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Monday, 7 September 2020

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects health, transport infrastructure in Chin State

VICE President U Henry Van Thio inspected healthcare and transport infrastructure in Rezwa, Chin State, on 5 September.

The vice president, together with Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bwe, deputy ministers and officials, left Matupi to Rezwa and inspected the construction of a two-storey ward for the Rezwa Station Hospital. The two-storey extended building with a operation theatre and delivery room is 95.6 ft long and 50 ft wide. The building is an iron-reinforced one and the whole project costs over 472 million kyats.

During the tour of inspection, Head of Chin State Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Aung Ngwe Zan reported on the progress of the project. Afterwards, the vice president and his entourage went to Lailinpi and held a meeting with the authorities concerned over implementation of an airport in the town.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects construction of extended building for the Rezwa Station Hospital on 5 September. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Election Commission

Notification 173/2020

4th Waning of Wagaung 1382 ME

(6 September 2020)

Announcement on rights to conduct political rallies and campaigns

1. The Union Election Commission has already issued Directive (1/2014) on 1 July 2014 on the conduct of political rallies and political campaigns, with respect to the rights of Hluttaw representative candidates of political parties and independent Hluttaw representative candidates, who have been officially approved as Hluttaw representative candidates by relevant election sub-commissions in accordance with relevant electoral laws and by-laws, after they have submitted their applications to compete in the respective constituencies of the respective Hluttaws, to ensure free and fair elections in accordance with the law.

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"People are the key"

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives UWSA delegation

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation from United Wa State Army (UWSA) at Aung Pyi Hein Avenue in Tachilek Station of Triangle Region Command on 5 September.

During the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech.

U Nyi Kat and members from UWSA expressed thanks for having provided medical supplies for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment two times. They also said that the region was speeding up preventive measures and monitoring and restricting movement, and they were working for the success of the peace process.

The Senior General donated 20,000 surgical masks, 300 suits of personal protective equipment (PPE), 1,000 N95 masks, 250 face shields, six 15-litre containers of sodium hypochloride, 1,000 sets of examination gloves, 150 bottles of hand gel, 150 bottles of hand sanitizer and foods and consumer

goods produced by the Tatmadaw-run factories through U Nyi Kat and members who presented back him local gifts. Afterwards, the Senior General attended the ceremony to present honorary cash awards to security forces for their effective anti-drug drive in Tachilek and health aids for COVID-19 at the Station Hall in Tachilek.

From 1 January to 31 August 2020, Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force confiscated 27.63 kilogrammes of heroin, 1.5 kilogrammes of raw opium, 35,694,196 stimulant tablets, 1,064.7 kilogrammes of ICE, 12.35 kilogrammes of Ketamine and 6,588.6 kilogrammes of other accessories related to narcotic drugs at a cost of more than K192.6 billion in Tachilek Township.

At the ceremony, the Senior General donated 20,000 surgical masks, 300 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE), 1,000 N-95 masks, 250 face shields, six containers of sodium hypochloride with each container contain-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives a delegation from United Wa State Army (UWSA) at Aung Pyi Hein Avenue in Tachilek Station of Triangle Region Command on 5 September. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

ing 15 litres, 1,000 examination gloves, 150 bottles of hand gel, 150 bottles of hand sanitizer, food, and consumer goods produced by Tatmadaw-run factories through Tachilek community elders U Tin Hlaing, U Kyi Myint and U Tun

Nay Oo.

Afterwards, he presented cash awards for Myanmar Police Force for accomplishments in confiscating drugs in Tachilek Township through Commander of Tachilek District Police Force

Police Lieutenant Colonel Ye Nang Aung, according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

170 Myanmar nationals fly back home from Jordan on 6 September

A total of 170 Myanmar citizens from Jordan – two who were working for Century Miracle Company and 168 for Camel and Vega Company– returned home yesterday.

Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s relief flight carrying the nationals from Jordan landed at the Yangon International Airport in the morning. At the

airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical checks 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, and yesterday is the fourth batch of repatriation from Jordan.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar brings 136 seamen back home

A chartered flight of MNA (Myanmar National Airlines) landed at Yangon International Airport on 5 September, bringing a total of 136 Myanmar seamen stranded in foreign countries via Incheon International Airport under the arrangement of Myanmar embassy in the Republic of Korea and Myanmar Seafarers' Employment Services Federation (MSESF).

Among them, 27 seamen were from Panama while four from Egypt, 24 from Brazil, nine each from Indonesia and Ghana, 11 from Turkey, one each from Malaysia and Mexico, five from Netherlands and 45 from South Korea.

The Ministry of Labour,

Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for a 21-day quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights per the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals queuing for their immigration processes at Yangon International Airport on 6 September, 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Elections are the foundation of democracy.

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects health, transport infrastructure ...

FROM PAGE-1

At the meeting, Deputy Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department U Kyaw Soe reported on facts about the airport, the situation and progress of the project, quarry for the project, tree plantation at the small airport.

After hearing the report, the vice president gave instruction on completion the project by meeting the set standard.

Lailinpi Airport is located in Lailinpi, in Chin State, 4,950 ft above sea level.

The runway of the project is 2,500 ft long and 50 ft wide.

The Flexible Pavement

can withstand about 5,7000 kilo of load and Caravan Cessna type of plan can land there upon completion of the project.

The project has completed about 75 per cent, and upon completion, it would benefit local people southern Chin State.

The project was funded by the Mission Aviation Fellow-

ship-MAF.

After the visit, the vice president and entourage went to Ramsi Village in the Matupi township and held a meeting with local people over regional development tasks.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Min-

ister U Tin Myint and Director-General Dr Soe Oo reported on implementation of the regional tasks.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party arrived Gangaw in the evening and stopped over there.—MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Announcement on rights to conduct political rallies and campaigns

FROM PAGE-1

2. Directive (1/2014) was amended by Directive (4/YaKaPa/KaMaYa) dated 25-6-2015, which specifies an electoral campaign period of 60 days until the day before the General Elections, and Directive (5/NaNgaYa-Supervision (8)/KaMaYa) dated 4-9-2015, which allows electoral campaigns to be started as soon as an electoral candidate or his/her election agent applies to the relevant sub-election commission for permission to rally.
3. The Union Election Commission on 26-5-2020 issued Directive (4/NaNgaYa-Supervision (22)/KaMaYa), which states that political parties are not permitted to hold meetings in religious premises and they need to adhere to the existing Political Parties Registration Law, by-laws and regulations in accordance with instructions of the Union Election Commission.

4. The Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates, formulated with the approval of the political parties, has already been amended and issued.
5. During the electoral campaigns, the campaigners need to follow the "Standard Operating Procedure -SOP" which will be issued for the prevention and control of COVID-19, and healthcare guidelines for specific periods of time and locations issued by relevant authorities.
6. Therefore, Hluttaw representative candidates and political parties who will be contesting in the General Elections on 8 November, 2020, must obey with due diligence the following instructions, Code of Conduct and guidelines to make the elections to be free, fair and peaceful and to control the spread of COVID-19.
 - (a) The Union Election Commission's Directive (1/2014) on electoral campaigning, and the

- directives amending Directive (1/2014), as well as the directive dated on 26-5-2020.
 - (b) The Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates.
 - (c) "Standard Operating Procedure -SOP" for prevention and control of COVID-19 with respect to the election.
 - (d) Healthcare regulations and guidelines for specific times and locations issued by relevant authorities.
7. It is hereby announced by the Union Election Commission hereby that the 60-day electoral campaign period for the General Elections on 8 November 2020 is from 6:00 am on 8-9-2020 to 12:00 am (midnight) on 6-11-2020.

(Hla Thein)
Chairperson

Union Election Commission

22 Myanmar nationals return home from China via Lashio

A total of 22 Myanmar nationals: 13 males and 9 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 22 people yesterday, four persons were from Sagaing Region, nine from Magway Region, four from Mandalay Region and another five from Bago Region respectively.

