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Friday, 5 June 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the Anniversary of World Environment Day 2020 (5 June 2020)

My dear fellow citizens,

On this auspicious occasion of World Environment Day, I wish to send words of greetings to all citizens for their well-being and happiness.

The theme for this year's World Environment Day 2020 has been designated as "Celebrate Biodiversity" by the United Nations. The main aim of this theme "is to take urgent measures to combat the rapid loss of biodiversity and degradation of the ecosystem".

Properly functioning ecosystems provide mankind with clean air, clean water, nutritious food, natural herbal medicines and raw materials in various ways; they also reduce the incidence of natural

disasters and ensure sustainability for mankind.

As we are aware of how the environment, biodiversity and ecosystems can impact on us, we need to preserve our environment with relentless efforts to solve the dangers relating to climate change and environmental degradation.

I believe that World Environment Day which falls today can serve as a powerful collaborative platform for all the people of the world, communities and governments to solve the environmental challenges being faced by the world with momentum and on many fronts. To mark World Environment Day, Myanmar will collaborate with other countries of the world with the slogan "Let us take care of the environment and

biodiversity for a sustainable world".

In the 2019 report of the policy institute for ecology services and biodiversity, it has been reported that because of degradation of biodiversity and ecology, 80 per cent of the sustainable development goals such as "eradication of poverty and hunger, food security, good health for all and prosperity, long-term balance in production and consumption, development of sustainable cities, reduction of climate change, preservation and protection of the oceans, water resources and land and mineral resources" could be adversely affected. That is why the protection and conservation of the environment is a fundamental foundation.

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95 Myanmar citizens arrive back from Germany

A TOTAL of 95 Myanmar citizens landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday morning after they were stranded in Germany.

The relief flight arranged by AIDA Cruises Company carried 89 Myanmar sailors stuck on the AIDAPERLA and the AIDABLU cruises docked at Hamburg city of Germany, as well as 6 Myanmar citizens who could not return home.

On arrival at the 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.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is bringing back Myanmar citizens in coordination with the relevant ministries and the embassies of respective countries in line with the directives of the National Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

Myanmar has so far repatriated 2,929 citizens who were stranded in foreign countries due to suspension of international flights amid COVID-19 pandemic. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Staff testing body temperature of the Myanmar returnees from Germany at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Union Minister U Thaung Tun participates in Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting and ASEAN+3 Economic Ministers Meeting on COVID-19 Response

UNION MINISTER for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun yesterday attended a Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting on COVID-19 and a Special ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers Meeting on COVID-19 consecutively via videoconference.

The meetings were chaired by Mr Tran Tuan Anh, Viet Nam's Minister for Industry and Trade, and attended by Economic Ministers from ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretary-General together with representatives from the ASEAN Business Advisory Council. The People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the Special ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers Meeting.

Throughout the meetings, participants shared updates on respective national-level efforts and lessons learned in the pursuit of joint and collective efforts to mitigate COVID-19's economic impacts. Ministers also exchanged views on the need to keep markets open to trade and investment, without enhancing the risk of viral spread, and to

strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains.

Participants were united in their strong support for lessening the impact on businesses, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and other key vulnerable economic sectors. Participants also discussed the need for an economic recovery plan which strengthens ASEAN's economic resilience, expedites the flow of essential goods, including food, medicines, medical equipment and other supplies at all land entry points, sea and airports, while encouraging members to avoid taking undue measures that may affect the smooth flow of such essential goods and services.

The Union Minister apprised all participants of various measures being undertaken by the Government of Myanmar in the fight against COVID-19, including implementation of the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) and updates on COVID-19 Fund disbursements to vulnerable businesses affected by the COVID-19. The Union Minister noted



Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting on COVID-19 and a Special ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers Meeting on COVID-19 consecutively via videoconference. **PHOTO:MNA**

that ensuring the flow of essential goods such as food, commodities, medicines and medical supplies would be essential in the short-term, while investment promotion efforts and strengthening cooperation with development partners will provide the foundations necessary for a more rapid and inclusive social and

economic recovery.

The meetings culminated in the adoption of both the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and an ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers' Joint Statement on Mitigating the Eco-

conomic Impact of COVID-19.

U Than Aung Kyaw, Foreign Economic Relations Department Director-General and Senior Economic Officials Meeting Leader, and other key officials supported the Union Minister's participation in both meetings.—MNA

National Literary Award 2019 committee holds first meeting

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint attended the first coordination meeting of the 2019 National Literary Award Selection Committee which was held online yesterday.

The Union Minister first delivered a speech where he said this meeting was held in two separate locations, from the Central Press office on Theinphyu Road and from the MRTV office on Pyay Road in addition to some experts joining online from their homes.

He said while the committee's meeting is a month later than it's used to being held this year due to COVID-19, the usual date for the National Literary Award on Sarsodaw Day on the 1st Waxing of Nattaw will be held on 15 December which is only 10 days late. He said the six months will be enough to properly plan for the event.

The National Literary Award is a valuable honour bestowed by the nation and is respected by both the literary circle and members of the public. International writers acknowledge the award and this value depends on the foresight and



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the first online coordination meeting of the 2019 National Literary Award Selection Committee yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

fairness of the selection committee, said the Union Minister.

He said the integrity and value of the award will be affected if it is criticized because of unnecessarily feeling embarrassed for inconveniencing someone or compliance.

The Union Minister urged committee members to pay great attention to their tasks and while committee members already know this, he felt it necessary to bring it up at the committee's first meeting.

Next, the National Literary Award Committee Chairman Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung and Vice-Chairperson (1) Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danupyu) delivered addresses through the videoconference.

The Acting Director-General of the Printing and Publishing Department U Ko Ko Naing explained the arrangements of the literary award.

This was followed by committee secretary U Than Ohn (Maung Zayar) explained the

selection process of the National Literary Award.

Afterwards, meeting attendees discussed details of the award selection and organization and the Union Minister responded to their discussions before delivering the closing speech.

The 2019 National Literary Award Selection Committee was formed with Order 2-6(3)/2020 issued by the Ministry of Information on 4 March 2020. The committee is comprised with

Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung as chairman, Dr Khin Aye and U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Paw Tun) as vice-chairmen with 54 members in total.

With the support of the Ministry of Information, private book collectors, large printing houses, and libraries are assisting in forming smaller groups for different genres for the award selection process in line with National Literary selection policy.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



“People are the key”

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the Anniversary of World Environment Day 2020
(5 June 2020)

FROM PAGE-1

My dear fellow citizens,

World countries have accepted the fact that it is necessary to collaborate fully in the use of nature-based solutions in confronting global climate change.

The United Nations has adopted the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration from 2021 to 2030 to confront the problems of climate change, strengthening of efforts to provide food and clean water, and protection of biodiversity; to take wide-ranging measures to restore ecosystems that have been deteriorating badly. That is why 2020 is a very important year for all countries of the world to commit themselves to the task of conservation of biodiversity and environment.

In Myanmar, we have been striving hard to achieve national reconciliation and working on historic reforms including the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union. For these tasks to succeed with effectiveness, the protection and conservation of the environment and valuable natural resources plays a very important role.

My dear fellow citizens,

Due to the need to manage with vision and take into account the commitments made in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and also to conserve and protect the environmental resources, Myanmar has already adopted the “National Environmental Policy of Myanmar” to serve as its long-term strategy for achieving development and progress.

At the same time, it striving to achieve the sustainable development goals and the national comprehensive

development goals, Myanmar has already adopted the “Myanmar Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plans – 2018 -2030” to be able to confront and respond to the effects of climate change and to transform into a country with low carbon emissions with ability to withstand the climatic changes.

The things we are witnessing these days such as deforestation, the encroachment of wildlife habitats and wildlife trafficking, excessive growth of unsystematically managed plantations, investments that produce excessive carbon emissions, lead to accelerating climate change. These are the results of human actions and these actions destroy the balance of nature.

The deterioration and destruction of ecosystems which give natural protection to living beings leads to conditions that cause the emergence and spread of diseases that affect health. That is why for the survival of living beings, to need to make serious efforts to make sure that the whole natural ecosystem is functioning smoothly.

Therefore, this is an important time for us to collaborate systematically in the decision making and implementation processes to conserve biodiversity and the environment. At this time, the theme of the World Environment Day has highlighted for us the need to wake up, take heed, restore the good relations between man and nature, and re-establish a world that is in balance with nature. At the same time, the International Day for Biological Diversity which fell on 22 May had the theme “Our solutions are in nature”. This theme points out to us that the answer to solving the problems we are facing today regarding the deterioration and de-

struction of biodiversity and ecosystems lies in nature.

My dear fellow citizens,

In the implementation of sustainable development programmes, we need to study the constantly changing nature of the environment and constantly study pragmatic ways. We also need to keep as our primary goals the protection and conservation of biodiversity and environment, resilience to climate change and having a clean environment. We also need to incorporate the goals of the national environment and climate change policies and strategies, and the waste management strategy as our country’s priority tasks into the development plans of each sector. We must implement all these hand in hand dutifully.

Also, as the saying goes, confronting climate change conservation of biodiversity are two sides of the same coin; to stop the reduction and loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, the national-level biodiversity strategy and programmes should be implemented pragmatically with firm goals. On the occasion of the World Environment Day, which falls today, I wish to urge in great seriousness that we need to increase our cooperation with regional, international and development partners in the implementation of the above-mentioned programmes.

I urge all our citizens to become nature lovers, protectors of the environment, and people who place a high value on biodiversity and ecosystems. May you all take part in creating a lush, green and beautiful motherland called Myanmar.

Win Myint
President

Tatmadaw holds 8th coordination meeting for measures against COVID-19

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presided over the 8th coordination meeting for fighting against COVID-19 pandemic on 3 June.

