

## NATIONAL

New Era Union Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

PAGE-10

## NATIONAL

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in Tenth Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting

PAGE-4

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 29 September 2020

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19

12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 ME  
28 September 2020

IT is announced that public statements, orders, notifications, and directives of the Union-level organizations and the Union ministries effective until 30 September 2020 for protection, control and prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 31 October 2020 as it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

# State Counsellor reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation

**T**ODAY, my intention is to report to the people about the COVID disease situation. Most people know about this already. At the moment, the total number of people who are infected, who have been infected and those who are currently suffering from this disease is more than 10,000. Also, the total number of deaths is now over 200. Therefore it is natural that some of our people may have anxieties and worries. However, I want you all to see this as something we need to take seriously instead of something to be worried about. I want you all to see this as something to take seriously, something we need to be careful.

Furthermore, I want to encourage our people who have tested positive; you are never alone. The problem with this COVID disease is because once you become infected, your family and friends could not be near you to provide support; not like other diseases. You need to be isolated. When you have to stay alone, you might lose heart or become depressed. This is natural. Therefore what I wish to say on behalf of the Union Government is that we value each individual citizen who has been infected. We never ask who has been infected. We only look at the number of infected patients. We place the

same value for each person. We don't give preferential treatment on anyone because of wealth or power. That is why I want our people to fight back this COVID disease with this strength. The reason is that when you become depressed, your immunity level goes down. It is very important not to let the immunity level go down. Not only our Union Government, we believe that the majority of our people would look upon infected patients with loving-kindness, compassion and have good intentions for their speedy recovery. Therefore, don't get depressed if you have tested positive. We will do our best. I also believe that our people will join in to pray and to send Metta (loving-kindness).

I spoke last Friday about the status of infection of this disease. I told you that we would be receiving Antigen test kits from the Republic of Korea for speedy and correct testing. I reported that these kits would arrive within a few days and now they have arrived within these few days. Yesterday, out of the 200,000 kits that our Union Government ordered, 60,000 kits had arrived. As 140,000 kits are scheduled to arrive today, we will have the full 200,000 today. Starting from tomorrow, we will be using the test kits in the district and township hospitals. Further-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives a televised speech to the public about COVID-19 situation on 28 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

more, 5,000 test kits out of the total donated by ROK will arrive tomorrow. Therefore when we begin using the test kits, which can give us speedy and correct results, we will find more infections. This is because when we do the tests speedily, we will get speedy results. Please don't lose heart because of this. When we

find the infections early, we can give early treatment. The rate of recovery will improve.

We have said this before. The deaths resulting from this disease are related to fundamental medical problems. That is why older adults, those whose health is not strong enough, those who have underlying

health problems and especially those with diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart problems; some of our citizens have these problems. Those who have such diseases need to be more careful. We have to worry about them because their immunity is not good.

**SEE PAGE-3**

## Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 31 October 2020

- With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 30 September 2020 by the Ministry's announcement dated 29 August 2020.
  - Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
  - Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
  - Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
  - Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
- In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the afore-mentioned entry restriction measures until 31 October 2020.
- In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nay Pyi Taw  
Dated. 28 September 2020

### 32 Myanmar seamen put under hotel quarantine in Kawthoung



Seamen wearing personal protective equipment arrive in Kawthoung on 27 September 2020.

PHOTO : KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

Twenty-one seamen who signed off from MTM Hong Kong from Brazil and would make 'crew change' in the Adman Sea near Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region, and 11 seamen who signed off from MV Golden Chie from Singapore arrived at Kawthoung on 27 September and they are being

put under hotel quarantine.

Relevant officials and health officials conducted medical checkups to them and put them under 14-day hotel quarantine.

Their swabs will be sent to the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) for COVID-19 test.

Captain U Nyi Nyi Lay, lead-

ing 22 incoming crew members, will sign on to MTM Hong Kong, and 11 incoming crew members led by Captain U Lynn Zaw will sign on to MV Golden Chie. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

### Ayeyarwady Foundation to provide free fuel for ambulances

AYEYARWADY Foundation, in cooperation with fuel shops, will provide 25 litres of free fuel per day for every ambulance used for COVID-19 response efforts, according to the foundation.

The programme to provide fuel to the ambulances was jointly arranged by Ayeyarwady Foundation and fuel shops Denko, PT Power, Max Energy and Shwe Byine Phyu. The ambulance drivers can get the daily ration of fuel free of charge at the above-mentioned fuel shops in Yangon Region.

Those who want to get the daily ration of fuel need to

register their information at the messenger of Ayeyarwady Centre or Viber (09887607500) by submitting the name of the organization, vehicle registration number, address, phone number, and a photo of the ambulance.

The card for the permission to get the daily ration of fuel can be obtained at the Ayeyarwady Centre Office, Myanmar Football Federation Gate 2. The contact number for more information is Ph. 09887607500. —Aung Thura

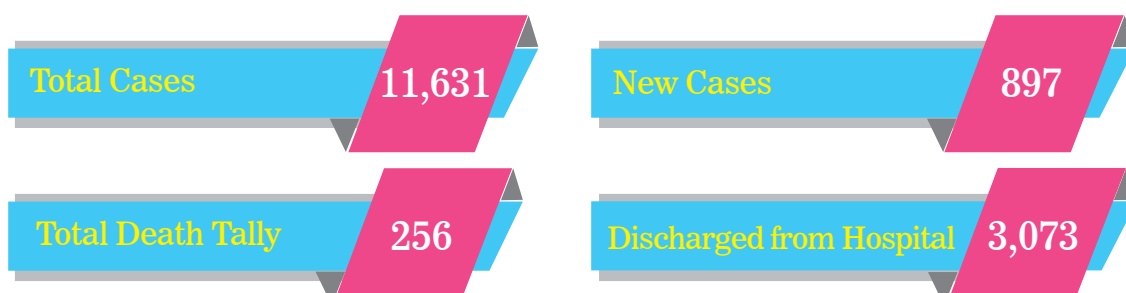
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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### 897 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 September, total figure rises to 11,631

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 11,631 after 897 new cases were reported on 28 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 11,631 confirmed cases, 256 died, 3,073 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 28 September 2020



Death toll from 8 pm 27-9-2020 to 8 pm 28-9-2020

30

Ministry of Health and Sports

# 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.



## State Counsellor reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation

### FROM PAGE-1

However, as I have said before, don't get depressed because you have tested positive. Your strong spirit is very important. You are not alone. Please build up your inner strength with the thought that the whole country is with you. I want you to join in and cooperate with the public service personnel of the Ministry of Health and Sports, and workers in the health sector with the spirit that you also need to struggle to overcome this disease.

When I speak about the public service personnel from the health sector, what I wish to say is that there have been some cases of infection among these workers. There have been deaths also. This is something that healthcare workers find it difficult to avoid because of the nature of their jobs. I want to thank again all these healthcare workers, volunteers, and volunteers helping at the quarantine centres, who have been working dutifully with Cetana and Metta although they know about the risks involved.

So, our people, especially those in Yangon region have the highest number of infections; I am happy to learn that they are following the directives. However, they need to maintain discipline. Beginning to follow the rules today does not mean that all will recover tomorrow. There will still be confirmed cases. We need to contain the transmission of diseases. For example, at market places; we took preventive measures. However, the compliance of these rules was relatively weak.

That is why the disease spread from such places. However, people are abiding by the

rules. The Union Government is also taking measures to impose strict controls. It is expected the spread rate will surely decline. Violation of the existing rules is not courage. I want you to take heed of this. Breaching the rules in fearlessness is not courage. At this point, I remember the words of my father that 'aggression' is not courage, but 'endurance' is real courage. Daring to violate the rules is not courage. The ability to abide by the rules and regulations is real courage. Our staff members are brave persons. Volunteers and health workers have to work bravely for others. Such daring works are as valuable as endurance.

In providing healthcare services to the people, we have not left anyone behind. There has been no discrimination. For instance, we also take serious consideration for the people in prisons. While disease prevention measures are carried out at the prisons and detention centres, we have to dispense justice while bearing in mind the paramount need to maintain the rule of law. The government is exercising the best practices in remanding and court proceedings are carried out in line with the existing laws while taking healthcare measures for our people in possible ways. Therefore, don't feel depressed and inferior. Don't think that you are a prisoner or a detainee. We will do our best to provide equal treatment. Public participation is very crucial, and these rules and regulations need to be followed.

Last Friday, I said that we would initiate a plan. To prevent unreliable testing medicines among the public, we will launch a Q&A programme with veteran medical experts tomorrow.

Questions can be raised on the Facebook page of the Ministry of Health and Sports. It was reported there have been about 300 questions until now. Some would be the same questions. Common answers will be given to the same questions. I think there would be between 50 and 100 different questions. Our medical experts could not answer all these questions in a single session. The answers will be replied on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday beginning this week from 7 pm to 7:30 pm which will be appropriate for the people.

Health expert groups will answer the most important and striking questions during this period. The remaining questions will be replied gradually in the following session. People should listen to this programme. The follow-up questions could be raised briefly and concisely if the answers were not understood. I experienced some long questions like articles. It took time to understand and to realize the main point. Only then, our health experts could give accurate answers.

