

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 17 August 2020

## Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects prospects for limestone mining, cement factory in Haka

CONTINUING his visit in Chin State yesterday, Vice President U Henry Van Thio went to the Viewpoint structure in Haka and observed the local development from the viewpoint, accompanied by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, deputy ministers and other officials.

From there, the Vice President and entourage travelled in a motorcade to Lay-Uwam (b) Village. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe then detailed about the search for minerals, conducting gauging tests and feasibility studies.

Next, a geologist from Brick Mountain Industrial Company Limited, U Thein Sint, explained the search for mining limestone in Lungrang Klang mountain in Haka's Bhone Zone area and constructing a 5000-ton cement factory.

U Ngun San Aung from MICEG (Chin Chapter) then reported on the completion



Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds the meeting with authorities, responsible personnel over possibility of limestone mining in Bhone Zone, Haka. PHOTO: MNA

of the Rhi Ber bridge construction. The Vice President responded that the nation is

currently importing cement to supply local demands that would be higher when the coun-

try's development projects take speed. He said the location for this cement factory is situated

between Chin State, Magway Region and Sagaing Region and **SEE PAGE-3**

### One new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 16 August, total figure reaches 375

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 375 after 1 new case was reported on 16 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 375 had no close contact with any positive patient. Out of the 375 confirmed cases, six died, 329 have recovered, 321 have been discharged from hospitals and 19 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 16 August 2020



Recovery Update on 16 August 2020 after two consecutive tests



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 16 August 2020



SEE PAGE-3

## HYUNDAI GOLD PROMOTION

<p><b>SDM</b> Shwe Daehan Motors</p> <p>The Premium SUV <b>TUCSON</b> POWER OF INNOVATION &amp; PREMIUM COMFORT</p> <p>◆ <b>GOLD</b> (1)tical - 4 pieces ◆ Engine Oil Free (2 times)</p>	<p><b>ACCENT</b> All you ever wanted</p> <p>◆ <b>GOLD</b> (1)tical - 1 piece ◆ Engine Oil Free (2 times)</p>	<p><b>ELANTRA i10</b> The grand new lingo</p> <p>◆ Fuel gift voucher - 5 lakhs ◆ Engine Oil Free (2 times)</p>	<p><b>HYUNDAI</b></p> <p><b>CRETA</b> THE PERFECT SUV</p> <p>◆ <b>GOLD</b> (1)tical - 2 pieces ◆ Engine Oil Free (2 times)</p>
<p>Limited Stock only Test drive at home <a href="http://www.facebook.com/hyundaimm">www.facebook.com/hyundaimm</a></p>			
<p>Yangon (Grand Sirius ; Ahlone) Yangon (Cherry MYKO ; S/Okkalapa) Yangon (Green Gate ; N/Okkalapa) Yangon (Silver Ocean ; Thingangyun)</p>	<p>(01) 522 723, 09 42 100 2051, 09 2500 100 10 09-77669995, 09-77663377 09-44144491-93 09-780807799, 09-443669999 09-400881003-4-5</p>	<p>A/S Center 01 522 724 Yangon (MMM ; Tarrmwe) Yangon (Myint Myat Maung ; Hlaing) Yangon (Myanmar Jade Crown ; E/Dagon) Yangon ( Zathapyin ; Thaketa) Yangon ( Power Five ; Bahan)</p>	<p>Mawlamying Naypyidaw Monywa Magway Taunggyi Mandalay</p>

All information and illustrations are based on data available at the time of publication and subject to change without notice.



# “People are the key”

## Union Minister Dr Than Myint meets farmers, SME owners in Bago Region

TO facilitate private sector development in Bago Region, the Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, visited some villages and met arable farmers and business owners on Saturday.

The Union Minister Dr Than Myint met Elephant Foot Yam farmers in Nantaw Village, Mone Khone Village-Tract in Bago on Saturday. The meeting was also attended by Bago Region Minister for Planning and Finance U Nyunt Shwe, a regional MP, the Department of Consumer Affairs Director General U Myint Lwin and other relevant officials. During the meeting, the Union Minister called on the farmers to grow more the export crop because it can generate large foreign income.



Union Minister Dr Than Myint delivers the speech at the public meeting in Nyaunglebin on 15 August 2020. PHOTO:MNA

Mone Khone Village Tract Administrator requested the Union Minister to consider a plan for repairing roads in

the area. The Union Minister replied that his ministry will collaborate with other relevant ministries for it.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and his entourage visited 11 acres of paddy field owned by U Maung Nge in the village-tract.

The Union Minister and his entourage also visited the iron casting business owned by Aye Mya Kyi Co., Ltd in Ywathit Village in Bago, and met iron casting business owners. The Union Minister urged them to exert efforts to expand the market. The owners told the Union Minister to facilitate their business in providing loans, and lands to build factories in industrial zones. The Union Minister said that his ministry will collaborate with other ministries for necessary arrangements.

Then, the Union Minister and his entourage met arable farmers in Baida Village in Pyuntaza. The farmers

requested the officials to increase basic reference price for paddy, to arrange efficient transport of watermelons, to examine and control quality of chemical fertilizers and pesticide, and to provide agricultural loans.

The Union Minister also visited ACT fruit business in Myoma Ward 3 in Nyaunglebin. In the evening of the day, the Union Minister and his entourage met business owners in Nyaunglebin Town. The business owners requested the officials to facilitate selling their agricultural machinery to farmers at reasonable prices. Then, the Union Minister met farmers in Tawwi Sanpya Village in Nyaunglebin.—MNA

*(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

## Over 150 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Singapore on 16 August

A total of 152 Myanmar nationals who were stranded in Singapore amid COVID-19 returned home yesterday.

Myanmar National Airways (MNA)’s relief flight carrying the Myanmar citizens from Singapore landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

Until now a total of 14 batches of Myanmar citizens were repatriated from Singapore by relief flight. —MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*



Myanmar citizens returned from Singapore queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 16 August 2020. PHOTO:MNA

### Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



**To shape the future with your vote, let's check the voters' lists.**



# 2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



**The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.**

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c).
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list.
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.

**2020**

**General Election**  
Sunday, 8 November 2020



## Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects prospects for limestone ...



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspecting the development of Haka from its viewpoint on 16 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

**FROM PAGE-1**

thus will have such direct effects as reducing transportation costs for supplying cement to them, allowing development projects to be carried out inexpensively, and creating job opportunities.

The Vice President said the 5000-tonnes cement production is only the first stage as the second stage will add in another 5000-tonnes produc-

tion facility that will ultimately produce 10,000 tonnes of cement daily, effectively fulfilling local demand and even possibly exporting it for foreign income.

Next, a local resident named Daw Htaung Peing talked about the local development and regional needs to which Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Ministers Dr Ye Myint Swe and U Khin Maung Win and the local min-

isters offered explanations.

Next, the Vice President met with local village officials at Bhone Zone village hall where a local resident asked about acquiring a Form-7 to abolish plots of land from forest status in protected public forest, building a bridge over Zahaw creek, providing humanitarian assistance to Khami ethnic people displaced by the armed conflicts in Paletwa, upgrading roads between

villages, and building a station hospital on the Haka-Gangaw Road. Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, State Ministers U Paung Lun Min Htan and U Shwe Htee Ouh, and Director-General Dr Soe Oo responded to the queries.

The Vice President also responded to the queries and explanations. He said there must be emphasis on issuing Form-7 to local residents which is important for them to

acquire loans but must comply with existing laws and regulations. He said while the Union Government wishes to fulfill all the regional development needs of its people, budget constraints leaves projects to be prioritized in order of necessity. He concluded by saying public participation is important for further overcoming all challenges.—MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

## One new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 16 August, total figure reaches 375

**FROM PAGE-1**

One new case of COVID-19 on 16 August 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
375	26	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	Sittway Township, People's Hospital	Positive	Keep under Investigation

*Ministry of Health and Sports*



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## Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye stresses importance of sports, music, reading for youth rehabilitation centres

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye visited Thanlyin Youth Training School (youth rehabilitation centre) in Yangon Region and Mawlamyine Youth Training School in Mon State, highlighting the importance of sports, music and reading for the training schools on 14 and 15 August respectively.