A total of 15,866 persons:

9,713 males and 6,153 females have returned to Myanmar from China through border crossings since 6 May. — Nan Thanda Oo (State IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Local authorities arranging the transportation for the returnees who are going back home via Lashio. **PHOTO: MNA**



VP U Henry Van Thio inspects development works in Chin State



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspecting the stadium of Sports and Physical Education Institute in Haka, Chin State on 6 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio inspected the construction of the Hmantaw-Hartar-Haka highway and the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Haka) while on his visit to Gangaw. He was accompanied by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, State Hluttaw Speaker U Zoe Bwe, deputy ministers, state ministers and other officials.

The Vice President arrived at milepost 62/2 of the Hmantaw-Hartar-Haka highway from Gangaw in the morning. Chin State Road Department Head U

San Lwin explained the paving of 34 feet of dirt road from mileposts 54/5 to 64/5. The highway is 66.7 miles long and will enable residents of Chin State, Magway Region and Sagaing Region to travel quicker among the region.

The Vice President and entourage then met with local elders in Hartar village, Haka Township. A local elder asked about opening the rural health centre and preschool, appointing teachers, and linking to a water supply. Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint and other officials responded to the questions.

The Vice President then visited the Daung Bar Bridge on the Hmantaw-Hartar-Haka highway where Chief Engineer U Myo Win explained the facts and construction progress of the bridge. The Vice President instructed that the highway should be ready to open on schedule, be up to safety standards, building embankment walls and concrete canals.

The Daung Bar Bridge is 250 feet long, 31 feet high, 30.5 feet wide, can bear an individual weight of 60 tonnes per vehicle and cost about K1,300 million in construction.

From there, the Vice President visited the sports and physical education institute in Haing Talan Ward, Haka, where the director of Sports and Physical Education Department for Chin State, U Than Aung, explained facts and construction progress of the institute, the costs covered by the Union and state budgets for 2020-2021FY.

The Vice President then instructed to have seasonal crops, agriculture and livestock processes conducted systematically for consumption at the institute and for selling to nearby regions, linking water from Lon Ngong

Bar creek for staff family members and trainees.

The sports institute is located a mile north of Haka in Haing Talanyat, Myo Haung Ward, and covers 56.94 acres. The cost of 28 construction processes related to the institute amounted to K6,631.180 million.

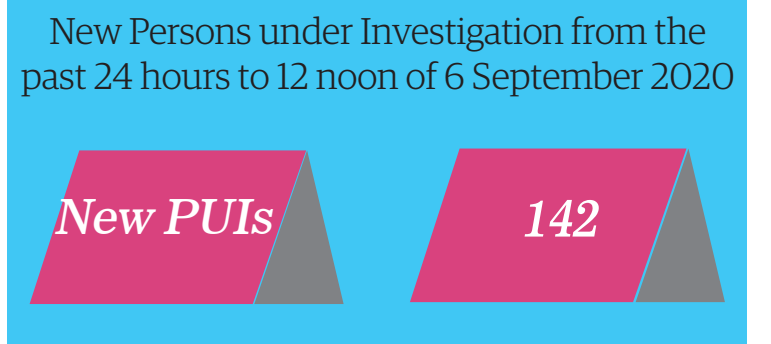
Next, the Vice President inspected the sports stadium, gym and staff quarters under construction and Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi inspected the construction of the archway for Haka University later in the evening. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

166 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 September, total figure rises to 1,419

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 1,419 after 166 new cases were reported on 6 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 1,419 confirmed cases, 8 died, 385 have recovered, 366 have been discharged from hospitals and 142 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 6 September 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting 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.





Union Spirit

No matter where an outbreak occurred, it concerned the whole Union; if there is a pain in any part of the country, it is a pain for the entire Union; that is the spirit in approaching COVID-related activities; there was no discrimination with regards to place; among those who returned from Thailand, the majority came back from Myawady; although it was in Kayin State, the people in Kayin State did not practise discrimination; all the people there provided cooperation as much as possible with the belief that these were their own people; she believed that this was because they all had Union spirit and that they were able to overcome this problem although they had concerns to a certain extent.

((Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with stakeholders for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in Rakhine State on 28 August 2020))

MoHS urges passengers coming from Rakhine to undergo COVID tests

Lists of passengers who took domestic flights to Yangon from Rakhine State after 10 August 2020 were published on the Myanma Alinn and Kyemon dailies with supplements on 30 and 31 August.

The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has requested the passengers to contact the local administrative and health authorities in regions and states as soon as possible.—MNA

Return of migrant workers continues via Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge



Local authorities checking the personal security of the Myanmar migrant workers in Myawady on 6 September, 2020. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

457 Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand — 306 men and 151 women — returned home through the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady Border yesterday amid COVID-19 crisis.

The returnees were welcomed by Kayin State MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Administrator U Tayza Aung, Deputy District Administrator U Aung Chan Nyein and other relevant

officials. The returnees were given medical examinations and had other necessary arrangements by the District/Township officials.

They have been sent to relevant quarantine centers.

A total of 74,870 Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand have returned home via the bridge since 1 May.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports Order 101/2020

4th Waning of Wagaung, 1382 ME
6th September 2020

The Ministry of Health and Sports is exercising Section 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law to issue this order:

1. Gatherings and election campaigns for the upcoming 2020 General Elections in November 2020 will need to be held in line with guidelines for preventing, containing and treatment of COVID-19.

2. The Ministry of Health and Sports adds the provision, "Gatherings and election campaign activities may have a maximum of 50 people, depending on the size of the site and its location, while conducted in line with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the 2020 General Elections" to Order 88/2020 issued on 12-8-2020 allowing public gatherings of a maximum of 30 people.

3. The following guidelines must be observed for organizing election gatherings and campaign activities:

- A distance of 6 feet must be maintained between each person.
- An area of 36 sq ft for each person must be considered in organizing space.
- The location must have good ventilation.
- The COVID-19 guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports must be closely followed.

*Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister*

COVID-19 Test Fees at MoHS laboratories in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has been testing people who come to Nay Pyi Taw for COVID-19 at its laboratories in the capital.

The laboratories are collecting testing fee of K200,000 per one at a time to Myanmar citizens and foreigners who will go abroad with relief flights and foreigners come to Myanmar who will undergo home quarantine, and K100,00 for the seamen who will go abroad (reagents for them were purchased by ship companies).

COVID-19 testing charges per one at a time at MoHS laboratories for those who come to Nay Pyi Taw from other regions and states are:

- Free of charge for government members, public service personnel and civil service personnel.
- K30,000 for Nay Pyi Taw residents.
- K50,000 for the residents of other regions and states in the country.
- K200,000 for UN staff and foreigners of INGOs.
- Free of charge for anyone who was invited by Union-level ministries.

Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bedded General Hospital and specialist hospitals are providing medical treatments as referral centres for the public residing near the place.

According to medical ethics and humanitarian perspective, the patients, who come to the hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw with the referral letters from the doctors at station hospitals are allowed to enter Nay Pyi Taw with two to three patient companions, and they are put in isolation wards of the hospitals, are tested for COVID-19 free of charge and are provided with required medical treatments.

Ministry of Health and Sports

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Two hornbills set free into Nat Ma Taung National Park

Wildlife conservationists releasing the two hornbills into Nat Ma Taung National Park in Kanpetlet, Chin State on 2 September, 2020. **PHOTO: KO LAIN (IPRD)**

TWO hornbills were released into Nat Ma Taung National Park, in Kanpetlet town, Mindat District, Chin State in the evening of 2 September as it is challenging to protect them due to extreme weather in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary.

Earlier, they were bred at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, and it is impossible to keep conserving them under the climate change. Therefore, the hornbills were sent to Nat Ma Taung National Park. They were set for release by the officials of Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division later into the Park.

When they were handed over to the Park, they were only three months old. They have been taken care of at Nat Ma Taung Conservation Camp over the three months. Then, they were released in the Park.

The hornbills are listed as endangered species under the Biodiversity and Conservation of Protected Area Law. Hunting of hornbills carries fine and imprisonment from three to 10 years, said U Sein Tun, an officer of the Nat Ma Taung National Park. — Ko Lain (IPRD)

(Translated by EMM)

Drilling success in Chin State's Htantalan benefits local people

A drilling in Htantalan, Chin State, struck water on Sunday, supplying drinking water to the town which has a population of over 10,000 people.