Regarding the enforcement of disciplines, the rules are not to restrict the people, but to control the disease or to stop transmission of the disease. However, some persons thought these measures were just to restrict their freedom. No one has full freedom to exercise their rights because we are living in society. Perhaps, a lonely person in a desert might do anything. Actually, nothing needs to be done in the desert as there would be nothing there. Therefore, I want to emphasize that the rules are intended for the benefits of all. Any act to harm the public interest will

face legal action unavoidably.

However, some understand the importance of these rules only when action is taken against them. For example, take the Karaoke issue; it is a place of intimate gathering for risky contacts. A single microphone is shared among the participants, causing to breathe in the virus exhaled by others. Therefore, effective and strict legal actions will be taken against the Karaoke lounges.

People are informed that measures are being taken to take action. Some questions were raised whether we had neglected to impose law enforcement with respect to Karaoke lounges. We always considered whether our actions are effective and efficient. We are imposing strict measures because it is unavoidable. We just want to control the disease, not the people. That is why we are laying down these strict rules and regulations.

In conclusion, I want to advise all to consider the future; it is true that we need to focus on the present moment. The future should not be forgotten while concentrating on the present moment. We need to have a clear idea of where we wish to go in the future. That is why we are reporting to our people about the economic situation of the country during opportune moments, not to have serious worries. The global countries are experiencing economic downturns at present. The economic development of some economies has slumped to negative figures lower than zero. Our country has not reached below zero levels yet. We are among some of these few countries. Our country remains above zero levels out of

three ASEAN countries. We cannot guarantee we can stay at this level because we are struggling for the second wave.

But we will try to maintain this level, and try to climb higher. So, I don't want the people to worry too much about the economy of the country. At present, try to live healthily. If someone is infected with the virus, it is important to stay calm and confident of overcoming the disease. Keep in mind that the government and the people are standing with you. Our government has prepared for future economic difficulties, and we will implement our plans. We will not sit idly without doing anything just because plans have been made. We will adjust our steps to meet changing situations.

I have frequently said that the responsibility of our people is to take care of health. Use self-confidence and healthcare assistance of the government to overcome the disease if someone has been infected with the disease. Those who have not been infected with the virus should try to prevent the spread of disease in various ways. The government will work for the remaining issues as possible as they can. The word 'as possible as' was said because we cannot forecast all possible outcomes. People need to believe that we are entirely focusing on the possible measures to prevent severe impacts on the country and the people. Therefore, individual efforts could lead to the success of the whole country to overcome the pandemic.

May you all be in good health and well-being. I am sending a lot of Metta your way. Thank you. (Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)



## Follow the basic instructions

Please follow the basic instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Avoid going out of the house. Not only should you avoid going outside the house; please don't accept visitors. If you need to go outside due to unavoidable circumstances, if you need to receive visitors, please ask the visitors to wear masks. You yourself need to wear masks. Wash your hands regularly. I would like to urge you to wear masks all the time with seriousness.

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation, on 26 September 2020)*

# Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in Tenth Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, participated in the Tenth Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held via Video Conferencing at 2:00 pm yesterday from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Ms Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Foreign Ministers of the Mekong member countries; Cambodia, Laos and Thailand also participated in the meeting.

At the meeting, the Ministers acknowledged the positive developments of the Mekong-ROK cooperation and welcomed the elevation of mechanism to the highest level by successful convening of the historic 1<sup>st</sup> Mekong-ROK Summit in 2019. They reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation under the three pillars; People, Prosperity and Peace in order to build a "People-cen-

tered Community of Peace and Prosperity" as decided by the 1<sup>st</sup> Mekong-ROK Summit.

In his statement, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin thanked the Republic of Korea for the assistance rendered to Myanmar's endeavour in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and welcomed the recent decision of the government of ROK to provide USD 500,000 worth of antigen test kits to Myanmar which are urgently needed in the fight against the second wave of virus infection.

The Union Minister appreciated the commitment of the Republic of Korea in supporting Mekong countries by means of ODA and through Mekong-ROK Cooperation for peace and prosperity of the region, and the implementation of UN SDG 2030.

The Union Minister also expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for increased contribution of 3 million USD annually to the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) starting from 2020. He also thanked the Republic of Korea for granting

the "Assessment of heavy metal contamination in soil and water for safety crop production project" for Myanmar under the 4<sup>th</sup> MKCF Programme.

He also stated that Myanmar is honoured to host the Mekong-ROK Biodiversity Centre for conservation and protection of biodiversities of the Mekong region, and pledged to continue cooperating with other mechanisms for the environmental conservation of the Mekong region.

With regard to the future cooperation, the Union Minister

suggested enhancing cooperation on the "Nexus of Health Security and Building Economic Resilience" due to the current situation of pandemic.

The meeting adopted the "Co-Chair's Statement of the Tenth Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting" and the "Plan of Action (POA) 2021-2025". The Plan of Action (2021-2025) will serve as a guideline for the Mekong-ROK Cooperation and set specific goals in seven areas of cooperation; (i) Culture/Tourism, (ii) Human Resource Development, (iii) Agriculture

and Rural Development, (iv) Infrastructure, (v) Information and Communication Technology, (vi) Environment and (vii) Non-Traditional Security Challenges.

The Mekong-ROK Cooperation was established in 2011 with the intention of reducing the development gap among the Mekong countries and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation. The Republic of Korea and five Mekong countries; Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam are members of the cooperation mechanism.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the Tenth Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting via videoconference on 28 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election on 29-30 September

CAMPAIGN speeches of Zo National Region Development Party, National Development Party (NDP) and Akha National Development Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 29 September; and will be published in the state-owned newspapers—the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar —on 30 September.—MNA

**Elections are the root for development of democracy.**

## Contract farming covers over 100,000 acres of monsoon paddy this year

By Nyein Nyein

MORE than 100,000 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated under the contract farming system this year, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The affiliated companies of MRF have been coordinating contract farming project. The system was earlier intended to reach 200,000 acres in monsoon season.

At present, 100,483 acres of monsoon paddy out of 200,000 have been cultivated by 53 companies under the contract farming system in 49 townships across the country, MRF stated.

A total of 45,500 acres of monsoon paddy was earlier planned in Ayeyawady Region, but only 39,488 acres have been contracted. The system has already covered 49,402 out of earlier targeted 52,000 acres in Bago Region, 5,358 out of 21,000 acres in Yangon Region, 3,835 acres in 9,000 acres in Nay Pyi Taw and 400 out of 6,000 acres in Mandalay Region.

Besides, 11,000 acres in Rakhine State, 9,000 in Shan State, 6,000 in Mandalay, 6,500 in Mon State, 7,000 in Magway Region, 2,000 in Taninthayi Region, 3,000 in Kachin State, 2,000 in Kayah State and 3,000 in Kayin State



A monsoon paddy plantation is seen in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region in August 2020.

PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT (IPRD)

have been planned to be contracted, the MRF stated.

According to the MRF, quality control and food safety are critical to the promotion of exports. Therefore, improved agricultural practices need to be developed.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently

exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, including regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders and some grower groups, are required to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

This farming system also

aims to reduce the debt burden of farmers and to attract more investment to the sector, he highlighted.

In a bid to promote cooperation between farmers and companies involved in the value chain of the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation released provisions for

contract farming on 31 January 2020.

Contract farming is a system whereby companies have to provide quality input and technical assistance. The contract system outlines nine provisions for farmers, 10 for farming companies and 9 for the government.

The ministry has posted the contract on its website ([www.agri.com.mm](http://www.agri.com.mm)) and has urged the two sides to study it thoroughly before going into business.

The contract farming system is part of the government's efforts to encourage Private-Public Partnerships involving the government and the private sector.

The strategies, directives, and procedures for contract farming are aimed at ensuring a substantial market for crops and quality crops. Under the contract farming system, farmers and companies can decide on the price and quality of crops before cultivation, which can help create a sustainable market.

Farmers, on their part, would be responsible for growing crops using Good Agricultural Practices and producing crops that meet the quality, quantity, and standards set by both sides under the contract.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar pharmaceutical imports soar to \$557 mln in Oct-July period

THE import value of Myanmar pharmaceutical products amounted to US\$557.08 million in ten months of the current financial year 2019-2020, the Central Statistical Organization's trade statistics indicated. The figure rose from \$434.7 million registered in the corresponding period (October-July) of last FY, the statistics showed.

Myanmar imports 90 per cent of medicine and medical products through foreign markets, Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical & Medical Device (MCCPMD) stated. India is the leading supplier of Myanmar. Also, it is imported via Bangladesh, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, China (Taipei), Thailand, US and Viet Nam.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the international countries prioritize local sufficiency. Some states restricted exports of medical products. China suspended its exports. India also

controlled exports of medicines, PPE and ventilators. As a result of this, most of the local people are concerned about the shortage of medicines in the local market and stored many stocks. The MCCPMD has already asked its members not to hike the price. Yet, it cannot control non-members – wholesalers and retailers, the MCCPMD stated.

"The shortage of medicines occurs at the present time, even in some private hospitals. Some pharmacies are temporarily closed amid the resurgences of coronavirus.

