 1 (a) of this law.

*Sd/ Win Myint*  
President

*Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

### Announcement No. (116/2020)

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of First Waso 1382 ME  
(1 July 2020)

## Setting dates for submitting names of Hluttaw candidates, withdrawal and scrutinizing for respective Hluttaws

The Union Election Commission has set the following dates, exercising powers vested by the Hluttaw Election Bylaw 16.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Start date for submitting names of Hluttaw candidates for constituencies of Hluttaws | 1 <sup>st</sup> Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME (20 July 2020)  |
| (2) End date for submitting names of Hluttaw candidates for constituencies of Hluttaws   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Waning of Second Waso 1382 ME (7 August 2020)   |
| (3) End date for withdrawal of names of Hluttaw candidates, if required                  | 7 <sup>th</sup> Waning of Second Waso 1382 ME (10 August 2020)  |
| (4) Scrutinizing date for submission of Hluttaw candidates                               | From 8 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> Waning of Second Waso 1382 ME (11 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020) |

*Sd/Hla Thein*  
Chairman

*Union Election Commission*

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

### Announcement No. (117/2020)

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of First Waso 1382 ME  
(1 July 2020)

## Announcement for rights to conduct party campaign, local organizing, electoral talks and voter campaigns for elections

1. A Union Government member included in Article 6 (a) of Union Government Law, in accordance with Article 7 (b) of Union Government Law, and a deputy minister included in Article 17 (c), in accordance with Article 17 (d) of the existing Union Government Law, shall take part in party campaign and local organizing for elections commencing 1 July (Wednesday) 2020 which was announced by the Union Election Commission, if they meet qualifications in Section 120 and 121 of the State Constitution not to lose the right to be elected in accordance with the Section 38 (a) of State Constitution, to contest the General Election scheduled on 8 November (Sunday) 2020.
2. Similarly, Chief Justice of the Union or Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, or Constitutional Tribunal Chairperson or members, or Attorney-General of the Union, or Deputy Attorney-General, or Auditor-General of the Union, or Deputy Auditor-General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman or members shall take part in party campaign and local organizing for elections commencing 1 July (Wednesday) 2020 which was announced by the Union Election Commission, if they meet qualifications in Section 120 and 121 of the State Constitution not to lose the right to be elected in accordance with the Section 38 (a) of State Constitution to contest the General Election scheduled on 8 November (Sunday) 2020.
3. The Union Election Commission will issue matters related to electoral talks and voter campaigns after the names of Hluttaw candidates have been approved.

*Sd/Hla Thein*  
Chairman

*Union Election Commission*



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives donation of 30,000 facemasks for his office on 1 July. PHOTO:MNA

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives donation of masks

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received facemasks donated by Jiang Nan International Company Limited yesterday.

A total of 30,000 masks will be distributed to the staff members of Amyotha Hluttaw Office for prevention of COVID-19.

The donation ceremony was also attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, and the director-general and the deputy directors-general of Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—  
MNA

*(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

## Unity in its real essence

Unity must have a common interest, a common sense of working together and a common objective, for the independence of the whole country and the interests of the whole populace. Unity must work for the people so that they can enjoy shared well-being and shared cause in working together. It is not enough just to say that we want to be united. Labour must be shared, and interests must be shared. Our objective must be the same. Only this kind of effort is worth calling "Unity".

(Excerpt from the speech addressed by Bogyoke Aung San at the AFPFL Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1946)



## Hluttaw organizing central committee, work committees prepare for 17<sup>th</sup> regular session

THE Central Committee and Work Committees for organizing Hluttaw held a coordination meeting (3/2020) to prepare for the 17<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Hluttaws at Hluttaw Building, Zabuthiri Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said that the 16<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Hluttaws was successfully held with cooperation of the work committees and Hluttaw office staff amid the huge challenge of COVID-19 crisis.

He added that it was already announced that the 17<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Hluttaw meetings would commence on 13 July 2020. The Speaker continued to say that some bills including National Planning Bill, the Union Budget Bill, and the Union Tax Bill for 2020-2021 financial year will be discussed in the upcoming session

of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

He also said that Hluttaw representatives have already been informed that they must arrive in Nay Pyi Taw by 10 July in order to be tested with nasal swab on 11 July in accordance with the guidelines of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, and the test results will be reported on 12 July.

The Hluttaw Speaker also highlighted the need to have cooperation among the Union Government, the relevant ministries, the work committees and the Hluttaw representatives for the 17<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Hluttaw meetings and, to ensure security and health of the Hluttaw representatives.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, in his capacity as the Central Committee Patron, said that all relevant ministries, departments,



Central Committee and Work Committees meet on 1 July for holding 17<sup>th</sup> regular session of Hluttaws.

PHOTO: MNA

organizations, and officials need to collaborate with each other in order that the 17<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Hluttaw to be held successfully.

Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the directors-general of relevant minis-

tries and other officials presented their plans and arrangements for the upcoming Hluttaw session, followed by the discussions work committees. The coordination meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun

Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, secretaries of relevant work committees and officials from Hluttaw offices. — MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

## 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation held via videoconference

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar participated in the videoconference of the 26<sup>th</sup>

ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation yesterday at 8:30 am, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Sen-

ior Officials' Consultation was co-chaired by Ms Junever M Mahilum-West, SOM Leader of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines,

Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, and Mr Chen Xiaodong, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The Meeting was attended by Senior Officials from the ASEAN Member States and the Deputy Secretary-General for Political and Security Community of ASEAN.

At the Meeting, the Senior Officials exchanged views on the developments in ASEAN and China, regional and international issues, ASEAN-China cooperation in the areas of political and security, economic, social and culture as well as future direction of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

Under the agenda on Regional and International Issues, Permanent Secretary U Soe Han

led the discussion on ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). He appreciated China for its continued support to ASEAN-led mechanisms and ASEAN Centrality. He also highlighted the developments of cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in all sectors including in the fight against COVID-19, progress in the implementation of the Manila Plan of Action to advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022), ongoing discussion on Hanoi Declaration on the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the East Asia Summit and China's contribution to the ARF processes.

Present at the Meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



Permanent Secretary of the MoFA U Soe Han joins the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation via videoconference on 1 July. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents certificates of honour for volunteers and CSOs in Myitkyina Township on 1 July. PHOTO:MNA

# Volunteers, CSOs honoured for fight against COVID-19

THE National-Level Volunteer Steering Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment on COVID-19 praised the volunteers and civil society organizations which participated in the fight against COVID-19 in Kachin State yesterday.

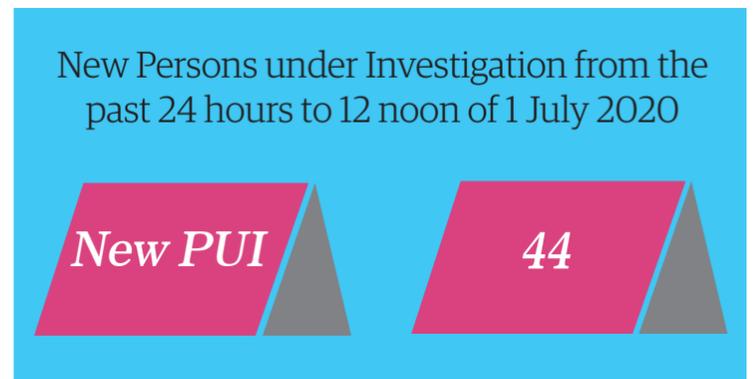
The ceremony was held at the Education College, temporarily used as a quarantine centre, Myitkyina. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye attended the ceremony together with the officials from relevant departments.