During his visit to Thanlyin Youth Training School and Mawlamyine Youth Training School, the headmasters and the teachers of the schools explained the matters related to the training schools.

The Union Minister said that a manual for the youth training schools should be written, and the manual should include detailed instructions and the roles and responsibilities of the teachers and other staff. He pointed out that the majority of the juvenile crimes are drug offences, theft and robbery. The main reasons for them committing those crimes are being an orphan, poor guidance, family problems, poverty and drug misuses, said the Union Minister. He also emphasized the importance of sports, music and reading for rehabilitation of



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye hears report on rehabilitation of young offenders at the youth training school in Thanlyin on 14 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

underage boys. The Union Minister said that the boys will know and understand the current affairs and situations by reading newspapers and journals.

He continued that young volunteers can participate in rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. He suggested that the youth training schools should invite the collaboration of young members of the Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee because the

schools do not have enough staff.

Similarly, the Deputy Minister U Soe Aung visited the Nget-Aw-San Youth Training School in Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region.

To look after children who need protection, and to rehabilitate juvenile offenders, the Department of Social Welfare is operating Thanlyin Youth Training School and Nget-Aw-

San Youth Training School in Yangon Region, Mandalay Youth Training School in Mandalay Region and Mawlamyine Youth Training School in Mon State.

Currently, Nget-Aw-San Youth Training School has 607 underage children, Thanlyin Youth Training School has 505 children and Mawlamyine Training School has 244 children.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

## 90% completed Tamu Highway Bus Terminal ready to open

THE construction of highway bus terminal in Tamu Town, Sagaing Region, which is a gateway to Myanmar-India cross-border trading, is 90 per cent finished. The operation will start in the coming open season, according to Tamu Private Motor Vehicles Management Committee.

"There is no highway bus terminal in Tamu. It is self-provided building in cooperation with the relevant organizations and the local people. The construction is 90 per cent completed. It can start operating once India puts the pandemic under control," said U Myo Min Tun, secretary of the Tamu Township Development Committee.

The highway bus terminal is constructed on 15.02 acres of lands near the roadside of Tamu-Nanphalon market. It includes two-storey buildings for a checkpoint, warehouses and food stalls.

"There are ten operators running highway air-conditioned bus for Tamu-Monywa,



The construction of Tamu Highway Bus Terminal is 90 per cent complete. PHOTO: CHINDWINTHAR

Tamu-Mandalay and Tamu-Yangon routes. And, 12 operators are proving service for cross-border transport. The terminal is situated not far from town, market and border checkpoint. As there are vacant land areas,

more buildings or gates can be built later," said U Ye Swe Win, chair of Private Motor Vehicles Management Committee.

This terminal project started in June 2018 under the approval of Sagaing Region

government and Township Development Committee and other relevant organizations to facilitate the trading and transport of the local people.—Chindwinthar

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



## Law and rules are not created in a fixed and rigid manner



In a country, law and rules are not created in a fixed and rigid manner. These could be changed according to the needs of the country; if we wanted to make changes, all points of view need to be considered; speaking from the economic point of view, everyone needed to cooperate to gain business confidence; it was necessary to create a good environment for business; speaking from the legal aspect, rule of law is very important for the country; that is why we place very high regard for rule of law; a country can be stable only if there is rule of law;

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions livestock and fisheries sector with stakeholders on 7 July 2020.)*

## MoALI provides assistance for farmers in Kawhmu, Kungyangon

UNION MINISTER for Agriculture, Livestock and irrigation Dr Aung Thu provided assistance for farmers in Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships in Yangon Region as he visited the monsoon paddy fields in the townships on Saturday.

At the briefing hall of Ma Gyi Tan Village's monsoon paddy field in Kawhmu Township, Director-General of Department of Agriculture Dr Ye Tint Tun reported the Union Minister providing CERP funds and technical assistance for monsoon paddy seed producers and assigning agriculture staff at the paddy seed production fields.

Director-General of Cooperative Department U Aung Thura detailed the works of cooperative groups. At the meeting with paddy seed producers in Kawhmu, local cooperative groups reported on their works, and Hluttaw representatives on the region's developmental requirements.

Upon the reports, the Union Minister said it is obvious that cooperative businesses have made great efforts during COVID-19.

They could stabilize the market by promoting cooperation among their offices in different



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu (L) presents CERP cash assistance to a farmer in Taw Kyaung Village, Kungyangon Township in Yangon Region on 15 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

regions and states for transporting agricultural products from one place to another. Agricultural production and cooperative businesses are inseparable, he added.

Cooperative syndicates, which are formed with farmers, can purchase and share agricultural machineries that are difficult to be bought by individual farmers.

Farmers in cooperative syndicates can not only receive cooperative loans but also obtain market benefits by collectively selling their products at wholesale markets. Collective efforts can result a success, he added.

He urged the farmers to form cooperative syndicates, saying that the ministry is helping the farmers to establish the cooper-

ative groups in accordance with the laws.

The Union Minister and party visited the rice seed production fields in Taw Kyaung Village in Kungyangon Township, and provided CERP funds to the farmers.

Under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), the ministry will grow a total of 1.19 million acres of monsoon paddy

in Yangon Region, including 383 acres in Kawhmu Township and 452 acres in Kungyangon Township. Of them, more than 900,000 acres were already planted.

The Union Minister provided fingerlings through CERP to farmers and also handed over VRFP funds for eight villages and Cash for Work funds for 10 villages to the village officials concerned at the mechanized farming camp in Kawhmu Township. The ministry will provide fingerlings for 67,328.19 acres of fish ponds in Yangon Region, including 3,562.17 acres in Kawhmu Township.

There are a total of 150,000 acres of fish ponds across the country, and the ministry will distribute the fish ponds fingerlings with the use of K 6 billion. An acre of the fish ponds will get K 40,000 worth of fingerlings.

The Union Minister and party visited the rice husk drying machine and No.2 Irrigation Channel in Kawhmu Township where Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (IWUMD)'s Director-General and officials detailed the irrigation works. — MNA

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

## 72 Myanmar nationals return home from China via Lashio

A total of 72 Myanmar nationals: 48 males and 24 females came back home from China through Myanmar-China border yesterday.

Local authorities in Lashio of Northern Shan State helped the returnees back from China through Muse, Laukkai in Kokang Self-administered Zone and Chinshwehaw border town by transporting them to the respective regions by

trains.

Among 72 people yesterday, 15 persons were from Sagaing Region, 31 from Magway Region, nine from Mandalay Region, one from Yangon Region, 10 from Rakhine State, three from Nay Pyi Taw and another three from Ayeyawady Region.

A total of 14,906 persons: 9215 males and 5691 females have returned to Myanmar

from China through border crossings since 6 May. — Nan Thanda Oo (State IPRD) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Officials from Lashio see off the returnees at the Lashio Railway Station in Lashio on 16 August 2020. PHOTO: NAN THANDA OO (STATE IPRD)





# SEZs rake in over \$116 mln investments as of July-end

FOREIGN investments of US\$116.557 million have flowed into the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the Special Economic Zone Law, as of July-end in the 2019-2020 financial year since October 2019, according to the figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Since its establishment, over 110 enterprises from 18 countries and four local businesses have ploughed in nearly \$2 billion as of July-end, 2020 in the zones, the investment source indicated.

While the manufacturing sector has absorbed the largest share of foreign investments, FDI has also flowed into the trading, other services, transport and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors. Japan has topped the list of foreign investors so far, accounting for over 34 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand. FDI has also flowed into the SEZs from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, Australia, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Panama, China, Brunei, Viet



Over 60 per cent of businesses in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone are domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Nam, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpuyu, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading to better infrastructure and successful businesses.