I had to inquire about insulin pens and cancer drugs at the available wholesalers," said a buyer from Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

The government has already urged people not to make panic buying on medicines. The large purchases by consumers have contributed to the price rise in the local market.

The ministry launched the online licencing system for export and import businesses

starting from 1 April, intending to reduce the person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Of the items available online licensing system, medicines and raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry are exempted import licence fee and the number of items is not restricted.

Furthermore, the pharmaceutical industry is excluded from the government's Stay-at-Home order issued on 20 September 2020.

The Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical & Medical Device (MCCPMD), founded on 2 April 1999 as a non-governmental organization (NGO), aims to improve healthcare services for people, abide by the national drug regulations, and enhance public healthcare collectively.

MCCPMD members are owners of local companies, foreign-owned companies, individuals and entrepreneurs. —Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## CB temporarily suspends 24 branches in Yangon Region

By Nyein Nyein

FOLLOWING the coronavirus cases surging in Yangon Region, CB Bank has temporarily stopped its service in 24 branches in the region from 28 September, in line with its Business Continuity Plan, stated the bank notice.

They are CB Bank Pazundaung (Yaykyaw), Kyauktada (Merchant Road), Seikkantha Street, Sule Pagoda Road, Pabedan (Kon Zay Tan Street), Pabedan (Junction City), Latha (Anawahtar Road), Lanmadaw (Nyaung Pin Lay market), corner of Bogoyoke and Wahdan, Mingala Taungnyunt (Daw Thein Tin Street), Kamayut (Sinmalite), Hledan Centre, Kyimyindine (Thayettaw Road), Shwegondine (Yaytashay Road), Dagon (Shwedagon Pagoda Road), Thingangyun (Waizayandar), Thakayta

(Myintawthar Road), Tamway (Awba Street), East Horse Race Course Road, South Okkalapa (Myintha), North Okkalapa (Chauk Kwae), Thudamma Street, Dagon Myothit-North (Pyidaungsu Road) and Bayint Naung (Kyansitthar) branches.

The ATM of those branches as well as other ATM and CRM are still available 24 hours, together with CB Bank iBanking, CBPay and CB Bank Mobile Agents.

The CB Bank has more than 90 branches in the region. It has been providing customer service in line with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The CB Bank will keep offering a variety of banking services through Centralized Core Banking Systems in the remaining branches in the region.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Number of carriages in Yangon City Circular Trains to be reduced



Commuters get off a circular train at a station in Yangon in September 2020. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

"Stay-at-Home" order was issued in Yangon Region since 21 September to effectively control the spread of COVID-19, so the number of train passengers. Consequently, the number of carriages in Yangon City Circular

Trains will be reduced from six to three from 29 September. On Yangon-Hlawgar route, a morning train will depart from Hlawgar Station at 7:35 am and will arrive at Yangon Central Railway Station at 9:15 am. An

evening train will depart from Yangon Central Railway Station at 5 pm and will arrive at Hlawgar Station at 6:40 pm. On Yangon-Mingaladon-Insein route, a morning train will depart from Insein Station at

7:25 am and will arrive at Yangon Central Railway Station at 9:15 am. An evening train will depart from Yangon Central Railway Station at 5:45 pm and will arrive at Insein Station at 7:35 pm.

On Yangon-Ywathagyi route, a morning train will depart from Ywathagyi Station at 8 am and will arrive at Yangon Central Railway Station at 9 am. An evening train will depart from Yangon Central Railway Station at 5:20 pm and will arrive at Ywathagyi Station at 6:20 pm.

Before the "Stay-at-Home" period, a total of 30 trains run on the Yangon City Circular Railway, and the average number of passengers per day is more than 6,000.—Pwint Thitsa  
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Rice export through sea trade earns \$653 mln in current FY

MYANMAR maritime trade, which constituted 84 per cent of rice exports, generated an estimated income of US\$653.465 million as of 11 September in the current financial year, as per data from Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 14 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the borders have generated an estimated \$121.426 million in the current financial year.

MRF expected to ship 2.4 million tonnes of rice, and broken rice in the current FY and the country meet the export target before the financial year-end. Between 1 October and 11 September, Myanmar sent over 413,490 metric tons to neighbouring countries through border trade, while over 2.117 million tonnes of rice and broken rice were shipped to foreign trade partners via maritime trade, totalling over 2.53 million

tonnes. Ove the past eleven months, the value of Myanmar's rice and broken rice export was estimated at US\$774.89 million.

A surge in rice shipping through sea trade was contributed to meeting year's export target, MRF stated.

Border trade sharply dropped due to China clamping down on illegal trade and China's precautionary measures to contain the spread of coronavirus, said MRF Vice President U Aung Than Oo.

"Illegal trade is highly witnessed between Myanmar and China borders in the previous years. This year, traders sent the goods via legitimate trade route, and trading volume sharply fell," he added.

Myanmar has shipped rice to 66 foreign markets. China is the primary buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and the Philippines. Madagascar is the fourth-largest buyer and Guinea the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice.

In the current FY, Myanmar has exported broken rice

mostly to Belgium, followed by China, Senegal, Indonesia and Thailand. Broken rice has been placed in 60 foreign markets.

ASEAN countries constitute 18 per cent of Myanmar's total rice exports with over 472,564 tonnes. In comparison, 30 per cent of total rice exports in Myanmar goes to China with over 744,108 tonnes, followed by African countries with 28 per cent after exports of around 705,986 tonnes. The European Union countries account for over 20 per cent of rice exports

with over 501,664 tonnes while other countries represent four per cent of exports with over 106,903 tonnes.

Myanmar targets to export 4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the coming financial year 2020-2021, he noted.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018 financial year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.3 million tonnes, in the 2018-2019FY.—Ko Htet  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Workers carry rice bags onto a vehicle in Yangon in May 2019. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

# Belarus opposition leader calls for Macron to mediate

VILNIUS (Lithuania) — Opposition leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya on Monday urged France's president to mediate in the political crisis in Belarus and called for EU sanctions against businesses that support President Alexander Lukashenko's government.

Tikhonovskaya told AFP that French President Emmanuel Macron could be "one of the mediators" and could involve his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in a dialogue between government and opposition.

"The protests are not going to stop," she said in an interview in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius where she fled after running against Lukashenko in an election on August 9.

"People will not accept the regime under which they have lived all these years. They will fight more and more against the system."

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets on Sunday in the 50th day of unprecedented protests against Lukashenko's 26-year rule which have been met with a violent crackdown.



France's President Emmanuel Macron attends the EU emergency video summit on the crisis in Belarus with French Vice-Admiral Jean-Philippe Rolland (L), Special Chief of Staff of the President, at the Fort de Bregancon in Bormes-les-Mimosas, southern France, on August 19, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

## 'No more blood'

Tikhonovskaya, 38, said she had requested a meeting with Macron during his two-day visit to Lithuania, which starts later on Monday.

The French president would be her most high-profile meeting

so far since the election and the protests which she has helped inspire.

She has previously met with leaders in neighbouring Poland and Lithuania, which have taken a lead in European diplomacy on Belarus, and with EU foreign

ministers in Brussels.

Tikhonovskaya said the French leader was known as a mediator in international crises and voiced hope that he could "influence" Putin.

The Russian leader is Lukashenko's main ally and

has supported him financially, while also calling for stronger integration with Russia and a process of constitutional reform in Belarus.

"Now is the moment when Belarus needs help in starting dialogue," Tikhonovskaya said, adding that there should be "no more blood" in Belarus.

"Of course we would prefer to solve this problem by ourselves but we see that all these atrocities are continuing and the Belarusian people are suffering," Tikhonovskaya said.

At a summit in Brussels next week, EU leaders are set to debate personal sanctions against Lukashenko and other high-profile figures seen as responsible for a violent crackdown.

Tikhonovskaya said the bloc could go further and also adopt "sanctions against firms, individual businessmen who support Lukashenko's regime".

But she emphasised that the EU should stop short of general economic sanctions as "ordinary people will suffer most" from them.—AFP ■

# EU-UK trade talks resume under Brexit bill cloud



European Council President Charles Michel (R) and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen are seen on screen as they hold a videoconference prior to EU-UK talks via videoconference, at the European Council building in Brussels on 15 June 2020. PHOTO: AFP

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — Negotiators for the EU and Britain are hoping for a breakthrough in trade talks this week, despite feuding over a controversial UK bill that threatens to scupper a post-Brexit deal.

Scores of officials will assemble in Brussels from Monday in efforts to forge a compromise on negotiating positions that have not budged on key areas since the talks on future

relations began six months ago.

Both London and Brussels say a deal on a free trade agreement must be struck by mid-October to allow time for it to be ratified before coming into force from January 1 next year.

Failure to do so would see trade conducted on World Trade Organization rules, with higher tariffs and quotas and almost certain economic chaos for Britain and Europe.

Chief negotiators Michel Barnier and the UK's David Frost met last week to prepare the round of talks, in meetings that London characterised as "constructive".

European diplomats remained cautious that a breakthrough was possible, seeing this round of meetings as laying the necessary groundwork for a final push later in October.