Certificates of honour for

the volunteers and civil society organizations were presented through the Chief Minister of Kachin State, and badges, masks and hand sanitizers to the representatives of volunteers and civil society organizations. A total of K3,390,000 from the ministry's fund was given to the health officials at the quarantine centre—K30,000 each for 31 pregnant women, 61 children under 5 and 21 elderly persons 60 years old and above. The certificates of honour will be given to 1,830 volunteers and 79 civil society groups.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## Four new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 1 July, total figure reaches 303

Updated at 8 pm, 1 July 2020



4 new cases of COVID-19 on 1 July 2020: Updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
300	38	Male	Hlegu Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Dagon Myothit Township (South))
301	24	Male	Kayan Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Dagon Myothit Township (South))
302	28	Male	Thakayta Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, England	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hlegu Township)
303	32	Male	Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, England	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hlegu Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

### Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

Each of us has the responsibility to prevent, contain and respond to COVID-19 and to adhere to directives and regulations issued.

As COVID-19 draws on, there are worries about health, employment, financial issues, separated from family, discrimination, and other mental pressures. As the public works hard to overcome these mental hurdles, adhering to directives and regulations should not be viewed as additional mental pressure but the adherence to them should serve to make the public more resilient. They will aid in solving socioeconomic issues as well.—Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

### Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

You are not the only one under pressure from COVID-19, but all of society is and that fact can help to build compassion among the public.

Compassion can reduce hatred between individuals and accept issues for resolving together.

Anxiety can be reduced by this method and everyone should try hard to face and overcome COVID-19 issues.—Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

## Myanmar takes part in 32<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting of UNWTO Commission

THE 32<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia (32<sup>nd</sup> CAP-CSA) was held online on 30 June.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt, the director-general, the deputy directors-general, the directors, ministers and high-ranking officials from the UNWTO Asia-Pacific Member States, representatives from partner

countries, principals from the universities of Hong Kong and Macau and senior officials from UNWTO participated in the online meeting.

Mr Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the UNWTO, explained works and activities, followed by the discussions of representatives from Asia-Pacific countries on resuming tourism businesses, the interventions by CAP/CSA Ministers on policy issues in

response to COVID-19, and innovation and technology in tourism investment.

Deputy Minister U Tin Latt discussed Myanmar's relief plan from the impacts of pandemic, the use of state budget for recovery plan in tourism industry, promotion of this business under the COVID-19 Myanmar Tourism Strategic Road Map and coordination with international organizations.—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt joins the 32<sup>nd</sup> CAP-CSA of UNWTO on 30 June. PHOTO: MNA

## 47 Myanmar seamen brought back home from Singapore

A special flight of Myanmar Airways International landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday, with 47 Myanmar seamen who were stranded in Singapore.

They were in Singapore awaiting crew change and service

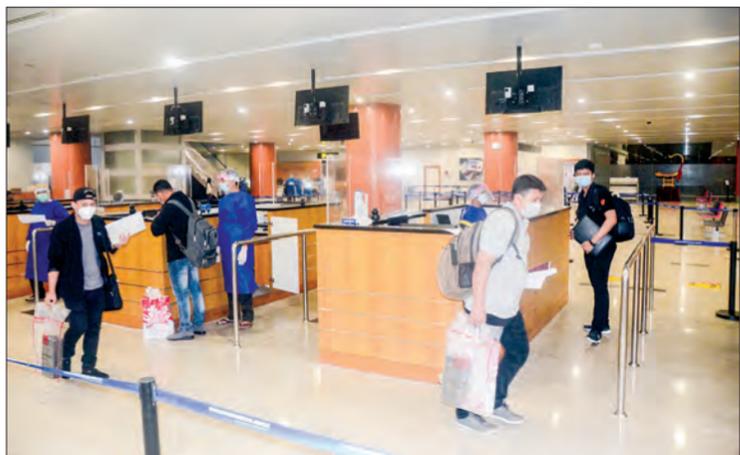
on international vessels before they were brought back with the arrangement of their company from the Changi International Airport.

As they arrived in Yangon, 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 the repatriation of Myanmar people, including seamen stranded in foreign ports.—MNA

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 the repatriation of Myanmar people, including seamen stranded in foreign ports.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Myanmar seamen arrive at Yangon International Airport on 1 July. PHOTO: MNA

## 158 Myanmar nationals return home from China via Lashio by train

LOCAL authorities in Lashio Township of northern Shan State helped 158 persons in their return homes in different regions and states by a train yesterday.

They came back to Myanmar from China via border towns

Muse, Kokang Self-Administered Zone, Laukkai and Chinshwehaw.

A total of 11,693 Myanmar nationals have arrived back home through border crossings until 1 July.—Nang Thandar Oo

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar returnees from China take a train from Lashio railway station on their way back home 1 July. PHOTO: NANG THANDAR OO

## 35 Thai nationals return home via Tachilek border crossing

A total of 35 Thai nationals who were working legally in Myanmar returned home through border crossing in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan state, yesterday.

Immigration officials and members of Caring and Negotiating Committee for Myanmar

Citizens (CNCMC), the Tachilek-based social organization, arranged the repatriation of 24 men and 11 women in coordination with Thai immigration personnel and health officials.—Yarsae (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Myanmar authorities hand over 35 Thai nationals to their officials at Tachilek border crossing on 1 July. PHOTO: YARSAE (IPRD)

## MoSWRR carries out COVID-19 preventive measures at the IDP's camps

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement have been carrying out prevention, control and response measures against COVID-19 at the IDP's camps in the country in cooperation with relevant departments and organizations.

The Ministry carried out the COVID-19 preventive measures at IDP's camps in Rakhine State. Officials provided 3,181 bars of soap and 34 lime sacks to the 6 IDP's camps in Buthidaung township, Rakhine State yesterday. The ministry have been not only implementing COVID-19 preventive, control and response measures but providing psychological support in the regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA (Translated by YHT)

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## Traditional cart businesses get good income in Kyaukse



Traditional cattle carts are still used in Shinbyu or Novitiation ceremony in Myanmar.

**PHOTO: THET MAUNG (DISTRICT IPRD)**

**THE** traditional cart businesses get a good income in Kyaukse Township, said U Kyaw Myint, a cart maker from Zayet Phyu Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region.

The traditional cart business is a livelihood which earns the businessmen a decent income in Kyaukse Township.

Regarding the selling of cart, there are many kinds of the cart.

Among them, gold carts, racing carts, vehicle carts and farming carts are highly demanded. Sometimes, the carts are ordered from Nay Pyi Taw to be used as a decoration in hotels. We own gold

carts and rent them to be used in the novitiation ceremonies and charities. During the Coronavirus pandemic period, there are no novitiation ceremonies and charities. So, we could not rent our gold carts. We know the art to make the carts. So, we are making different kinds of carts. In the harvest time, we are making the farming carts. So, we get a decent income, said U Kyaw Myint, a cart maker.

The carts are made of hardwood such as teak, Padauk and Inn. The price of a cart is dependent upon the type of the cart. The carts used in races cost K 500,000 per cart while the carts used as vehicles cost K 570,000 per cart. The farming cart costs K 680,000 and a gold cart used in the donation ceremony costs K 1.8 million. The carts used for decoration in hotels cost K 2 million per cart. —Thet Maung (District IPRD)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## MNA extends suspension of all international flights until 31 July

**WITH** the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) extending the suspension of all international flights till 31 July, Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) cannot fly until 1 August, according to MNA.

MNA is one of the airlines preparing to fly to Singapore,

Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Hong Kong. At present, those who have bought the MNA air tickets can demand the refund from the airline, according to the MNA.

Myanmar Airways International (MAI) has announced that their international flights

to Bangkok and Singapore are also suspended till 31 July, according to MAI.