At present, more than 80 businesses are operating in the Thilawa SEZ. The SEZ has employed more than 12,000 permanent workers, including construction workers, according to the management committee.

More than 60 per cent of businesses in Thilawa is domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises. In comparison, 40 per cent are export-oriented manufacturers, according to a press statement issued by Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd in June 2019.

A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production in value is registered as a Free Zone investor. It is exempt from paying corporate tax for seven years from the time it starts com-

mercial operations. Companies such as logistics, which support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be listed as free zone companies. Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion zone companies, and they are eligible for a five-year holiday on corporate tax.

There are other tax incentives for the free zone and promotion zone investors on the importation of capital goods, raw materials and merchandise, and consigned products and vehicles.

Further details about the tax system are available on <http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm>. Myanmar has attracted nearly \$5.1 billion in foreign direct investments within the past ten months of the current budget year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises and ventures in the SEZs, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

— Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar ships nearly 100 tonnes of mango in 4 months

Myanmar exported nearly 100 tonnes of mango between April and July, and it will penetrate more foreign markets next year, said Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Mango Association.

Only 20 tonnes were sent to Singapore market during the a-year-ago period. This year, the export volume increased to 100 tonnes.

“Mango season has ended. Myanmar sees potential foreign market through maritime trade. That is why the trade bodies are exploring more markets,” she added.

Myanmar’s fruit exports to China were battered by market disruption and instability, causing the traders and growers to suffer losses. The demand by China is deficient amid the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, China’s market offers a lower price than last year’s rate.

Additionally, high-security measures in the light of COVID-19 in China’s border areas caused long queue, rendering quality loss to the fruits.

“Mango turns to Singapore market amid low demand by China. More exporters are eye-

ing Singapore market this year. Mango fetches a maximum of 130 Yuan per 16-kg basket this year, which drastically plunged from 160 Yuan registered last year,” said U Kyaw Soe Naing, secretary of Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association.

The exporters set the price depending on the quality and size of the mango. During the opening season of mango, the entry of mango (Seintalone variety) at early maturity stage harmed the market, U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association, told *the Global New Light of Myanmar* on 23 April.

The mango growers are urged to supply the quality mango to maintain the market reputation, he said.

Mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been instituting criteria for long-term organic farming.

Of about 200 mango varieties originated in Myanmar, Seintal-

one, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers Seintalone variety.

Typically, Myanmar’s mangoes are primarily shipped to China, and also to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan.

In the 2017-2018 financial year, Myanmar exported 50,000 tons of Seintalone mangoes to the foreign trade partners. The country intended to raise the export volume of Seintalone to 100,000 tonnes in 2020, according to online news released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the most extensive mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. There are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region, according to the association.

— Than Zaw Min, Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Tea shops, small restaurants to get access to nearly K60 bln loans

The Financial Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will provide K59.498 billion to the tea shops, and small restaurants hit hard by the COVID-19 impacts at an interest rate of 2 per cent per annum, according to the department’s announcement on 15 August.

They can seek for a loan through 44 microfinance companies in the respective regions and states, with nine in Kachin State, five in Kayah State, six in Kayin State, two in Chin State, 14 in Sagaing Region, five in Taninthayi Region, 21 in Bago Region, 13 in Magway, 10 in Mon State, five in Rakhine State, 18 in Yangon, 11 in Shan State and 12 in Ayeyawady Region.

The tea shops and small

restaurants can take out a loan from K3.5 to 10 million depending on their initial investments.

Those who want to apply for a loan are required to meet nine criteria. Those businesses with at least one year of operation, which temporarily shut down during the crisis, are eligible to apply for the loan. They must present the recommendations and verifications of the relevant municipal officials and administrators.

The loan aims to ease the economic burden faced by the virus-stricken businesses, and not to expand the business and put capital for businesses. Mainly, the government intends to help the business keep operations and the workers get the salary. The loan term is valid for one year.— GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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TOURIST SPOTS

## Rio reopens Christ the Redeemer, other sites after virus closure

MAJOR tourist sites in Rio de Janeiro, including the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue overlooking the Brazilian city, reopened to the public on Saturday after being closed for five months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“The reopening of the Christ (monument) symbolizes the reopening of Brazil to tourism,” Environment Minister Ricardo Salles said at a ceremony at the base of the statue.

Visitors will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing, and will not be allowed to lie on the ground -- as many do in attempting to get the best angle for photos at the feet of the huge Art Deco statue with its arms outstretched.

Located atop 710-meter-high (2,300-feet) Corcovado hill in the center of Rio in Tijuca national park, the monument offers a spectacular panoramic view of

the city and its environs.

Since social-distancing measures forced its closure in March, Christ the Redeemer has continued to function as a religious sanctuary, offering public masses and holding vigils to honor healthcare workers and victims of the pandemic.

Also reopening to the public on Saturday were the Pao de Acucar cable car, which offers its own panoramic view of the city, the AquaRio aquarium and the gigantic Rio Star, Latin America’s largest Ferris wheel, inaugurated only last year in the port area.

Brazil’s National Confederation of Goods, Services and Tourism (CNC) estimates that the country’s tourism sector has lost 154 billion reales (\$28.4 billion) over the last five months, operating at only 14 percent of its capacity.



Tourists wearing face masks against the coronavirus enjoy the view from the base of Rio de Janeiro’s iconic Christ the Redeemer statue on August 15, 2020 as the city reopened some tourist attractions closed months ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

The state of Rio de Janeiro, with 17 million inhabitants, has registered more than 14,500 deaths and nearly 190,000 cases of the novel coronavirus, according to official statistics.

The capital itself, which in June began a gradual economic reopening, has seen 33 deaths and 1,365 new cases in just the last 24 hours.

Brazil, with 106,500 deaths and 3.2 million cases to date, is the second hardest-hit country in the world, after the US.

With no certainty about when a vaccine might be available, Rio authorities have announced a new format for the year-end celebrations that traditionally bring millions of people to Copacabana beach for a huge

fireworks display.

This year, the authorities are working to organize a series of smaller celebrations around the city and are urging people to watch the events online.

Rio’s world-famous carnival, with its huge street parties, also risks being canceled by the pandemic.

**SOURCE: AFP**

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

## Slow motion recovery: cautious Hollywood edges back to work

WHEN veteran Hollywood actor Gregg Daniel was offered an audition for a new movie in Los Angeles, he nearly didn’t show up -- the pandemic was well under way, and “no one was shooting.”

“I almost hesitated even going to the audition,” said Daniel. “I’m African-American, I’m over 50 and disproportionately black people were dying of COVID-19... but the script was so good, and I’m an actor at heart.”

Fast-forward to today, and Daniel has completed boxing drama “7th & Union,” filmed in the streets of the eerily quiet California entertainment capital.

Thanks to relentless testing, on-set “COVID officers,” sanitation stations and enforced social distancing between takes, “everything went smoothly” and safely, said executive producer Jolene Rodriguez.

Yet it is one of just a handful of film productions to resume

in Hollywood since Governor Gavin Newsom gave the green light back in June.

Health fears, uncertainty and a second wave of coronavirus cases have meant few movie producers braving a return so far -- with some heading elsewhere or even overseas.

No US state has suffered more than California, which has so far recorded more than 610,000 coronavirus cases, including more than 11,000 deaths. “At one point we were like... ‘Do we hold off for the safety of people?’” said Rodriguez. “But it ended up where we were able to pull it off.”

- Cautious optimism -

Permits to film in Los Angeles remain stalled at one-third of usual numbers, according to nonprofit FilmLA -- and the vast majority of those are for making advertisements and reality television.

The main hold-up for movie studios is talks between employ-

ers and unions to agree on a new set of standard, industry-wide safety protocols.

