

NATIONAL

Myanmar People's Democratic Party and Arakan League for Democracy Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

PAGE-10,11

NATIONAL

MoSWRR holds 2020 International Day of Older Persons

PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 169, 1st Waning of Tawthalin 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 2 October 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 182/2020 15th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 (1 October 2020)

Statement on adherence to healthcare guidelines in 2020 General Election

1. The Union Election Commission, in accordance with 2008 Constitution, already announced that the multiparty democracy general elections will be held nationwide on 8 November 2020 to elect MPs for the third term of three Hluttaws.
2. The election process includes setting up of polling stations, coming of voters to the stations and voting at the stations. Similarly, it also includes preparations for voting in the general elections of those who are under quarantine due to COVID-19 infections, advance voting of those who can't come to polling stations on the election day at relevant ward/village-tract election sub-commissions on designated dates, counting votes at respective township election sub-commissions and polling stations, collecting of election results and announcing the names of elected candidates by region/state election sub-commissions.
3. Due to present COVID-19 situation, polling station heads, deputy heads and members who will perform duties at the polling stations of different levels of relevant election sub-commissions, those who will manage outside the polling stations and voters need to be careful of the successful holding of the general election not to be infected by COVID-19.
4. The Ministry of Health and Sports issued the "Standard Operating Procedure-SOP" Part-I about campaigning in accordance with COVID-19 preventive and control measures for Hluttaw candidates who will compete in the general election on 7-9-2020.
5. Therefore, it is hereby announced that those who are involved in the election works according to paragraph-2 will have to abide by the directives included in Standard Operating Procedure Part-II that are to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures during the general election and health guidelines issued by relevant officials depending on situations.
6. The Standard Operating Procedure Part-II which are to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures in holding the general election can be viewed at the website of the Union Election Commission, www.uec.gov.mm, and UEC Facebook.

(HlaThein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Myanmar organizes relief flights to bring citizens back home from Tokyo, Hong Kong

THE 8th relief flight of All Nippon Airways, organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, landed at Yangon International Airport bringing 158 citizens back home yesterday.

Moreover, a total of 21 Myanmar seamen who signed off their duties in Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) also returned home in the same afternoon by a relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines organized by the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Hong Kong and their shipping companies.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working with the relevant ministries and its missions in foreign countries for the repatriation of citizens abroad in accordance with the guidelines of the National-Level Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar returnees from foreign countries arrive at the Yangon International Airport on 1 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Deputies of ASEAN finance, central bank hold meetings on finance, banking sectors between ASEAN and US Department of Treasury

DEPUTY MINISTERS for finance and deputy governors of central banks in ASEAN and the United States held an online meeting, as part of the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting yesterday.

The meeting was hosted by the rotating chairmanship of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Viet Nam.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win and Deputy Governors of Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein and U Bo Bo Nge joined the meeting via videoconferencing from the headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Deputy Minister discussed the implementation of COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, low-interest loan from the COVID-19 fund for SMEs, CMP, tourism, agriculture and food production sectors, food and cash as-



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win participates in the virtual meeting on finance, banking sectors between ASEAN and US Department of the Treasury on 1 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

sistance to people with no regular income under the CERP Action Plan, postponement of taxation period until the end of this year, getting low-interest loans from the World Bank, IMF, ADB and JICA to support financial sec-

tor of the country, works for debt transparency and infrastructure finance in accordance with the Public Debt Management Law, implementation of medium term debt management strategy, debt reports of the government, pub-

lishing the reports on the ministries' websites and cooperation with the World Bank to establish the New Development Bank to supply the needs of national infrastructure financing.

He also held talks on tax re-

form of Myanmar in relation to the development Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN (RIA-Fin), fruitful results from implementation of Financial Inclusion Roadmap (2014-2020), future plans for New Financial Inclusion Roadmap (2019-2023), development of capital markets and insurance sector.