However, the Guangzhou and Seoul flights will be operated as relief flights when they get permission, according to MAI.

Although the Department

of Civil Aviation has restricted the operation of international flights till 31 July, the domestic flights are permitted to be operational inside the country, according to the Yangon International Airport. —Thae Cho

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Mount Popa Pagoda reopens for local pilgrims

**THE** local pilgrims are allowed to visit Mount Popa Pagoda located in Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region starting from 30 June on condition that the pilgrims comply with the coronavirus rules and restrictions, according to the Mount Popa pagoda board of trustees.

Because of the outbreak of coronavirus, the Mount Popa pagoda board of trustees announced that beginning from 31 March, the local visitors would

be allowed to visit Mount Popa only if they could produce the health certificates issued by the related township health department. So, there have been no pilgrims visiting Mount Popa pagoda. Now, the local pilgrims are allowed to visit the pagoda in the event of abidance by the coronavirus rules and regulations, according to a member of Mount Popa pagoda board of trustees.

“Now, the pagoda board of trustees allows entry of the pil-

grims. However, the pilgrims have to stick to coronavirus restrictions imposed. We are taking record of the pilgrims' information such as their addresses or phone numbers. We are also making arrangements for keeping the water basins for the visitors to clean their hands,” he added.

To be able to prevent the spreading of the viral disease in the pagoda, the local travellers need to wear facemasks and clean their hands. The pagoda

board of trustees will check the local travellers' body temperature and allow them to visit Mount Popa Pagoda if they do not have a high fever.

The monkeys in Mount Popa area are lucky enough to have sufficient feeds because the feeds are donated by the local residents from the villages near Mount Popa. The monkeys are fed three times a day by the pagoda board of trustees. —Aye Maung

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

### Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm) with your name and title.

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 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry

and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

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

# Yangon Region tops foreign investment pulling in over 600 enterprises

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region tops foreign investments among the regions and states, attracting more than 600 enterprises over the four years of the incumbent government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Over the past four years, Yangon Region stood at the first place with 665 foreign enterprises, followed by Bago Region with 76 foreign projects at the second place and Mandalay, with 56 at the third place.

Additionally, foreign direct investments also flow into Ayeyawady Region from 27 projects, Mon State from 16, Shan State from 12, Taninthayi from 10, Magway Region and Sagaing Region each from nine, Nay Pyi Taw from eight, Kachin from six, Kayin from five, Rakhine from four, and Kayah from two, the DICA stated.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the



A file photo shows workers seen on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

The investments in the regions also flowing into the hotel services, and other services sectors as well. To date, foreign

investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

According to statistics re-

leased by the DICA, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar, Mandalay attracts 30 per cent, while the other regions and states receive only a small share of investments.

The Myanmar Investment

Commission (MIC) and the respective investment committees have granted permits and endorsements to 905 foreign enterprises between 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and as of May-end in the 2019-2020FY, with estimated capitals of US\$22.39 billion.

The FDI flow into the 12 sectors; oil and gas, power, transportation and communication, real estate, hotels and tourism, mining, livestock and fisheries, industrial estate, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and other service sectors.

Power sector tops the investment line-up, followed by oil and natural gas in the second place and manufacturing in the third place. Of 51 foreign countries, Singapore put the largest investments, followed by China and Thailand.

The MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 500,000 local residents, according to the DICA.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar rice price low in export market

THE prices of Myanmar rice in the export market were low in the last two months (May and June), according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The foreign market purchases Myanmar rice as the price is quite cheaper than other Asian countries such as Thailand and Viet Nam, said an official of Bayintnaung commodity depot. In June, the prices of white rice ranged US\$395 to 440 per metric tonnes depending on quality, whereas the parboiled price was priced \$455 per MT. Yet, the prices are higher than those market prices of India and Pakistan, MRF's data showed.

The prices of rice currently move in the ranges of K39,000-54,000 per 108-pound-bag of Pawsan varieties, while low-quality rice fetched K21,500-23,500 in the domestic market. The prices of quality va-

rieties are seen flat rate in the domestic market as well, MRF data showed.

Next, the country has the rice reserve scheme for emergency case beyond self-sufficiency in the domestic market. Myanmar's rice export has returned to normal in May, according to the MRF.

At present, local market constitutes over 70 per cent of production, whereas 20 per cent go to the foreign market. The exporters earlier sold 10 per cent of total export volume (25 % broken, well-milled and sorted rice), stated in the export declaration as country's reserved rice. Starting from July, the rice volume for reserve will be cut to 5 per cent from 10 per cent of total rice export.

The state has purchased about 34,000 tonnes of rice from over 120 companies as of 12 June and

the rice has been stored at nine warehouses in Mandalay, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, in line with the set rules and regulations, MRF stated.

According to the coordination meeting held on 26 June 2020, 150,000 tonnes of rice will be exported each in July and August. And, 100,000 tonnes of rice will be sent to the external market in September, totalling rice export quota of 400,000 tonnes. MRF stated that Myanmar has shipped over 2.044 million tonnes of rice and broken rice as of 12 June since October in the current fiscal, generating US\$605.907 million.

The federation has been accelerating its effort to meet the rice export target of 2.4 million tonnes in the current financial year 2019-2020. —Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Annual inflation rate dips to 8.35 pc in May

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index, stood at 8.35 per cent in May 2020, according to a report released by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The figure has remained above 8 per cent since June 2019. The inflation rate stood at 7.28 per cent in March 2019 and gradually inclined. It reached a peak of 8.61 per cent in September and dipped in November. It touched the highest level at 8.81 per cent in December 2019 because of the high season.

Afterwards, despite the drop in fuel oil price and gain in local currency, power tariff hike led to higher inflation rate up to 9.2 per cent in February 2020. Then, it gradually declined.

The inflation rate was

registered at 8.35 per cent in May 2020, and so, the month May has witnessed a small decrease of 0.45 per cent against April's rate. The core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was 13 per cent in February. The Myanmar Kyat weakened against the US dollar in May. The imported oil price and gold price slightly rose in May compared with April's rates, causing food price to slightly increase.

Nevertheless, there was a remarkable increase in CPI in the household goods and maintenance, other commodities, clothing, health, education services, recreation, culture, non-food and tobacco and beverages groups. The price of telecommunications dropped.

In May, Ayeyawady Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 12.79

per cent, followed by Magway Region at 12.28 per cent, and Nay Pyi Taw at 10.39 per cent. The rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 8.66 per cent in Ayeyawady Region and a minimum rate of 0.52 per cent in Sagaing Region.

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. To reduce the inflation rate, the concerned authorities have been making efforts on the basis of policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second five-year National Development Plan (2016-2021FY). —Htet Myat (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Considerable planning needed to safeguard health, elections amidst COVID-19

**T**HE Union Election Commission (UEC) announced yesterday that it will hold the general elections on 8<sup>th</sup> November this year.

In the elections, 330 seats will be contested in the Pyithu Hluttaw and 168 in the Amyotha Hluttaw, or 12 for each state and region.

The UEC is making preparations to ensure that the 2020 general elections meet five standards: they are free, fair, transparent, reliable, and harmonious with the people's desire.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a free and fair election demands not only ensuring eligibility voters do not lose their votes but also that they are safe from infection of coronavirus.

When it comes to voting, we should not have to choose between their health and their democracy.

Looking to 8<sup>th</sup> November, we cannot let this virus hinder our general elections. Increasing voting options only strengthens democracy. Voting is a right that people have.

We should be prepared for any emergency that might make turning out at the polls difficult or impossible.

If you're concerned about your health or that of those around you, and don't want to cram into a voting booth on Election Day.