“We’ve been working on it for many, many weeks... there are a lot of complicated issues,” said Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, chief operating officer of actors guild SAG-AFTRA, which has joined forces with Hollywood’s directors, technicians and Teamsters unions. Among discussions are daily testing for actors performing “the more dangerous work from a COVID perspective,” such as intimate sex or fight scenes.

Once negotiations are completed -- a deal is expected by next month -- the major problem of coronavirus insurance persists.

The cost of restarting a production only to shut down again due to an outbreak is so high that insurers are excluding COVID-related claims from new policies.

**SOURCE: AFP**

PHASE THREE  
VACCINE CLINICAL  
TRIALS

## Volunteers flock to vaccine trials in virus hotspot Florida

HEATHER Lieberman is betting that she will gain immunity from the coronavirus. Sandra Rodriguez wants to work with scientists for the good of the community.

Both have signed up for clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines in Florida, the new US epicenter of the global health crisis. “I want to be part of history. I want to help,” said Rodriguez, a 63-year-old teacher sitting in the offices of a clinical investigation center north of Miami, as nurses prepare to inject her. “I want to do a good thing and I know this is a good thing. So I’m all for it.”

So-called phase three vaccine clinical trials -- in which thousands of people take part in the final stages -- are gaining traction in the Sunshine State.

**SOURCE: AFP**



Warner Bros Studios in Burbank, California -- the industry is slowly getting back to work. **PHOTO © AFP/FILE**



# Supporting agriculture cooperatives helps farmers withstand test of COVID-19

AS THE COVID-19 pandemic has brought an impact on the country's economy, Myanmar's agriculture sector seem maintain the market thanks to robust performance of the regional cooperatives.

Agriculture on which over 70 per cent of the country's population is relying for livelihood requires special attention in the face of risks amidst COVID-19.

While the pandemic has hindered logistics and the trading of agricultural products from one area to another, regional cooperative syndicates joined together to work on helping local farmers and entrepreneurs sell their products. Their cooperative efforts have resulted in maintaining the stability of the agro product market, and it points out that the agricultural farming and cooperative sectors remain inseparable.

Similarly, a cooperative syndicate can grant agricultural loans to their members, and can also help them generate profits, as their products can be sold at wholesale markets, due to the cooperative system. This is evident that unity is strength.

Hence, local authorities are highly advised to help farmers form cooperative syndicates, in accordance with the law, to cope with the pandemic's headwinds.

Myanmar cooperative sector is being operated by 4.2 million of members and 39,929 cooperative syndicates providing financial support to the cooperative member farmers, the ability to buy the farming machineries by hire purchase system, promoting farming and assisting the farming services, producing the seed, supporting the input, and promoting the development of the cooperative in order to form the standard cooperative regions.

Meanwhile, under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is developing the agricultural cooperatives by spending US\$35 million from \$200 million of the loan from World Bank for the National Food and Agriculture System Project.

We are witnessing that the ministry is providing assistance to grain production and fish farming nationwide under the CERP.

Hence, we would like to urge cooperatives in regions and states to continue to their mobilization to provide relief to grain production, circulation, processing, storage, import and export and consumption, and offer good financial services to the animal husbandry industry in efforts to create job opportunities in rural areas as most migrant workers have returned to rural areas.

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High recovery and low-fatality outcomes due to proactive measures

# India is a constructive, dependable actor globally

Through the pandemic, it has not only met its domestic requirements but taken a range of steps for global good

By Harsh Vardhan Shringla

COVID-19 continues to exact a heavy toll worldwide. In India too, positive cases are rising. However, our effective domestic response has led to a significant improvement in our recovery rate, which is now 68.78%. The case fatality rate at 2.01% remains one of the lowest in the world.

High recovery and low-fatality outcomes can be attributed to proactive measures taken to deal with the outbreak from its early stages. We started screening Covid-19 cases a full 13 days before the first case was detected in India. We implemented full lockdown on the 55th day of the outbreak when we had only around 600 cases. Our public health response has been appreciated by the World Health Organization (WHO). The government took rapid steps to augment health infrastructure. As Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi noted, India now has over 11,000 Covid-19 facilities and 1.1 million isolation beds. We have ramped up testing to over half-a-million tests a day, to be scaled up to a million.

India's response has not been confined to meeting our domestic requirements. We have been significantly engaged with the international community in providing the leadership that the global situation demanded.

As a responsible stakeholder in global health supply chains, we ensured timely access to essential drugs and medical items for over 150 countries, while meeting our own domestic requirements. We reaffirmed our position as the first responder to humanitarian crises in the region by deploying medical teams to help Maldives, Mauritius, Comoros and Kuwait deal with the pandemic. India also dispatched naval assets to the Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles to deliver assistance. This demonstrated our strong commitment to the PM's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

From being a net importer of Covid-19-related medical items, we have emerged as a net exporter. Today, we are manufacturing over 500,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and over 300,000 N-95 masks every day. Our system has shown the necessary adaptability and agility to significantly ramp up production to go beyond our domestic requirements.

The repatriation of Indian nationals stranded abroad and the evacuation of foreigners from India to their home countries have been among the most successful aspects of our response. In the initial days, the ministry of external affairs had promptly set up a Covid cell and a 24x7 control room to assist Indian citizens abroad. The PM had also personally di-



Police officer wearing coronavirus-themed helmet stops family at a checkpoint in Chennai during lockdown. PHOTO: ARUN SANKAR/AFP/FILE

rected our heads of missions to extend all possible assistance to our nationals stranded abroad. Subsequently, the Vande Bharat mission, launched to repatriate our nationals stranded overseas, has been the largest exercise of its kind ever undertaken by the government and has demonstrated our capacity to effectively carry out complex humanitarian missions. Over one million Indians have returned under the Vande Bharat mission so far through flights, across land borders and on naval ships. We have been able to bring home Indian nationals from distant locations, and also facilitated the return of Bhutanese and Nepalese nationals stranded in third countries to their homes on Vande Bharat flights.

Rigorous screening of returnees by our diplomatic missions has ensured that the proportion of positive cases remains extremely small (less than 0.2%). Testing on arrival by the health ministry and state governments has helped detect these cases. The mission just doesn't end with the arrival of our nationals. We are also mapping their skills on arrival to link them with companies for job opportunities.

There has also been no let-up in our diplomatic outreach during the pandemic. We have initiated and been part of several important conversations globally. Our Neighborhood First policy was on full display when the PM hosted a video conference of the South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation (Saarc) leaders early in the crisis — our first such engagement on Covid-19. He announced a series of measures to deal with the pandemic, including the creation of a Covid-19 emergency fund with a commitment of \$10 million from India. We have also called for a better multilateral response to global crises in the future. The PM has, on several occasions, including in the G-20 and Non-aligned Movement virtual summits, proposed the reform of multilateral cooperation by bringing people to the centre of our efforts. Our own initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure are prime examples of this approach. The decision of the G-20 on debt

service suspension for developing countries, which India fully supported, reflects this people-centric approach. At the virtual Global Vaccine Summit, the PM highlighted how India's contribution to the global response in terms of sharing medicines was guided by our philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbkum. The PM also hosted the first virtual bilateral summit with Australia, which was followed by the India-European Union summit. In addition, the PM has spoken to his counterparts from 61 countries during this period. The external affairs minister has spoken to foreign ministers from 77 countries. We have kept open channels of virtual communication to strengthen partnerships and deal with situations that require diplomatic engagement.

We have been constantly adjusting, adapting and innovating to deal with the changed reality, particularly in our engagement with the world. And in the process, we have been successful in elevating India's profile as a constructive and dependable actor on the global stage.