The water gushed out of the tubewell at the depth of 520 feet with a rate of 5,000 gallons of water per hour.

With the success of the drilling, the well becomes the 278th tubewell of the KBZ Bank which has been carrying out water supply project in water scarce areas.

More tubewells will be drilled with British-made Dando drilling machinery-1 in other parts of Chin State including Htantalan Technical High

School. Another success in drilling a tubewell was found at the Ministry of Health and Sports on 30 August in Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Township. The tubewell is providing drinking water to over 1,000 governmental employees at a rate of 1,500 gallons per hour.

Next water facility will be drilled with the same drilling machinery-2 in Aungban, Shan State.— Thura Lwin (Eco)

(Translated by TTN)

Water seen gushing out of the tubewell in Htantalan, Chin State on 6 September 2020. **PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)**



207 companies get one-year suspension due to failure of export earnings deposit into local accounts

A total of 207 export/import companies have been temporarily suspended their licences for one year (from 3 July 2020 to 2 July 2021) as they failed to deposit the foreign currency earned from exports in the local bank accounts, the Commerce Ministry notified on 2 September 2020.

According to the Foreign

Exchange Management Law, all the export earnings in foreign currency must be deposited back into local account within six months after the goods are loaded.

The Ministry of Commerce identified 453 companies which failed to deposit all the export earnings or some portion back

into accounts in 2017. So, the companies were asked to deposit back into accounts within 60 days after notification was issued.

They will get their licence revoked and face actions under the existing laws if they fail to comply with it, the MOC warned starting from 29 January 2020.

Only some companies have deposited the export earnings, and 207 companies have been identified by name for non-compliance with the law.

The MOC found 110 trading companies which failed to deposit export incomes in 2016. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

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

Power sector tops FDI line-up in Oct-July

FOREIGN direct investment of over US\$1.67 billion has flowed from eight enterprises into the power sector in the past ten months of the current financial year, the DICA (Directorate of Investment and Company Administration statistics) stated.

The quantum of investment in power is higher than in any other sectors.

Myanmar has fetched over \$5 billion inflows of FDI, including the expansion of capital and investments in the Special Economic Zones during the October-July period. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the investment committees of states and regions have al-

lowed 219 enterprises to invest in the country.

The manufacturing sector has absorbed FDI of \$875 million from 169 projects in 2019-2020 financial year, whereas the agricultural sector has attracted \$17.73 million from three projects. The livestock and fisheries sector has drawn five foreign investment projects worth \$138.48 million. Two projects worth \$300.454 million has been approved in the transport and communications sector. The hotels and tourism sector has pulled in an investment of \$43.184 million from five foreign enterprises.

The real estate sector has

also raked in \$895.8 million from six foreign projects, while industrial estate sector received \$273 million from two enterprises. Over \$405 million in FDI has been pumped into the other services sector from 19 businesses.

In the current FY, the MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion.

Both the foreign and domestic investment sectors are not affected by the COVID-19 negative impacts, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin, adding foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses, including garment enterprises.

Of the investment propos-

als, the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses are prioritized by the commission.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is planning to accept investment projects in manufacturing masks, pharmaceuticals and others, which can contribute to the fight against the Covid-19 in the country at the soonest.

In the 2018-2019FY, FDI into Myanmar totalled \$4.5 billion, falling short of the \$5.8-billion target by around \$1.3 billion.

Foreign direct investment into Myanmar has registered at \$1.76 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period, \$5.7 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$6.6 billion in

the 2016-2017FY, and \$9.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY.

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

“The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) has been drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and it is now under implementation. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to reach an FDI target of \$200 billion in forthcoming 20 years,” said Union Minister U Thuang Tun. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Individual trades through border exceed K34 bln as of July-end

TRADE conducted by Individual Trading Card (ITC) holders touched K37.8 billion through the borders in the ten months of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Trade Department issued 61 cards in October-July period, and the cardholders conducted trade worth K37.8 billion. While imports exceeded K35.23 billion, exports were valued at just K2.6 billion.

The Myawady border recorded the highest trade value at K24.7 billion in the current FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. But, the figure only reflects imports as individual trading cardholders did not export goods through the Myawady border.

The value of trade carried out by individual cardholders stood at K369 million at Tamu, over K10 million at Muse, K173.5 million at Tachilek, K39 million at Lweje, K488 million at Kampaiti, K1.8 billion at Kawthoung, K680.96 million at Reed, K5.9 billion at Mawtaung, K3.4 billion at Hteekhee, and K172 million at Kengtung, as

per data from the Commerce Ministry.

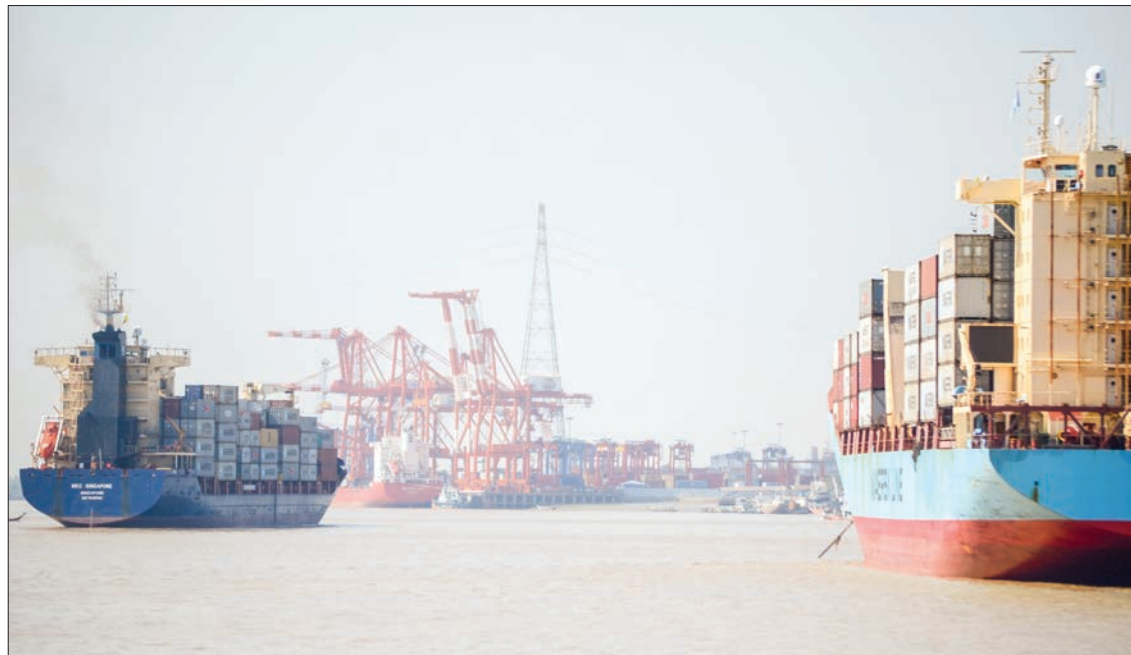
Individual trades topped K737 million in the period from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013, exceeded K6.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY, crossed 9.3 billion in the 2014-2015FY, stood at over K6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, rose above K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY, touched K45.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, K22.5 billion during the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), and K59 billion in the 2018-2019FY.

Trading with the use of ITC is based on local currency. Hundreds of exports and imports items have been allowed for individual trading at the border crossings.

The trade department has issued 1,748 cards so far with the aim of boosting trade. People in business can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has permitted the exchange of up to K15 million per day over five days. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Imports up \$1.16 bln as of 21 August, MOC reports



Consumer products including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil are mostly imported in Myanmar.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 October and 21 August in the current financial year 2019-2020 stood at US\$17.27 billion, an increase of \$1.16 billion from \$16 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of imports in the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses groups rose significantly in the current financial year.