There will be over 40,000 polling stations nationwide for over 37 million eligible voters for the 2020 General Elections.

This year's election will be different because of COVID-19 and a range of measures will be in place to help keep people safe in complying with the health guidelines.

With social distancing at all voting precincts, casting a ballot may take a little longer and may be inconvenient.

To overcome that challenge, advance voting and other convenient ways, particularly for the elderly and those with existing medical conditions, should be encouraged as we continue to practice social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when voters stand in line to cast their ballots.

Democracies thrive on assembly, transparency and confidence in elections and government institutions—all of which are put at risk by the COVID-19 pandemic. The global health crisis erupted during an already troubling global decline in democracy.

Our people will give their votes for democracy on 8<sup>th</sup> November nationwide. The authorities also will have to ensure safety for their health and the integrity of in-person voting.

Holding elections amid public health crises is possible, but considerable planning is needed to avoid exacerbating an already dire situation.

# Livestock breeding rehabilitation during COVID period

By Min Min Zaw, Hannie Win (MNA), Photo: Poe Zaw (Kalay)

The longer COVID stretches on the more it affects livestock breeding businesses and make it hard for SMEs in that industry to recuperate. The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is increasing its efforts in livestock breeding, production and employment opportunities.

**T**HE Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department is working hard to circumvent challenges to livestock breeding that have popped up during the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19.

A survey conducted by the Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department earlier in April this year reports that 40 per cent of livestock breeding businesses were negatively affected by the spread of COVID-19. Small and medium enterprises are especially affected by the inability to deliver their products to customers on time, products going bad in prolonged storage due to travel restrictions, and the decline in meat product prices.

"Product flow considerably slowed down during COVID-19 and our department is doing all it can to revive livestock breeding businesses, veterinary disease prevention, stabilizing the market, and ensuring efficient product flow," explained Dr Ye Tun Win, Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department. The Director-General said livestock breeding is an important livelihood for people in rural areas.

He said it also brings in foreign revenue as the oxen, cattle, sheep and goat livestock are imported to neighbouring countries.

### Special action plans

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary is attempting to curb the spread of veterinary diseases during COVID-19 as it could further slow down the industry. They are administering foot-and-mouth disease vaccination, antibiotic treatment for diarrhea in pigs, and treating wry necks in chickens. The procedure is implemented in densely populated areas that have the highest rate of positive COVID-19 patients in locations near the Ayeyawady Region that are linked to Yangon Region, and in Bago Region. The European Union has provided EURO 2 million in assistance for administering the medicine.

While it is difficult for staff to go into the field to administer vaccines and medicine during COVID, they receive assistance from veterinary staff in villages across the states and regions to protect residents from losses from veterinary diseases. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has set policies to establish cold storage warehouses and coordinating with relevant organizations and experts from the World Bank.

"Livestock products such as meat, eggs and milk are easily perishable so when the travel restrictions were enforced, they could not be sent to the market



The Myanmar Livestock Federation engages in regular online meetings with livestock breeders to ensure the continued production of chicken eggs and meat, the staple protein sources of Myanmar, and keep the market prices stable. FILE PHOTO: GNLM

on time and were lost," explained the Director-General. "Livestock breeding SMEs were hit the hardest so a loan of US\$ 4 million from the World Bank was acquired to implement cold chain storage Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions under a joint-venture system with private sector businesses."

### Engaging in discussions

The Myanmar Livestock Federation engages in regular online

meetings with livestock breeders to ensure the continued production of chicken eggs and meat, the staple protein sources of Myanmar, and keep the market prices stable. The federation managed to acquire data that prevented chicken farms and egg farms from overproducing from the market demand and speculate prices. The federation also coordinates between local and foreign businesses to ensure production remains

compliant with the market.

The longer COVID stretches on the more it affects livestock breeding businesses and make it hard for SMEs in that industry to recuperate. The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is increasing its efforts in livestock breeding, production and employment opportunities.

The Director-General said they are working closely with people working in or starting up live-

stock breeding businesses in 109 townships to implement artificial insemination of livestock, medical care for them, and training courses for breeding and rearing cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats.

He said these processes will aid in recovering livestock breeding and production and creating jobs once restrictions in place are removed or lessened. He said they will implement the Cash for Work project of the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) to generate income for local residents and will utilize K1440 million from the Union Government to implement it.

### Support funds & loans

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is also contributing to the Village Capital Raising Fund Project that the Rural Development Department will implement in 1,700 villages so that small-scale farmers and breeders can prepare for the monsoon farming season. These farmers are currently not receiving regular income due to low sales.

The World Bank loan of US\$ 2 million will be used to treat foot-and-mouth disease in cattle in 50 townships, as part of setting up disease containment zones, so that cattle border exports can resume and thrive after COVID-19.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

### IN THE WAKE OF AN UNPRECEDENTED AD BOYCOTT

# Facebook boots far-right network and boosts original news



The "Boogaloo" movement (supporters pictured April 2020 in Olympia, Washington), which has adopted Hawaiian shirts as a uniform, promotes "a coming civil war and/or collapse of society". PHOTO: AFP

**F**ACEBOOK disrupted a "violent US-based anti-government network" and vowed to give original news priority as it remained under fire for what it takes down and lets stay.

The moves come as Facebook faces an advertiser boycott that has morphed into a global digital activist campaign aimed at curbing hateful and toxic content on the social media platform.

The disrupted network was loosely affiliated with the "Boogaloo" movement, whose followers have appeared at recent protests while heavily armed, the Silicon Valley-based company said Tuesday.

The group is distinct from the broader "Boogaloo" movement in that it actively seeks to commit violence, Facebook said

in a blog post.

"This is the latest step in our commitment to ban people who proclaim a violent mission from using our platform," Facebook said. The social network reported that it removed 220 Facebook accounts and another 95 Instagram accounts, along with 28 pages and 106 groups "that currently comprise the network."

Facebook added that it also took down more than 400 other groups and more than 100 other pages where similar content was posted.

"Officials have identified violent adherents to the movement as those responsible for several attacks over the past few months," Facebook said. The Boogaloo movement is not organized, and the ideol-

ogy shares followers with some neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups, as well as with libertarians and anarchists.

Facebook said it first spotted "initial elements" of the movement in 2012 but has only been closely following it since 2019.

"We expect to see adversarial behaviour from this network including people trying to return to using our platform and adopting new terminology," Facebook said.

Few had heard of the Boogaloo movement before this year. But recently, the Justice Department charged one of its followers, California Air Force Sergeant Steven Carrillo, with the drive-by killing of an Oakland police officer during May 29 Black Lives Matter protests.

SOURCE: AFP

**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup> July, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon 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. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7 - 9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon- Taninthayi Coasts and about (4 - 7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate to strong monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## 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 Kye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto: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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## Modi says growing negligence a worry amid rapid rise in virus cases

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed the nation saying that although the country's death rate from the new coronavirus is under control, citizens are becoming increasingly negligent about following safety precautions amid a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases.

"Earlier, we were very careful with respect to wearing of masks, social distancing and washing of hands for 20 seconds. But today, when we need to be more careful, increasing negligence is a cause of worry," Modi said.

His address came a day after the interior ministry announced the second set of guidelines for the restart of economic activities, which first came to a halt in the country on March 25.

The first set of guidelines, issued by the government on May 30, outlined that economic activities in the country would be reopened in phases depending on how well the virus had been brought under control.

But since lockdown restrictions were lifted in June, cases have gone up, making India the



A police officer stops commuters at a checkpoint during a nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus, in Amritsar, India on May 4, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

world's fourth-worst affected country.

"Rules were followed very strictly during the lockdown. Now governments, local bodies and citizens, need to show similar alertness...those not following the rules will need to be stopped and cautioned," Modi said during his address.