Deputy Director-General Daw Khin Soe Oo from the Treasury Department presented her review on the 5th ASEAN Insurance Forum in Nay Pyi Taw in 2019, where Myanmar acted as the joint chairmanship of work committee on relaxation of ASEAN financial services.

The meeting was attended by deputy finance ministers from ASEAN countries, deputy governors, officials from the US Treasury, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. -MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar hosts 19th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations via videoconference

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the 19th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, at 11:00 am on 1 October 2020 via videoconference.

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India co-chaired the FOC. Present at the Consultations were U Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador of Myanmar to India, Mr Saurabh Kumar, Ambassa-

dor of India to Myanmar, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

At the Consultations, both sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral matters pertaining to the exchange of high level visits and multi-faceted cooperation including cooperation for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, boundary and border-related cooperation, development of ongoing projects between the two countries, cooperation in trade, commerce and financial sectors, consular and cultural cooperation, sta-



Permanent Secretary U Soe Han and Foreign Secretary of India Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla co-chair the 19th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) via videoconference on 1 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

tus on the implementation of agreements and Memoranda of

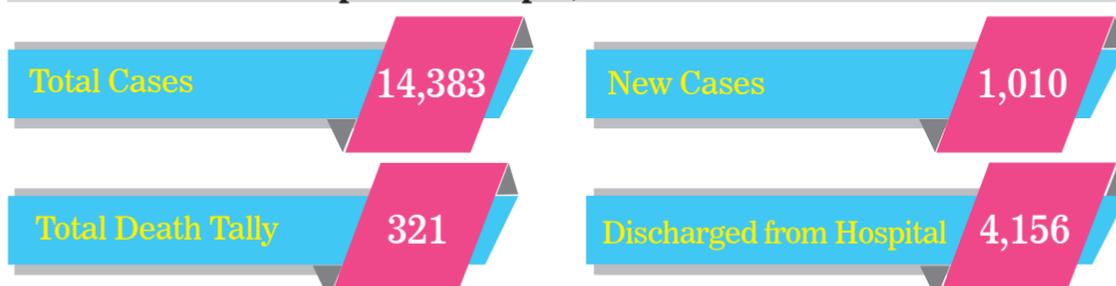
Understanding signed between the two countries and coopera-

tion in regional and multilateral contexts.—MNA

1,010 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 October, total figure rises to 14,383

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 14,383 after 1,010 new cases were reported on 1 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 14,383 confirmed cases, 321 died, 4,156 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 1 October 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15.
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



MoSWRR holds 2020 International Day of Older Persons

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized International Day of Older Persons via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Deputy Ministers, country representatives of UN organizations, the elderly persons and the officials of relevant departments.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye made an opening speech at the ceremony, saying that Myanmar is a member of international community and the ceremony was held with special recognition for the older persons that they contributed to the society and are still benefiting in some ways in the current society.

The ceremony for International Day of Older Persons has been successively holding in Myanmar since 1999. The previous ceremonies were widely held in respective regions, states and districts including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. However, it was held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Theme of this year's International Day of Older Persons is "Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Age-

ing."

The Union Minister continued saying that the COVID-19 disease can be infected regardless of races, religions, genders and ages and it is a challenge especially for the elderly persons in vulnerable group.

Although the older persons have to stay at home, they can be infected from others who go out and they can suffer more from the diseases if they have some chronic diseases that weaken their immune system. So, all the people in any age groups should participate in fighting the disease.

The ministry appreciates the human rights of every individual and is working to provide social protection services for all age group of people including the elderly while the country is implementing for human rights affairs, democratic affairs and the rule of law.

As the country agrees with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, it will carry out for advancing health and well-being into old age.

The ministry also provides the normal social pension to the older persons once every three months even in COVID-19 period and contributed further assistance in July in 2020.

It also provided K30,000 cash assistance to the older person between 80 and 85 years old under COVID-19 Economic Re-



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye delivers speech at the ceremony of 2020 International Day of Older Persons in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

lief Plan in September 2020. It provided K1 million each to the oldest grandpa and grandma in Myanmar like the previous years.