Nearly 11 months of the current FY, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts, were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$6.5 billion. The figure was \$1.49 billion higher compared to the

same period in the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth \$3 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed an increase of \$1.34 million compared with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up a large share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. This year, imports of raw materials plunged to \$5.7 billion from \$6 billion registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth \$1.95 billion were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment

sector, showing a decrease of \$147 million compared with last fiscal year.

At present, the CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is facing hardship because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the COVID-19. Therefore, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses have been dropping.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Ensuring no spread of infection during electoral campaigning

AS the coming general elections will be held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the electoral processes need to be in consistent with the health guidelines.

With the November-8 general elections drawing near, the Ministry of Health and Sports has released new rules on election campaigning during COVID-19 pandemic, allowing not-more-than 50 people per group for a campaign talks.

Meanwhile, other electoral activities must take place in consistent with COVID-19 health guidelines, with candidates and the people in masks, minimizing physical contact with at least six-feet social distancing.

There are differences between the 2015 and 2020 general elections.

Unusual arrangements would be made in coming general elections, with special plastic-tented polling stations set up for voters in quarantine, hand washing facilities, voters in line with social distancing, polling stations with enough space for social distancing and good ventilation.

We are confident that all political parties and individuals are committed to not breaching the COVID-19 rules because we all want to ensure that the public can feel safe and confident when the opportunity arises for them to cast their vote.

Besides, officials are urged to consider a long list of potential problems during the electoral processes including election day to guarantee the voters with safety from coronavirus infection.

At the same time, the election officials and the members of the public are urged to continue to monitor the developing situation closely and follow the guidance of local health authorities.

Avoiding big gatherings is a mandatory to slow the spread of coronavirus during the election campaigns because our country is facing a rapidly moving pandemic, and any death, any case, is tragic.

We all have a responsibility to do everything we can to prevent the spread of the virus.

The country's people are urged to follow the guidance of Ministry of Health and Sports, including wearing a face mask in circumstances where social distancing is not possible, washing hands frequently and avoiding crowds to ensure that we can stop this rising number of positive cases.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, all parties are planning for the November-8 general elections and candidates will likely be going in to electoral campaigning differently to normal.

We are confident that all political parties and individuals are committed to not breaching the COVID-19 rules because we all want to ensure that the public can feel safe and confident when the opportunity arises for them to cast their vote.

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SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

Leveraging innovation, partnership to shore up food security in Asia and the Pacific

TRANSFORMING food systems in Asia and the Pacific to make them more sustainable, resilient and productive, is vital for countries to rebound from the impact of COVID-19 and address chronic undernourishment, a UN regional forum on food security has heard. Gathered virtually at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s thirty-fifth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector highlighted the importance of innovation, solidarity, coherence and partnerships among and within countries.

Big data, digital economy and mobile technology will help producers achieve such transformations, Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General said on Friday, the Conference's final day.

For instance, a smartphone in the hands of a smallholder farmer is a "new farming tool", he added.

"Leveraging data, innovation and technology has shown that, here in Asia and the Pacific, we have brilliant minds, scientists and an entrepreneurial spirit that will lead us through the challenges presented by COVID-19 and help



A tea grower walks through a tea garden in Viet Nam where sustainable farming techniques are used to prevent land degradation. PHOTO: UNEP/LISA MURRAY

us conquer malnutrition and poverty," said Mr. Qu.

Agricultural innovation can also reduce back-breaking drudgery, and regional food chains can benefit from innovations such as drones, satellite imagery, big data and block chains, the Conference heard.

The Regional Conferences, held every two years, are a platform for ministers of agriculture

and senior officials, NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders in the field to explore joint and coherent solutions to shared challenges confronting food security and agriculture. The 2020 Regional Conference was held from 1 to 4 September.

COVID-upended efforts to fight hunger

According to FAO, the

Asia-Pacific region – the planet's most populous – is also home to over half of the world's undernourished people, and the number is feared to rise, with the impact of COVID-19. In southern Asia alone, the figure could rise by a third, to some 330 million in the next decade.

Conference Chair Yeshey Penjor, Minister for Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan, reiterated

the need to strengthen collaboration to deal with the challenges.

"We must prepare for higher risks ahead of us and make sure that there is sustainability in the food supply chain," he said.

Working 'Hand in Hand'

New solutions, such as the FAO's Hand in Hand Initiative, which "matches" stakeholders, bringing the right partners together at the right time, can help.

According to FAO, some 44 countries with limited capacity or hit by crisis have been invited to join the Initiative as beneficiaries, 80 as contributors, and some 20 have expressed interest to join as both.

The rollout of the Initiative coincided with the onset of COVID-19 and the urgent need to deal with its complex impacts on agri-food systems, said FAO, adding that the Initiative is helping support evidence-based efforts to prevent breakdown of and address emerging threats to food systems.

"The HIH approach to analysis and partnership-building has proven to be a useful model for coordinating integrated rapid response to COVID-19 impacts on food systems, particularly at the local or territorial level," it added.

FAO Director-General Qu also said that while the COVID-19 has hit countries and societies, innovations are bringing people closer together.

"So while we are separated by some 11 time zones, we have still managed to come together, have thought-provoking discussions and reach consensus on a number of important issues," he concluded.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

A FAST-DEVELOPING ARENA

Nobel Prize-winning economist urges global cooperation in digital trade

NOBEL Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz on Saturday urged the avoidance and zero-sum thinking and nationalistic mentalities so that all countries can reap the benefits of digital trade.

Stiglitz made the remarks via video-link while addressing a forum held on the sidelines of the ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), underlining the need to strengthen global cooperation and multi-lateralism.

"The real obstacles to digital trade will come from more and more man-made barriers, such as tax system defects, digital giant monopoly, and information

abuse," Stiglitz said.

Although the share of information and communication, digital trade, artificial intelligence and e-commerce in each economy is small, it is growing rapidly, according to Stiglitz. China accounts for more than 40 per cent of global e-commerce.

Stiglitz said the current e-commerce market is highly concentrated, and market leaders in different regions are different. For example, in the Asia-Pacific region, Alibaba's e-commerce sales account for 32 per cent, while Amazon only has 4 per cent.

Noting that digital trade is a fast-developing arena, he called for the establishment of international standards to prevent the

development of different systems for digital trade in different parts of the world, which would prevent its full benefits from being realized.

"In terms of taxation, digital trade is taking away the source of income that many countries need, such as sales taxes. The problem is particularly serious because it is believed that the digital giants are not paying the taxes they should pay," Stiglitz said.

He believes that this has exposed potential problems in the international tax system, and international efforts to resolve related conflicts have reached a deadlock. "For example, the U.S. has always interpreted the attempt to establish a fair global

tax system as unfair," he added.

"Unless we do something about international taxation, the risk is that countries will be deprived of badly needed revenues, and unless we do something about competition, the risk is that the digital monopolies will undermine the basis of competitive economy," Stiglitz said.

Regarding the monopoly of giants, Stiglitz believes that digital platforms have huge market power, and the giants use these platforms to obtain huge income for themselves, and they will hinder fair competition and establish barriers to entry.

He said to achieve successful international cooperation, it is necessary to increase trans-



Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz on Saturday urged the avoidance of zero-sum thinking and nationalistic mentalities so that all countries can reap the benefits of digital trade. PHOTO: XINHUA

parency "in the platforms, their algorithms, and in the process of formulating relevant rules."

Themed "Global Services, Shared Prosperity," the CIFTIS runs from September 4 to 9 and has attracted about 100,000 attendees, with 18,000 enterprises and institutions from 148 countries and regions taking part.

Mr. Joseph Stiglitz
Mr. Joseph Eugene Stiglitz is an American economist, public policy analyst, and a professor at Columbia University. He is a recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences and the John Bates Clark Medal.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 6th August, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 7 September 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 September 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 September 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 September 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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TAKING GREATER STEPS TO TACKLE NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

COVID-19 impact on treatment for chronic illness revealed

THE COVID-19 health crisis has caused massive disruption worldwide in diagnosing and treating people with deadly but preventable diseases, including more than one in two cancer patients, UN health experts said on Friday.