"Next week, a path to a deal should be identified," an EU source said. "If we have zero movement, the process will be in big trouble."

## 'Rough patch'

Also on Monday senior EU and UK officials will meet in Brussels to try to find an understanding on the highly contentious issue of the withdrawal bill.

EU Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic will meet his British counterpart Michel Gove as joint chair of an EU-UK coordination committee overseeing the implementation of the divorce agreement.—AFP ■

# African cattle bred for toughness tested by climate change

PARIS (France) — Millennia of strategic breeding, including a hook-up with an Asian cousin centuries ago, have made African cattle resilient to drought, heat waves and disease, according to a genetic analysis released Monday.

Their ability to withstand extreme weather and sickness will be put to the test in coming decades as climate change exacerbates the continent's extreme weather, researchers reported in the journal *Nature Genetics*.

Genome sequencing of specimens from 16 breeds of African cattle revealed an "evolutionary jolt" some 900 years ago when indigenous breeds were crossed with a South Asian species, known as Zebu, said Olivier Hanotte, principal scientist at the Nairobi-based International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and senior author of the study.

The local cattle, called Taurine, had already adapt-

ed to endure humid climates plagued by vector-borne diseases such as trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness.

The humped Zebu added traits that allow cattle to survive in hot, dry climates typical in the Horn of Africa, where the new species probably first crossed onto the continent.

The study identifies a number of genetic markers for these combined traits, and points to strategies for making the animals even more resilient -- and productive.

"We believe these insights can be used to breed a new generation of African cattle that have some of the qualities of European and American livestock which produce more milk and meat per animal" but retain their toughness, he said in a statement.

Globally, cattle have become climate change pariahs because they produce large quantities of the greenhouse gas methane as they digest their food.—AFP ■

# Quick test results crucial in battling COVID-19

WITH the arrival of 200,000 antigen test kits from the Republic of Korea, mass testing for COVID-19, with quick results offered at township and district hospitals, will begin today. Antigen test kits are accurate, and thus essential for diagnosing and treating individual patients. By screening with Antigen test kits which can produce results much quicker than current tests, more positive cases can be found daily. The more we see the results earlier, the better treatment we can provide to the patients.

Meanwhile, people are urged to understand that the strict restrictions on travel and other rules and regulations are not meant to restrict them but to contain community transmission and outbreaks.

People in Yangon Region and in other parts which see new infections daily are advised to stay at home and not one to venture out except for essential purposes and doing essential work; people were also asked to keep two meters (six feet, seven inches) apart. These measures are aimed to curb the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus.

With the number of positive coronavirus cases reaching over 10,000 in the country yesterday, the Union Government has stepped up its fight against COVID-19 by warning that it has adopted a zero tolerance policy for those violating mandatory COVID-19 orders.

And, those who violate the law and are responsible for causing clusters of infection will surely face legal punishments.

The authorities in the regions and states are doing surveillance and enforcement, and people and businesses are urged not to violate public-health rules as COVID-19 cases climb in the country.

We are in a difficult time. The authorities will have a no-tolerance stance towards those who do not follow the mandatory orders amidst the COVID-19 crisis, and violators will face legal punishments.



# Inclusion and more public participation, will help forge better government policies: Guterres

SPeAKING at the end of the annual high level week, Secretary-General António Guterres warned that such crises are an “enormous governance challenge” for all nations, and overcoming them requires approaches driven by unity, solidarity and compassion.

“For that, we need governance models and structures that work for the common good, with an intergenerational perspective. We need to prioritize the rebuilding of trust between people, institutions and leaders,” he highlighted.

### Lead through equality

The UN chief called for leadership that is gender equal, noting recent studies that show women leaders have responded faster to COVID-19, adopted well-informed positions, led with empathy, and built inclusive coalitions that delivered better results.

“The key to reinvigorated and reimagined governance lies with truly meaningful participation of people and civil society in the decisions that affect their lives”, he added.

The high-level event, held on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly’s high-level annual debate, deliberated on the impor-

ance of participation as a human right and a vital tool for multilateralism, as well as how to address major global challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the climate crisis and development.

### Participation ‘an under-utilized tool’

In his remarks, delivered via a video link, the Secretary-General highlighted the importance of participation in public affairs as a fundamental human right and an underutilized tool for better policy making.

Meaningful participation of all segments of society in decision-making can address daunting challenges and it is a key element of the inclusive multilateralism needed for 21st century global governance, said Mr. Guterres.

However, participation is being denied and civic space is being crushed in many places around the world, he warned.

“A global pushback on human rights has placed participation in its crosshairs,” said Mr Guterres, adding that repressive laws are impeding the work of journalists and human rights defenders – especially women – and governments, are employing broad definitions of terrorism and abusing new



UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

technologies to curtail freedoms of civil society groups.

### Make participation and inclusion a reality

Mr Guterres called on everyone to “take a hard look” on how such alarming trends be reversed, and participation and inclusion – online and offline – become reality.

He also reminded that the decisions today have implications in

the future, and therefore, urged ways to allow future generations be represented in decision making, at both the national and international levels.

“Let us nurture and draw on the knowledge, creativity and diversity of our communities,” added the Secretary-General, stressing: “Participation is critical if we are to strengthen societies and meet the urgency of our times.”

participation must be inclusive, extending participation most especially to marginalized and vulnerable groups,” stressed the top UN human rights official.

Ms Bachelet outlined five key messages regarding participation. Firstly, it should be seen as an essential principle of governance; and it is key to achieving the core purposes of the UN – sustainable development, preventing conflict and promoting human rights.

Third, not only is participation itself a human right, it also supports and is dependent on other rights that are essential to effective governance, development and peace; and when people are prevented from taking part in shaping decisions that affect them, the consequences for governance can be severe.

And lastly, it should be considered an urgent priority.

The world is at a “governance cross-roads”, explained the High Commissioner; the pandemic has exposed and found fuel in the inequalities that result from weak governance of development, climate change, and peace and security.

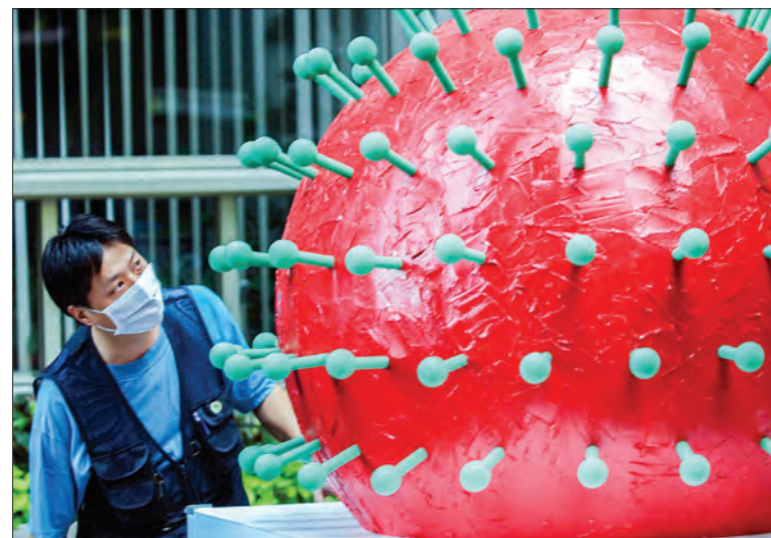
No government “can afford to ignore these powerful demands for change,” she said.—WHO

### Beware ‘tokenistic’ participation

Also speaking at the event, Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, underlined the need to ensure that participation is not merely formal or tokenistic, but in fact truly “meaningful and effective.”

It must, therefore, have an actual impact on decisions; and be timely and sustained: “Crucially,

# Coronavirus and other deadly epidemics



A masked man looks at a model of the coronavirus of SARS at city hall in Taipei, 17 May 2003. PHOTO: AFP

### 21st century viruses

SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19 infection, has been the deadliest of the 21st century viruses.

In 2009, the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, caused a global pandemic and left an official death toll of 18,500.

This was later revised upwards by the medical journal The Lancet, to between 151,700 and 575,400 dead.

In 2002-2003, the SARS virus (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) that emerged from China was the first coronavirus to spark global fears, but killed just 774 people in the final toll.

### Flu epidemics

The Covid-19 toll is often compared to that of deadly seasonal flu, though the latter rarely makes the headlines.

Globally, seasonal flu ac-

counts for up to 650,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In the 20th century, two major non-seasonal flu pandemics – Asian flu in 1957-1958 and Hong Kong flu in 1968-1970 – each killed around one million people, according to counts carried out afterwards.

Both pandemics occurred in different circumstances to Covid-19, before globalization intensified and accelerated economic exchange and travel – and with it the rapid spread of deadly viruses.

The greatest catastrophe of modern pandemics to date, the flu pandemic of 1918-1919 also known as Spanish flu, wiped out some 50 million people according to research published in the 2000s.

### Tropical viruses

The death toll from the new

coronavirus is already far higher than that of the haemorrhagic fever Ebola, which was first identified in 1976 and in its latest 2018-2020 outbreak killed nearly 2,300 people.

In four decades, periodic Ebola outbreaks have killed some 15,000 people, all in Africa.