### About the author

[Harsh Vardhan Shringla is Foreign Secretary, Government of India]

[The views expressed are personal]



PLUNGING DEMAND WILL LEAD THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY TO LOSE \$84.3 BILLION IN 2020



File photo taken April 2020 shows passenger planes at Haneda airport in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

# Air traffic will not return to pre-COVID-19 levels until 2024: IATA

GLOBAL air traffic will not return to levels before the coronavirus pandemic until 2024, an industry body said, a year later than its earlier projection due to a slower recovery this year.

The International Air Transportation Association now expects the number of global passengers to fall 55 percent in 2020, sharper than its April forecast of a 46 percent drop. "The slow speed of improvement is telling us that the recovery will take a year longer than we

previously expected," Alexandre de Juniac, director general of the IATA, said at a briefing late last month. The grimmer outlook reflects a cut in business trips by companies under financial pressure, weak consumer confidence in the face of concerns over their future employment and slow virus containment in the United States and some developing economies.

The latest expectation of a rebound to pre-pandemic levels "could slip further if we have set-

backs in containing the virus or finding a vaccine," the IATA chief said. Passenger traffic, measured in the total distance flown by passengers, tanked 86.5 percent in June from a year earlier following a plunge of 91.0 percent in May, as many countries imposed travel restrictions to curb the virus spread. Load factor, which measures how full planes are with passengers, stood at 57.6 percent, an all-time low for the month.

Plunging demand will lead the

airline industry to lose \$84.3 billion in 2020 with revenue forecast to drop 50 percent, according to the IATA, which represents some 290 airlines or 82 percent of global air traffic. Japan's two biggest airlines reported dismal earnings in their latest quarterly earnings. Japan Airlines Co. reported a net loss of 93.71 billion yen (\$879 million) for the April-June quarter; its largest loss on a quarterly basis since the April-June period in fiscal 2009.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 16 August 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and southeast Bay and strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16 August 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Shan and Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing and Bago regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (8 - 12) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (5-7) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 August 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 August 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 August 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

## Flood Warning (Issued at: 11:00 hrs MST on 16-8-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded about (2) inches above its danger level. It may continue to rise above the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Homalin Township to take precaution measure.

Global New Light of Myanmar contact information: circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com, management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com, marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com. Includes phone numbers and email addresses for circulation, contact, and advertising.



## VALUE-ADDED INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

## Chinese industrial economy's fundamentals remain sound despite COVID-19

THE sound fundamentals backing China's industrial economy has remained intact despite the impact of COVID-19, but efforts must be made to combat challenges and make up for the losses, a senior industrial official has said.

"China's industrial performance has improved month by month amid effective epidemic control and policy support," Xin Guobin, vice minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said in an interview with Xinhua.

Xin cited figures that China's value-added industrial output went up by 4.8 percent year on year in June, picking up from the 4.4-percent and 3.9-percent expansion in May and April, respectively.

He said the epidemic has boosted China's industrial upgrading and transformation, as well as the development of new products and new industries.

In the first half, the value-added output for high-tech manufacturing grew by 4.5 percent year on year, with the output of electronic components and integrated circuits up by 36.6 percent and 16.4 percent, respectively.

However, with the global pandemic continuing and market demand yet to recover, China still faces many uncertainties and instabilities, said Xin, calling for more efforts to improve the quality of market supplies to stimulate consumption. During the COVID-19 epidemic, China's manufacturing sector has withstood the "stress testing" from the virus, and helped ensure a steady global supply of medical supplies, as well as stable industrial and supply chains, said Xin.

He said China will next focus on increasing the stability and competitiveness of its industrial and supply chains, and improving the industrial foundations and the level of modernization for the industrial chains.

Meanwhile, China will push for the establishment of an emergency coordination and management mechanism for global industrial and supply chains to assist other countries to fight the virus and recover their economies, according to Xin.

As far as China's more than 30 million small- and medium-sized enterprises and 80 million individual businesses are concerned, he admitted that they are still troubled with challenges



A staff member works at an engineering machinery company in Kaiping District of Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province, Nov. 17, 2019. (XINHUA/YANG SHIYAO)

stemming from a lack of orders, declining profitability, and difficulties in collecting receivables.

Xin vowed that the government will work to ensure the implementation of supportive policies, improve the business environment, and strengthen services for small businesses to help them through difficulties.

China will also promote the construction of 5G networks in major cities while gradually expanding it to major towns and some rural areas where conditions permit, he said.

The country will support the application of 5G technologies in key sectors, including smart healthcare and smart grids, as

well as researches in the development of 6G technologies, Xin said.

China has seen rapid progress in the construction of 5G base stations, according to Xin. Some 88 million terminals have connected to the 5G networks in the country as of the end of last month.

SOURCE: AFP

## TESTING CAPACITY

## U.S. administration unable to meet testing capacity suggested by expert: testing coordinator

U.S. COVID-19 Testing Coordinator Brett Giroir said on Friday that the administration cannot meet the testing capacity that a public health expert believe is needed.

"Yes, we want to increase

testing," Giroir, member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, told CNN's The Lead program on Friday.

"There is no physical way to do 5 million tests per day in this country. If there's a way to

turn it from 1 million to 5 million today, let me know," he said.

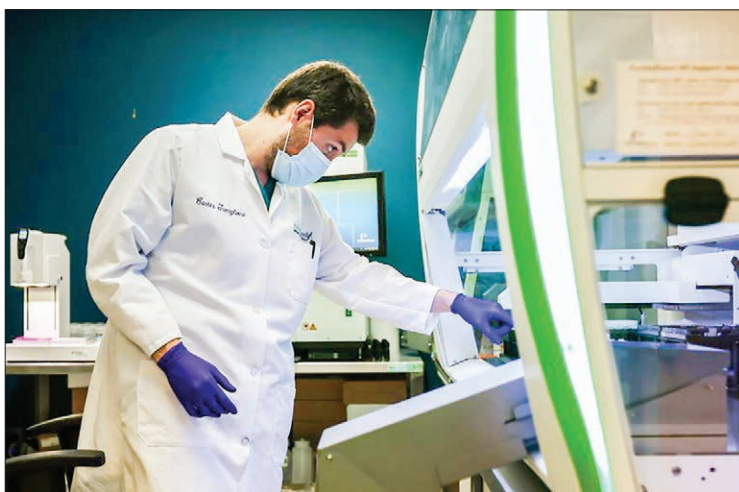
Giroir was responding to comments by Dr. Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, who told CNN earlier on Friday that the United States needs to conduct 4-5 million COVID-19 tests a day.

Testing such amount -- about 1.5 percent of the population -- "gives us a fighting chance at getting this virus under control," Jha said.

The United States has registered over 5.3 million COVID-19 cases as of 1 a.m. (0500 GMT) Sunday, according to the real-time tally maintained by Johns Hopkins University.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that out of the over 71 million tests reported, about 9 percent were positive.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Lab technician Carter Tavaglione loads a Janus G3 automated workstation with coronavirus test samples at Advagenix, a molecular diagnostics laboratory, on Aug. 5, 2020 in Rockville, Maryland.

PHOTO: AFP

## TRAVELLERS RUSH BACK TO UK

## Returning Brits begin quarantine

British travellers returning home from parts of Europe and beyond began having to quarantine on Saturday under new restrictions, while Russia said it has produced the first batch of its controversial coronavirus vaccine. British travellers returning home from parts of Europe and beyond began having to quarantine on Saturday under new restrictions, while Russia said it has produced the first batch of its controversial coronavirus vaccine.

The UK opted to remove France, the Netherlands, Malta and three other countries from its list of places exempt from self-isolation rules, as a second wave of virus infections threatens more disruption and economic chaos on the continent.

The move announced late Thursday sparked a 36-hour scramble for plane, train and

ferry tickets among some Britons desperate to get back before the 4 am (0300 GMT) change.

All arrivals from the black-listed states after the deadline must quarantine for 14 days, with the measure already in place for people coming from several other countries including Spain and Belgium.

French student Antoine, 23, cut short his holiday to rush back to Bristol, in southwestern England, where he is at university.