In a call to Governments everywhere to take greater steps to tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the World Health Organization (WHO) said that the pandemic has exposed the fact too little has been achieved, even though these illnesses account for seven in 10 deaths worldwide.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said the coronavirus had “preyed on people” with NCDs, and that the risk factors they face “are increasing vulnerability to COVID-19, infection, and the likelihood of worse outcomes, including in younger people.”

The four most common NCDs are cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases; together, they contribute to more than 40 million deaths a year, said Dr. Bente Mikkelsen, Director, WHO



A pharmacist of the inpatient department of Zhuji People's Hospital adds medicine into an automatic medicine packing machine in Zhuji, east China's Zhejiang Province, Aug. 8, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Division of Noncommunicable Diseases.

“The most recent study shows that there is a disruption in healthcare services including NCD diagnosis and treatments in 69 percent of cases”, she said. “In cancer, there are the highest numbers, with 55 percent of peo-

ple living with cancer (having) their health services disrupted.”

Dr. Mikkelsen noted that those living with one or more NCDs were among the most likely to become severely ill and die from the new coronavirus.

Studies from several countries had indicated this, she said,

highlighting how data on indigenous communities in Mexico, showed that diabetes was the most commonly found disease among COVID-19 fatalities.

Research also found that in Italy, of those who succumbed to COVID-19 in hospital, 67 percent suffered from hypertension and

31 percent had type 2 diabetes.

Worryingly, the WHO medic also noted that another study had indicated that the world is not on track to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) pledges on NCDs by 2030 — namely to reduce by a third the number dying before they reach 70 years of age.

Only 17 countries are set to achieve these targets for women and only 15 were on course to do the same for men, Dr. Mikkelsen said, noting that premature mortality for diabetes was now “going in the wrong direction”.

Over the last 20 years, some 200 million men and women have died prematurely, according to WHO, which has a series of NCD “best buy” recommendations for all countries to implement.

The need to take action is urgent, the UN health agency believes, as, in the next decade, another 150 million people will die from NCDs.

Developing countries will experience the heaviest burden, with the chances of dying from an NCD being three times higher in Fiji and Mongolia, than in Norway or Japan.

SOURCE: UN News

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

NY Philharmonic is back, pandemic-style — playing in the streets

ITS fall season has been cancelled and its concert hall closed indefinitely, so New York's Philharmonic is taking it to the streets.

One of America's oldest musical institutions, the famed symphony orchestra is playing outdoor pop-up shows, getting creative during the coronavirus pandemic that has kept concert halls closed and New Yorkers starved for live music.

Each weekend, small ensembles play at surprise locations throughout the city, wearing T-shirts and masks in front of a pickup truck dubbed the “bandwagon.”

Sometimes musicians get rained on or people just walk on by -- but sometimes a nearby delivery truck honks along in exactly the right key.

In those moments, says opera singer and series producer Anthony Roth Costanzo, “it feels like the city is our orchestra and we're the soloists.”

“In this moment of pandemic, in this moment of social change, we're exploring new ways together... to connect to people and to realize that we have to reinvent the concert-going ritual,” the countertenor told AFP after performing a set in

Brooklyn's Betty Carter Park, a small leafy urban oasis above a subway track.

“It's not just about bringing people into our house. It's about getting our house out in the world, and sharing what music can do.”

On a balmy Friday evening, Roth Costanzo and a string duet -- Quan Ge on violin and Cong Wu on viola -- drew a socially distanced crowd to their show that began with Mozart's Allegro in G Major and wrapped with the classic New York ballad “Somewhere” from “West Side Story.”

SOURCE: AFP



Countertenor and producer Anthony Roth Costanzo performs as part of the New York Philharmonic's new pop-up series. PHOTO: AFP

HEALTH CRISIS MANAGEMENT

After early virus success, Israel heads for partial lockdown

ONCE a role model in the fight against Covid-19, Israel is set to lock down several cities to slow the fast-spreading contagion as the government faces harsh criticism over the crisis.

Israel passed the milestone

of 1,000 novel coronavirus deaths this weekend after the toll tripled over the summer, fuelling regular protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's management of the health crisis and associated economic down-

turn.

The dead were commemorated by Yediot Aharonot, Israel's top-selling daily newspaper, which covered its front page with the names of the pandemic victims and called out the “shame-

ful failure of the management of the crisis since May”.

According to data collected by AFP, the Jewish state has risen to be ranked fifth in the world for number of infections per capita over the past two weeks,

ahead of hard-hit countries Brazil and the United States.

On Wednesday, the country with a population of under nine million confirmed a record 3,141 new infections in a single day.

SOURCE: AFP

Brunei among top 50 safest places during COVID-19: report

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Brunei ranks among the top 50 safest places globally to live during the COVID-19 pandemic, a global research report said.

According to local daily the Borneo Bulletin on Sunday, the study by Deep Knowledge Group, a consortium of companies and non-profits owned by Deep Knowledge Ventures, a Hong Kong-based investment firm, indicated that the Brunei authorities' whole-of-nation approach, strong leader, a very committed population and the involvement of everyone managed to curb the COVID-19 spread.

The report said the study was made out of 250 nations and territories in a survey that looked into quarantine efficiency, monitoring and detection as well



This file photo shows Brunei's national flags flown along a street in Bandar Seri Begawan. PHOTO: AFP

as emergency preparedness.

Brunei reported no new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday with

the national tally of cases standing at 145. The total number of recovered cases remains at 139.

There are three active cases and three deaths that resulted from COVID-19 in Brunei.—Xinhua ■

Pakistan celebrates 55th Defence Day amid tensions with India

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan celebrated the country's 55th Defence Day on Sunday to pay homage to the soldiers and civilians who lost their lives in the war with India in 1965.

The defence day was cele-

brated amid escalating tensions between Pakistan and India over the latter's decision to revoke the Indian-controlled Kashmir's special status in August last year.

The day dawned with 31-

gun salute in the federal capital Islamabad and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals, while special prayers were offered for the soldiers and civilians in the war.

On the occasion, Pakistani President Arif Alvi issued a message, saying that Pakistan has achieved self-reliance in the defence field and the armed forces are playing an active role in internal security as well as nation building while safeguarding the frontiers.

"We have thwarted external aggression. We have successfully defeated terrorism and extremism, and now we are on the path towards economic prosperity. Lastly, I would once again pay homage to our great heroes who sacrificed their lives for the motherland," the president said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in his separate message said Pakistan is for peace but this must not be miscon-

strued as the country's weakness.

"The world understands that our desire for peace is for economic wellbeing and prosperity of the people of this region," Khan said.

The Pakistani leaders mentioned India's decision to revoke the Indian-controlled Kashmir's special status last year and said that the move of India has violated the United Nations Charter.

The Leader of the Opposition in Pakistan's National Assembly or the lower house of the parliament Shahbaz Sharif said in his message that freedom is a precious asset that can be defended by building unity and working together in the pursuit of national objectives.

The main ceremony in connection with the Defence Day was held at the General Headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.—Xinhua ■



Pakistan Air Force cadets take part in a ceremony at the mausoleum of the country's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah to mark the country's Defense Day in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on Sept. 6, 2020.. PHOTO: (STR/XINHUA)

Hong Kong activist arrested for 'seditious words' before rally

HONG KONG — An opposition activist was arrested in Hong Kong on Sunday by a new police squad for "uttering seditious words", hours before a rally against a controversial security law.

The arrest of Tam Tak-chi, vice president of radical democratic party People Power, is the latest detention of a high

profile democracy supporter in the financial hub and came on the morning Hongkongers had been due to vote in a general election, delayed because of the coronavirus.

An unauthorized protest in opposition to a new law that gives authorities sweeping powers -- as well as the poll's postponement and a Beijing-backed

Covid-19 testing programme -- had more than 10,000 online subscribers.

Tam, a former radio presenter known "Fast Beat", was arrested at his home in north east Hong Kong by police officers from the national security squad, although he was not detained under the new law, police said.

"The gentleman we arrested this morning was arrested for uttering seditious words under the Crimes Ordinance's section ten," senior superintendent Li Kwai-wah said, referring to legislation enacted in the British colonial era to clamp down anti-government expressions.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's reusable experimental spacecraft back to landing site

JIUQUAN — China's reusable experimental spacecraft on Sunday returned to the scheduled landing site after a two-day in-orbit operation.