The guidelines announced by the interior ministry on Monday indicated that the designated COVID-19 containment zones would remain under lockdown until July 31.

Schools, colleges and other educational institutions will remain closed nationwide and only be allowed to reopen after

July 31, pending a further assessment of the situation.

The ministry also said that international flights, except those permitted by the ministry, metro rail, theaters and entertainment parks, will continue to be prohibited until further notice.

*SOURCE: Kyodo*

## Eisai to start clinical trial of experimental drug for COVID-19

JAPANESE pharmaceutical firm Eisai Co. is set to start clinical trials in the United States of its experimental drug eritoran in the battle against coronavirus, with results potentially available by the year-end, the company said Wednesday.

Eisai will test eritoran, initially developed to treat severe sepsis, in conjunction with U.S.-based nonprofit organization Global Coalition Adaptive Research, formed of

medical experts tasked with discovering cures for rare and deadly diseases.

Eisai's clinical trials to treat sepsis ended in 2011 due to disappointing results but it hopes eritoran, designed to suppress an overactive immune response, will help treat COVID-19 patients while preventing damage to their lungs and other organs.

The project, which will eventually recruit up to 500 test patients globally, will be

carried out under the international framework "Randomized, Embedded, Multifactorial, Adaptive Platform trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia," which develops coronavirus treatments.

Among other Japanese firms in the race to find treatments for coronavirus, a Fujifilm Holdings Corp. chemical arm is conducting clinical tests of its anti-flu drug Avigan, also known as favipiravir. *SOURCE: Kyodo*

## COVID-19 not significantly impacting Russian army: defence minister



Russian troops stand next to a train with "Syrian turning point" exhibition items organized by the Russian Defence Ministry, as it waits to depart from Kazansky railway station in Moscow on Feb. 23, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE COVID-19 pandemic is not significantly impacting Russia's armed forces, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said during a conference call on Tuesday.

"The preparation plan for the winter training period is almost completed. For the summer period, only a small part of the activities was postponed," Shoigu said, adding that the planned rearmament of the army and navy continued despite the pandemic.

Since the beginning of the year, 776 units of the latest weapons and vehicles have been delivered to troops, including 58 airplanes and helicopters, over 140 armored combat vehicles and 510 multi-purpose vehicles, Shoigu said, adding that the navy has received a strategic missile submarine and two support vessels.

"The planned progressive development of the armed forces and a qualitative increase in the level of their condition will continue in the second half of the year," he said.

*SOURCE: Xinhua*

## U.S. treasury secretary, Fed chief differ about economic recovery amid COVID-19 resurgence

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on Tuesday offered congressional lawmakers different views on how quickly the U.S. economy would recover from the COVID-19 pandemic amid the resurgence in cases in a number of states.

"We are in a strong position to recover because the Administration working with Congress on a bipartisan basis to pass legislation and provide liquidity to markets in record time," Mnuchin said at a hearing held by the House Financial Services Committee. "While the unemployment rate is still historically high, we are seeing additional signs that conditions will improve significantly in the third and fourth quarters of this year," he said, adding the recovery has been uneven across industries.

"Certain industries such as construction are recovering quickly, while others such as retail and travel are facing longer impacts and may require additional relief," said the treasury secretary.

Acknowledging that recent economic data offer some positive signs, Powell warned that the sooner-than-expected reopening of the U.S. economy has brought "new challenges" for the country.

"While this bounce back in economic activity is welcome, it also presents new challenges, notably the need to keep the virus in check," Powell said at the same hearing, adding the path forward for the economy remains "extraordinarily uncertain" and will depend in large part on the success in containing the virus.

"A full recovery is unlikely to occur until people are confident that it's safe to engage in a broad range of activities. The path forward will also depend on policy actions taken at all levels of government to provide relief and support the recovery for as long as needed," he said.

*SOURCE: Xinhua*

# Judge temporarily blocks 'tell-all' book by Trump niece

NEW YORK—A New York judge on Tuesday temporarily halted the publication of a “tell-all” book by Donald Trump’s niece that dubs the US president “the world’s most dangerous man”.

The temporary restraining order prevents the release of the 240-page book until at least a July 10 court hearing that will see Mary Trump and her publisher, Simon & Schuster, defend its publication. The president’s brother, Robert Trump, had initially asked a court in Queens to issue the temporary restraining order, which was rejected.

He said Mary was violating a non-disclosure agreement she signed in 2001 after the same court settled a contentious fight over the estate of real estate tycoon Fred Trump – the father of Donald and Robert and of Mary’s

father Fred Trump Jr, who died in 1981.

The Queens judge said he was not the right jurisdiction to seek an injunction against the book. The order from Hal Greenwald of the New York Supreme Court now requires Mary and her publisher respond to Robert’s lawsuit. Mary’s attorney vowed to immediately appeal.

“The trial court’s temporary restraining order is only temporary but it still is a prior restraint on core political speech that flatly violates the First Amendment,” her counsel, Theodore Boutros, said in a statement.

“This book, which addresses matters of great public concern and importance about a sitting president in an election year, should not be suppressed even for one day.” Charles Harder,



Mary Trump, 55, is Donald Trump’s niece – her father was the President’s older brother Fred Trump Jr, who passed away in 1981. PHOTO: AFP

Robert’s attorney who has also represented the president, said his client was “very pleased” with

the order. In the book, Mary, a 55-year-old clinical psychologist, recounts what she witnessed of

the “toxic family” in the home of her grandparents, according to her publisher.—AFP ■

## Trump approves cutting 9,500 troops in Germany: Pentagon

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump has approved a plan to slash the US military presence in Germany by 9,500 troops, the Defence Department said Tuesday.

Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said the move, which has sparked concerns in Berlin and in the NATO alliance, is to redeploy the troops and will “enhance Russian deterrence, strengthen NATO, (and) reassure allies,” as well as improving US strategic flexibility. The move will cut the current troop level in Germany from about 34,500 to 25,000, Trump’s stated goal.

Hoffmann gave no details on when the reductions would happen or whether the troops would be redeployed to another NATO country. He said the Pentagon will brief Congress on the plan “in the coming weeks” and then consult allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization “on the way forward”.

Pentagon officials say that if the reduction takes

place, some of the troops could be sent to former Eastern Bloc countries – some on a permanent basis but most in short-term rotations – to send a message to Moscow. Worries about possible Russian expansionism surged in NATO countries after Moscow sent troops in 2014 to seize the Crimea region from Ukraine. While Polish leader Andrzej Duda visited Washington last week, Trump said some of the US troops could go to Poland. “Some will be coming home and some will be going to other places. Poland would be one of those other places,” he said. Trump said earlier this month he was cutting troops due to unhappiness with Germany.

On June 15, two weeks after Chancellor Angela Merkel said she would not attend a Trump-planned G7 summit because of the coronavirus pandemic, Trump complained Berlin is not spending enough on its own defense and treats the United States “badly” on trade.—AFP ■



The move will cut the current US troop level in Germany from about 34,500 to 25,000, President Donald Trump’s stated goal (US troops pictured near Grafenwoehr, Germany in 2017). PHOTO: AFP

## Brazil education minister resigns over CV ‘lies’

BRASILIA—Brazil’s education minister resigned Tuesday only five days after he was appointed, amid accusations that he lied over his academic record.