"I'm a waiter in a small cafe near college, I can't afford to spend 14 days in the house," he said at London's St Pancras railway station after arriving on a Eurostar train. France is facing a resurgence of the disease that emerged in China late last year and has so far infected over 21 million people globally and killed more than 760,000.

SOURCE: AFP



# Chinese startups flock to U.S. for IPOs this year: WSJ

NEW YORK — This year has seen many U.S. stock market listings by Chinese companies despite rising political, trade and regulatory tensions between the world's two largest economies, The Wall Street Journal reported.

According to the article titled "The Gold Standard: Why Chinese Startups Still Flock to the U.S. for IPOs" published Thursday on the newspaper, more than 20 Chinese companies have gone public on the Nasdaq Stock Market or New York Stock Exchange so far this year, raising 4 billion U.S. dollars in total, according to Dealogic data. Most specialize in high-tech industries such as software or electric vehicles. The sum already exceeds the 3.5 billion dollars in combined IPO proceeds that 25 Chinese companies raised in the U.S. over the course of 2019.

There is no doubt that people have an eye open to the risks



Invited guests of Phoenix Tree Holdings, a leading Chinese apartment rental service provider, pose for a group photo outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York, the United States, on Jan. 17, 2020.

PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

posed by geopolitical and regulatory uncertainty, but there has

been no change, no dampening of appetite or demand at this

stage, the article quoted Aaron Arth, head of the financing group

in Asia ex-Japan at Goldman Sachs Group, as saying.

For many companies in growth stages that need to continue raising funds, the U.S. remains the easiest market to raise capital, Arth said.

China is home to some of the fastest-growing startups in the world and the potential they offer is very attractive for global investors, said Mingming Huang, founding partner of Future Capital Discovery Fund, according to the article.

On Thursday, a Chinese online real-estate brokerage raised about 2.1 billion dollars in an NYSE listing. That will further boost this year's tally. The company, KE Holdings Inc., is known in the country as Beike Zhaofang and counts SoftBank Group Corp. among its high-profile backers. Its IPO is the largest in the U.S. by a Chinese company since 2018, the WSJ article said.—Xinhua ■

## Latest Thailand pro-democracy protest draws at least 10,000

BANGKOK — An anti-government protest in Thailand drew at least 10,000 people on Sunday, police said, the largest political demonstration the kingdom has seen in years as a pro-democracy movement gathers steam.

Student-led groups have held near-daily protests across the country for the past month to denounce Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha -- a former army chief who led a 2014 coup -- and his military-aligned administration.

By Sunday evening the protesters -- who are demanding major democratic reforms

-- had taken over the busy intersection around Bangkok's Democracy Monument, which was built to mark the 1932 revolution that ended royal absolutism.

Police closed off surrounding main roads to stop incoming traffic, and an official at Bangkok's Metropolitan Police Bureau told AFP the crowd size had grown to 10,000 by 6 pm (1100 GMT).

"Down with the dictatorship," the students chanted, many holding signs critical of the administration. Others held pigeon-shaped cutouts representing peace.

The gathering at Democracy Monument is the largest the kingdom has seen since Prayut staged a putsch in 2014.

Tensions have risen over the last two weeks with authorities arresting three activists. They were released on bail after being charged with sedition and violating coronavirus rules.

They were told not to repeat the alleged offences, but one of them -- prominent student leader Parit Chiwarak -- arrived at the protest venue on Sunday flanked by cheering supporters.

Partly inspired by the Hong Kong democracy movement, the protesters claim to be leaderless and have relied mostly on social media campaigns to draw support across the country.

"Give a deadline to dictatorship" and "let it end at our generation" were the top Twitter hashtags in Thailand on Sunday.

The protesters are demanding an overhaul of the government and a rewriting of the 2017 military-scripted constitution, which they believe skewed last year's election in favour of Prayut's military-aligned party.—AFP ■



Thousands gathered in Bangkok in a protest against Thailand's government. PHOTO: AFP

## Internet buzzwords added to Chinese dictionary

BEIJING — Chinese internet buzzwords, such as "QR code" and "thumb-up," have been added to the latest edition of Xinhua Dictionary.

Apart from the new words, the newly-launched 12th edition of the dictionary has also tracked on expanded definitions for old words.

The Xinhua Dictionary, published by China's Commercial Press, was once recognized as the "most popular dictionary"

and the "best-selling regularly updated book" by the Guinness World Records.

With a far-reaching influence in learning the Chinese language, the dictionary has sold more than 600 million copies globally since its first edition came out in the 1950s. It was the first dictionary written in Mandarin Chinese, as opposed to the Classical Chinese widely used before the May Fourth Movement in 1919.—Xinhua ■

## Philippine security forces 'alert' for reprisals after militant held

MANILA — Philippine security forces were on alert Saturday for possible reprisal attacks after arresting a key leader of an Islamic State-linked militant group accused of kidnapping and beheading several foreigners.

Abduljihad Susukan, a member of Abu Sayyaf, was detained in the southern city of Davao and flown to the capital Manila on Friday, where he was being held at the national police headquarters.

He has been charged with 23 murders, five kidnappings and six attempted murders, a police statement said.

Listed by the United States as a terrorist organisation, Abu

Sayyaf is a loose network of Islamic militants blamed for the country's worst terror attacks as well as kidnappings of foreign tourists and Christian missionaries.

"The Philippine National Police along with the Armed Forces of the Philippines remain alert and vigilant to prevent and respond to any reprisal attack," police spokesman Brigadier-General Bernard Banac told AFP.

The Philippine military said Susukan was behind the April 2016 beheadings of Canadian tourists Robert Hall and John Ridsdel, after Manila and Ottawa rejected the kidnappers' ransom demands.—AFP ■



# Trump grabs spotlight but reclusive Biden leads polls

WASHINGTON — Despite being gaffe-prone, getting up in years and barely heading out on the campaign trail, Democrat Joe Biden is leading in the polls as the coronavirus epidemic and economic crisis make the November presidential election a referendum on Donald Trump.

The COVID-19 outbreak has stripped Trump of his beloved campaign rallies but he has made the most of his White House pulpit to remain in the public eye.

The 77-year-old Biden, on the other hand, has held few campaign events, spending most of his time since mid-March at home in Wilmington, Delaware.

Biden's sparse public schedule has minimized the risks of his catching the virus while at the same time reducing his chances of making any faux pas.

And if the polls are any indication, the Democratic candidate's low-key style is paying off.



Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden with his running mate, California Senator Kamala Harris. **PHOTO: AFP**

The election website Real Clear Politics has Biden with a 7.7-point lead over Trump nationally.

Allan Lichtman, a history professor at American University, has correctly predicted the

results of every US presidential election since 1984, including Trump's upset 2016 victory.

His 2020 forecast? Biden, president Barack Obama's two-term vice president, will win the

November 3 vote.

"This has nothing to do with Joe Biden," Lichtman said in an interview with AFP. "It's not dependent on Donald Trump's personality either. It's based on

the record."

The professor bases his predictions on what he calls the 13 "Keys to the White House."

Among them: How strong is the US economy? Is there social unrest? Is the president an incumbent? Is the president charismatic? Is his opponent?

Of this last "key," Lichtman says "Biden doesn't fit that bill."

"He's a very empathetic, sincere man but he's not inspirational," he said.

## 'Failed presidency'

In late 2019, Lichtman had Trump in good shape to win re-election.

"What has happened since is he made the colossal mistake of thinking he can talk his way out of the crises that hit the country, the pandemic, the cries for social justice, the economic downturn," Lichtman said. "That doesn't work. And the result is a failed presidency."—AFP ■

## Belarus leader says Putin offers help as pressure builds

MINSK — Vladimir Putin has offered to help ensure Belarus's security, according to its president Alexander Lukashenko, as pressure builds on the strongman leader and opposition protesters prepare for a show of force Sunday.