The meeting held at the Office of Commander in Chief (Army) was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and senior military officers.

The senior Tatmadaw officers discussed the works of emergency response committees for COVID-19 measures in regions and states, 3,437 persons tested at military hospitals and battalions by rapid test kit, 803 by the Real-Time PCR Detection System, and 1,494 by Cobas 6800.



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the 8th coordination meeting for fighting against COVID-19 pandemic at the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) on 3 June. PHOTO: MNA

Among them, five persons were tested positives. Four of 18 officers and other ranks who came back from India to Myanmar were confirmed for the positive results, and that they are receiving medical treatments at the Defence Services Liver

Hospital.

The Senior General also coordinated the discussions and gave advice on the donation of protective equipment to the public hospitals, providing supplement diets to the patients at the hospitals, food supplies for the

patients and health workers and selling affordable meals at the hospitals with many numbers of inpatients.

He added the needs to publish COVID-19 symptoms which are similar to those of influenza, preparatory measures against

possible natural disasters and taking special care at the border areas with neighbouring countries with COVID-19 and other diseases, according to the report of the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Government to hold press conferences on 4th-year performance

THE press conferences on the Union government's 4th-year of performance will be held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw starting from 8 June.

The press conferences

will start at 1 pm after health examinations for COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports including distributing masks and gloves, arranging for gathering news

while social distancing, and the safety of equipment being used.

Media groups are notified to send only two journalists (a reporter and cameraperson) to

the press conferences and contact the Domestic and Foreign Communications and Information Sub-department, Ministry of Information, at their E-mail: ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com to

attend the press conferences. Any changes to the schedule will be notified beforehand. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Schedule for press conferences on the Union Government's fourth-year performance

| No. | Union Ministries/Institutions | Date | Remark |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. | Ministry of Electricity and Energy | 8-6-2020 | |
| 2. | Ministry of Border Affairs | (Sunday) | |
| 3. | Union Auditor-General Office | | |
| 4. | Ministry of Transport and Communications | 10-6-2020 | |
| 5. | Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs | (Wednesday) | |
| 6. | Ministry of Ethnic Affairs | 12-6-2020 | |
| 7. | Ministry of Education | (Friday) | |
| 8. | Nay Pyi Taw Council | | |
| 9. | Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement | | |
| 10. | Ministry of Office of Union Government | 15-6-2020 | |
| 11. | Ministry of Construction | (Monday) | |
| 12. | Central Bank of Myanmar | | |

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 13. | Ministry of Information | 17-6-2020 | |
| 14. | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation | (Wednesday) | |
| 15. | Ministry of Hotels and Tourism | | |
| 16. | Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of International Cooperation | 19-6-2020 | |
| 17. | Union Attorney-General Office | (Friday) | |
| 18. | Union Civil Service Board | | |
| 19. | Ministry of Home Affairs | 22-6-2020 | |
| 20. | Ministry of Defence | (Monday) | |
| 21. | Ministry of Health and Sports | | |
| 22. | Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations | 24-6-2020 | |
| 23. | Ministry of Commerce | (Wednesday) | |
| 24. | Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry | | |
| 25. | Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor | 26-6-2020 | |
| 26. | Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population | (Friday) | |
| 27. | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |

Myanmar film industry's centenary committees discuss detailed planning

THE organizing subcommittee for successful holding of centenary for Myanmar's motion picture industry, the centenary magazine publishing subcommittee, and competition organizing subcommittee held a coordination meeting at the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday.

U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin, chairman of the organizing subcommittee and the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, and subcommittee members held their first coordinating meeting and



The Myanmar film industry's centenary committees discuss creating an online media page for promoting the centenary event among public.

PHOTO: MNA

discussed creating an online media page for promoting the centenary event among the pub-

lic, coordinating with Myanmar Music Association for composing and selecting famous movie

soundtracks, classical pieces and new music appealing to all three generations, assisting in copyrighting movie soundtracks, compiling the movie soundtracks composed for the competition into an album, and creating souvenirs for the centenary.

Later in the afternoon, the centenary magazine publishing subcommittee chairman and vice-chairman of MMPO, U Aye Kyu Lay and subcommittee members discussed printing the centenary magazine, acquiring content, forming working committees, and paying author fees.

Next, the competition organizing committee held their second coordination committee and committee chairman and MMPO Patron U Kyi Soe Tun and members discussed the centenary article competition, quiz contest, short film contest, cartoon contest and documentary contest invites, inviting and organizing the contests in line with the three objectives of organizing the centenary event, and forming a scrutinizing group for selecting and handing out awards.—Ommar, Yi Yi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Three new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 4 June, total figure reaches 236

Updated at 8 pm, 4 June 2020



Recovery Update on 4 June 2020 after two consecutive tests



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 4 June 2020



3 new cases of COVID-19 on 4 June 2020: Updated at 8 pm

| Case No | Age | Gender | Address | Contact with positive patient | Overseas travel history | Hospital for medical treatment | Lab result | Remark |
|---------|-----|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 234 | 38 | Male | Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State | No | Yes, Bangladesh | Maungtaw People's Hospital | Positive | Held under quarantine (Maungtaw Township) |
| 235 | 30 | Male | Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region | No | Yes, India | People's Hospital in Sagaing Township | Positive | Held under quarantine (Sagaing Township) |
| 236 | 32 | | Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region | No | Yes, India | People's Hospital in Sagaing Township | Positive | |

Ministry of Health and Sports (Translated by Aung Khin)

1,204 migrant workers return from Thailand through Myawady border on 4 June



Officials helping Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand at Myawady border crossing yesterday.
PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

MYANMAR has been making systematic arrangement for the return of migrant workers from Thailand since 1 May. The total number of returnees through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2) of Myawady border town in Kayin State yesterday was 1,204. Among them, the 217 persons were brought back by 9 buses from Mo Chit Bus Ter-

minal in Bangkok under negotiations of the two governments and arrangement of Myanmar embassy in Thailand, while the remaining 894 persons came back home in their own schedules from various parts of the kingdom and 123 persons served punishments and jail terms in the neighbouring country. Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung and local offi-

cial helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies. A total of 16,991 Myanmar migrants have arrived back home through this route until now. The latest group of returnees included 756 males and 448 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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.

| No | Myanmar Standards |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | MMS IEC 60034-1 :2017 - Rotating electrical machines - Part 1: Rating and performance |
| 2 | MMS IEC 60064:1993+AMD5:2009 - Tungsten filament lamps for domestic and similar general lighting purposes - Performance requirements |
| 3 | MMS IEC 60065 :2014 Audio, video and similar electronic apparatus – Safety requirements |
| 4 | MMS IEC 60081:1997+AMD6:2017- Double-capped fluorescent lamps - Performance specifications |
| 5 | MMS IEC 60086-1:2015 - Primary batteries - Part 1: General |
| 6 | MMS IEC 60086-2 :2015- Primary batteries - Part 2: Physical and electrical specifications |
| 7 | MMS IEC 60155:1993/AMD2:2006 - Glow-starters for fluorescent lamps |
| 8 | MMS IEC 60227-7:1995+AMD1:2003+AMD2:2011 - Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V - Part 7: Flexible cables screened and unscreened with two or more conductors |
| 9 | MMS IEC 60238:2016+AMD1:2017+AMD2:2020 -Edison Screw lamp holders |
| 10 | MMS IEC 60245-1:2003+AMD1:2007 - Rubber insulated cables - Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V - Part 1: General requirements |
| 11 | MMS IEC 60245-4 :2011 - Rubber insulated cables - Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V - Part 4: Cords and flexible cables |
| 12 | MMS IEC 60245-6:1994/AMD2:2003 - Rubber insulated cables - Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V - Part 6: Arc welding electrode cables |
| 13 | MMS IEC 60245-7:1994/AMD1:1997 - Rubber insulated cables - Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V - Part 7: Heat resistant ethylene-vinyl acetate rubber insulated cables |

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Myanmar COVID-19 figure reaches 236 after 3 reported cases on 4 June

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 figure has reached 236 on 4 June after three more cases were reported on 4 June. The last three cases were the two returnees from India and one from Bangladesh. Out of 236 confirmed cases in the country, six died, 148 persons have recovered and 134 have been discharged from hospitals, according to the report of Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Supplies reach IDP camps in Rakhine, Shan for measures against COVID-19

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing medical and relief items to the IDP camps in Rakhine and Shan states for prevention of COVID-19 transmission. Moreover, the ministry is conducting awareness campaigns and motivation works in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other Regions/States.—MNA
The table shows supplied items and IDP camps in respective areas on 3 and 4 June 2020.

| Items | Rakhine | | Shan | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Sittway Township, Rakhine State | Muse Township, Shan State | Namkhan Township, Shan State | |
| | 3 June | 3 June | 4 June | |
| | 18 camps | 3 camps | 6 camps | |
| Hand Sanitizer bottles | 611 | | | |
| Memory Stick (Campaign Audio File) | | 3 | 6 | |
| Hand Speaker | | 3 | 6 | |



Staff from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement handing over the COVID-19 medical equipment to an internally displaced person in Muse, Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

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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.

S'pore Uni Myanmar Society donates masks

THE National University of Singapore Myanmar Society (NUSMM) donated 10,000 reusable face masks to the National Volunteer Steering Group for people in quarantine and volunteers.

The donation was made at the Yangon Region social affairs office and was accepted by Director Dr Kaythi Kyaw of the social affairs office who spoke words of thanks and gave certificates of honour in return.

The masks are designed to efficiently protect from diseases and washable for reuse. The National Volunteer Steering Group will distribute the masks accordingly.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



National University of Singapore Myanmar Society hands over the 10,000 reusable face masks to the National Volunteer Steering Group for people in quarantine and volunteers. **PHOTO: MNA**

RG Logistics launches multimodal transport services

THE RGL Dryport, MITT Port and COSCO shipping line have

jointly established an export cargo as the Myanmar's first ever dry port in the country on 1 June.