Carlos Alberto Decotelli was the first black person to be appointed to the government of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro. Decotelli handed in his resignation to Bolsonaro in Brasilia, said a spokesman, Paulo Roberto, capping several days of controversy. Bolsonaro named Decotelli last week as replacement for Abraham Weintraub, who resigned in mid-June after becoming embroiled in a series of controversies, including making racist anti-Chinese comments on

Twitter. Decotelli had claimed he held a Master’s degree from Brazil’s Getulio Vargas Foundation, a doctorate from Argentina’s University of Rosario and a post-doctorate from Germany’s Wuppertal University. But those claims came under scrutiny within days of his appointment, leading much of the Brazilian media to refer to him as the “future ex-minister.”

The academic credentials had been vaunted by Bolsonaro in a tweet announcing his appointment last week. As early as Friday, however, Rosario University’s rector said Decotelli had not obtained a doctorate there and had never defended his thesis.—AFP ■

## Austria issues highest travel warning for Western Balkans

VIENNA—The Austrian foreign ministry on Wednesday issued the highest warning against traveling to the Western Balkan countries as coronavirus infections there have risen sharply.

The level-6 travel warning, which means travellers from those countries have to undergo a 14-day self-quarantine or present a negative coronavirus test result, apply to countries including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, according to a tweet from the foreign ministry.

There will be increased controls over the borders, said Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg at a press conference here. “We were able to lift the travel restrictions for 32 European countries,” he said, but the normality of freedom to travel is still “miles away.” Health Minister Rudolf Anschober said that new coronavirus infection figures in the Western Balkans are “problematic,” stressing the need for concrete measures to contain the outbreak.—Xinhua ■

## EU lifts restrictions on travel from Japan, 13 other countries

BRUSSELS—The European Union on Wednesday lifted travel restrictions for visitors from 14 countries outside the bloc, including Japan and South Korea, after introducing the curbs in March in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The European Union is seeking to revive its virus-hit economy ahead of the summer holiday season by removing entry bans on countries with virus infection rates similar to, or below, that of its own.

Individual EU member nations can still impose their own measures on visitors from the 14 countries, including requesting them to quarantine. The other 12 on the list are Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda,



European Union flag (File photo). PHOTO: KYODO

Serbia, Thailand, Tunisia, and Uruguay. Japan has an entry ban in place for about 130 countries and regions, including the EU nations. Since the EU seeks reciprocity on the lifting

of restrictions, the bloc is set to call on Tokyo to ease its measures. Japan's top spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, welcomed the EU's action, saying Brussels has taken

into account the fact that the number of infections appears to have peaked in Japan, and that the move was based on warm Japan-EU relations.—Kyodo ■

## Slow takeoff for aviation in Europe

MONTREAL—After coronavirus lockdowns that brought civil aviation to nearly a complete halt, air traffic is slowly resuming in Europe as borders reopen, but tens of thousands of jobs are still hanging in the balance.

### Slow awakening

The lockdowns saw air travel plunge by 94.3 percent in April compared with the same month last year, when measured by kilometres travelled by paying passengers.

IATA, the leading trade association for the aviation industry, believes the recovery in air travel is likely to be determined not only by the pace of restrictions being lifted but also by the extent health worries keep people from trav-

elling. IATA expects the recovery to begin in domestic air travel, then extend to continental travel and finally, at the end of the year, to long-haul inter-continental flights.

It sees air travel returning to its pre-coronavirus levels only in 2023.

Most travel restrictions within Europe have been lifted and starting Wednesday nationals from 15 countries are allowed into the EU. The United States, Russia and Brazil – where the virus is still spreading quickly – were left off the list. In Europe, during the week of June 15-21, an average of 7,706 flights were recorded each day, a 78 per cent drop from the same week last year, according to Eurocontrol which manages European airspace.—AFP ■

## Saudi triples VAT in unpopular virus-led austerity push

RIYADH—Saudis braced Wednesday for a tripling in value added tax, another unpopular austerity measure after the twin shocks of coronavirus and an oil price slump triggered the kingdom's worst economic decline in decades.

Retailers in the country reported a sharp uptick in sales this week of everything from gold and electronics to cars and building materials, as shoppers sought to stock up before VAT is raised to 15 per cent. The hike could stir public

resentment as it weighs on household incomes, pushing up inflation and depressing consumer spending as the kingdom emerges from a three-month coronavirus lockdown.

"Cuts, cuts, cuts everywhere," a Saudi teacher in Riyadh told AFP, bemoaning vanishing subsidies as salaries remain stagnant. "Air conditioner, television, electronic items," he said, rattling off a list of items he bought last week ahead of the VAT hike.—AFP ■

## US private hiring rebounds, adding 2.4 mn jobs in June: ADP



Easing of COVID-19 restrictions allowed business to rehire workers in June, 70 per cent of which were at small firms. PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON —Industries hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic showed signs of life in June, hiring 2.4 million workers, payroll services firm ADP said Wednesday. The three million hires in May means that more than five million people are back at work of the 20 million who lost their jobs in March and April.

However, the hiring gain was more than a million short of what economists had expected. A significant portion of the jobs were accounted for by small businesses of less than 50 workers, which added 937,000 jobs in the month, the data showed, while 961,000 were in leisure and hospitality – a sector almost entirely shut down by the efforts to contain COVID-19.

Construction added 494,000 workers. Many businesses have been able

to rehire workers with the help of the Paycheck Protection Programme (PPP) and other aid provided under the massive CARES Act that provides trillions of dollars in support. Shops and restaurants have reopened as many states have eased restrictions, but US cases have been surging in recent days, prompting states like Texas and Florida to roll back their reopening efforts. "As the economy slowly continues to recover, we are seeing a significant rebound in industries that once experienced the greatest job losses," said Ahu Yildirmaz, vice president and co-head of the ADP Research Institute. "In fact, 70 per cent of the jobs added this month were in the leisure and hospitality, trade and construction industries."—AFP ■

### Submission of EIA study of Appraisal Drilling in Block M9, Offshore Myanmar

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI) plans to drill an appraisal wells in Offshore Block M9 with purpose to prove the boundary and characteristic of the reservoir. This appraisal drilling campaign will support the Zawtika Gas Field Project by maintaining gas supply for future energy requirements. The campaign will include the drilling of up to seventeen (17) wells in Block M9 which is located in the Gulf of Mottama, Andaman Sea, approximately 300 km from Yangon and 195 km west from Dawei, Taninthayi coastal zone.

In accordance with the Myanmar EIA procedure (2015), PTTEPI is required to undertake an EIA study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEPI with support from third-party consultants; AECOM (Thailand) Limited (AECOM) and E-Guard Environmental Services (E-Guard), prepared and submitted the EIA report to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), letter date 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The report is available on the following channels:

- PTTEPI's office in Yangon: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vantage Tower, 623 Pyay Road, Kamayut Township 11041, Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- Environmental Conservation Department, Office No.53, Nay Pyi Taw and
- PTTEP Website : [www.pttep.com](http://www.pttep.com)

Feedback to the report can be informed to PTTEPI by contact the following phone number +95 (1) 652700

# JAL to fully resume domestic flights as early as Oct

TOKYO—Japan Airlines Co. said Wednesday it is planning to fully restart its domestic flights as early as October amid signs of a recovery in travel demand, hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. JAL has already started increasing the number of domestic flights since the lifting in May of a nationwide state of emergency that saw the airline cut over 70 per cent of the flights from its normal schedule.

“We expect to recover to 80 per cent in August and fully operate in line with our normal

schedule around October,” Shunsuke Honda, an executive officer, told reporters at Tokyo’s Haneda airport. He said travel demand is growing since restrictions on people’s movement across prefectures were fully lifted on June 19.