Ebola has a far higher fatality rate than Covid-19: around 50 per cent of people who are infected die from it, and this has risen to 90 per cent in some of the epidemics.

But Ebola is less contagious than other viral diseases, namely because it is not airborne but transmitted through direct and close contact.

Dengue fever, which can also be deadly, has a lower toll. This flu-like illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito has been on the rise for two decades but causes just a few thousand deaths per year.

### Other viral epidemics

AIDS is by far the most deadly modern epidemic: almost 33 million people around the world have died of the disease, which affects the immune system.

First detected in 1981, no effective vaccine has been found.

But retroviral drugs, when taken regularly, efficiently stop the illness in its tracks and heavily reduce the risk of contamination.

This treatment has helped bring down the death toll from its peak in 2004 of 1.7 million deaths to 690,000 in 2009, according to UNAIDS.

The hepatitis B and C viruses also have a high death toll, killing some 1.3 million people every year, most often in poor countries.

Main data source: World Health Organization (WHO). —AFP

## President’s Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 35/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs’ arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 26 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 26 September. The full text of the press release will be reported in the 30 September issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

## U Tin Yu appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Yu, Consul-General of the Consulate-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Los Angeles, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.—MNA



အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများနေ့  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

“သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုဘဝဟာ သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများပေါင်းလို့ ကပ်ရောဂါကို တိုက်ထုတ်ဖို့”

“Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?”

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နေပြည်တော်

## Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 28-9-2020)

ACCORDING to the 12:30pm MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Katha is observed as about (2½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying area in Katha Township, to take precaution measure.

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## New Era Union Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

New Era Union Party Chairman of the Central Executive Committee U Aung Than presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 28 September.



### Esteemed voters and people

I am U Aung Than, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the New Era Union Party. Ours is one of the 14 federal democracy alliance parties.

May the strong public aspiration for democracy be fulfilled!

I will present the two essential points before explaining the policy and work programmes of the party.

### The first point

The election that will be held on 8-11-2020 will be different from 1948 and 1962 elections. It will not be the same as elections held between 1962 and 1988. It is a significant election for the actual transition to multiparty democracy that will change the system and the situation. The coming election is a life-and-death referendum for liberty and freedom.

People faced various kinds of experiences throughout the period from 1962 when democracy collapsed to the time when democracy started to grow in 2008 under the 2008 constitution and the elections in 2010 and 2015. Now the time has arrived to free the people from all ill experiences. The passion for peace is in the hearts of every citizen. Now is a turning point to express their hidden desire.

At this crossroad, we agree that the country needs a standard army that has all the capabilities and prowess to defend the Union.

### An army with professional standards

Today's Tatmadaw is an institution formed with the children of the people. It is an army with national pride set up with the nationalities. The role of the Tatmadaw is essential in building a peaceful, secure and united nation together with the people in the march towards democracy. Hands should be joined with the people in harmony and unison. We all should be in a reunion to build our Union.

We desire to restore the unity of the Union with the involvement of entire nationalities or to ensure reunion. We must convene a national conference with the participation of national races. It will draft a constitution towards a new era of the Union where nationalistic fervour and unity is intense. We believe that only the party that is elected under the said constitution will be a genuine Union government.

### The second point

The core of the party is the national cause, rather than working as a political party.

We have been taking part in solving the current

problems to a possible degree. We believe that free and fair election is the only peaceful way towards the multiparty democracy system. We need to have a genuinely free and fair election. We will realize our belief.

The voting process and the constitution are not enough for democracy. It needs to protect the individual fundamental rights. There cannot be democracy as long as there is no individual liberty. We must change the outlook of human society to develop democracy.

How are we going to entrust the people with power and deal with the government? There must be a change in policy and the public view for the transition to democracy. We must continue the process of policy change.

We need a public leader like General Aung San, who strictly observed the codes of conduct.

Every citizen has a strong hidden desire for peace, and they must express it openly.

### Esteemed voters and people

I will continue my presentation in five parts:

1. The history of our party
2. Our conviction, policy and programmes
3. Our view of the election and our participation in it
4. Rights of the people including the voters
5. Request for votes in favour of the party

Our party is formed to realize the attitude and the conviction of the former Union Party (Pyidaungsu Party or Patasa) in accord with the age.

Our policy is to forgive, not to revenge!

### Esteemed voters and people

We embrace the policy of loving-kindness.

The policy of consideration and love, the system of the early global period and policy of the new world are the policies adopted by the people of the same view. We believe that we can achieve success through the approach of loving-kindness.

### Esteemed people

The following are our work programmes:

We will solve the current problems to the possible degree. Peace is the must-be-solved problem of the Union now. Democracy will be meaningful, and the Union will prosper only when there is peace. We can build a long-lasting inclusive internal peace if all the stakeholders of the internal strife seek peaceful means without any pre-conditions, and it is our steadfast belief. So, let's restore peace, security and unity in the country through today's peace dialogues.

### Esteemed people

We will ensure rights for the civil servants since the time they join the services till retirement and pensions that meet the requirements of the modern ages for retirees.

### Economy

We will realize a free and competitive trade policy that meets the international standard. We will free our nation from the LDC status by ensuring trade liberalization and open competition that is free from government involvement. Our goal is to bring down

commodity prices and flood the market with essential goods through this policy. We will have plans that may raise the value of kyat in the international currency market and will enact a law that guarantees the stability of the local currency.

### Public health

The current health system is still far away from covering 70 per cent of the nation's population living in rural or remote areas.

So, we will make efforts for the adoption of an all-inclusive universal health coverage system.

### Education

We will strive for the allotment of funds from a separate heading of the national budget for child affairs and health and education.

We will implement a world-class education system. We will allow the formation of student unions and teachers unions. We will adopt a national education law that can change the current education system to meet the future requirement and for the emergence of an international level education system. We oppose sex education as it might wrongly lead children and youth.

### Labour

We will issue rules that will protect employees of all professionals at all levels.

### Peasants

We will abolish laws that encourage the existence of landlords.

### Foreign affairs

We will embrace the independent and non-aligned foreign policy.

### Judiciary

We will enact new judicial laws that ensure fair judgments in the courts for the emergence of a judicial system that wins the public trust and respect.

### Flag and Logo

The background colour of our flag is blue, meaning all nationalities of the Union living in unity as well as enjoying ups and downs.

A circle of 14 stars represents the nationalities of the Union and their characteristics.

The party's name "The New Era Union Party" written in yellow alphabets signifies principles, integrity and technology.

NEU is the acronym of the party, and the green colour represents internal peace.

The coming election is vital as life and death for human liberty and rights. I would urge voters to increase the number of persons who can deal with legal issues well in the Hluttaw.

Let us build a new democratic nation with new vision and strength. With this, I conclude.



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

# Coronavirus: latest global developments



(FILES) In this file photo taken on April 22, 2020 Cemetery workers wearing protective gear bury an unclaimed COVID-19 coronavirus victim, at the Municipal cemetery No. 13 in Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS (France) — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

## Toll passes one million

By 1100 GMT Monday, the coronavirus had claimed 1,002,036 victims, according to an AFP tally

collected from official sources.

The United States has the highest death toll with more than 204,762 fatalities, followed by Bra-

zil (141,741), India (95,542), Mexico (76,430) and Britain (41,988).

## Melbourne emerges from lockdown

Australia's second biggest city of Melbourne emerges from an almost two-month overnight curfew as the worst-hit Victoria state registers its lowest daily rise in infections since June 12.

## Merkel 'concerned'

Chancellor Angela Merkel is "deeply concerned" about sharply rising new coronavirus infections in Germany, her spokesman says, adding that daily cases could increase almost tenfold by Christmas.

## First Greek migrant camp death

Greek officials late Sunday announce the first coronavirus death of a migrant living in a camp in Greece, a 61-year-old father-of-two from Afghanistan who had been at the Malakassa camp near Athens.

## First cruise ship in Greece hit

A dozen crew members on the first cruise ship to dock in Greece after the coronavirus lockdown test positive, the Greek coastguard says. The Maltese-flagged Mein Schiff 6 operated by German travel giant TUI has 922 passengers on board.

## Virtual G20 summit

Saudi Arabia says it will hold the next G20 summit virtually on November 21-22 instead of having leaders of the world's richest nations converge on Riyadh as planned before the coronavirus crisis.

## Olympic torch relay set

The Tokyo 2020 torch relay, which was put on hold when the Olympics were delayed until next year over the coronavirus, will start on March 25 from Japan's Fukushima region, organizers say. The flame, lit in Greece, is currently on display in Tokyo. —AFP ■

## Fewer infections lead Japan to study relaxing cinema eating rule

TOKYO — Japan will consider easing a rule on eating at movie theatres, economic revitalization minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said Monday, in an additional relaxation amid a recent decline in the number of novel coronavirus infections.

While movie theatres in Japan have been allowed to sell all their seats since Sept. 19, eating is only allowed if audiences are limited to 50 per cent of auditorium capacity to prevent

infection.

Movie theatre operators had asked the government to ease the restriction, Nishimura, who is in charge of responding to the pandemic, told a press conference.