It is also a new step of the Resources Group Logistics to connect with Ywarthargi dry port, Myitnge dry port and Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa port for development of an export cargo to offer one-stop service for custom clearance services, cargo handling and logistics solution for international export and import.

The RGL Dry port is an inland transit port that directly connects with maritime ports by cars or trains.

The dry port of RG Logistics opened its Ywarthargi dry port on 11 November 2018, and the company spent K32,757.29 million for Ywarthargi dry port on 40 acres of land and K33,417.93 million for Myitnge dry port on 32 acres of land.—GNLM



The RGL dry port directly connects with maritime ports by cars or trains. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

RTAD to resume its operation on 8 June

UNDER the permission of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Road and Transport Administration Department (RTAD) will resume its operations and services across the country on 8 June, according to RTAD.

The vehicle owners have to make online booking starting from 5 June through www.rtda.gov.mm website at least one day ahead or maximum 30 days at Yangon region head office, regional branch office (Ywarthargyi), district office (Yangon west, east, north and south), regional head office (Mandalay), district

office (Mandalay south and north) and regional head office (Bago).

Applying for online booking can avoid the crowd of the people. Those who apply for registration via online booking must come as per their schedule.

Moreover, the RTAD offices will provide their service with every Saturday as well. The online booking can be applied for on Saturday as of last week of September. The detailed information will be available in www.motc.gov.mm, www.myanmarrtad.com and www.

rtda.gov.mm websites. Also, the information will be available in RTAD HQ Facebook, according to the RTAD.

On 25 March, RTAD suspended its services to prevent the crowd and spreading of coronavirus. Then, RTAD resumed its operation for initial registration service in Ywarthargyi, Htauk Kyant in Yangon region, Nap Pyi Taw and Mandalay on 11 May.

RTAD is aimed at ensuring road safety and so the vehicles will be inspected if they are abiding by the road safety rules. Registration will be

granted only to those vehicles that abide by the rules and regulations. And the driver licence will also be issued only to those who follow the rules and regulations.

Negotiations with the related departments will be made to collect the charges under the government laws, rules and regulations.

At present, there are over 1.1 million vehicles registered across the country, and more than 540,000 vehicles are registered in Yangon region.—Nyein Nyein

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Melon farmers plan to grow other crops in next season

THE watermelon and muskmelon farmers from Sagaing region are reportedly planning to grow other crops in the next season.

“Because of the outbreak of coronavirus, we won’t grow the watermelon and muskmelon in the next season. The acres of watermelon and muskmelon plantations will decline this year. The melon market has been damaged by the pandemic. This year, the local farmers lost 99 per cent of their profit and capital.

“So, some are selling their property such as cattle and plots of land to get back the capital for the next season. Now, there are no watermelon and muskmelon growers in Chaung U township. If there is no longer coronavirus spreading, we will prepare to grow watermelons



Farmers harvesting the muskmelons from their farms for sale in markets.
PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

and muskmelons.

“Now, there is no one preparing to grow the melons,”

said vice-chairman U Wai Myint of watermelon and muskmelon producers and exporters asso-

ciation in Sagaing region.

The watermelons and muskmelons are grown in

Chaung-U, Khin-U, Daze, Ye-U, Kawlin, Katha, Htigyaing, Kanbalu, Shwebo, Myaung, Myinmu, Yinmabin, Monywa and Pale townships in Sagaing region. The melons are grown mostly in Chaung-U township. There are around 40,000 or 50,000 acres of watermelon plantations and around 20,000 acres of muskmelon plantations in Sagaing region.

The local growers from the Sagaing region are growing watermelons and muskmelons in August annually. They are picking up the fruits in the first week of November.

The cultivation of the watermelons and muskmelons cost around K2.5 million per acre. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Export to China drops this FY amid coronavirus pandemic

THE export of Myanmar to China declined by over US\$160 million in over eight months of this fiscal year compared to that of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Although the bilateral trade between Myanmar and China has increased annually, it has dropped this year because of the pandemic. Currently, the officials from the two countries are discussing to solve the difficulties in trading at the Muse border.

Myanmar carries out China border trade via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Lwejel borders. Within eight months of this FY, Myanmar’s export to China reached \$2.5 billion while its import shared \$1.1 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar border trade is being conducted through 18 border trade points with four neighbouring countries – China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh. The total border trade value reached \$7.33 billion as of 22 May in this FY. Although Myanmar-China border trade has declined because of coronavirus, the bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand has increased. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

OPPO reach strategic partnership with IEEE to deepen international academic exchanges and participate in forming global technical standards

OPPO, on 4 June, announced that the company and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has entered into a strategic partnership to enhance academic exchanges and collaborate in standard creation in fields such as 5G, artificial intelligence, and big data. With this recognition and collaboration, OPPO is set to accelerate its pace of innovation to benefit users around the world.

IEEE is the world’s largest technical professional organization, with more than 400,000 members in over 160 countries. It has an authoritative position in the fields of aerospace systems, computers, communications, bioengineering, electrics, consumer electronics with its various highly-cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities.

“Facing the tremendous opportunities in the 5G era, OPPO has proposed the vision of ‘Intelligent connection.’ We will not only continue to invest in smartphones, but will also delve into scientific research in communication, hardware, and computer science. We are honored to partner with IEEE. We believe that through this partnership we will be able to apply more cutting-edge technologies to our products and services sooner and bring a

better technological experience to consumers around the world,” Levin Liu, OPPO Vice President and Head of OPPO Research Institute.

“As the IEEE Computer Society has just recently launched its new Corporate Partnership Program, we are pleased to welcome OPPO as our first corporate partner,” said IEEE Computer Society Executive Director Melissa Russell.

OPPO will cooperate with IEEE in standard setting as well as academic exchange. The standards committees under IEEE is the author of many critical technical standards around the world, such as the dominant IEEE 802.11

series standard for wireless networks. As the world’s leading technology company, OPPO has a rich understanding of technologies and user insight. OPPO will participate in the work of several IEEE standards committees to contribute to the formulation of international technical standards.

In terms of academic exchanges, IEEE’s series of academic journals and conferences are the top platforms in their fields. OPPO plans to summarize and present its technical achievements in artificial intelligence, communication technology, hardware technology to IEEE and the global engineering community. OPPO is

continuously strengthening its scientific research investment in recent years. It has attracted a group of top scientists in the industry. OPPO looks forward to working with IEEE to facilitate the technology conversations through activities such as visits, lectures, and conferences.

OPPO has always been at the forefront of technology. Recently, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) released the 2019 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) ranking, where OPPO ranks among the top five. OPPO has submitted more than 3,000 5G standard-related documents to 3GPP, ranking among the top contributors to the international standards organization.

At present, OPPO hosts over 10,000 R&D staff, four research centers, and six research institutes around the world. OPPO founder and CEO Tony Chen pointed out that OPPO will invest 50 billion yuan in R&D in three years to promote research in 5G, artificial intelligence, AR, big data, and other fields, as well as building core underlying hardware technologies and software engineering ability. With OPPO’s continuous R&D efforts and broad collaboration with industry partners, the future is closer to reality for its users around the world.—GNLM



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Addressing environmental issues called key to preventing effects of climate change on biodiversity

WITH over 35 deaths and eight injured from lightning strikes in this year's early monsoon season so far, the disaster is painting an alarming picture of future impacts from climate change in Myanmar.

The number of deaths caused by lightning strikes has also increased, reaching over 100 in some years. The death toll is expected to continue rising year by year.

Why? That's because lightning occurs more frequently when it's hotter because our globe is warming due to climate change.

A new study in the journal Science says that temperature increases due to climate change are ushering in a new era that

could mean by the end of the century lightning strikes will be about half again as common as they were at the start of this century.

The country is already one of the most vulnerable in the world to such extreme weather events caused by climate change.

Our country is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world facing serious threats from deforestation, pollution, wildlife crime, and climate change.

There is no question that we must work with the international community to slow down and reverse global warming and to conserve our rich biodiversity, while also building its resilience by adapting to the reality of a changing climate.

Climate change will be the fastest-growing cause of species loss in the world. Climate change, alongside factors like land degradation and habitat loss, is emerging as a top threat to wildlife around the globe including Myanmar.

The threat of climate change highlights the need to embrace ecosystem-based strategies that will enable people to be resilient and allow species to survive.

With good management and planning, we can build a strong buffer to the likely effects of climate change and protect our biodiversity.

Saving our natural resources and biodiversity requires filling knowledge gaps and correctly anticipating the responses of the environment and the people in a changing world.

We would like to urge all stakeholders to pull in the same direction with trust, cooperation, and coordination for environmental sustainability.

It is of paramount importance to address the environmental issues as early as possible and build a systematic, holistic, and long-term approach.

This will require strong leadership and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders involved - the government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities.

Nayon, the Month of the Festival of Religious Examinations

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu)

NAYON is the third month in the lunar calendar of Myanmar people. It approximates to June, and it is the last month of summer. The peak of summer is Kason or May when the sun mercilessly burns up everything on earth reducing the country to a parched land. In Nayon the solar heat begins to decline as the monsoon arrives from the south-west direction bringing rain-bearing clouds, releasing showers everywhere. Skeletons of trees which have stripped off all their year-worn yellow foliage begin to put on new emerald green garments.

Green carpet

The hard parched land has now become soft and fresh with rain water and in no time it turns into a green carpet of grass. There is a Myanmar saying "နုလှိုင်ခင်းသား မြက်သားမွှေး" "Little showers of Nayon nurture tender grass".

The word "Nayon" had been spelt differently in different periods of Myanmar history. In the Bagan Period it was spelt as "Nan Yon" or "Na Yon" where as in the Innwa Period it was spelt to sound "Nan Yon".