However with infection rates rebounding in recent weeks in Tokyo and other large cities, Honda said, “We would like to increase the number of flights or use larger aircraft so that we can avoid fully-booked flights as much as possible.”—Kyodo ■



A Japan Airlines plane unloads cargo at Narita airport near Tokyo on April 17, 2020, after flying from Shanghai without carrying passengers. JAL has used many of its passenger planes for cargo transportation as many flights were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: KYODO

# Airbus cuts 15,000 jobs to face aviation’s ‘gravest crisis’

LEIDEN (Netherlands)—European aircraft maker Airbus said on Tuesday it is planning to cut around 15,000 jobs worldwide, 11 per cent of its total workforce, in response to the “gravest crisis” the industry has ever seen caused by the coronavirus.

The cuts are to be implemented by the summer of 2021, Airbus said in a statement, and follow a drop of nearly 40 per cent of the commercial aviation business in recent months.

“With air traffic not expected to recover to pre-COVID levels before 2023

and potentially as late as 2025, Airbus now needs to take additional measures to reflect the post COVID-19 industry outlook,” it said in a statement.

The company said 5,000 positions would be cut in France, 5,100 in Germany, 900 in Spain, 1,700 positions in

Britain and 1,300 positions at Airbus’ other worldwide sites.

Airbus warned that “compulsory actions cannot be ruled out at this stage”, in an indication that some employees could be made redundant.—AFP ■



A young woman sells clothes in front of phone cameras via livestreaming on an e-commerce platform in Shaxi Town in Zhongshan City, south China’s Guangdong Province, March 28, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

## China’s e-commerce thrives, transactions exceeding 34 trillion yuan in 2019

BEIJING—China’s e-commerce industry continued to thrive last year despite mounting downward economic pressures and lingering trade tensions, according to a report from the Ministry of Commerce.

China led the world in e-commerce, with about 51.26 million people employed in the sector in 2019.

The country’s e-commerce transactions hit 34.81 trillion yuan (about 4.9 trillion U.S. dollars) last year, with online retail sales reaching 10.63 trillion yuan, up 16.5 per cent year on year.

E-commerce has contributed a lot in terms of “promoting consumption, stabilizing foreign trade, alleviating poverty, and boosting employment,” and played a key role in ensuring the country’s steady and high-quality development, the report said.

In 2019, online retailing contributed 45.6 per cent to the growth of the country’s total retail sales.

China had more than 900 million internet users at the end of last year, with an internet penetration rate of 64.5 per cent, according to the report.—Xinhua ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (025S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (025S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2020** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (044N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (044N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TAI PING SHAN

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TAI PING SHAN VOY. NO. (VC 56)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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.

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S REFINED SUCCESS LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ELPIDA GR

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ELPIDA GR VOY. NO. (2075)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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.

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD**

## Australia to boost defence spending in “more dangerous” world

SYDNEY—Australia will invest AU\$270 billion (\$186.5 billion) over the next decade to upgrade its defence forces in preparation for a world that is “poorer” and “more dangerous” in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Wednesday.

Speaking in Canberra, Morrison also said the government will spend \$800 million on long-range anti-ship missiles from the United States to maintain security, and deter or respond to aggression in the Indo-Pacific region.

“Even as we stare down the COVID pandemic at home, we need to also prepare for a post-COVID world that is poorer, that is more dangerous, and that is more disorderly,” Morrison said, referring to the deadly illness caused by the virus.

Australia will also add 800 personnel to its forces, the ma-



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison reacts during a press conference on March 20, 2020, in Canberra, Australia. PHOTO: AFP

majority of them joining the navy.

The new defense policy announced by the premier prioritizes the regional security of the Indo-Pacific, which he described as the “epicentre of rising strategic competition,” citing recent border tensions between India and China.

Morrison also described Sino-American relations as “fractious at best,” while the country’s 2020 Defence Strategy Update said competition between the two major powers is the “principal driver of strategic dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.”—Kyodo ■

## Protests in Indian Kashmir over civilian death during attack

SRINAGAR -- Hundreds of people in Indian-administered Kashmir staged protests on Wednesday, accusing government forces of killing a man during a rebel attack which also left a trooper dead.

Rebels opened fire from a mosque attic in the northern town of Sopore, setting off a battle with security forces, paramilitary police spokesperson Junaid Khan told AFP.

The family of Bashir Ahmed Khan alleged that he was dragged out of his car after the showdown and shot dead by paramilitary troops.

His three-year-old grandson, who was travelling with him, was later pictured sitting on his chest.

“Locals said that he (Khan) was brought out of his car and shot dead by the forces,” Farooq Ahmed, a nephew of the dead

man told AFP.

“They told us that someone in uniform then put the child on his chest as he lay dead on the road and took photographs,” Farooq Ahmed said.

The photo of the child sat on the body of his dead grandfather was widely shared on social media.

Paramilitary spokesman Khan said the allegation was “baseless.”—AFP ■

## China takes countermeasure against U.S. media curbs, names AP, CBS

BEIJING—China on Wednesday required four more U.S. media outlets to declare their finances and assets, as a countermeasure for Washington’s recent designation of four more Chinese media houses as the country’s propaganda apparatus.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China has decided to ask The Associated Press, CBS, National Public Radio and United Press International to provide information about their staff, finance, operations and real estate in writing within seven days.

The announcement came after Washington late last month labeled state-run China Central Television and three other Chinese media outlets as “foreign missions” and ordered them to submit information on their employees and property holdings in the United States.

The U.S. approach is “based on Cold War thinking and ideological prejudice, which seriously damages the reputation and image of the Chinese media,” Zhao told reporters, adding Beijing urges Washington to immediately “correct mistakes and stop political suppression”.



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian. PHOTO: KYODO

The world’s two major powers have locked horns on a range of issues, including each other’s treatment of their journalists.

Their already strained relations have been further deteriorating in the wake of China’s determination to enact a national security law for its territory Hong Kong, a move that would erode human rights and freedoms in the democratic former British colony.—AFP ■

## Thailand schools reopen with strict hygiene rules

BANGKOK —Mask-wearing pupils catching up with friends at one Bangkok high school were quickly told to spread out as they headed back to lessons on Wednesday after months of distance learning due to coronavirus restrictions.

The teenagers, resuming classes along with all other public school students in the kingdom, chatted animatedly before being called to sit in widely spaced rows for the opening session.

The school principal, Arwuth Meekhanphet, warned them all to closely follow new hygiene rules, which included the face coverings and social dis-

tancing. “You never know whether you or your friend has it,” he said into an intercom. Thailand has recorded more than 3,100 coronavirus cases and 58 deaths – a low toll considering it became the first country outside China to detect an infection, in mid-January.

Ahead of Wednesday’s nationwide resumption of classes, authorities recommended that class sizes be restricted to 20-25 students while doorknobs, desks and other areas at risk of spreading infection be sanitized frequently throughout the day.

Student Parichat Klanpumisri said she was not concerned about catching the virus, but



A student returning to school receives hand sanitizer to disinfect her hands in the southern Thai province of Narathiwat on July 1, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

reported feeling nervous about meeting up with classmates again after isolating for so long.

“I haven’t met anyone for a long time and the atmosphere of the classroom and internet learning is so different,” the 17-year-old said. The country’s nightlife will also come back to life Wednesday, with bars, clubs and massage parlours, which are sometimes fronts for brothels, expected to reopen in the evening. However, authorities have said there should be “no sex trade”, while extremely strict limits on social situations should be observed – such as bar patrons standing a metre apart.—AFP ■

## Italy seizes IS-made drugs worth one billion euros

ROME—Italian police said Wednesday they had seized a 14-tonne haul of amphetamines made by the Islamic State group in Syria, calling it the biggest seizure of such drugs in the world.

The drug, in the form of around 84 million Captagon tablets hidden inside industrial goods within containers, was worth about one billion euros (\$1.12 billion), and intended to be sold on the European market “to finance terrorism,” the finance police of Naples said in a statement.