The spacecraft was launched with a Long March-2F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Sept. 4. The successful flight marked the country's important breakthrough in reusable spacecraft research and is expected to offer convenient and low-cost round trip transport for the peaceful use of the space.—Xinhua ■

Indian Navy holds naval drill with Russia in Bay of Bengal for 2nd day

NEW DELHI — The Indian and Russian navies on Saturday carried out a range of complex maritime operations as part of a mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal to further enhance their operational convergence, officials said.

The exercise comes at a time India is significantly expanding deployment of its warships in the Indian Ocean region in the wake of the festering border row with China in eastern Ladakh. The Indian Ocean, considered the backyard of the Indian Navy, is critical to the country's strategic interests.

The officials said a wide spectrum of drills including surface and anti-aircraft drills, helicopter operations, maneuvers and cross-deck flying was carried out for the second consecutive day as part of the 11th edition of the biennial Indo-Russian exercise Indra Navy. "The exercise epitomises the long-term strategic relationship between the two navies," Indian Navy Spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said. The assets deployed in the exercise by the Russian Navy include destroyer Admiral Vinogradov, destroyer Admiral Tributs and fleet tanker Boris Butoma of the Pacific Fleet which are normally based at Vladivostok. The Indian Navy is represented by guided missile destroyer Ranvijay and fleet tanker Shakti, along with their integral helicopters.—ANI ■

Turkey 'disappointed' by Kosovo's move to recognize Israel

ANKARA — Turkey on Sunday voiced disappointment over majority-Muslim Kosovo's decision to recognise Israel and set up its mission in Jerusalem.

A vocal advocate of the Palestinian cause, Turkey became one of the first countries to recognise Kosovo, which declared its independence from Serbia in 2008.

"Even the thought by Kosovo officials of taking such a step -- which is a clear violation of international law -- is disappointing," the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry called on the Kosovo leadership to avoid such steps that would harm the legal status of Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday Serbia will become the first European country to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem.

Kosovo will also set up its Israel mission in Jerusalem and in exchange earn Israel's recognition, as it seeks to further legitimise its statehood.

Those decisions came out of a US-brokered agreement between the two Balkan rivals.

In a separate statement late Saturday, the Turkish foreign ministry said it was also "deeply concerned" by Serbia's move.

Israel seized control of East Jerusalem in 1967 and later annexed it in moves never recognised by the international community.—AFP ■



U.S. President Donald Trump watches as Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti (R) and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic (L) sign an agreement on opening economic relations, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., Sept. 4, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Trump calls on Fox News to fire reporter over veterans flap

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump has demanded that Fox News fire its national security correspondent after she confirmed claims that the Republican leader had disparaged the military -- a bombshell that has dogged him for two days.

Trump came under fire after The Atlantic magazine reported that he had called Ma-

rines killed in action in World War I "losers" and "suckers" in connection with a November 2018 visit to France when he skipped a visit to a US military cemetery.

The official explanation for that missed visit was bad weather.

Fox News correspondent Jennifer Griffin said two former administration officials

had confirmed to her that the president "did not want to drive to honour American war dead" at the Aisne-Marne cemetery outside Paris, implying weather was not a factor.

One official also told her that Trump had used the word "suckers" to denigrate the military, but in a different context related to the Vietnam War.—AFP ■

Britain will not be EU 'client state': UK Brexit envoy



Britain will not become "a client state" under the terms of any post-Brexit trade deal struck with the European Union, the UK's chief negotiator David Frost insisted late on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — Britain will not become "a client state" under the

terms of any post-Brexit trade deal struck with the European

Union, the UK's chief negotiator David Frost insisted late on Saturday.

Ahead of an eighth and final round of scheduled talks with the EU next week, Frost said Britain was "not going to compromise on the fundamentals of having control over our own laws".

"We are not going to be a client state," he told the Mail on Sunday in a rare newspaper interview, as the stalled negotiations with the bloc near their conclusion.

"We are not going to accept provisions that give them control over our money or the way we can organise things here in the UK and that should not be controversial," Frost added.—AFP ■

Tens of thousands join Belarus march against Lukashenko

MINSK — At least tens of thousands and possibly more Belarusian protesters staged a peaceful new march on Sunday, keeping the pressure on strongman Alexander Lukashenko who has refused to quit after his disputed re-election, turning instead to Russia for help to stay in power.

Troops, water cannon, armoured personnel carriers and armoured reconnaissance vehicles were deployed to the centre of Minsk ahead of the march and several metro stations were closed. Viasna rights groups said nearly 70 people had been detained in the capital.

But protesters from all walks of life, from parents with children to students and from Catholic priests to prominent athletes, came out onto the streets in a show of defiance,

an AFP correspondent reported from the scene.

Many held red-and-white flags and placards while a band beat drums and played other instruments. Some demonstrators danced or walked on stilts.

Unprecedented protests broke out after Lukashenko, who has ruled the ex-Soviet state for 26 years, claimed re-election with 80 percent of the vote on August 9. Opposition rival Svetlana Tikhonovskaya says she won the vote but Lukashenko's security forces have detained thousands of protesters, many of whom accused police of beatings and torture. Several people have died in the crackdown.

Tikhonovskaya left Belarus under pressure from authorities and took shelter in EU member Lithuania.—AFP ■

Russia accuses Germany of stalling Navalny probe

MOSCOW — Russia on Sunday accused Germany of stalling efforts to probe opposition politician Alexei Navalny's case after Berlin demanded Moscow provide an explanation over his poisoning or face sanctions.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova accused German authorities

of failing to respond to a request by Russian prosecutors sent on August 27.

She spoke after German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Russia must soon provide an explanation over Navalny's poisoning with Novichok, a banned nerve agent developed in the Soviet Union.—AFP ■

Foreign banks, insurers set up nearly 100 institutions in China since 2018



Chinese authorities have given approval to foreign banks and insurers to set up nearly 100 institutions in China since 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING — Chinese authorities have given approval to foreign banks and insurers to set up nearly 100 institutions in China since 2018, an official said Sunday.

“This shows that foreign financial institutions have full confidence in China’s economy and its financial development,” Zhou Liang, vice chairman of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC), said while addressing a forum at the ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), which runs until Sept. 9.

Zhou underscored that China has always

kept its promise of opening up its financial sector, while pledging to provide a consistent, open and transparent policy environment for foreign financial institutions.

The CBIRC will also help Chinese lenders and insurers explore overseas markets, participate in global financial governance and strengthen international financial cooperation, Zhou said.

Themed “Global Services, Shared Prosperity,” the CIFTIS has attracted about 100,000 participants, as well as 18,000 enterprises and institutions from 148 countries and regions.—Xinhua ■

Thai rubber price makes 3-year high during pandemic

BANGKOK — The Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT) on Saturday released a report indicating a 3-year high in rubber sales thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The price of Thai ribbed smoked sheet has exceeded 60 baht (1.91 U.S. dollars) per kilogram for the first time in three years as worldwide demand to produce rubber gloves is still on the rise, said RAOT.

Deputy government spokesperson Rachada Dhnadirek earlier told the media at the Government House that Thai rubber farmers have felt relief as rubber prices continue to rise.

“There is also a huge demand from Chinese rubber glove manufacturers as China’s economy is making an upturn,” said Rachada.

The RAOT, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, said it is in cooperation with other relevant networks in creating and developing new rubber products, with an aim to increase the value of rubber products for more global market opportunities.

The RAOT said exports of Thai rubber gloves were growing by 8 to 15 per cent.—Xinhua ■

Coronavirus tests future of Japan’s yellowtail exports

MIYAZAKI — With the increasing popularity of Japanese cuisine overseas, Japan’s exports of farmed yellowtail had been rising – but then the novel coronavirus pandemic struck and it remains to be seen if they will recover.