Astrological name of Nayon is May Htone (မေထွန်း) or Mithuna (Gemini). May Htone is derived from the Pali word "မိထုနာ" (mi htu na) meaning a couple of man and woman. The astrological symbol of Nayon is a couple of man and woman holding a long rod and a harp. Sometimes a pair of Keinnara and Keinnari (male and female mythical birds with human head) is presented to symbolize this month. In Nayon the Moon and Jehta star together and the Sun and Migathi star together reach noon time. The flower of the month is jasmine, star-like pure white bloom with pleasant fragrance.

Three counts

Nayon is important in Myanmar culture on three counts. Firstly it is the month during which Myanmar farmers begin ploughing their fields. It is the first month of wet cultivation. In the time of Myanmar Kings, Le Htun Mingala (လယ်ထွန်းမင်္ဂလာ) or royal ploughing ceremony was held in this month so that there would be good rain and good harvest. Secondly it was on the full moon day of Nayon that



The Lord Buddha delivered the famous Maha Thamaya Sutta to the Devas and Brahmas of all universes. PHOTO:MOI

the Lord Buddha delivered the famous Maha Thamaya Sutta to the Devas and Brahmas of all universes. So the full moon day of Nayon is marked as Maha Thamaya Day which Myanmar Buddhists celebrate by reciting the said Sutta and doing good works. Thirdly it is in the month of Nayon that religious examinations are held for the Buddhist monks.

Three Sasanas

There are three Sasanas (Teachings of the Buddha) in Buddhism, namely Pariyatti Sasana which means acquisition of a sound knowledge of the Dhamma the Law, and all religious literatures and scriptures through intensive and extensive learning, Patipatti Sasana which means the being accomplished in knowledge and Priveda Sasana which means the acting according to knowledge communicated and acquired. Pariyatti or learning of the Dhamma is primarily important.

Diligent study

Monks are encouraged to devote themselves to the diligent study of all religious literatures, Tipitakas. Tipitakas literally

Although festival of religious examinations in Nayon was not recorded yearly, there is no doubt that they were held regularly throughout Myanmar history. Examinations took place in the Thudhamma zayats built by the King.

means three baskets-(1) Vinaya (2) Sutta and (3) Abidhamma. All Buddhist monks including novices must learn them and pass the examinations held annually in the month of Nayon.

Laity's support

Buddhist laity of all walks of life-from royalty to the commoners see to the needs of the examiner and examinee monks. Cash donation and other contributions in kind are collected to support the holding of the religious examinations. Nayon is the month in which the learning period of the whole year comes to an end. So Exam-

inations are held to test the academic progress of monk scholars. A festal atmosphere is imported to this function by offering food and priestly utensils to the monks at the Examination centres.

Earliest mention

The earliest mention of religious examinations being held was found in the volume three of the Myanmar Chronicle called Hman-nan Yazawun Tawgyi i.e. The Glass Palace Chronicle. On page 239 we find the following paragraph:

"In the year 1000 M.E. (A.D 1638) the monk teachers examined the student novices on the

Waso. Other historical and literary evidences indicate Nayon as the month of the Festival of religious examinations.

On page 376 of the Glass Palace Chronicle, Volume three it is mentioned that:

His Majesty took occupancy of the Palace "Kyaw Aung San Nan" (ကျော်အောင်စံနန်း) and then at Innwa he built a monastery which was dedicated to the Most Venerable Baddhanta Nyana Wara who stood first in the religious examinations. This learned monk received the title "Pahtama Kyaw" (ပထမကျော်) and later he came to be known as "Kyaw Aung San Hta Sayadaw" (ကျော်အောင်စံထူးဆရာတော်).

Time of Examinations

Although festival of religious examinations in Nayon was not recorded yearly, there is no doubt that they were held regularly throughout Myanmar history. Examinations took place in the Thudhamma zayats built by the King. Preparations were made in advance such as gilding the zayats, renovating and decorating the surroundings. Pavilions were constructed in which the monks were fed daily and were presented with offertories. A special "min lan" (မင်းလမ်း) or royal road was made lined on either side with yazamat fences (ရာဇဝတ်ကွက်) (Diamond shaped design of lattice fences) and flower pots. The surface of the royal road was covered with fine white sand. At the end of the road was built a richly decorated Pavilion for Their Majesties and the court from where they watched the examinations proceeding and paid homage to the monks. Naturally festivities took place where royalty appeared in public.

One whole month

According to the Maha Yazawun or the Great Chronicle religious examinations in the Konbaung dynasty took one whole month, beginning on the 8th waxing of Nayon and ending on the 8th waxing of Waso. But normally examinations lasted two to three weeks, depending upon the number of candidates and the subjects examined varied from time to time. As religious examinations held by the King were very arduous, demanding too much of physical and mental energy, monk

SEE PAGE-10

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 17/2020
14th Waxing of Nayon, 1382 ME
4 June 2020

Appointment of Region Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (d), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, U Ye Min Oo has been appointed as the Minister for Planning and Finance of the Yangon Region Government.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Bar Council
Announcement No. 1/2020
14th Waxing of Nayon, 1382 ME
(4 June 2020)

Announcement of schedule for holding elections of the Bar Council

In accordance with the authority under Section 4 (a) of bylaw for holding its elections, the Bar Council has announced to hold the council's elections in the respective constituencies from 9 am to 4 pm on 14th Waxing of Second Waso in 1382 ME (2 August 2020).

Secretary
The Bar Council

The Bar Council Announcement

1. The Bar Council's elections will be held from 9 am to 4 pm, and its respective constituencies have been formed in regions and states.
2. According to the Section 4 under the Bar Council election procedures, the eligible advocates can nominate the selected constituency for voting with form (1) of the supervising body not later than 13 June 2020.
3. The advocate who wants to contest the elections can submit the proposal form (4) not earlier than 18 June 2020, and not later than 3 July 2020, to the secretary of the Bar Council at the Office No. 25 of Union Attorney-General Office in Nay Pyi Taw.
4. The above-mentioned forms can be available at the district law offices and the website of Union Attorney-General Office.
5. Information about elections of the Bar Council has been posted on www.oag.gov.mm of the Union Attorney-General Office and www.mlis.gov.mm

The Bar Council

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Nayon, the Month of the Festival of Religious Examinations

FROM PAGE-9

candidates were asked to change to become laymen during the examination period so that they could partake of evening meal to replenish their strength. Examinations were both oral and written. Candidates had to recite passages from the prescribed texts by heart and give correct answers to the questions without hesitation. During the time of King Bodawpaya (A.D. 1782-1819) a royal order was issued in 1153 ME (A.D. 1791) prescribing the texts for examination. This order remained in force till the reign of King Bagan (A.D. 1846-1853).

Peak of progress and perfection

During the reign of King Mindon (A.D. 1853-1878) religious examinations reached the peak of progress and perfection. He was a devout Buddhist King who promoted Buddhism by supporting Sanghas (Assembly of monks) as best he could. He convened the 5th Buddhist Council in 1871 which revised and edited the Tipitakas or the Buddhist Canon. The authorized version

of Tipitakas was then inscribed on 729 white alabaster slabs, Vinaya on 111 slabs, Suttas on 410 slabs, and Abidhamma on 208 slabs. These slabs are housed in cave-like brick buildings set up in the precincts of Maha Loka Marazein Pagoda at Mandalay. In 1873 he invited all learned monks from the four corners of his Capital to his Palace and put up his supplication requesting the Most Venerables to train novices and young monks so that they could recite not only Vinaya but the whole Tipitaka by heart. So from the year 1873 onwards religious examinations were held to select the most learned and brilliant candidate called "Pahtama Kyaw" (ပထမကျော်). The King built a big Pahtan zayat (ပဌာန်းဇရံ) and 33 examination halls called "Thudhamma zayats" of teak, varnished with red vermilion and finely gilt. Some of them still stand in good condition at the foot of the Mandalay Hill.

Four grades

There were four grades of examination viz. (i) Pahtama Ngal (ပထမငယ်) or Lower Grade

(ii) Pahtama Lat (ပထမလတ်) or Middle Grade (iii) Pahtamagyi (ပထမကြီး) or Higher Grade and (iv) Pahtama Kyaw (ပထမကျော်) or Highest Grade.

His son and successor King Thibaw was a successful candidate in the first three grades. When he became King he passed Religious Examination Law, which was the first of its kind in Myanmar history. It was published in book form by the Hluttaw Press in 1883. By this law there were only three grades, Lower grade, Higher grade and Highest grade.

Three forms of examination

Examination took three forms (i) recitation by heart (ii) oral examination and (iii) written examination. Success or failure was decided on the merits scored in all forms of examination. From among the successful candidates the one who scored the highest total marks was selected "First" and the rest were classified under the lists, list I and II according to their merits.

Lavish reward

Successful candidates were

lavishly rewarded by the King. A big Pujas (ပူဇော်) or honouring ceremony was held in the courtyard where richly decorated pavalions were set up. The Pahtama Kyaw candidate was carried on a gilt palanquin borne by 40 men with gold umbrellas shading him. The other candidates wearing rich attire with gold salve on their breasts followed either riding horses or being carried on the sedan chair according to their positions in the examination results. Royal musical Ensemble called 'Sain Waing Tawgyi' played music of welcome and honour. Their Majesties and the Court appeared in state on the podium of the Hluttaw (Council of Ministers in the time of Myanmar Kings) and poured lustral water from the gold libation ewer as the successful candidates in line approached him. Kyats 1000 in pure silver for the Lower grade, kyats 1500 in pure silver for the higher grade and Kyats 2500 in pure silver for the Highest grade were presented. In addition, the privilege of tax immunities was granted to their parents and nearest relatives.