While the government has determined that it is safe to consume beverages in movie theatres, Nishimura said people need to take off face masks for longer periods to eat.

He added the government

will make a decision based on scientific data to determine whether it is safe to relax the rule.

The move comes as Tokyo confirmed 78 new infections, down from 144 on Sunday and 270 on Saturday. The capital is the hardest-hit area among the country's 47 prefectures and reported 59 cases -- its lowest daily figure in about three months -- last Wednesday.

On Monday, a total of 286

cases were reported nationwide, bringing the cumulative total to 83,199, including about 700 cases from the Diamond Princess, a cruise ship that was quarantined in Yokohama in February.

While the number of infections in the country has been on a downward trend since mid-August, an advisory group for the health ministry warned last week that the pace of decline has been slowing recently. —Kyodo News ■

## Madrid widens restrictions, 1mln people now under partial lockdown

MADRID (Spain) — A million Madrid residents were under partial lockdown Monday as the region moved to slow the spread of new infections, drawing fire from the Spanish government for not going far enough.

The city and the surrounding region is at the epicentre of a second wave of coronavirus that is sweeping Spain, which has claimed more than 31,000 lives and infected over 700,000 in the highest infection rate in the European Union.

Since midnight, the new measures impose mobility restrictions on another 167,000 people who can only leave their neighbourhoods for work, school or medical reasons. But they are not confined to their homes and can move freely within their district. Police were conducting random checks to ensure compliance with the new rules, which now apply to nearly one in six of the region's 6.6 million residents. —AFP ■

## Zimbabwe teachers strike as schools reopen after virus shutdown

HARARE (Zimbabwe)— Hundreds of Zimbabwean teachers demanding better pay stayed at home on Monday, as schools reopened after six months of coronavirus restrictions.

At the Warren Park High School in a western working class suburb of Harare, dozens of students waited for their teachers in vain at an unfinished school building. Some wore face masks. A 20-litre bucket of hand sanitiser was placed at the school entrance.

At another government school in the upper class Avondale district, no teachers were in sight and primary pupils played outside classrooms.

Teachers "did not turn up

for duty," Raymond Majongwe, secretary general of one of the country's largest unions, the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe, told AFP.

Majongwe said teachers battle to "survive" and that they can't even afford to send their own children to school.

Teachers' salaries, he said, have been heavily eroded by inflation -- which stands at over 700 per cent -- to an average equivalent of \$40 a month, down from \$550 in October 2018.

"Forty dollars is an insult. Teachers have lost their ranking in society. It's actually an insult to be a teacher. It's a curse," he said.

Zimbabwe is being buf-



Pupils observe social distancing before school assembly at Queen Elizabeth School in Harare on September 28, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

feted by its worst economic crisis in over a decade and is

grappling with hyperinflation. —AFP ■

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# HKT

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digital music (downloadable) provided from the Internet and computer networks; MP3 (moving picture experts group-1 audio layer 3) players; downloadable pictures, motion pictures, movies, music and game programmes; computer software for event scheduling and for managing, viewing and editing address books and personal and professional contact information; apparatus for coding and decoding signals; apparatus for use in broadcasting, transmission, receiving, processing, reproducing, encoding and decoding of digital signals; electronic circuits and components all for processing, coding and decoding electronic radio frequency and optical signals; speech processors, amplifiers, receivers and transmitters; alarm systems; security cameras; mobile radio and television broadcasting units; cameras; video cameras; headphones; ear pieces; speakers; GPS (Global Positioning System) apparatus and equipment; computer, electronic and video games programmes and electronic equipment; liquid crystal displays for telecommunications and electronic equipment; set top box; remote control; mouse pads; integrated circuits; data storage programs; servers; web-based online systems for booking satellite capacity and for the automated remote-control of satellite transmission equipment; pedometer; dongles; cloud computing operating system; data center storage devices; cloud computer networks and applications; computer software platforms for cloud computing networks and applications; computer software to enable users to program, view and distribute audio, video, text and other multimedia content, including music, concerts, videos, radio, television, news, sports, games, cultural events, and entertainment-related and educational programs via communication networks; computer software for use with satellite and/or GPS (Global Positioning System) navigation systems for navigation, route and trip planning, and electronic mapping; computer software used in mobile phones that allows users to play and download electronic games, listen to and download ring tones and music, and view and download data, software, screen savers and wallpapers; and parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods; all included in Class 9" in **Class 9**; "Insurance services; health insurance underwriting; life insurance underwriting; medical insurance services; insurance information; insurance brokerage; insurance consultancy; investment analysis and consultancy services; real estate affairs; arrangement of leases and tenancy; renting and leasing of real estate; real estate appraisal; real estate valuation, real estate financing, real estate investment; real estate brokerage services; real estate agency services; management of real estate relating to land, roads, bridges, power stations, office buildings, buildings and constructions and infrastructures; housing agency services; actuarial services; real estate management and consultancy services; rent collection; lease and/or tenancy management; rental of offices (real estate); rental of apartments and flats; real estate evaluation; accommodation letting, rental and leasing agency; accommodation management services; 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financial accounts debiting and crediting services; electronic banking services; issuance of stored value cards, charge cards and debit cards; telephone credit cards services; information services relating to finance and insurance, provided online from a computer database or Internet; agency for collection of gas and electricity fees; antique appraisal; art appraisal; jewelry appraisal; used car appraisal; tax information supply; charitable fund raising; rental of paper money and coin counting or processing machines; rental of cash dispensers or automated-teller machines; rental and/or leasing of safes; billing for services performed by means of telecommunications networks; administration of trust; corporate trust services; corporate trustee services; financial advice relating to trusts; financial trust management; investment trust management; investment trust services; management and investment of unit trusts; advisory services relating to unit trusts; trust advice and management; trust services; consultancy, information and advisory services relating to the aforesaid services; all included in Class 36" in **Class 36**; "Telecommunication services; provision of telecommunication access and links to computer database and to the Internet; electronic communication services; interactive telecommunications services; telecommunication of information (web pages), computer programs and data; providing telecommunications connections to the Internet or data bases; telecommunication gateway services; computer network communication services; provision of telecommunication access to world-wide web facilities and structures; communication by computer terminals, communication by fibre optic networks, computer aided transmission of messages and images, facsimile transmission, message sending, paging services, rental of modems, data communication services by electronic means; telephone services; mobile phone services; telegraph services, telex services; telegraphic-wire services; wire services; satellite communication services; electronic mail service; rental of telecommunication equipment; electronic message sending, receiving and forwarding services; collection, transmission and delivery of data by electronic means; collection, transmission and delivery of mail messages, still picture and/or moving picture information such as characters, messages, music and images, telegrams, information and data by mechanical, electronic, telephone, telex, cable, computer and satellite means; transmission, broadcast and reception of audio, video, still and moving images and data whether in compressed or uncompressed form and whether in real or delayed time; electronic messaging, conferencing and order-transmission services; communication services for video conferencing purposes; satellite video conferencing services; video conferencing services; radio and television communication services; communication services between computers; communication by electronic bulletin board that enables users to perform a real-time interactive talk between a computer terminal and an electronic bulletin board containing still picture and moving picture information and voice information such as characters; providing electronic bulletin boards and message boards for transmission of messages; provision of discussion forums; provision of on-line chat rooms; providing access to social networking and virtual community services; provision of telecommunication access to signal coding and decoding apparatus; television broadcasting services; broadcasting and transmission of radio and television programmes; cable television broadcasting; music broadcasting; transmission of music, films, interactive programmes, videos, electronic computer games; preparation of reports in relation to the foregoing services; provision of telecommunication facilities for interactive discussion and conversation; telecommunication services provided by means of pre-paid telephone cards; telephone services relating to credit card authorization; providing access to digital music web sites on the Internet; providing telecommunication access to MP3 (Moving Picture Experts Group-1 audio layer 3) web sites on the Internet; delivery of digital music by telecommunications; 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transmission of video and interactive games; podcasting and webcasting services; provision of online forums, chat rooms, blogs over the internet; web messaging services; video-on-demand transmission services; leasing access time to a computer database; providing access to computer database on the global computer network for searching and retrieving information, data, web sites and resources available on computer networks; providing user access to a computer database containing electronic publications and data via computer networks for processing and/or displaying purposes; providing user access to remote computers containing electronic publications, bulletin boards, database and information accessible via computer; operation of chat rooms (chat room services); provision of connectivity services and access to electronic communications networks for transmission or reception of computer software and application software; consultancy in the field of data processing equipment, apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images, all for the