Thousands demonstrated in the capital Minsk Saturday after main election challenger Svetlana Tikhonovskaya asked supporters to rally over the weekend and keep alive a movement that poses the biggest challenge to Lukashenko's hold over the

ex-Soviet country.

Many gathered at the spot where Alexander Taraikovsky, 34, died on Monday during protests against an election the opposition says was rigged to give Lukashenko another term in office.

Demonstrators heaped flowers at the spot and the crowd chanted "Thank you!" and raised victory signs. Police kept a low profile.

Many held up photographs of protesters beaten during the crackdown, while one man stood in his underwear revealing the purple bruises on his thighs, buttocks and back.

Later thousands protested outside the Belarusian state television centre, complaining that their broadcasts backed Lukashenko and gave a skewed picture of the protests.

Around 100 staff came out of the building to join the crowd,

and said they planned a strike on Monday. "Like everyone we are demanding free elections and the release of those detained at mass protests," said one employee, Andrei Yaroshevich.

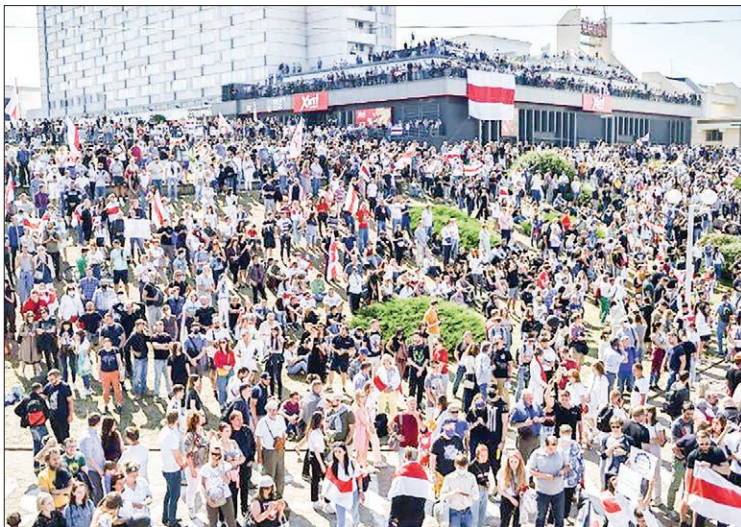
Riot police later arrived at the centre and blocked off the entrance to the building.

The opposition is planning a major show of force on Sunday with a "March for Freedom" through the streets of central Minsk.

## 'I'm really afraid'

Facing the biggest challenge to his rule since taking power in 1994, Lukashenko called in Moscow's help and spoke on the phone with Putin Saturday, after warning there was "a threat not only to Belarus".

He later told military chiefs that Putin had offered "comprehensive help" to "ensure the security of Belarus".—AFP ■



Belarus opposition supporters gathered near the Pushkinskaya metro station where Alexander Taraikovsky, a 34-year-old protester, died on August 10. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Irish tourism boss quits after taking a vacation in Italy

DUBLIN — Ireland's tourism chief resigned on Saturday for choosing to holiday in Italy after the government advised against foreign vacations.

Michael Cawley said he was stepping down as head of Failte Ireland, the country's tourism development agency, because he did not want his actions "to become a distraction".

Ireland's tourism minister Catherine Martin said she was "disappointed" by Cawley's decision to visit Italy and had accepted his resignation.

"He recognises that solidarity with the industry is extremely important at this time, and I have accepted his resignation this afternoon because I believe his position was untenable," she said in a statement.

With international visitor numbers hit by the pandemic, the Irish government has encouraged people to staycation this summer in a bid to boost an economy heavily reliant on tourism in many places.

The advice against non-essential travel was also aimed at stemming virus transmission inside the country, as coronavirus cases rise across Europe and around the world.—AFP ■

## Thousands of Canadian government accounts hacked

OTTAWA — Thousands of user accounts for online government services in Canada were recently hacked during cyber attacks, authorities said Saturday.

The attacks targeted the GCKey service, used by some 30 federal departments and Canada Revenue Agency accounts, the Treasury Board of

Canada Secretariat explained in a press release. The passwords and usernames of 9,041 GCKey account holders "were acquired fraudulently and used to try and access government services," the authorities said.

All affected accounts have been cancelled.

About 5,500 Canada Revenue

Agency accounts were targeted in this and another attack, the authorities said, adding that access to these accounts has been suspended to protect taxpayer information.

An investigation was launched by the government and the federal police to determine whether there were any breach-

es of privacy and whether information was obtained from these accounts, the authorities said.

According to the CBC, a number of Canadians have reported since the beginning of August that their banking information associated with their Canada Revenue Agency accounts has been altered.—AFP ■



# Israeli and UAE firms join forces in coronavirus research

ABU DHABI — Firms from the United Arab Emirates and Israel have signed an agreement to jointly develop research and studies on the novel coronavirus, the UAE's state WAM agency reported.

The business deal comes days after a surprise political agreement between the UAE and Israel to normalise relations, a historic shift which will make the Gulf state only the third Arab country to establish full diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

The UAE's APEX National Investment and Israel's TeraGroup signed the "strategic commercial agreement" late Saturday in Abu Dhabi, WAM said in a statement.

"We are delighted with this cooperation with Ter-



Representatives from the Emirati company APEX National Investment (R) and the Israeli TeraGroup sign an agreement to develop research on the novel coronavirus.

PHOTO: WAM/AFP

aGroup, which is considered the first business to inaugurate trade, economy and effective partnerships between the Emirati and Israeli business sectors," APEX chairman Khalifa

Yousef Khouri said.

APEX is an investment company with a particular focus on the health-care sector.

The deal would be "serving humanity by

strengthening research and studies on the novel coronavirus," Khouri added.

The two companies hope to develop a rapid test for coronavirus.—AFP ■

# First major cruise line set to depart Genoa for Mediterranean tour

GENOA — The first major cruise ship to set sail in the Mediterranean was poised to depart from Genoa on Sunday, as Italy's struggling travel industry hopes to regain ground after a bruising coronavirus hiatus.

The departure of the MSC Grandiosa from the northwestern port city at 1930 local time (1730 GMT) represents a high-stakes test for the global sector in the key Mediterranean market and beyond.

The international cruise industry has been battered not only by the ongoing health crisis which in March forced the

worldwide grounding of its ships, but accusations of a botched handling of the epidemic in its early stages.

Cruise lines are hoping that new, tighter protocols will allow them to control the still-lingering threat of coronavirus aboard its ships while still offering travellers a cruise experience that does not disappoint. The Grandiosa is part of the fleet of privately-owned MSC Cruises, founded in Naples but now based in Geneva. The ship will travel to the ports of Civitavecchia near Rome, Naples, Palermo and Valletta, Malta during the seven-day cruise.—AFP ■

# Bling no longer king in India as gold loses its shine

MUMBAI — Jewellers in the traditionally lucrative Indian gold market are struggling — even while the metal's value skyrockets — as coronavirus fears keep sales down, craftsmen at home and shops shuttered.

Months after India lifted its strict lockdown, the country's biggest gold market Zaveri Bazaar remains desolate, with most stores closed and no cus-

tomers in sight. "We have been running this shop for the last 40 years and I have never seen the business hit such lows," said 75-year-old Madhubhai Shah, one of only a handful of jewellers who decided to reopen.

The Mumbai market was hit hard by the March lockdown, which saw millions of migrant workers — including many gold craftsmen — flee India's cities as

their income dried up.