Privileges

The Pahtama Kyaw was adopted by the King and should he choose a career he would be appointed clerk with the prospect of promotion to Wungyi (Minister) one day. If not, he could remain monk, well supported by the King who would build a monastery for him and might raise him to be "raja guru" or King's Teacher.

Well Preserved

Although Myanmar fell under the British rule for 117 years this tradition of holding religious examinations was well preserved. Even during the second World War when Myanmar was under the Japanese occupation, attempt to revive this tradition was made in 1943 by the then Adipadi Government. It was called Vinaya (Code of conduct) Examination of Burma. There were four grades and only treatises on Vinaya were prescribed for examination.

To-day this tradition of holding religious examination is kept alive by the Government and the public in co-operation.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Russia struggles to clean up Arctic river fuel spill

MOSCOW — Russian emergency workers and marine clean-up specialists on Thursday intensified efforts to clean up a major fuel spill that environmentalists say is the first such accident in the Arctic polar region.

A diesel reservoir collapsed at a power station outside the northern Siberian city of Norilsk on Friday, releasing 15,000 tonnes of fuel into a river and 6,000 tonnes into the soil, according to Russia's state environmental watchdog.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a state of emergency to deal with the disaster.

Reinforcements arrived at the remote location on Thursday, said Andrei Malov, spokesman for Russia's Marine Rescue Service, which cleans up marine spills and was called in



Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a state of emergency to deal with the fuel spill. PHOTO: AFP

at the weekend.

"There haven't been such spills in the Arctic before," he told AFP. "It needs to be collected very quickly because the fuel is dissolving in the water."

The Ambarneya River,

which is the worst-affected by the spill, feeds into Lake Pyasino, a major body of water and the source of the Pyasina River that is vitally important to the entire Taimyr peninsula.

—AFP ■

On a caravan, with one of the Sahara's last European explorers

IN THE SAHARA, Mauritania — Climbing into the saddle, he adjusts the scarf protecting his head from the sun and, with a tap on the camel's back, the caravan sets off.

Thierry Tillet is again off to explore the vast Saharan desert, at the head of a nine-camel convoy with three other riders.

At 68, the Frenchman is one of the last European explorers since the end of the 19th century to dedicate much of his life -- 47 years -- to crisscrossing the Sahara.

This expedition, which began before the coronavirus epidemic, starts and ends at two desert jewels in central Mauritania.

From Tichitt, the convoy is headed east to Oualata, 300 kilometres (185 miles) away,

travelling in single file over a sandy, rocky landscape.

For the first time, Tillet -- or Ghabidine, as a Tuareg friend renamed him -- is taking journalists along "so that this knowledge reaches the general public".

Perched on the back of his swaying camel, Tillet wears an old, holey T-shirt and worn sandals.

With his tousled, white hair and stubbled chin, it's easy to forget he's an authority in his field.

For many years he was a member of the anthropology laboratory at France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

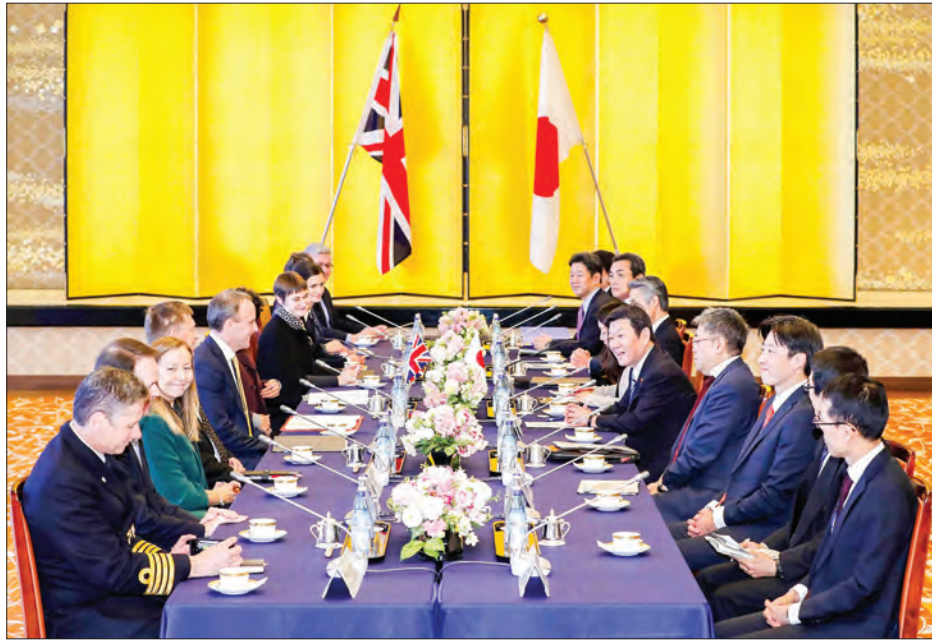
He was also professor of prehistoric archaeology at Grenoble University and taught in Chad, Niger and Mali.—AFP ■

Britain-Japan trade deal faces hurdles despite good intentions

LONDON — Britain's hopes of a swift trade deal with Japan will ultimately rest on a successful resolution to the main talks between London and the European Union on a new trading arrangement, some experts say.

Virtual meetings on a new free trade agreement between Britain and Japan will begin shortly, but little of substance may be achieved due to the lack of progress on the key talks in Brussels which will bear heavily on minds in Tokyo.

And even when negotiators from Britain and Japan start discussions on the terms of a new trade deal, the interests of food producers and powerful



Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi (5th from R) and his British counterpart Dominic Raab (5th from L) hold talks in Tokyo on Feb. 8, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

domestic lobbies may make getting a deal harder than initially envisaged, observers claim.

Unveiling a negotiating objectives paper for the bilateral talks in May, International Trade

Secretary Liz Truss said, "Both sides are committed to an ambitious timeline to secure a deal that

goes even further than the EPA especially in digital and data," referring to the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Japan.

Bill Emmott, chairman of The Japan Society in Britain and a writer and consultant on international affairs, told Kyodo News, "I think that ultimately it will be quite easy to get a deal between Japan and the U.K. because I think there is goodwill on both sides and I don't think the gaps are too huge."

But he believes neither side will push ahead substantially until the terms of the new trading arrangement between

Britain and the European Union are clearer.

This is because Japan has many manufacturing and services subsidiaries which rely on easy access into the European Union from their British base.

The talks between Britain and the European Union are currently in a fragile state, with some observers expecting negotiations to be extended into next year.

London is free to implement new trade deals from January. If it proves unable to broker a deal with Brussels, the two will revert to World Trade Organization terms which would mean greater barriers to trade.—Kyodo ■

China de-escalates airline spat with US

BEIJING — China said Thursday foreign airlines blocked from operating in the country over virus fears would be allowed to resume limited flights, apparently de-escalating a row with Washington following US plans to ban Chinese carriers.

Beijing's announcement comes as tensions between the world's two superpowers are sent soaring by a series of issues including Donald Trump's accusations over China's handling of the pandemic, Hong Kong and Huawei.

The latest spat was rooted in the Civil Aviation Authority of China (CAAC) deciding to impose

a limit on foreign airlines based on their activity as of March 12. Because US carriers had suspended all flights by that date their cap was set at zero, while Chinese carriers' flights to the US continued.

On Wednesday the US said it would block Chinese passenger flights from June 16, raising concerns of another front being opened up in the economic titans' standoff. But the CAAC on Thursday said all foreign airlines not listed in the March 12 schedule would now be able to operate one international route into China each week.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian

expressed regret over the US decision, adding that the CAAC is making "solemn representations" over the matter. Asked if the latest CAAC notice means the US will be able to file applications for flight resumption, Zhao said the Chinese aviation authority and US Department of Transportation have maintained close communication over flight arrangements between the two countries.

"Originally, both sides had made some progress," he said at a regular briefing, adding that China hopes the US will not "create obstacles" for both parties' work to solve the problem.—AFP ■

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CHANGING PESTICIDE TRADE NAME

The trade names of the following pesticides, manufactured by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) registered at Pesticides Registration Board, have been changed in reference to import and distribution.

| Sr | Trade Name (Old) | Trade Name (New) | Active Ingredient | Type of Registration | Registration No |
|----|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Alpha 10SC | Ultimate 10SC | Alpha Cypermethrin 100g/L SC | Provisional | 2018 - 4462 |
| 2. | Prosper 25WP | Max Dot 25WP | Metalaxyl 25%w/w WP | Full | 2017 - 1359 |

For the above reason, in accordance with the objection of changing trade names may come and object at The Co Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch), Room 209, Rangoun Business Center, No.(97) West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Shwe Gon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MANATEE VOY. NO. (021S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/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.

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China says US trade sanctions on Hong Kong violate WTO rules

BEIJING — Washington's decision to strip Hong Kong of its special trading status violates rules of the World Trade Organization, China said Thursday.

President Donald Trump announced Friday that the US will revoke special trading privileges

granted to Hong Kong, after Beijing moved to tighten its grip on the semi-autonomous city with plans to impose a national security law. Removing the special status would affect a bilateral extradition treaty, commercial relations and export controls between

the US and the Asian financial hub. The move adds to growing friction between the world's two biggest economies amid the coronavirus crisis and in the wake of a two-year trade war that has not been fully resolved. Commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng

said the special trading status given to the former British colony was recognised by all WTO members and did not depend solely on the United States.

"If the United States disregards the fundamental principles of international relations and adopts uni-

lateral measures according to its domestic laws, it will violate WTO rules and will not be in the interest of the United States," Gao added at a regular press briefing.