The government implemented the national social pension in 2017-2018FY for income security of the older persons and it will continue offering other services in coming financial years depending on the budget status.

Currently, the "Inclusive Self-Help Groups", which include new generations, women and people with disabilities, are organized in villages and will be led by the government to offer healthcare services to the older

persons and people of any age.

There are 216 Inclusive Self-Help Groups and they were provided with K1million fund of the Department of Social Welfare in 2019-2020FY. The officials will organize more 400 groups in 2020-2021FY.

The Union Minister also called on the older persons to prove that they support their families, villages, wards, the country and society by sharing their knowledge and life experience for the young people which are precious things for the new generations.

The government will create opportunities for the older persons to share their valuable

life experience and will apply the abilities of older persons in building the country while making efforts to protect the elderly persons against COVID-19 and to ensure their safety, the Union Minister said.

Then, the message of United Nations Secretary-General was read by UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of UNDP Mr Ola Almgren.

The healthcare and rights of older persons were shown in the video clip and the ceremony came to a close.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law



IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



When we do the tests speedily, we will get speedy results.

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.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation, on 29 September 2020)

MoC launches soft opening for application of trademark registration

THE Ministry of Commerce held the "soft opening" ceremony for application of trademark registration online yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint discussed the need to comply with international standards in practising the copyright system. The Union Minister added that the Central Committee on Intellectual Property (CCIP) is chaired by Vice President U Henry Van Thio and the Union Minister for Commerce is the Vice-Chair of the committee. The committee was formed by Union Government's Order 18/2010, 21/2020 and 31/2020.

The Union Minister said that the existing first user privilege system will be changed into the first applicant privilege system to implement the copyright law and the Ministry has issued Order 63/2020 dated 28 August 2020 in order to facilitate the transition. According to the order, the application for trademark registration is pre-accepted starting from 1 October.

He remarked that the first phase of initial adoption will use the WIPO file system of the World Copyright Organization



Union Minister Dr Than Myint participates in the "soft opening" ceremony for application of trademark registration online on 1 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

(WIPO) which is expected to make the registration easier to do business in COVID-19 crisis. In the second phase, the in-person application will also be accepted.

The Union Minister added that the ministry is implementing the process of approving

fees, rules and regulations and application forms required for the effective use of the copyright law and the trademark registration will be officially started right after the enactment of the law; and the implementation of the law can protect the trademarks effectively and provide fair com-

petition, encourage creativity and it will increase trade and foreign investment.

Adopting copyright laws in Myanmar was supported by WIPO, JICA, JPO and USAID.

The Union Minister also expressed thanks to these partner organizations and confirmed to

coordinate with them.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi explained that the ministry took steps to draft the copyright law and approved the law in mid-2019 and the workshops done in the Universities and SMEs and the sending delegates to the regional and international conferences, meetings and trainings.

He also thanked both international and national organizations for the cooperation by providing technical and legal assistance including the resources needed to develop the copyright system in Myanmar and requested them to continue the cooperation.

Deputy Director-General for the Intellectual Property Department Dr Moe Moe Thwe introduced the website of the department, www.ipd.gov.mm and explained the WIPO file system in accepting the applications and Director Dr Seint Thandar Tun explained the process of the trademark registration and answered the questions of the attendees. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



16 Myanmar seamen quarantined in Kawthoung

SIXTEEN Myanmar seamen who signed off from the MV Global Effort that came from Singapore anchored in the Andaman Sea arrived in Kawthoung on 30 September.

Officials concerned exam-

ined the health conditions of the returnees at the Kawthoung Jetty. The seamen returned for crew change were kept under hotel quarantine for 14 days, and their lab samples will be sent to the National Health Laboratory.

Captain U Myin Lwin, leading 15 seamen, who already arrived in Kawthoung will sign on to the vessel.— Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Sixteen Myanmar seamen returned for crew change arrive in Kawthoung on 30 September 2020. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe joins THET's 2020 Conference

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe made a speech at the opening session of 2020 Conference of the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) that based in the United Kingdom yesterday via videoconferencing.