transmission, distribution and broadcasting of information, data, graphics, sound, music, videos, animation and text, via satellite systems or landline computer networks, computer hardware, computer software, information technology, telecommunications apparatus, electronic apparatus and instruments and the Internet; operating search engines; consultancy, information and advisory services in relation to the aforesaid services; all included in Class 38" in **Class 38**; and "Computer service relating to creating indexes of information, sites and resources on computer networks; computer programming; computer integration services; design, drawing and commissioned writing, all for the compilation of web pages on the Internet; creating and maintaining web sites; hosting web sites of others; installation, maintenance and repair of computer software and computer programs, updating of computer software, computer services relating to recovery of computer data, computer software design; design and engineering design services relating to telecommunications systems and apparatus; testing of computing, telecommunication, electrical and electronic apparatus and instruments; computer systems analysis; computer database development; rental and leasing of computers, computer apparatus, computer software and computer data; computer services relating to home shopping services provided from the Internet; computer and electronic signal coding and decoding; design and development of computer hardware; design of computer databases and electronic record formats; computer and software support and maintenance services; design of computer software and hardware for use in telecommunications and voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) applications, data transmission and instant messaging services; providing temporary use of online, non-downloadable computer software that allows subscribers to utilize VOIP communication, virtual community and social networking services; providing online software for downloading by others that allows subscribers to utilize VOIP communication, virtual community and social networking services; design of computer software and hardware for use in web-based online systems for booking satellite capacity and for the automated remote-control of satellite transmission equipment; technical advisory and consulting services; monitoring of apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images for the transmission, distribution and broadcasting of information, data, graphics, sound, music, videos, animation and text, via satellite systems or computer networks; monitoring of data processing equipment, computer hardware, telecommunication apparatus, digital point of sale material and electronic signage; cloud computing consultation services; meteorological information; architecture; surveying; geological survey, research and prospecting; testing, screening and research of pharmaceutical, cosmetics and food; research for building construction and city planning; testing and research for prevention of pollution; electrical testing and research; civil engineering testing and research; testing, inspection and research for agriculture, livestock breeding and marine product industries; rental and leasing of measuring apparatus and instruments; rental and leasing of fixing equipment; rental and leasing of ultrasonic diagnostic equipment; rental and leasing of physical or chemical apparatus and instruments; consultancy and advisory services relating to energy conservation; energy auditing; environmental design services; environmental conservation and management; testing and evaluation of occupational health and safety; architectural and design services; interior designs of buildings, offices and apartments; application service provider services for uploading, posting, displaying, sharing or otherwise providing electronic media over the internet; application software services; creation of on-line social network sites; hosting social network sites; cloud services to enable downloading and uploading data; cloud services for storing data and computer software; cloud computing services; consultancy, information and advisory services relating to the aforesaid services; all included in Class 42" in **Class 42**.

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**Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)**

For **PCCW-HKT DATACOM SERVICES LIMITED**  
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**

Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: **29<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

**R.J. London Chemicals Industries Co., Ltd.**, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Thailand, and having its registered office at No. 42/4 Mu 14, Suwintawong Road, Tambol Saladang, Amphur Bangnampriew, Chachoengsao Province, Thailand, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

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**Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)**

For **R.J. London Chemicals Industries Co., Ltd.**  
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**

Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,  
221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township,  
Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: **29<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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**Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)**

For **L'Oreal**  
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**

Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,  
221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: **29<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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## G-20 summit in November to go online amid coronavirus pandemic

ISTANBUL — This year's Group of 20 leaders' summit, slated for Nov. 21 and 22, will be held online due to the coronavirus pandemic, the government of Saudi Arabia said Monday.

The 15th G-20 summit will be held under the presidency of King Salman bin Abdulaziz and will focus on "protecting lives and restoring growth" in the fight against the global pandemic, according to the Saudi government, which hands over the chair of the G-20 to Italy at the end of November.

The event was originally scheduled to be held in Riyadh to mark the kingdom's first hosting of a G-20 summit, but the Saudi government opted to go virtual, building on the success of the leaders' summit video teleconference in March and over 100 virtual working group and ministerial meetings, it said.

So far, about 33 million cases of novel coronavirus infections



Officials hoist flags of the Group of 20 nations on June 28, 2019, at the Intex Osaka convention centre. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

have been confirmed worldwide with about 1 million global deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hop-

kins University.

The oil-rich kingdom has enforced strict antivirus measures

and scaled down this year's Hajj pilgrimage in July by banning international visitors from trav-

eling to Mecca.

As of Sunday, there have been 330,000 cases of coronavirus infection in the Middle East country. According to the Saudi government, the upcoming summit will also focus on developing international actions to provide opportunities for all people by empowering them and protecting this planet, "whilst harnessing the potential of innovation to shape new frontiers."

Saudi Arabia, the first Arab nation to hold the G-20 presidency, has been pushing forward social reforms under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the King Salman's son, such as granting greater rights to women. But the country, which enforces strict Islamic law, has also faced international condemnation over its human rights record, particularly for the death of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.—Kyodo News ■

## Dozens dead as world leaders urge halt to Azerbaijan-Armenia clashes

YEREVAN (Armenia) — At least 24 people have died after deadly clashes between arch foes Armenia and Azerbaijan, as the latest violence in the decades-long territorial dispute sparked international calls Sunday to halt the fighting.

The worst skirmishes since 2016 have raised the spectre of a fresh war between the ex-Soviet rivals, locked since the early 1990s in a stalemate over the Armenia-backed breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Seventeen Armenian separatist fighters were killed and more than 100 wounded in the fighting, Karabakh President Arayik Harutyunyan said, con-

ceding that his forces had "lost positions". Both sides also reported civilian casualties.

"We are tired of Azerbaijan's threats, we will fight to the death to resolve the problem once and for all," Artak Bagdasaryan, 36, told AFP in Yerevan, adding that he was waiting to be conscripted into the army. Karabakh separatists said one Armenian woman and a child were killed, while Baku said that an Azerbaijani family of five died in shelling launched by Armenian separatists.

Azerbaijan claimed it captured a strategic mountain in Karabakh that helps control transport links between Yerevan and the enclave.

Armenian defence ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan in turn said Karabakh rebel forces killed "some 200 Azerbaijani troops and destroyed 30 enemy artillery units and 20 drones".

### 'Full-scale war'

Fighting between Muslim Azerbaijan and majority-Christian Armenia threatened to embroil regional players Russia and Turkey, with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan calling on global powers to prevent Ankara's involvement.

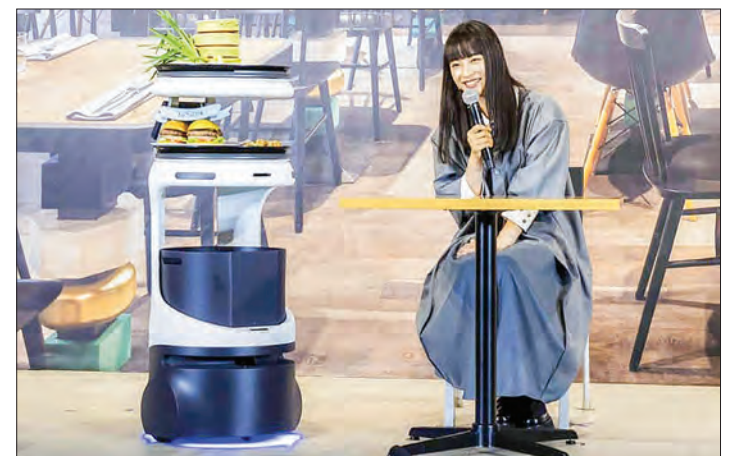
"We are on the brink of a full-scale war in the South Caucasus," Pashinyan warned.

France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union swiftly urged an "immediate ceasefire", while Pope Francis prayed for peace.

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his "deep concern" on Sunday, and "strongly called for an immediate end to hostilities". UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was also "extremely concerned" and urged the sides to stop fighting and return to talks.

The US State Department said it had contacted the two countries and called on them to "use the existing direct communication links between them to avoid further escalation". — AFP ■

## SoftBank unveils food service robot to reduce risks of infections



Supplied photo shows SoftBank Robotics Group Corp.'s "Serv-i" food service robot. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO — SoftBank Group Corp.'s robot making unit on Monday unveiled its new food service robot in a move designed to reduce the risk of coronavirus infections between staff and customers at restaurants and other eateries.

SoftBank Robotics Group Corp. said it will start renting the "Serv-i" robot, which can automatically deliver meals and drinks from the kitchen to tables at eateries, next January.

The three-year rental plan costs 99,800 yen (\$950) per month. The company said it expects orders from not only restaurants but also hospitals, retailers and hotels.

The 1-metre-high col-

umn-shaped robot, co-developed with California-based Bear Robotics Inc., can carry up to a 35-kilogram load at one time. It figures out where it needs to go using artificial intelligence.

The robot can deliver and pick up dishes just by entering a table number and pushing the "go" button on the device. Equipped with three cameras and a sensor, it can dodge obstacles, such as chairs and tables.

"Hall staff can spare more time for communicating with customers by introducing our robot," Dai Sakata, the company's chief business officer, said in an online press conference.

— Kyodo News ■



An image grab taken from a video made available on the official website of the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry on September 28, 2020, allegedly shows Azeri artillery strike towards the positions of Armenian separatists in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh. **PHOTO: AFP**

# India coronavirus cases pass 6 million

NEW DELHI (India) — India reported its six millionth coronavirus case on Monday as it surged closer to the United States as the most-infected nation, and authorities pressed ahead with reigniting the economy.

The vast nation is home to 1.3 billion people, some of humanity's most densely populated cities and a feeble healthcare system, and for several weeks it has reported around 90,000 new cases daily -- the highest in the world.