A spokesman of China's banking regulator said separately that Hong Kong's status as a finan-

cial hub will not be shaken by the potential sanctions. "Hong Kong's financial market is running smoothly... and there is no abnormal capital outflow", said the spokesman, adding that this reflects the international market's confidence in the city.—AFP ■

The announcement for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) products to be manufactured and traded in accordance with (50) Myanmar Electrical and Electronic Standards

1. ASEAN Electrical and Electronic Mutual Recognition Arrangement (EE MRA) was signed by ASEAN Economic Ministers on 5th April 2002 to support the implementing of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by implementing the agreement for cooperation in Electrical and Electronic Sector. According to EE MRA, the test report and Certificate of Conformity (CoC) issued by one of the ASEAN member states shall be accepted by other member states when trading Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) products with low voltage power supply rating of between 50 and 1000 V ac and between 75 and 1500 V dc within ASEAN member states, in order to avoid re-testing in imported country, to manufacture and trade according to harmonized standards and to be safety.
2. The agreement on the ASEAN Harmonised EEE Regulatory Regime (AHEEERR) was signed on 9th December 2005 by Economic Ministers of Member States in order to implement the activities of EEMRA.
3. In accordance with EEMRA and AHEEERR activities, suppliers who are interested to import regulated EEE products of ASEAN member states to Myanmar must import EEE products which have been tested at ASEAN listed Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to be compliance with the ASEAN Harmonised Standard and regulated standards of respective country. And the supplier must be registered those EEE products at Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (Electrical Inspection Department) with Test report and Certificate of Conformity (CoC) before distribution in the Market.
4. Likewise, the manufacturer who are interested to export regulate EEE products to ASEAN member states must manufacture EEE in compliance with ASEAN Harmonised Standards and regulated standards of imported country. And these products shall be exported along with the test report and Certificate of Conformity attested by the ASEAN listed Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs).
5. Therefore, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry hereby inform to all EEE products manufacturers, suppliers and consumers that the EEMRA and AHEEERR activities implementing by Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (Electrical Inspection Department) will be in effect as of 2021 with following (50) Myanmar EEE Standards

Myanmar Standards for EEE

| No | Myanmar Standards |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | MMS IEC 60227-5:2003 : Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V - Part 4: Sheathed cables for fixed wiring |
| 2 | MMS IEC 60669-1:2007: Switches for household and similar fixed-electrical installations - Part 1: General requirements |
| 3 | MMS IEC 60884-1:2006: Plug and socket outlets for household and similar purposes - Part 1: General requirement |
| 4 | MMS IEC 60335-1:2010: Household and similar electrical appliances- Safety Part 1: General requirements |
| 5 | MMS IEC 60335-2-3:2008: Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-3: Particular requirements for electric irons |
| 6 | MMS IEC 60335-2-44:2004 : Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-44: Particular requirements for ironers |
| 7 | MMS IEC 60335-2-41:2004 : Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety – Part 2-41: Particular requirements for pumps |
| 8 | MMS IEC 60335-2-80:2008: Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-80: Particular requirements for fans |
| 9 | MMS IEC 60335-2-15:2008 :Safety of household and similar electrical appliances - Part 2-15: Particular requirements for appliances for heating liquids |
| 10 | MMS IEC 60335-2-23:2008:Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-23: Particular requirements for appliances for skin or hair care |
| 11 | MMS IEC 60335-2-26:2008 : Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-26: Particular requirements for clocks |
| 12 | MMS IEC 60335-2-43:2008:Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-43: Particular requirements for clothes dryers and towel rails |
| 13 | MMS IEC 60335-2-40:2005 :Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-40: Particular requirements for electrical heat pumps, air-conditioners and dehumidifiers |
| 14 | MMS IEC 60898-1:2003: Electrical accessories - Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations - Part 1: Circuit-breakers for a.c. operation |
| 15 | MMS IEC 60898-2:2003:Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations - Part 2: Circuit-breakers for a.c. and d.c. operation |
| 16 | MMS IEC 60227-1 : 2007 Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltage up to and including 450/750V- Part 1 : General requirements |

| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 | MMS IEC 60227-3 : 1997 Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltage up to and including 450/750V- Part 3: Non - sheathed cables for fixed wiring |
| 18 | MMS IEC 60227-4 : 1997 Polyvinyl chloride insulated cable of rate voltage up to and including 450/750V-Part 4 : Sheathed cables for fixed wiring |
| 19 | MMS IEC 60227- 2 : 1997 Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltage up to and including 450/750V - Part 2 : Test Methods |
| 20 | MMS IEC 60227- 6 : 2001 Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltage up to and including 450/750V - Part - 6 Lift cables and cables for flexible connections |
| 21 | MMS IEC 60228 : 2004 Conductors of insulated cables |
| 22 | MMS IEC 60335-2-2 : 2009 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-2: Particular requirements for vacuum cleaners and water-suction cleaning appliances |
| 23 | MMS IEC 60335-2-6 : 2014 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-6: Particular requirements for stationary cooking ranges, hobs, ovens and similar appliances |
| 24 | MMS IEC 60335-2-8 : 2012 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-8: Particular requirements for shavers, hair clippers and similar appliances |
| 25 | MMS IEC 60335-2-21 : 2012 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-21: Particular requirements for storage water heaters |
| 26 | DMMS IEC 60335-2-28 : 2008 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-28: Particular requirements for sewing machines |
| 27 | MMS IEC 60335-2-29 : 2016 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-29: Particular requirements for battery chargers |
| 28 | MMS IEC 60335-2-31 : 2012 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-31: Particular requirements for range hoods and other cooking fume extractors |
| 29 | MMS IEC 60335-2-45 : 2008 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-45: Particular requirements for portable heating tools and similar appliances |
| 30 | MMS IEC 60335-2-52 : 2008 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-52: Particular requirements for oral hygiene appliances |
| 31 | MMS IEC 60335-2-55 : 2008 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-55: Particular requirements for electrical appliances for use with aquariums and garden ponds |
| 32 | MMS IEC 60335-2-56 : 2008 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-56: Particular requirements for projectors and similar appliances |
| 33 | MMS IEC 60335-2-65 : 2008 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-65: Particular requirements for air-cleaning appliances |
| 34 | MMS IEC 60335-2-73 : 2006 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-73: Particular requirements for fixed immersion heaters |
| 35 | MMS IEC 60335-2-74: 2006 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-74: Particular requirements for portable immersion heaters |
| 36 | MMS IEC 60335-2-79 : 2016 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-79: Particular requirements for high pressure cleaners and steam cleaners |
| 37 | MMS IEC 60335-2-88 : 2002 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-88: Particular requirements for humidifiers intended for use with heating, ventilation, or air-conditioning systems |
| 38 | MMS IEC 60335-2-98 : 2008 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-98: Particular requirements for humidifiers |
| 39 | MMS IEC 60947-2 : 2016 Low- Voltage Switchgear and Control gear- Part – 2: Circuit – Breakers |
| 40 | MMS IEC 60929 : 2011 AC and /or DC -Supplied electronic control gear for tubular fluorescent lamps - Performance requirements |
| 41 | MMS IEC 60968 : 2015 Self-ballasted fluorescent lamps for general lighting services - Safety requirements |
| 42 | MMS IEC 60969 : 2016 Self-ballasted compact fluorescent lamps for general lighting services - Performance requirements |
| 43 | MMS IEC 61008-1 : 2010 Residual current operated circuit-breakers without integral over current protection for household and similar uses (RCCBs) - Part 1: General rules |
| 44 | MMS IEC 61008-1 : 2012 Amendment 1 Residual current operated circuit-breakers without integral over current protection for household and similar uses (RCCBs) - Part 1: General rules |
| 45 | MMS IEC 61008-1 : 2013 Amendment 2 Residual current operated circuit-breakers without integral over current protection for household and similar uses (RCCBs) - Part 1: General rules |
| 46 | MMS IEC 61058-1: 2016 Switches for appliances- Part 1: General requirements |
| 47 | MMS IEC 62271-200 : 2011 High-voltage switchgear and control gear- Part 200: AC metal-enclosed switchgear and control gear for rated voltages above 1 kV and up to and including 52 kV |
| 48 | MMS IEC 62552-1 : 2015 Household refrigeration appliances- Characteristics and test methods Part : 1 General Requirements |
| 49 | MMS IEC 62552-2 : 2015 Household refrigeration appliances- Characteristics and test methods Part : 2 Performance Requirements |
| 50 | MMS IEC 62552-3 : 2015 Household refrigeration appliances- Characteristics and test methods Part : 3 Energy consumption and volume |



Global Technology Group

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE AGILE EXECUTIVE



Myanmar Employer Awards (MEA) 2019 winner and 18 years old Global Technology Group (GTG), Home of 5BB Broadband, Lalakyi online entertainment and enterprise ICT solutions provider GlobalNet, a leading business group which is managed and supervised by three young entrepreneurs, focusing in Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT sector), is expanding in ICT businesses with high market demand. Due to pandemic Covid-19, daily ICT usage in Myanmar is increasing and existing house members of GTG is expecting to meet new family members who are motivated to work day and night, dynamic to adapt agile environment culture, active life style like athletes and ready to accept challenges as the vacancies mentioned below. All of positions must have as following competencies -