The conference was held under the theme 'Health for all: A decade to deliver'.

Mr Ben Simms, the Chief Executive Officer of THET, said that the conference was attended by over 460 experts from more than 30 countries although the event was coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic.

He added that among over 1 million global deaths, 7,000 persons were health workers.

He also advised to continue essential and necessary healthcare services with the possible funds, technologies and expertise, and pointed out the need of more assistance to foster partnership relations between UK and Myanmar.

Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom from the World Health Organization, talked about the losses of lives, property and employments caused by the COVID-19 which began 9 months ago,



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the opening session of 2020 Conference of the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) via videoconference on 1 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

the requirement of quality healthcare services required for socio-economic development, and the establishment of a better world by close cooperation among the members of WHO.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe explained the use of possible resources in Myanmar to prevent and control measures against the pandemic, emphasized public participation plays crucial for the containment of pandemic and cooperation with

the health organizations across the world for rapid control of the disease. He added that global countries need to work for development of health standards in possible ways and approaches, importance of healthcare measures in tuberculosis, HIV, syphilis, vaccination programmes, non-communicable diseases, child and maternal healthcare and other health services.

He also advised policy makers and health project managers

from the countries with low and middle income rates to resume such health services after the momentum of pandemic has decreased to a certain level.

The Union Minister continued to say about alternative approach in providing healthcare services for Myanmar people, and expressed thanks to the THET for its assistance and cooperation in Myanmar.

The Cambridge-Yangon Trauma Intervention Project

has been implementing with the assistance of THET since 7 years ago for medical treatments to bone diseases and injuries, intensive cares, brains and nerves.

He also appreciated the 'Myanmar-UK Health Alliance' which is the joint project between the two countries for its crucial role in medical treatments in the country, and requested for more assistance to Myanmar for achieving healthcare for everyone, sustainable development goals, and equal rights for healthcare services.

The MoHS has established the Myanmar Health Sector Coordination Committee for better collaboration with the international organizations.

Dr Bethany Moos, the general practitioner from England, shared the experiences in conducting research on the snakebite projects, and Dr Navina Evens from the East London NHS Foundation Trust about the cooperation in global health network of National Health Service of the United Kingdom.

The four-day conference will be continued on 2, 5 and 6 October via videoconferencing.—MNA ■
(Translated by Aung Khin)

JMFA donates face masks to Myanmar for COVID fight



Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin (second left) accepts the face masks donated by Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association on 1 October 2020. PHOTO: PE ZAW

Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association (JMFA) in Japan donated face masks to Myanmar, to curb the spread of COVID-19, at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. The association provided a total of 301,000 face masks for the government employees of Yangon Region Government, Mandalay Region Government, governmental staff in Nay Pyi Taw, staff of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Border Affairs and staff who are performing duties in border areas.

Flights between Tokyo and Yangon carried the donated masks in two batches – the first batch on 26 September and the second batch yesterday.

In the evening, JMFA member and JOP Chairman Mr Tsuda Shunji presented 99,000 face masks for Yangon Region Government to the Region's Social Af-

fairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin under the donation programme.

U Naing Ngan Lin said, "JMFA donated a total of 301,000 face masks. They were transported via embassy. It is mainly for the government employees who are serving in distant areas. It is an activity to enhance bilateral friendship of the two nations. Japan provided a lot of assistance for our country. We are grateful for that". Similarly, Japan has conducted flu researches and flu diagnosis and carried out upgrading works before COVID-19, and provided assistance for upgrading laboratories for COVID-19 tests, getting fluid for testing COVID-19 samples and starting COVID-19 diagnosis during COVID-19. Moreover, JICA provided assistance for COVID-19 response processes.—Zaw Gyi ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Campaign speech of political party for 2020 General Election on 2-3 October

CAMPAIGN speech of National United Democratic Party (N.U.D) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 2 October, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar —on 3 October. — MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**CHIEF EDITOR**Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm**DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR**Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITORSYe Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aung Htein
Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR TRANSLATOR**

Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORSHay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com

www.gnlm.com.mm

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

www.facebook.com/thegnlm

**Write for us**We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Govt gives cash assistance to older persons in Haka

An official from Social Welfare Department (R) provides cash assistance to an older person in Haka, Chin State on 1 October 2020. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

THE Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement gave COVID-19 relief

assistance to the older adults in Haka Township under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

U Myint Oo, Township Administrator from Township General Administration Department and the officials went to

the houses of the aged in the wards in Haka and provided cash to them on 1 October.