“We know that the Islamic State finances its terrorist activities mainly by trafficking drugs made in Syria which in the past few years has become

the world’s largest producer of amphetamines,” the statement said.

Police said three suspect containers had arrived at the port of Salerno, just south of Naples, containing large cylindrical paper rolls for industrial use as well as industrial machinery.

Cutting open the paper rolls and metal gearwheels with chainsaws, police found them filled with tablets imprinted with two semi-circles, the symbol of Captagon. Video images taken by police showed pills spilling out of the rolls and wheels as they were forced open. “This is the largest seizure of amphetamines in the world,” police said.—AFP ■



The amount of drugs seized were sufficient to satisfy the entire European market, police said. PHOTO: AFP

## Russians set to back reforms allowing Putin to extend rule



Russian President Vladimir Putin cast his ballot in a Moscow polling station. PHOTO: AFP

MOSCOW—Russians are set to approve constitutional reforms on Wednesday denounced by critics as a manoeuvre to allow President Vladimir Putin to stay in the Kremlin for life.

The changes were passed weeks ago by Russia’s parliament and copies of the new constitution are already on sale in bookshops, but Putin says a nationwide vote ending Wednesday is essential to give legitimacy to the plans.

The reforms include conservative and populist measures – like guaranteed minimum pen-

sions and an effective ban on gay marriage – but crucially for Putin will also reset presidential term limits allowing him to potentially remain in power until 2036.

The Kremlin pulled out all the stops to encourage turnout, with polls extended over nearly a week, the last day of voting declared a national holiday and prizes – including apartments and cars – on offer to voters.

Initially planned for April 22, the referendum was postponed by the coronavirus pandemic but rescheduled after Putin said the

epidemic had peaked and officials began reporting lower numbers of new cases.

There is little doubt the reforms will be approved, with a state-run exit poll of more than 163,000 voters this week showing 76 percent in favour.

Results are expected to be announced after the last polling stations close at 1800 GMT.

Putin says the changes are needed to ensure stability and cement Russian values in the face of pernicious Western influences.—AFP ■

## UK PM warns Israel against annexation plan

JERUSALEM—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned Israel Wednesday against going ahead with plans to annex parts of the West Bank, calling them

illegal and against the Jewish state’s own interests. “I am a passionate defender of Israel,” he wrote in an article published in Hebrew on the front page of

Israel’s top-selling daily, Yediot Aharonot. “So it is with sadness that I have followed the proposals to annex Palestinian territory,” he added. “I am fearful that these

proposals will fail in their objective of securing Israel’s borders and will be contrary to Israel’s own long-term interests.”

Israel’s coalition government has agreed July 1 as the date from which it can begin implementing US President Donald Trump’s Middle East peace proposal, which paves the way for annexations of Jewish West Bank settlements and potentially the Jordan Valley. “Annexation would represent a violation of international law,” Johnson wrote, adding that it would also jeopardise “the progress that Israel has made in improving relationships with the Arab and Muslim world.

“I still believe the only way to achieve true, lasting security for Israel, the homeland for the Jewish people, is through a solution that allows justice and security for both Israelis and Palestinians,” Johnson wrote. “I refuse to believe that this is impossible.”—AFP ■

## Weinstein victims to receive \$19 million payout

NEW YORK—Women who suffered sexual misconduct and workplace harassment by convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein are set to receive almost \$19 million as part of a class action lawsuit, New York’s attorney general announced Tuesday. The payments, which need to be approved by two courts, are the result of a lawsuit brought against the ex-movie mogul – currently serving 23 years in prison – and his former film studio The Weinstein Company. “Harvey Weinstein and The Weinstein Company failed their female employees. After all the harassment, threats, discrimination, and gender-based discrimination these survivors are finally receiving some justice,” Letitia James said in a statement.—AFP ■



A mural painting of US President Donald Trump on Israel’s controversial separation barrier in the West Bank city of Bethlehem. PHOTO: AFP

## Arsenal tie down Saka to long-term deal

ARSENAL tied down Bukayo Saka to a long-term contract on Wednesday, ending speculation over the highly-rated teenager's future.

Saka, 18, has made a major impact in 33 appearances in a variety of positions this season and has been a regular since Mikel Arteta became Arsenal coach in December.

"Bukayo is a talented and intelligent young player," said Arteta.

"He has impressed me with his work ethic and at-

titude to learn and adapt, and it has paid off in his performances.

"I am excited to continue working with him to develop him further, and for him to help us achieve our goals."

Saka's previous deal was due to expire next year, with Liverpool and Chelsea reportedly keen to take advantage of any breakdown in contract negotiations.

However, Saka said he is happy to remain with the club he joined at the age of eight.

"London is my home. Arsenal my

team," Saka posted on Twitter.

"I'm so happy to finally announce my contract extension. I love playing for this club and I'm looking forward to what the future holds.

"The hard work continues so I can continue living my dream."

Saka is expected to start as Arsenal look to jump up to seventh in the Premier League with victory against bottom-of-the-table Norwich later on Wednesday.—AFP ■



Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta (right) is a big fan of Bukayo Saka (left). PHOTO: AFP

## Messi scores 700<sup>th</sup> goal but Atletico draw hurts Barca's title hopes

MADRID —Lionel Messi scored his 700th career goal but Barcelona suffered another blow to their La Liga title hopes after a 2-2 draw with Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Messi chipped in a penalty to reach another astonishing milestone at Camp Nou but twice Atletico hit back with spot-kicks of their own, Saul Niguez converting both after Barca took an early lead through Diego Costa's own goal. The result gives Real Madrid the chance to move four points clear at the top of the table if they can overcome Getafe at home on Wednesday, a formidable lead with five games left.

Atletico stay third, two points ahead of Sevilla, who won 3-0 at Leganes.

With a superior head-to-head, it would take a dramatic capitulation for Real Madrid not to lift the trophy from here but there is no guarantee Barcelona can finish strongly enough even to create pressure. This was their third draw in four matches and with suggestions of disharmony between the players and coaching staff, the future of coach Quique Setien looks bleak too.—AFP ■



Lionel Messi's 700<sup>th</sup> career goal was not enough for Barca as they drew with Atletico. PHOTO: AFP

## Sixth US PGA Tour player tests positive for COVID-19

NEW YORK— American Chad Campbell is the sixth US PGA Tour player to test positive for COVID-19 as the tour heads into the fourth week of its restart after a three-month shutdown.

The tour said in a statement that Campbell had withdrawn from this week's Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit, where he was the first alternate, after he tested positive as part of the pre-tournament screening

process. Campbell, a four-time tour winner, missed the cut at the first tournament since the coronavirus shutdown ended at Colonial three weeks ago and hadn't played since.—AFP ■

## Real Madrid get set to make history by ending wait for women's team

MADRID — After 118 years, Real Madrid will launch a professional women's team on Wednesday by absorbing CD Tacon and launching a fresh Galactico project at the club.

Madrid, the best team of the 20th century according to FIFA, has so far been one of the only elite clubs to resist the creation of a female team.

By taking over Tacon, the women's club based in Madrid and created in 2014, 'Real Madrid Femenino' will become a



Real Madrid, the best team of the 20<sup>th</sup> century according to FIFA, has so far been one of the only elite clubs to resist the creation of a female team. PHOTO: AFP

reality.

Approved at a meeting of shareholders in September last year, the buyout of Tacon for 300,000 euros (\$337,000) will become official from July 1, when another recruitment drive will begin.

According to the Spanish press, Madrid have set their sights on the game's finest talents and some of the first signings could arrive this week. Tacon have already been expanding in preparation.—AFP ■