(1) Easy to understand (2) Drive for result according to Job Description (3) Having adequate Skill and professional experience (4) Having ICT skill for management positions (5) Good Communication with People (6) Ready to work under Covid-19 situation and similar situation in future.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| 1. Assistant General Manager - Sales | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 2. Assistant General Manager - Marketing | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 3. Assistant General Manager - CS/ Call Center | M/F | (1) Post |
| 4. Assistant General Manager - Customer Care | M/F | (1) Post |
| 5. Assistant General Manager - VIP Club | M/F | (1) Post |
| 6. Assistant General Manager - Site Acquisition | M/F | (1) Post |
| 7. Assistant General Manager - Procurement | M/F | (1) Post |
| 8. Assistant General Manager - Admin & HR | M/F | (1) Post |
| 9. Assistant General Manager - Digital & Online | M/F | (1) Post |
| 10. Assistant General Manager - Media & PR | M/F | (1) Post |
| 11. Assistant General Manager - Billing | M/F | (1) Post |
| 12. Manager - Sales | M/F | (9) Posts |
| 13. Manager - Marketing | M/F | (9) Posts |
| 14. Manager - CS / Call Center | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 15. Manager - Customer Care | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 16. Manager - VIP Club | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 17. Manager - Site Acquisition | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 18. Manager - Procurement | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 19. Manager - Admin & HR | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 20. Manager - Digital & Online | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 21. Manager - Media & PR | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 22. Manager - Billing | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 23. Chief Engineer - Core Network | M/F | (1) Post |
| 24. Chief Engineer - Metro & Long Distance | M/F | (1) Post |
| 25. Chief Engineer - IT & Internet | M/F | (1) Post |
| 26. Chief Engineer - Fiber Network | M/F | (1) Post |
| 27. Chief Engineer - M&E Infra | M/F | (1) Post |
| 28. Chief Engineer - Radio & Wireless | M/F | (1) Post |
| 29. Chief Engineer - Last Mile & Customer Site | M/F | (1) Post |
| 30. Chief Engineer - Research & Development | M/F | (1) Post |
| 31. Deputy Chief Engineer - Core Network | M/F | (1) Post |
| 32. Deputy Chief Engineer - Metro & Long Distance | M/F | (1) Post |
| 33. Deputy Chief Engineer - IT & Internet | M/F | (1) Post |
| 34. Deputy Chief Engineer - Fiber Network | M/F | (1) Post |
| 35. Deputy Chief Engineer - M & E Infra | M/F | (1) Post |
| 36. Deputy Chief Engineer - Radio & Wireless | M/F | (1) Post |
| 37. Deputy Chief Engineer - Last Mile & Customer Site | M/F | (1) Post |
| 38. Deputy Chief Engineer - Research & Development | M/F | (1) Post |
| 39. Fiber Technician | M | (30) Posts |
| 40. Daily Wages Assistant Fiber Technician | M | (100) Posts |
| 41. Junior Engineer | M/F | (30) Posts |
| 42. Systems Engineer | M/F | (3) Posts |
| 43. Wifi Assistant Engineer | M/F | (30) Posts |
| 44. Cloud Assistant Engineer | M/F | (10) Posts |
| 45. E - Commerce and Website Developer | M/F | (10) Posts |
| 46. Pre - Sales Engineer | M/F | (10) Posts |
| 47. Sales Executive - Yangon | M/F | (30) Posts |
| 48. Sales Executive - Mandalay | M/F | (10) Posts |
| 49. Sales Executive - Mawlamyaing | M/F | (2) Posts |
| 50. Sales Executive - Bago | M/F | (2) Posts |
| 51. Sales Executive - Pyay | M/F | (2) Posts |
| 52. Sales Executive - Naypyitaw | M/F | (2) Posts |
| 53. Driver | M | (30) Posts |
| 54. Cleaner | F | (10) Posts |

Group (A) - Assistant General Manager Level (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11)

- Bachelor's degree in business, any Master's degree related with applied position.
- 3 to 5 years experiences in similar position and 8 to 10 years in related fields.
- Previous Experiences and success story is essential to present.

Group (B) - Manager Level (12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22)

- Bachelor's degree related with applied position. (Master's degree preferable)
- 3 to 5 years experiences in similar position and 5 to 8 years in related fields.
- Previous Experiences and success story is essential to present.

Group (C) - Chief Engineer Level (23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30)

- Bachelor or Master of Engineering degree/Computer Science.
- Microsoft, AWS, VMWARE, Cisco (highest certified certificate holder are more preferable)
- Experiences - 3 to 5 years in similar position and 8 to 10 years in related fields.
- Experiences and track record in related field is essential.

Group (D) - Deputy Chief Engineer Level (31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

- Bachelor's degree in the relevant engineering field, Computer Science (Master of Engineering degree preferable)
- Microsoft, AWS, VMWARE, Cisco (highest certified certificate holder are more preferable)
- Experiences - 3 to 5 years in similar position and 5 to 8 years in related fields.
- Experiences and proven track record in the related field is essential.

Group (E) - Engineer Level (41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46)

- Bachelor's Degree in Electronics/ Communication/ Electrical or Computer Science or other relevant IT degree.
- Experiences - 2 to 3 years in similar position and 3 to 5 years in related fields.
- Experiences and proven track record in the related field is essential.

Group (F) - Sales Executive (47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52)

- Bachelor's degree holder
- Experiences - 2 to 3 years in related fields.

Group (G) - (39, 40, 53, 54)

- အလုပ်ကိုရိုးသားကြိုးစားစွာ လုပ်ကိုင်စိတ်ရှိသူများနှင့် ကျန်းမာရေးကောင်းမွန်သူများ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

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Interested candidates can apply within Two Weeks and please drop your update resume with salary expectation to recruit@globalnetmm.com,
For more details. 01-654871, 01-654872, 01-654873



INDUSTRY နယ်ပယ်အသီးသီးမှ အတတ်ပညာရှင်များလည်း လာရောက်လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါရန် ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါတယ်နော်

India, Australia elevate ties to comprehensive strategic partnership

NEW DELHI—India and Australia on Thursday announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a “COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP” with the two leaders of the sides saying they intend to sign pacts on cyber security and trade, on cementing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, and on logistics support for their militaries.

Both countries also announced upgrading a key dialogue—till now held between the foreign secretaries and defence secretaries of the two countries—to the level of foreign and defence ministers. Speaking ahead of the start of delegation level talks at the virtual summit with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, Prime Minister Naren-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison during the virtual summit on Thursday. PHOTO:ANI

dra Modi said that given the challenges in the world today, “this is the perfect time to build stronger ties” with Australia. There was unlimited potential in the relationship and the challenge, Modi said, was “how to translate the potential into reality” to make it a

factor of stability and global good.

Both countries shared global common values like democracy, mutual respect, respect for international institutions and rules, Modi said adding that these were now being challenged—a possible allusion to China’s attempts to in-

fluence systems and institutions to play along with its interests and the US walking out of the World Health Organisation (WHO). In this context, building strong India-Australia ties were important to strengthen these values for the future, Modi said. Strong India-Australia partnership was also important for stability in the Indo-Pacific region, Modi said. Upgrading ties to a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” was also significant against the backdrop of the challenges posed by the covid-19 pandemic, Modi said. A coordinated and collaborative approach was needed to pull the world out of the economic and social hardship that the pandemic had thrown it into, he said.— ANI ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hong Kong legislature passes Chinese anthem bill amid protests

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s legislature passed a contentious bill that outlaws disrespecting the Chinese national anthem amid a wave of protests by pro-democracy lawmakers who claimed it will encroach on people’s rights and freedoms.

The bill’s passage, by a 41-to-one vote, came on the 31st anniversary of the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy, student-led demonstrators in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square, while a candlelight vigil was banned in the territory in the name of health concerns amid the coronavirus pandemic. Earlier in the day, lawmakers Roy Chan and Eddie Chu were expelled from the legislative chamber during a debate session on the bill after they spilled a foul-smelling liquid while trying to charge at acting president Starry Lee.—Kyodo ■

South Korea says mulling leaflet ban after Kim’s sister threat

SEOUL — South Korea may ban defectors from flying anti-Pyongyang leaflets into the North, officials said Thursday, hours after leader Kim Jong Un’s sister threatened to scrap a military agreement with Seoul.

Kim Yo Jong, the influential younger sister and key adviser to the leader, issued the warning with inter-Korean ties in a deep freeze despite three summits in 2018 between her brother and the South’s President Moon Jae-in, who has consistently promoted engagement with Pyongyang.

North Korean defectors and other activists have long flown balloons across the border carrying leaflets that criticize Kim over human rights abuses and his nuclear ambitions.

“The South Korean authorities will be forced to pay a dear price if they let this situation go on while making all sort of excuses,” Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency. Calling the defectors “human scum” and “rubbish-like mongrel dogs” who betrayed their homeland, she said it was “time to bring their owners to account” in a reference to the South Korean government.— AFP ■

Malaysia reports highest daily jump of 277 new COVID-19 cases, mostly from detention centre

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia reported 277 new COVID-19 cas-

es, the highest daily number to date, pushing the national total

to 8,247 cases, the health ministry said on Thursday.

Health ministry Director-General Noor Hisham Abdullah said at a press briefing that 270 of the new cases are foreign nationals detained at an immigration detention centre on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur.

The facility was the first such detention depot where cluster infections were found among foreign detainees, before similar clusters were detected in several other facilities. Noor Hisham said the detainees might be infected due to the confined space in the facility but they were tested negative in the previous screening.

He emphasized that new local transmissions involving Malaysians were only single digit as only four cases reported on Thursday were local transmission involving Malaysian citizens.—Xinhua ■



Motorists drive pass a shop during reopening of some business establishments in Penang on 10 May, 2020 as Malaysia relaxes partial lockdown measures to combat the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus. PHOTO:AFP

Afghan Taliban still maintain ties with al-Qaeda, says UN report

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban in Afghanistan still maintain close ties with the al-Qaeda terror network, despite signing a peace deal with the United States in which they committed to fight terrorist groups, a UN report released on Tuesday said.

The terrorists promptly slammed the report as “baseless and bigoted”.

The UN’s Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team told the Security Council in a report that the relations between the Taliban, particularly its Haqqani network, and al-Qaeda “remain close,” and are rooted in “friendship, a history of shared

struggle, ideological sympathy and intermarriage”.

“The Taliban regularly consulted with al-Qaeda during negotiations with the United States and offered guarantees that it would honour their historical ties. Al-Qaeda has reacted positively to the agreement, with statements from its acolytes celebrating it as a victory for the Taliban’s cause and thus for global militancy,” the report said.