The Department provided cash amounting to K30,000 each to the people between 80 and 85 years of age. There are 230 aged people in Haka, and the Department provided K6,900,000.

In September 2020, the Department also provided K7,110,000 for 237 older people for the first time. Above 85-year-old people received K30,000 each for three months. It is the second time of delivering cash assistance to the elders. Providing the elders during COVID-19 period will be of much help to the elders for their livelihood. Medicines and medical treatment are also provided, said U Myint Oo. — District IPRD

(Translated by Hay Mar)

ADB approves \$180 mln loans to upgrade water supply network in Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided US\$180 million loans to upgrade the water transmission system in Yangon Region, according to an announcement released by ADB on 30 September.

ADB approved a \$180 million loan to construct a 34-kilometre water transmission system that will help distribute 818 million litres of water daily to Yangon, which is the largest city of Myanmar.

"The Yangon City Water Resilience Project will address the critical water infrastructure

needs associated with bulk water supply in Yangon City and strengthen water safety," said Alan Baird, the ADB Principal Urban Development Specialist.

"It will help improve the resilience of the country's major economic hub and support inclusive, sustainable economic growth. Safe, piped water also comes with better sanitation and hygiene, which is critical to controlling the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)."

Yangon accounts for 23 per cent of Myanmar's gross domestic product (GDP). There are 5.2 million people in Yangon

Region, which is 10 per cent of the population of the country.

Although the country's population is increasing by 2.2 per cent annually from 2014 to 2019, only the lower half of the households have accessed the piped water. The supply of the water service is irregular, and the water quality is also differing. That is the reason why the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will solve this problem out with the support of ADB.

The assistance of ADB will be helpful to the government in building the new infrastructure such as an intake structure at Nga Moe Yeik Reservoir, an on-

line pumping station 900 meters downstream and a dedicated 2.4 meter-diameter pipeline connecting the reservoir to the Nyaungnhapin water treatment plant.

The project will strengthen YCDC's ability to operate and manage water services and become more responsive to climate change. It will help YCDC to prepare a roadmap to enhance its self-financing capacity and meet the growing demands for water services.

ADB was established in 1966 with 68 members containing 49 local members.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Yoma Yeiktha in Dagon Seikkan to be used as temporary COVID-19 treatment centre

WITH the rising number of COVID-19 confirmed patients daily in Yangon Region, Yangon regional government is planning to create a new treatment centre to contain the spread of coronavirus.

U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister for Yangon regional government, Daw Moe Moe Suu

Ky, the Minister for Immigration and Human Resources, Dr Zaw Wai Soe and other officials inspected Aung Myint Moh COVID-19 treatment centre in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Then, the officials asked what is needed, and they planned to take measures to

transform the quarantine centre in Yoma Yeiktha, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) township into a treatment centre. Arrangements are being made to support the necessary things for the health staff and volunteer from the centre to run the operation systematically.

At present, only a few peo-

ple are travelling on the road as Yangon regional government announced the stay home order in 44 townships to control spreading of COVID-19. The authorities concerned are cooperating to contain COVID-19 rapidly.—Myint Maung

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***Elections are the main pillar for supporting democracy.**

83 Mandalorian businesspersons to get second COVID-19 loan in 1st batch

A total of 648 businesspersons from Mandalay Region have applied for the second COVID-19 Fund, and 83 of them have been approved to receive the COVID-19 loan in the first batch, said U Kyaw Soe Naing, executive member of Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

MRCCI is issuing the approval letter separately to avoid the unnecessary crowd, ensure the social distancing and contain the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, those approved applicants must contact MRCCI at first to make an appointment. They will be put off until the next day if they cannot do so during the set time, MRCCI stated.