Health ministry data showed a rise of 82,000 cases on Monday, taking the total to 6.1 million and closing the gap on the United States, which has recorded 7.1 million infections. India could leapfrog the US in the coming weeks.

India has a much lower death rate than other worst-hit nations with almost 100,000 fatalities so far -- fewer than half the grisly toll of 205,000 recorded in the US, which has roughly a quarter of the population. Brazil has meanwhile recorded 140,000 deaths.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called on people to keep wearing face coverings



An officer from the District Magistrate Office dressed as Hindu lord of death and justice, Yamraj (L), stops a man for not wearing a facemask as a preventive measure against the Covid-19 coronavirus in a public place in New Delhi on September 28, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

when they ventured outside of their homes. "These rules are weapons in the war against corona. They are potent tools to save the life of every citizen," Modi said during his monthly radio address on Sunday.

The virus initially hit major metropolises including financial

hub Mumbai and capital New Delhi, but has since spread to regional and rural areas where healthcare systems are even more fragile and patchy.

"In several of the pockets where the transmission is active, the infection has gone into the community," former

national health secretary Sujatha Rao told AFP. "It is difficult to control transmission in such situations and a dramatic turnaround can perhaps be possible only through a rigorous implementation of a lockdown and preventive measures like mask wearing."—AFP ■

## Pakistan's opposition leader arrested on money laundering charges



PML-N President and brother of ousted Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Shahbaz Sharif (L) gestures as he speaks to media after holding All Parties Conference (APC) to discuss the general elections in Islamabad, Pakistan on 27 July 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's leader of the opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif was

on Monday arrested in a money laundering case by the anti-corruption body after a high court

rejected his bail plea.

Sharif, who is the younger brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was taken into custody by the National Accountability Bureau personnel from the premises of Lahore High Court in the eastern city of Lahore.

He was already on interim bail in the case and the court was hearing his counsel's arguments for the confirmation of bail. A two-member bench ruled against granting him bail.

The opposition leader is facing allegations of laundering 9.5 billion rupees (\$57.2 million). There are 15 co-accused in the case, include six of Sharif's family members.

Investigations in the case

had started after authorities detected 177 suspicious transactions linked to Shahbaz's family, Shahzad Akbar, prime minister's adviser on accountability, said last Wednesday soon after NAB filed charges against him.

Sharif and his party Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz have rejected the allegations, saying the case was politically motivated.

The case against the opposition leader was filed by the authorities after his elder brother criticized the army for its interference in politics, while speaking via a video link from London at a meeting of the leaders of opposition parties held in Islamabad on Sept. 20.—Kyodo News ■

## Sri Lanka returns containers of illegal waste to Britain

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Sri Lanka has shipped back to Britain container-loads of waste that the government said was brought into the island in violation of international laws governing the shipping of hazardous material.

The 21 containers -- holding

up to 260 tonnes of rubbish -- first arrived by ship in the capital Colombo's main port between September 2017 and March 2018, customs told AFP, adding that they departed Sri Lanka on Saturday.

They were meant to carry used mattresses, carpets and

rugs, but had also contained hospital waste, officials said.

"The shipper had agreed to take back these 21 containers," customs spokesman Sunil Jayaratne told AFP on Sunday.

"We are working to secure compensation from those respon-

sible for getting the containers into the country." Customs did not reveal the type of hospital waste, but previous illegally imported containers had included rags, bandages and body parts from mortuaries, according to officials.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Thailand extends emergency rule against COVID-19 pandemic until October 31

BANGKOK — Thailand has extended emergency rule against the COVID-19 pandemic for a sixth time until the end of October.

The government-run Centre for the COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, decided on Monday to extend the emergency decree for another month so that it will be further enforced nationwide against the pandemic until October 31, according to officials attached to Government House.

Thailand's emergency rule has been consecutively extended one month at a time with October marking its sixth month. —Xinhua ■

#### Indonesia landslides kill 11 including infant twins

TARAKAN (Indonesia) — Two 10-month-old twins were among at least 11 people killed in landslides across an Indonesian city early on Monday, a search and rescue officer said.

Several houses were buried in four separate locations around Tarakan on Borneo island after hours of heavy rain and strong winds. —AFP ■

#### Japan Airlines embraces gender neutral greetings

TOKYO (Japan) — Japan Airlines is ditching the phrase "ladies and gentlemen" and instead embracing gender neutral terms during in-flight and airport announcements from next month, the company said Monday.

From October 1, JAL "will abolish expressions that based on (two types of) sex and use gender-friendly expression" like "good morning" and "good evening," a spokesperson for the airline told AFP. —AFP ■

## Raphael Success becomes MNL's top scorer after Week-19

AKWA Raphael Success of Ayeyawady United became 2020 MPT Myanmar National League-MNL's leading scorer with 15 goals after its Week-19, according to the league's social media.

He was followed by Emeka Ndubuisi of Hantharwady United, Edubat Patrick of Sagaing United and Donald Bissa of Hantharwady United in the second place with 13 goals each. Win Naing Soe of Yadanarbon FC is in fifth place with ten goals.

After Week-19, the best team of the league is Shan United with 41 points, followed by Hantharwady United with 40 points, Ayeyawady United with 39 points,

Yangon United with 34 points and Yadanarbon FC with 20 points.

Rakhine United is in sixth place with 18 points, followed by Sagaing United with 17 points, Magway United with 13 points, ISPE with 11 points and Southern Myanmar FC with seven points.

The league will organize its Week-20 matches on 29 and 30 September and 1 October.

On 29 September, Magway and Sagaing United will meet at the Thuwunna Stadium.

On 30 September, Rakhine United and Southern Myanmar FC will play at the Thuwunna Stadium and ISPE FC will take

on Yangon United FC at the Yangon United Sports Complex.

On 1 October, Hantharwady United and Ayeyawady United will compete at the Thuwunna Stadium, and Shan United and Yadanarbon United FC will play at the Yangon United Sports Complex.

All of the matches will be held at 3:30 pm of respective dates.—Kyaw Khin ■

Ayeyawady United's player Raphael Success is seen during a match against Rakhine United in MPT Myanmar National League 2020 in August 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**



## Australia tennis chief says competing during quarantine a 'possibility'

SYDNEY (Australia) — Tennis players arriving for tournaments in Australia may be able to compete during their mandatory two-week coronavirus quarantine, the country's tennis chief has said.

Australia's strict virus border controls require international arrivals to spend 14 days in hotel quarantine, with most non-citizens shut out altogether.

But in a letter to players, CEO Craig Tiley said Tennis Australia was working with the government to ensure all players would be able to train during the isolation period.

Australia usually stages a

number of tennis tournaments in January, culminating in the Australian Open which is the first Grand Slam of the year.

"We are working with the government to ensure that all players will be able to train and prepare for events during this quarantine period," Tiley wrote.

"We will continue to keep you updated on any changes, including the possibility of being able to compete during the two-week period," he added.

Quarantine hubs for players will be established across "a number" of Australian cities from early December, Tiley added.

Melbourne, which is due to

host the Australian Open from January 18-31, has been in lockdown since early July to curb a second-wave coronavirus outbreak.

Some restrictions, including an overnight curfew, were eased Monday as case numbers fell to single digits for the first time since mid-June.

Tiley's letter was revealed by Slovak player Lukas Lacko, who tweeted it adding that the Open "will be fun I guess".

Tennis Australia said in a statement to AFP that it was involved in "productive discussions" about quarantine for players. — AFP ■



Australian player James Duckworth (R) serves past teammate John Peers during their Davis Cup doubles qualifying tie against Brazil in Adelaide on 7 March 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Tokyo Olympic torch relay to start on March 25 in Fukushima Pref.

TOKYO — The Tokyo Olympic torch relay will start on March 25 in Fukushima Prefecture, Tokyo Games organizers said Monday, in keeping with the plan that was developed prior to the games' one-year postponement due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The relay will start from the J-Village soccer training centre and last for 121 days while traversing all of Japan's 47 prefectures. The previous schedule for each region was maintained aside from a one-day adjustment to fit next year's calendar.

The Olympics are slated to open on July 23 next summer followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 24.

Approximately 10,000 runners who had already been selected will be given priority for the nationwide relay. Organizers said they will stick with the local routes and events that were already planned in principle but may make future adjustments according to the status of each region.

The Paralympic torch relay will be held in August. Organizers had been seeking to shorten the torch relay schedule in order to reduce swelling costs caused by the games' delay but abandoned the idea after receiving strong disapproval from local governments already banking on the event.



The Olympic torch to be relayed for the postponed Tokyo Games is put on display in Shizuoka, northeastern Japan, on Sept. 24, 2020, the first stop for the torch touring 33 municipalities in Iwate Prefecture, one of the regions hardest hit by the 2011 earthquake-tsunami disaster. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

As a result, only reducing the size of the vehicle convoys, staff and pageantry of some of the events connected to the relay are under review as potential areas for cost cutting and streamlining the games.

The Olympic flame was lit earlier this year at the site of ancient Olympia in Greece and arrived in Japan four days before the games were postponed on March 24.

The flame has remained in the host country since and is currently on public display at the Japan Olympic Museum near the main stadium for the games in central Tokyo until Nov. 1.—Kyodo News ■