The US-Taliban accord, signed in Qatar’s capital of Doha at the end of February, was meant to allow for American troops to gradually leave Afghanistan after 19 years of war

and pave way for intra-Afghan negotiations that would shape

the country’s political future.— ANI ■



Afghan Taliban militants. PHOTO:AFP

US holds up UN envoy on Libya, frustrating Europeans

WASHINGTON — The United States said Wednesday it was waiting to build an “empowered” UN mission for Libya, frustrating France and Germany which say the delay in approving an envoy is jeopardizing momentum to end the conflict.

The position of UN envoy for Libya has been vacant for three months, even with calls intensifying for a return to negotiations as the UN-recognized government beats back a rebel offensive.

Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, Ghana’s former foreign minister, was proposed for the role weeks ago by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres but has not been confirmed, with diplomats pointing to US opposition.

“It’s really urgent now. The situation in Libya is really bad,” said the French ambassador to the United Nations, Nicolas de Riviere, as he went public with concerns Monday alongside his counterpart from Germany.

Christoph Heusgen, the



Fighters loyal to the UN-recognized Libyan Government of National Accord recapture Tripoli International Airport after clashes with strongman Khalifa Haftar. PHOTO: AFP

German ambassador, said there needed to be a political rather than military solution.

“By withholding the agreement to a proposal by the secretary general with regard to the

special envoy, those responsible... carry a very heavy responsibility,” he said.

Neither envoy explicitly named the United States.

A US official, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said the United States also sought Libyan negotiations soon but added: “We want an empowered UN mission that can accomplish this goal.”

—AFP ■

Protesters welcome new charges in Floyd killing but remain in streets

MINNEAPOLIS — US protesters welcomed new charges brought Wednesday against Minneapolis officers in the killing of African American man George Floyd — but thousands still marched in cities across the country for a ninth straight night, chanting against racism and police brutality.

With a key demand met, demonstrators nevertheless staged large and mainly peaceful rallies calling for deeper change in cities from New York to Los Angeles, hours after the new indictments were announced.

Pressure on President Donald Trump mounted as his former Pentagon chief Jim Mattis launched a searing broadside, accusing the Republican leader of trying to “divide” America during the unrest.

In Minnesota, prosecutors had initially charged 44-year-old Derek Chauvin — the white officer filmed kneeling on Floyd’s neck for nearly nine minutes — with third-degree murder.

But they said Wednesday they were upgrading the charge, roughly akin to manslaughter, to second-degree murder, which does not involve premeditation but carries stiffer penalties.

Chauvin’s three colleagues at the scene of Floyd’s May 25 arrest for allegedly seeking to buy cigarettes with a counterfeit bill are accused of being complicit in the killing. —AFP ■

US military forces deployed in Washington DC to quell Floyd protests

WASHINGTON — US Military forces were on Wednesday seen on the streets of Washington, DC, and put on a high alert to respond to unrest in the nation’s capital if necessary.

Videos floated on social media by the local media channels showed busses carrying American soldiers arriving in Washington.

Defence officials told CNN

on Wednesday that there was deep and growing discomfort among some in the Pentagon even before President Donald Trump announced on Monday that he is ready to deploy the military to enforce order inside the United States.

As tear gas wafted through the air in Lafayette Park across from the White House, Trump announced from the Rose Garden that if state or city leaders refuse “to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents,” he will invoke the Insurrection Act, an 1807 law that allows a President to deploy the US military to suppress civil disorder.

The President, who faces a climbing death toll from the coronavirus pandemic and uncertain re-election prospects

in November, is now emphasizing law, order and a military response against American citizens, the officials told CNN further.

Defence Secretary Mark Esper reached out to Governors in several states in search of National Guard troops to help contain the security situation in Washington, DC, and while some offered support, Governors in Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware declined the request.

States cited the need to keep their Guards in the state, a discomfort that the Guards would report to Attorney General William Barr and not local authorities as well as with Trump’s call for force to be used in a “dominating” response to protestors, the officials told CNN.—ANI ■



A military police Humvee blocks the street in downtown as demonstrators protest during a protest over the death of George Floyd on June 1, 2020, in Washington D.C. JOSE LUIS MAGANA. PHOTO: AFP

Record virus deaths in Brazil, Mexico spur defence efforts

SAO PAULO — Brazil and Mexico reported record daily coronavirus death tolls as governments in Latin America battled to fortify defences against the accelerating pandemic with fresh lockdown orders and curfews.

European nations are emerging from months of devastation with some borders

re-opening, but South and Central America have become the new hotspots in a crisis that has claimed at least 385,000 lives worldwide.

Mexico on Wednesday announced more than 1,000 coronavirus deaths in a day for the first time, while Brazil reported a record 1,349 daily deaths.

Brazilian President Jair

Bolsonaro has staunchly opposed lockdowns but many local authorities have defied him and, with the crisis deepening, a vast section of Bahia state was on Wednesday placed under curfew.

There was more cause for concern in Chile, where the government said it was extending a three-week shutdown of the

capital Santiago after a new record for daily deaths.

And in more evidence of the scale of the crisis in Latin America, the journalists’ union in Peru said at least 20 reporters had died from the coronavirus.

The outbreak in Peru has been so intense that oxygen tanks needed in hospitals have become scarce, with many lin-

ing up to buy them for their loved ones.

“We haven’t found oxygen yet,” said Lady Savalla in the capital Lima.

“I’m worried about my mom more than anything else, because she’s going to need a lot of oxygen and the hospital doesn’t have enough.” —AFP ■

Myanmar football stars share work out experiences to their fans

MYANMAR national team football stars and Myanmar National League players shared their work out experiences to their football fans through video files on Myanmar National League social media page yesterday to let their fans know they are okay with their self-training.

Myanmar National Team keeper and captain and keeper of Yangon United, Kyaw Zin Htet said that he was doing his work out with his fitness trainers in the evening and he relied on his

self-training to have balance of his stamina and wellbeing to welcome the upcoming Myanmar National League season which will be held in the near future when the COVID-19 is well controlled.

Next, Myanmar National Team defender and defender of Shan United, David Htan said, "I spent with my family during my stay at home period and I did my self-training by looking on the self-training video files from YouTube. I also gave my

time to my kids during my stay home period.

Also Ayeyarwady United striker Than Htet Aung said, "Two months with no training is a real strange for us as we normally get about a month holiday at the end of Myanmar National League season." I tried to maintain my stamina and fitness to be Okayed during my stay home period. I did my self-workouts especially jogging and belly exercises, Than Htet Aung added.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Tottenham confirm only one tested positive in Premier League's latest checks

LONDON — The Premier League's restart bid received a boost on Wednesday (Jun 3) as it was revealed an unnamed person at Tottenham was the only positive test out of 1,197 in the latest round of coronavirus checks.

Tottenham confirmed the individual who tested positive is from the north London club, but did not say if it was a player or member of staff.

The person must now self-isolate for a period of seven days.

"We have been informed by the Premier League that we have received one positive test for COVID-19 following the latest round of testing at our training centre," Tottenham said in a statement.

"Due to medical confidentiality, the individual's name will not be disclosed.

"They are currently asymptomatic and will now self-isolate for seven days, in line with Premier League protocol, before undergoing further testing.

"We shall continue to strictly adhere to the Premier League's Return to Training protocol, which ensures our training centre remains a safe and virus-free working environment."—AFP ■

Tokyo weighs scaled-back Olympics, says governor



A woman wearing a facemask, amid concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, sits at a bus stop in front of a Tokyo 2020 Olympics advertisement. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO — Tokyo 2020 officials are looking at ways to scale back next year's postponed Olympics, the city's governor said Thursday, amid reports the opening ceremony could be streamlined and spectator numbers cut. Yuriko Koike told reporters that organizers were weighing up what could be "rationalized and simplified" as costs spiral for holding the first postponed Games in history. The International Olympic Committee announced in March the Games would be delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic that has killed hundreds of thousands and brought

international travel to a virtual halt. The Games are now due to open on July 23, 2021, but organizers face the unprecedented headache of rearranging the event, which requires a costly rejigging of everything from venues to transport. Local media said streamlining plans could involve cutting the number of spectators and reducing participation in the opening and closing ceremonies. The Yomiuri Shimbun daily quoted an unnamed source as saying that everyone including athletes, officials and spectators would be required to take a test for the virus.—AFP ■

Sports broadcasters face screen test in the age of COVID-19

LONDON — Sport has been forced behind closed doors for the foreseeable future, but experts are divided over whether broadcasters will suffer or prosper in the new landscape.

Some believe TV rights will either stagnate or decline in value; others think they will be driven up due to increased interest from tech companies such as Google and Amazon.

The sums in play are enormous. American broadcaster NBC's current deal to cover the Olympics until 2032 is worth US\$7.75 billion.

The English Premier League's most recent overseas TV rights package for 2019 to 2022 rose a reported 35 per cent in value to £4.2 billion (US\$5.25 billion) despite a fall in the value of the domestic rights.

European Broadcasting



Bundesliga side Moenchengladbach celebrate in front of cardboard cutouts of fans. **PHOTO: AFP**

Union executive director of sport Stefan Kuerten is un-

convinced that rights deals will continue to soar despite

potentially millions being added to viewing figures.

The 61-year-old will on Friday (Jun 5) step away after almost 20 years of negotiating global and European rights for events such as World Cups and Olympics on behalf of public service broadcasters.

"They (TV) will be in a strong position but will prices go up because of it? There I have doubts," he told AFP by phone from Switzerland.

He believes the virus will have an impact on the industry.

"Broadcasters have learned now these kinds of pandemics exist and could ask for new exit and security clauses in contracts like a force majeure (unexpected event) or unforeseeable event.

"The virus has placed a safety belt on sports broadcasters as to whether they increase the payment in case something else happens."—AFP ■