A total of 1,041 enterprises have been approved to take out over K20.7 billion from the second COVID-19 Fund and 83 enterprises are included in this, according to a committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19.

The applicants approved by the committee will be screened in line with bank rules and procedures, and they are not eligible for the loan if they get sued by a bank. The remaining applications are being processed, the committee stated.

The priority sectors for the second batch of COVID-19 loan are agriculture and livestock enterprises, manufacturing businesses, import-substitution businesses, food and beverage businesses, oversea employment agencies, export and import businesses, and vocational schools.

The 2019-2020 additional budget of K100 billion is put into the second COVID-19 Fund to mitigate the economic impacts of the coronavirus on the businesses.

The government started the first COVID-19 Fund to the business stricken by the coronavirus impacts, with K50 billion allocated from the country's revolving Fund and another K50



First batch of second COVID-19 loan reaches 83 businesspersons in Mandalay. PHOTO: MRCCI

billion from the social welfare fund. The loan is set to pay off within one year, at one per cent of the interest rate.

In the first COVID-19 Fund, more than 4,250 businesses applied for the loan and 3,393 of them received the loan in line

with the loan procedures. Over K101 billion have been disbursed under seven batches, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations announced.

More than 390 COVID-19 affected businesses from Mandalay Region received the loan at that

time. They are executing food businesses, weaving business, hotels and tourism enterprise, private schools and gems and jewellery business. — Than Zaw Min (IPRD)/ Htet Myat ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Number of companies registered on MyCO exceeds 10,000 within 9 months this year: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached over 10,000 in the past nine months (January-September) 2020, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Commonly, over 1,000 new companies are registered every month. This year, the figures of registered companies stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February and 1,015 in March, only 348 companies in April, 798 in May, 1,314 in June, 1,650 in July, 1,551 in August and 1,378 in September, as per statistics of the DICA.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA.

When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies registered on MyCO. The figure stood at 2,218 in September

2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November, 1,364 in December, 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, and over 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August and 1,181 in September. The figures reached a fresh new peak of 2,059 in October 2019. Then, 1,615 new companies in November and 1,772 in December 2019 were recorded, data of the DICA showed.

Since the establishment of the online registry platform, 36,647 new companies and 46,377 existing companies have registered and re-registered on MyCO, bringing the total number of registered companies to 83,024 by September-end.

Also, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5)

simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

A total of 16,319 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their position only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Highway buses shift to freight transport

By Nyein Nyein

SOME highway express bus lines are turning to freight transport mode, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"Some express bus lines are providing parcel forwarding service. They reported to YRTA", he said.

YRTA has not halted any passenger bus line service until today, including Aungmyingala Highway, Dagon Ayar Highway and Dala Highway.

"As we are making efforts to facilitate the public transportation, there is no bus line suspended for now. However, highway express buses are designated to transport to and from Yangon, connecting to other regions and states such as Mandalay Region,

Shan State. If there is no passenger on board, the express line will spontaneously stop. During the meantime, people are advised refraining from travelling in line with the health guidelines as a prevention measure for the COVID-19. As a result, the express line come to a halt," he continued.

At the present time, the express buses have to pass the necessary tests and inspections by the related teams to get terminal access.

More than 400 express bus lines are providing transport service from Yangon-based highway terminals (Dagon Ayar, Aungmyingala and Dala) to the regions and states. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Picture shows highway buses in Mandalay. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

Ramp up preparations now to ensure safe and secure elections amidst COVID-19

WITH only 38 days before the November-8 elections, the COVID-19 pandemic still poses a threat to public health.

When it comes to holding general elections in the midst of a global pandemic, election administrators must do much more to help the eligible citizens cast their ballots without placing themselves in danger.