Those in the industry hope that with demand from Japanese restaurants abroad dropping, the key will be whether yellowtail farmers can expand sales directly to individual households. Yellowtail is one of the most popular fish in Japan, where it is often broiled with soy sauce while also being used for

sushi and sashimi. It is also a prime example of the kind of export seen by the Japanese government as having great promise because of the boom in Japanese food overseas. The fish ranked seventh last year in terms of value among Japan’s exports of agriculture and fisheries products.

Yellowtail exports totaled 22.9 billion yen (\$216 million) in 2019, jumping 45.4 per cent from a year earlier and more than four-fold from 5.5 billion yen in 2009, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Waters off Miyazaki

Prefecture have been a major farming area for yellowtail as they are rich in nutrients carried there by the Kuroshio Current, also known as the Black or Japan Current, running off the country’s southern coastline.

“Yellowtail are at their best in winter, but we can ship them in summer as well,” said Hiroto Kubota, sales planning assistant manager at Kurose Suisan Co., suggesting the fish can fetch a higher price in summer than in winter. The fish farming company in Kushima in the southwestern Japan prefecture, which

unloaded a total of about 2,000 yellowtail in early July, said it takes about two years to grow fish in cages in seawater. Just like

Kurose Suisan, other fishing companies and cooperatives have been making every effort to boost yellowtail exports.—Kyodo ■



Photo taken July 2, 2020, shows yellowtail landed from open sea cages of a fish farm in Kushima in Miyazaki Prefecture, southwestern Japan. PHOTO: (KYODO)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1142W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1142W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-9-2020** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0215-012N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0215-012N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S’PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (690 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (690 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-9-2020** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

A Visit to Hsipaw

By Thiha Lulin
(Thiha, the Traveller)

HSIPAW, the royal capital of former Sawbwas, is one of the long-established towns of Northern Shan State in Myanmar. During my visit to PyinOoLwin, I joined Cherry Hill May Myo Tours to visit Hsipaw.

As for me, I took only a sight-seeing tour around the town. For those who would like to do trekking around the villages and mountains, Hsipaw could be one of the best destinations in Northern Shan State.

From Ohn Baung to Hsipaw

Hsipaw was one of the four royal capitals of Ohn Baung dynasty. As they established royal capitals in these towns- Hsipaw, Mongton, Minelon, Thone Sel, you will feel the royalty of Sawbwas when you visit there.

Hsipaw was established in 59BC by Ohn Baung Sawbwa Saw Hkan Zaw. It is said that it has been called Hsipaw from Ohn Baung since early Kon Baung period. It is also said that the Ohn Baung Sawbwa moved the royal capital from Ohn Baung to Hsipaw.

The reason of being called as Hsipaw is that a ruby stone was found when digging the ground to build the palace and it was called Hsaing Paw in Shan language, and then, the name has become Hsipaw many years later.

Hsipaw has become popular among local and foreign travellers because of 'Twilight Over Burma', a book about the love story of Shan Sawbwa Sao Kya Hseng and his wife Austrian Madi Devi during 1960.

Hsipaw was ruled by Shan Sawbwas traditionally until 2nd March 1962.

Weather

Although it is a hill town, it is not always cold. It is usually cold from November to February, and it is hot starting from March throughout the raining season.

How to get there?

It will take around 4 hours to get Hsipaw from Mandalay. It can also be reached by plane from Mandalay or Lashio. As it takes only one hour drive from Hsipaw to Lashio, it is faster to come back via Lashio flight. It took me three hours from Pyin Oo Lwin by car and so I could make a day trip to Hsipaw.

From PyinOoLwin to Hsipaw

During my stay in Thiha Bala Hotel in Pyi Oo Lwin, I was recommended to join a tour with Cherry Hill May Myo Tours for the trip to Hsipaw. Among the tours around PyinOoLwin, Trekking tours and Goke-Hteik tours, I chose a day trip included lunch

to Hsipaw.

If interested, contact Cherry Hill May Myo Tours (09695503342, 09695503343)

Visiting at Hsipaw

It seemed that there were only people crossing the Lashio-Muse highway road, but there are more tourists than local travellers who visit villages and natural places in Hsipaw. During Bawgyo pagoda festival, Hsipaw has become alive and crowded.

My day trip includes-

Historical Bawgyo Pagoda

The Bawgyo Pagoda will be seen if you come from PyinOoLwin. Therefore, it can be said that the pagoda is far from downtown. The pond near the pagoda is said to have appeared while digging for salt, so it is assumed to have been a salt-producing area in the past. It is also said that the name was derived from Maw Kay (salt pot) or Pawt Kyo (the place to



Baw Kyo pagoda. I arrived at Baw Kyo pagoda at 5pm. **PHOTO: THIHA**



There are ogres' sculptures at every corner of the pagoda. The history of the pagoda is related with the ogres. **PHOTO: THIHA**



Hsipaw Haw Nan. A place that you should not miss. The visitors must pay a visit there during the fixed time. It is none other than the palaces of Sawbwa. The original Haw Nan and Sa Khan Tha Haw Nan were destroyed, and only Hsipaw Haw Nan left in its original style. It is now about 95 years old. **PHOTO: THIHA**



There is a lotus pond before reaching Little Bagan. Maha Nanda Kantha Monastery near the lotus pond is glorious. **PHOTO: THIHA**



Bank opened at an ancient building near Hsipaw market in the downtown area. **PHOTO: THIHA**



The sunset view goes well with the elegant Baw Kyo pagoda. PHOTO: THIHA



Will a few renovations be its attraction? PHOTO: THIHA



Stairways with glass mosaic embedded in gliding. PHOTO: THIHA

welcome the father).

There are 4 Buddha images donated by Nayapati Sithumin:

Yadana Man Aung Buddha image (Eastern entrance)

Yadana Nyan Aung Buddha image (Southern entrance)

Yadana Yan Aung Buddha image (Northern entrance)

Yadana Zan Aung Buddha image (Western entrance)

These 800 years old Boudha images can be found in Bagan handicrafts. The pagoda festival is held annually from 10th waxing of Tabaung to first waning of Tabaung before Thingyan festival. You need to come before 5 pm to pay homage to the Buddha images inside the pagoda because the door inside is closed at 5 pm.

Hsipaw Haw Nan

Hsipaw Haw Nan, a must-visit place, is the palace of Hsipaw Sawbwas. One can visit during the opening hour only. There were three Sawbwas who built three Haw Nans. Sao Hkun Saing, the 85th Sawbwa, constructed the first Haw Nan in 1888. He was the one who established Hsipaw, too. In 1922, 86th Sawbwa Sir Sao Khe built Sakhanthar Haw, and 87th Sawbwa Sao On Kya made Hsipaw Haw in 1924.

The first two Haw Nans were destroyed, and only Hsipaw Haw Nan has been standing tall for 95 years now. This Haw Nan was

the place where the last Sawbwa Sao Kya Hseng and his Austrian wife Mahar Devi Sao Thu Sandi, lived with their two daughters. Their love story was portrayed in the book "Twilight over Burma". The book was also filmed. After Sawbwa Sao Kya Hseng had disappeared, the wife and two daughters moved abroad in 1964. Then, the nephew of the Sawbwa took care of the palace, and it has been opened to public till today. Also, Sawbwa's family members occasionally tell stories about history.

Visitors must pay special attention to the opening and closing hours because the Haw Nan is open from 3 pm to 5 pm every day and the gate of the palace will not be available for any reason except those hours. There is no entrance fee for both foreigner and local.

Little Bagan

For those who visit Hsipaw on their itinerary, little Bagan can be found on Google Map. A group of pagodas with some deterioration can be found as a little Bagan. I think it needs some conservation. The place is one of the photo spots of Hsipaw.

Mahar Nanda Kantha Bamboo Bagda

Right before the little Bagan, there is a lotus pond where Mahar Nanda Kantha Monastery is a beautiful Shan monastery. Above the monastery, there is

a Bamboo Pagoda, and in front of the monastery, there are also groups of pagodas that are similar to the pagodas in Bagan.

Hsipaw Chaung Sone

Among the visiting places in Hsipaw, Hsipaw Chaung Sone is the place where young people enjoy the most. It takes 40 minutes to get to the confluence of Namatu creek and Nama creek where Dotehtawaddy River starts.