"Seventy percent of our artisans have left for their villages and manufacturing units are all closed," Shah told AFP. And with gold prices hitting record highs after soaring around 30 percent this year, there is little incentive for customers to splash out on jewellery. Even the impending wedding season, which traditionally kicks off

in October and sees families spend a small fortune, has failed to buoy spirits or boost spending as India braces for its first recession in four decades. Chiranjeevi Ahire and his fiancée decided to break with tradition for their December wedding by choosing not to buy any gold jewellery, even though it is considered auspicious and a status symbol.—AFP ■

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (688 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (688 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-8-2020** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
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Agent For:

**M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

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17 August 2020

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17 August 2020



# Visit to Calm & Clean Pasawng

By Thiha, the Traveller

**MY** trip to Kayah State ended in Pasawng. I returned from the town for various reasons despite wish to continue the trip. It is sure that a night I spent in Pasawng was an unforgettable date in my life.

lage was ablaze in 1971, people from the whole village moved to Pasawng Village. Then, it became town. People from the whole town can see beauty of Thanlwin River. It is a confluence of Pun River (Nampun River) and Thanlwin River.

### The town Pasawng

It is a really calm and quiet town. On arriving at the town, the road between Bawlakhe and Pasawng was under repairing. So, I took some hours to drive a short length of road. Some people said Pasawng derived from Pekasawng in Mon language but some told Pasawng meant the area of a large, steep stone plaque in Shan language. Some persons said as Khemaphyu Vil-

### Climate

The town is in high temperature in summer but very cold in cold season. Likewise, monsoon gives large rainfalls to the town. The best time to visit to the town is between cold season and spring.

### Visiting sites in Pasawng

There are lesser number of visiting sites in town and its environs. But, if you go far away, you



Entrance to Yadana Zanaung Pagoda.

may see many visiting sites. The travelling sites near the town are:

### Yadana Zanaung Pagoda

The magnificent pagoda takes a position on a hillock at the entrance to the town. New umbrella was hoisted in February 2020. From the hillock of the pagoda, visitors can view beauty of Thanlwin River while paying homage to the pagoda. The scene might be very beautiful in the evening. But, I felt very hot

when I arrived there near noon.

### Thanlwin Bridge

Thanlwin Bridge in Pasawng is a famous visiting site. Strolling along the bridge is a chance for travellers to enjoy scenic beauty of Thanlwin River. The bridge was commissioned into service in July 2015.

### Buddha image for praying

The hilly road from the junction of Thanlwin Bridge leads to Dekkhinarama Monastery



and Buddha image for praying. These edifices can be seen from the bridge.

### Confluence

Pun River confluence is the most favourite of youths and focal point of swimming where people from various areas of Kayah State come to. The confluence of Pun River and Htoo Creek is located not far from the entrance to the town. In open season, the area is crowded with restaurants and the people who take relaxation by fishing, taking a bath and swimming.

### Other visiting sites

If you have spare time, you



Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng).







Aerial view of Yadana Zanaung Pagoda and Pasawng.



The street stretching along the creek and meets with the river.

may go to other visiting sites such as Mawchi mine (by driving an hour passing Khemaphyu Village), Ayaungpyaung Hill, Tananlok Cave, Meisei (sharing border with Thailand), Natt Hill, Bawlakhe and surrounding areas.

**Lodging in Pasawng**

Despite lesser options, existing lodges give better services to the guests. I stayed at Yamin Thit motel. Two-storey building and rooms were convenient. Travellers can enjoy scene of Thanlwin River from the back

of motel. As one more choice, Hsaung Yeik Mon Lodge is located near the entrance to the town.

**Eateries in Pasawng**

Various kinds of foods are available at small restaurants. Most of the food shops sell goods meals for breakfast. Master-3 is the best for lunch and dinner.

**How can you go?**

I think travellers should pay better visits to Pasawng via Loikaw but directly visit there. If they wish to have idea to wonder around there, dial 09-907478282 of

Treasure Host Loikaw the tour agency.

Pasawng said goodbye to me in a calm and quiet position when I left there. I think when I visited Pasawng, I think it was time of lesser number of various sizes of vehicles. I was dissatisfied for losing chance of continuing one more trip to Meisei but I expected to pay the second trip to Pasawng.

May you always be safe and secure, healthy and happy on your trips.

*Translated by Than Tun Aung*

**Photos : Thiha Lu Lin, Ko Tun Lin Maung, Ah Khaw, Ma Htiike**



Yadana Zanaung Pagoda.



Yamin Thit Motel where I stayed.



## Hanthawady beats Chinland 5-2 in friendly match

HANTHAWADY United played a friendly game with Chinland FC at M3 artificial turf in Yangon yesterday amid the preparation for remaining matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020, which will restart on 22 August. The game was finished with a 5-2 win by Hanthawady.

Since all the football matches were postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, the friendly competition was a very first one of its kinds for Myanmar National League clubs.

The win for Hanthawady was mostly depended on the excellent play of its expatriate players along with local players.

Hanthawady's Lar Din Maw Yar, Yan Naing Aung, and Francis Emeka scored each goal for their team. At the same time, Aung Myo Thura made two goals to secure a big victory.

On the contrary, Shwe Win Tun and Thawng Lian Thang scored each consolation goal for Chinland FC.

The win has built the confidence of Hanthawady in dreaming for their restarting the Myanmar National League. Currently, all the Myanmar National League footballers are staying in their quarantine camps to prepare for the upcoming MNL football matches which will be held on 22 August.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Chinland FC players (black) vying for the ball with Hanthawady United player (red) during their friendly match played at M3 stadium in Yangon on 16 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

## Lyon stun Guardiola's Man City to reach Champions League semis



Lyon players celebrate after Moussa Dembele's second goal which sealed their 3-1 win over Manchester City in the Champions League quarter-finals in Lisbon on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

LISBON — Moussa Dembele came off the bench to score two late goals as Lyon caused another Champions League sensation on Saturday, dumping out Pep Guardiola's Manchester City with a 3-1 quarter-final win in Lisbon.

City had looked on course to come back and win the tie behind closed doors at the Estadio Jose Alvalade after Kevin De Bruyne's goal midway through the second half had cancelled out Maxwell Cornet's first-half opener.

However, Dembele put Lyon

back ahead in the 79th minute and then capitalised on a shocking miss by Raheem Sterling to clinch the victory three minutes from the end.

Against all expectations, a team who finished seventh in the curtailed French season, and had played just two competitive games since early March, now find themselves through to a Champions League semi-final on Wednesday against Bayern Munich.

That, surely, will be a step too far for Rudi Garcia's team but then again nobody expected

them to eliminate Juventus in the last round, never mind knock out City here.

"We are still in it, which means we have a great team," former Celtic striker Dembele told French television channel RMC Sport.

"We are taking it game by game, not getting carried away. We will try to be ready for Bayern." Guardiola's team had been warned about Lyon, losing at home and then drawing away against the French club in last season's Champions League.

—AFP ■

## Fernandes wants trophies to back up Cantona comparisons

COLOGNE — Bruno Fernandes wants Manchester United to learn from the pain of two semi-final defeats already this season to cap the Portuguese's transformational impact on the club by winning the Europa League.

United, who lost to Manchester City and Chelsea in the last four of the League Cup and FA Cup earlier in the campaign, face five-time winners Sevilla in the first semi-final on Sunday behind closed doors in Cologne.

Fernandes did not arrive at Old Trafford until after the League Cup exit to City in January and has made a massive difference to drag United into the Premier League top four and secure a place in the Champions League next season. The former Sporting Lisbon midfielder's impact has

earned comparisons to Eric Cantona, who led United to a first league title in 26 years after joining from Leeds in November 1992. "For me Cantona was an amazing player for the club. I need to do much, much better to be compared to him," said Fernandes. "For me coming to Manchester is about winning trophies. I will be happy if we win the Europa League."

"It is time to step up for big players. You have to have 100 percent focus. We have learnt it is very painful to lose a semi-final."

Fernandes has flourished where other big-money signings have floundered as United have failed to win a league title since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013 despite spending nearly £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) in transfer fees.—AFP ■



The signing of Bruno Fernandes has had a huge impact on Manchester United's season. **PHOTO: AFP**