Election administrators need to take a number of special measures designed to make in-person elections as safe as possible. At the same time, they need to prepare for advanced voting and for those who are placed in quarantine facilities as it is impossible for them to vote in person.

There are differences between the 2015 and 2020 general elections. The coming general elections will be held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are differences between the 2015 and 2020 general elections. The coming general elections will be held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the electoral process need to be in consistent with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Hence, the electoral process needs to be in consistent with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

At the same time, the election officials and the members of the public are urged to continue to monitor the developing situation closely and follow the guidance of local health authorities. Avoiding big gatherings is mandatory to slow the spread of coronavirus during the election campaigns because our country is facing a rapidly moving pandemic, and any death, any case, is tragic.

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

All poll workers will wear masks, gloves and face shields and will be physically distanced from voters. Poll workers will also be greeting voters at the polling location and will help them safely navigate the polling location. Where possible, polling locations will have separate entrances and exits. All of these measures are mandatory for the safety of the voters, poll officials and workers.

The number of new COVID cases has been rising steadily, reaching over 14000 yesterday with 321 fatalities. We understand that voting in person may seem like a scary option this year, especially in Yangon Region which has seen most positive cases.

However, public faith in elections is the bedrock of democracy and we must do everything we can to hold the November-8 general elections successfully and safely.

Election administrators and workers in regions and states are highly urged to ramp up measures for electoral processes now.

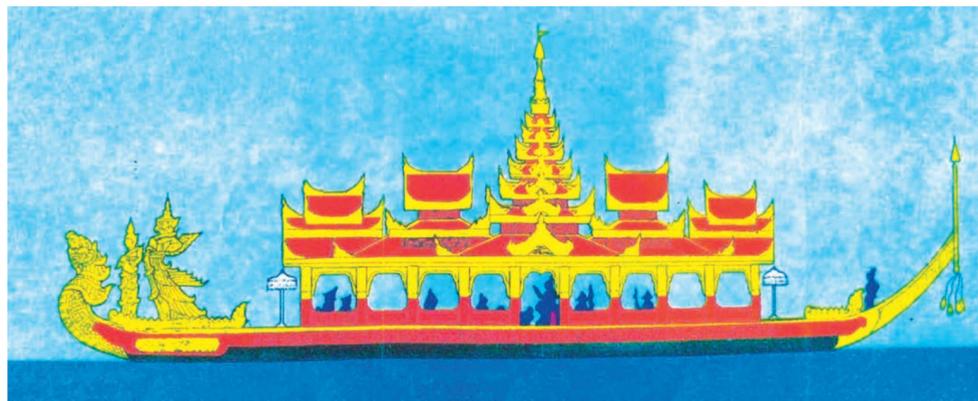
Lessons to learn from the Festival of Water Forces and Boat Races

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja, Sithu

BLESSED by natural favours, Myanmar is a country with rich water, land and forests. To crown them are mineral sources of jewels, minerals and fossils and island aquatic bodies and a long coastline with mangrove forests on it and archipelagoes. Many old saying epitomize the month of Tawthalin (September) the six month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar of 12 months.

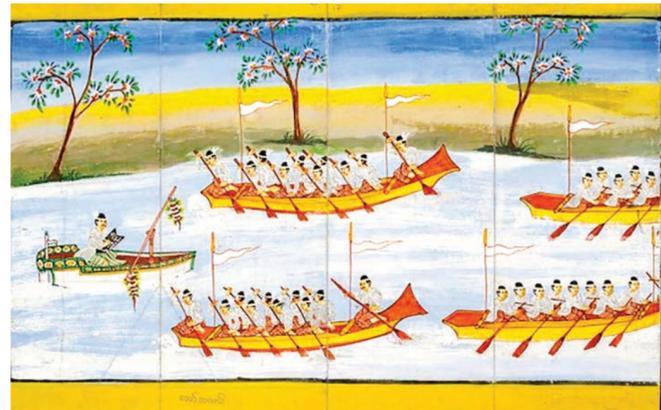
တော်သလင်း၊ မြစ်တွင်း သင်ဖြူစင်း။ In the month of Tawthalin the entire water surface in aquatic bodies is like a mat spread out.