The confluence seems as multi-layered small waterfalls, and it is stunning if it is seen from above.

Holy oil pots

The visitors should not miss the sacred oil pots whenever they go to Hsipaw. Don't think they are just pots. They are well constructed with brick and cement. They are placed underground at four corners of the city as yadaya or shaman visitation. They can be seen there and are refilled to date. But it is a little difficult to find them. They can be seen clearly under the banyan tree at the boat gate of Dotehtawaddy river. It is not much far from the way to Hsipaw. It can be easily reached to the one near the compound of the Customs Department. The 85th Sawbwa Sao Kyar Khaing made such yadaya. The holy oil pots are located

(1) at the northeast corner of the town- Shwenyaungbin,

(2) at the southeast corner of the town- the compound of

Customs Department,

(3) at the southwest corner of the town- Oakkyin Ward

(4) at the northwest corner of the town- Myanamryat Lodge.

It is about 2,706ft far from each oil pot. I study the oil pots located at Shwenyaungbin and the compound of the Customs Department. There is a saying that if the oil pots dry up, the city will become to face diseases and damages. If they are not, the city will be more prosperous. I carefully study the oil pots when I reach there, and the pots are checked once a year.

Nam Hu Nwe Waterfall

Most of the people make trekking to the natural waterfalls in the southern part of Hsipaw. They can be reached by passing through the Shan villages. This trip is not included in Cherry Hill Tour.

Thein Taung

The visitors can enjoy the sunset by climbing up Thein Taung. They can proceed to the top of the mountain on foot or by motorcycle. This trip also does not include in Cherry Hill Tour.

Hsipaw Market

When I reached there, there were a few people in the market. But it offers a variety of traditional handicrafts including bamboo hats, costumes and traditional food. I felt something strange as I saw made in China products among Shan traditional

materials. Hsipaw market is an excellent place to buy souvenir and food.

Other places to visit

Here is a collection of places where I did not arrive during my trip.

-Sawbwa Cemetery (Lwal Moke Taung)

-Maha Myat Muni pagoda

Steamed rice in banana leaf with various Shan cuisines- fish curry, green chiretta, chicken, pork, soya-bean with tomato and corns. Peaches, pineapples, and mangoes sold in the market make me mouth water.

I had my lunch at the Bamboo House in Hsipaw.

Although it seems that there are very few places to visit in Hsipaw, it is recommended to take time in local hotels and join trekking tours to enjoy nature fully. I've done trekking in many places but Hsipaw. But I have a plan to make it once I have time in the future. I thank Cherry Hill May Myo Tours for the tour. It was only 30,000 kyats including local guide, car, lunch, water, and boat fee. The tour is 30,000 kyats each for five persons, 40,000 kyats each for four persons, 45,000 kyats each for three persons and 50,000 kyats each for two persons.

May you all have a safe trip!

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)



Derby matches intensify in MNL Week-14

MYANMAR National League week-14 matches set to hold this week will include thrilling local matches, for which everyone was waiting.

The two derby matches: Shan United Vs Hanthawady United and Yangon United vs Magwe FC will be played on 7 September, and Yadanarbon FC vs Ayeyawady United match on 8 September.

Defending champion Shan United will play against Hanthawady United, which is now standing table first place sitter, at Yangon United Sports Complex on 7 September, also streaming live on MyCujoo application

starting from 3:30 pm, said the source with the MNL. Another great match to be played at the same time at Padonmar Stadium is Sagaing United vs Rakhine United match, and the game will also be streamed live on MyCujoo application, MNL stated.

In the meantime, Yangon United will play with Magwe FC as a derby match at Thuwunna Stadium at 3:30 pm, and the contest will be broadcast live on Myawady Channel and streamed live on MyCujoo application.

On 8 September, everyone will see another derby match: Yadanarbon FC vs Ayeyawady United scheduled to play at Thu-



Shan United players (white) counter the ball with Rakhine United's players (brown) during the Week-13 MNL match played at Yangon United Sports Complex on 4 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

wunna Stadium and the game will also be streamed live on MyCujoo application, football authorities said.

Another exciting match on the same day will be ISPE FC vs Southern Myanmar FC, and their meet will be broadcast

live on Myawady Channel and streamed live on MyCujoo application, MNL stated.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

European heavyweights enjoy winning starts in Nations League



England's Mason Greenwood and Iceland's Jon Bodvarsson challenge for the ball. **PHOTO: AFP/HARALDUR GUDJONSSON**

PARIS — European heavyweights England, world champions France, holders Portugal and Belgium all enjoyed winning starts to their UEFA Nations League campaigns on Saturday even if there were signs of international rust following the coronavirus shutdown. England needed a stoppage-time penalty to beat Iceland 1-0 while France saw off Sweden by the same scoreline.

Portugal shrugged off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo to thrash Croatia 4-1 with top-ranked Belgium coming away from Denmark with a 2-0 win. In

Reykjavik, Raheem Sterling's last minute penalty salvaged England from another embarrassing result against Iceland.

Gareth Southgate's men also survived going down to 10 men and seeing Birkir Bjarnason miss a late spot-kick for the hosts.

Four years on from one of English football's most embarrassing nights in losing 2-1 to Iceland at Euro 2016, England were far from the free-scoring force that romped through Euro 2020 qualifying in their first match for 10 months.

Harry Kane had an early goal wrongly ruled out for offside

before Kyle Walker was sent-off for two bookable offences 20 minutes from time. All of Iceland's good defensive work was undone in the 89th minute when Sverrir Ingason was also harshly dismissed for a second booking when he blocked Sterling's shot with his arm. With Kane having been replaced by Mason Greenwood, Sterling took responsibility from spot, but the drama did not end there. Straight from kick-off, Joe Gomez was adjudged to have bundled over Holmbert Fridjónsson inside the area, but Bjarnason blazed the resulting penalty over.—AFP ■

Golf: Im makes charge but Johnson leads PGA Tour Championship

WASHINGTON — South Korea's Im Sung-jae birdied three of the last four holes but top-ranked Dustin Johnson clung to a one-stroke lead after Saturday's (Sep 5) second round of the US PGA Tour Championship.

Im fired a six-under par 64 to finish on 12-under but struggling Johnson, last in the field in driving accuracy after finding only 2-of-14 fairways, closed with a four-foot birdie putt to lead on 13-under after 36 holes at East Lake in Atlanta.

"Tough one. It was up and down. Just didn't drive it straight enough," said Johnson.

"Everything else feels good. I managed my game pretty well.

"I couldn't really attack the golf course being in the rough and in the bunkers. I think I was everywhere today."

Im, 22, would be the second-youngest FedEx Cup winner, two months older than Jordan Spieth when the American captured the 2015 crown.

Johnson scrambled to a 70 to hold off charging Im with American Xander Schauffele third on 11-under after a 65 and third-ranked American Justin Thomas fourth on 10-under. —AFP ■

'Flat' Thiem fights his way into US Open last 16

NEW YORK — Second seed Dominic Thiem said he must raise his game if he is to win a first Grand Slam at the 2020 US Open after ousting Marin Cilic in four sets to move into the last 16 Saturday.

The 27-year-old Austrian, the losing finalist in the Australian Open this year, battled to a 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory in the late match at an empty Arthur Ashe stadium. "I felt a little bit flat," said Thiem, explaining his labors in sets three and four. "It's normal, it's really late, (and) without the crowd," he added.

Thiem said he had yet to play at 100 percent in the tournament.

"I still have to raise my level if I want to go deeper," he explained. The world number three

will play 20-year-old Canadian hotshot Felix Auger-Aliassime for a place in the quarter-finals.

The 15th seed blew away France's Corentin Moutet 6-1, 6-0, 6-4 in just 1hr 57 mins, becoming

the first player born in the 2000s to reach a Grand Slam fourth round. "Dominic has been getting stronger and stronger year after year," said Auger-Aliassime. —AFP ■



Dominic Thiem is through to the last 16 of the 2020 US Open. **PHOTO: AFP**