Another popular saying is တော်သလင်းနေ၊ ပုစွန်သေ (Prawns die in the heat of Sun). Since rain has stopped smalls aquatic creature's prawns die in sunshine. Traditional festival annually held by Myanmar kings is Yey Khin Taw Display of water forces. Myanmar Army had two main branches -- water



The Pyi Gyi Mon Royal Barge was the type of water vessel taken by the kings of the olden days while touring the country and in celebrating the Annual waterway Parade.

and land. ရေအား၊ ကျည်းအားချီတော်မူသည် whether for fighting war or displaying or ceremonies Myanmar kings marched



Till the reign of the last Myanmar King, King Thibaw [1878-1885] the Regatta Festival and boat races were held without fail. Every year King's Hluttaw issued royal order to hold Regatta and boat races.

with water and land forces. There is one other type of water display. That is ရေကင်းတော်. Here Myanmar word ခင်း Khin and Kin ကင်း should be correctly understood. Khin means to display, Kin ကင်း means to patrol.

Everyday all time day and night water Patrol boats are on duty in the moat around the walled Palace City in which royal golden palace was seated. The moats are constantly pated to keep off enemy or any danger, using the moat to get into the palace city. These patrol boats have their own music band and song to break the monotony of long duty. So, new generation of Myanmar should take care of the meanings of Khin and Kin.

In this article dealing with Yey Khin Taw Display of Myanmar Water Forces and Boat Races for recruiting, Myanmar Hluttaw issued order with big budget to hold the annual event months ahead of

Tawthalin. Minister of Water Forces with his offices did the job with honesty and faith. He carried out many test runs. He listened to the weather forecast and Vedic predicting royal Brahmin Priests of the court. Pyi Gyi Mon Royal Barge was rebuilt. On it was a replica of Weizayanta Palace Hall with the throne on which Their Majesties (The King and Chief Queen) sat and on either side of Ministers in state gowns.

Sitting on rich carpet chief Brahmin Priests had stand nearby. At the auspicious time announced by the beat of royal drum. The ceremony began. Forefront of the barge with Buddha Image leading the royal Palace Barge on which rowers row their oars together in harmony. They were uniform dress. Red rather garments silvery white shirt and golden helmet sharing brightly in sunshine. There were 37 styles of rowing with 37 accompanying music and songs.

The royal place Burge was pulled by tow long boats on either side.

Royal song composers song their nearly composed Yey Khin Taw songs such as Eh "An" or "Luthar". Different burges, boats, etc. followed in accordance with their status and rank with Yen Khin Songs and music. After two to three rounds of up and down the river, the ceremony was ended. Their Majesties returned to their main palace. The public on the banks cheered. Long live their Majesties, Peace, Prosperity and Happiness for the entire kingdom.

The following days were boat races days. Different types of boats, even ships, war canons were held. Anyone could participate in boat races. Winners were rounded. The best selects were recruited into royal water forces/

တက်ညီလက်ညီ၊ ရှေ့သို့ချီ၊ ရောက်မည် ဝန်းတိုင်ဆီ။

With oars and rowers in harmony surely we reach our destination. Apart from the Ayeyawady River on which most Myanmar Capital Cities were situated there are large aquatic bodies within the country such as Indaw Gyi, Inlay, Taungthaman In, Meitthi La Lake, Indaw Lake etc., many aquatic bodies in other states and regions.

Myanmar ethnic nationalities are waterbrone, Regardless of their habitat on mountains, hills and lands. They all are prepared high for military session on land or water. ရေအားကျည်းအား ချီတော်မူသည်။ Royal march or entourage by water and by sea. It is the unity, harmony and courage that we always reach our destiny.

We'll sure reach our destiny.



ELIMINATE COVID-19 EVERYWHERE

Guterres urges more countries to step up and fund global COVID-19 vaccine effort

The UN Secretary-General on Wednesday called for all nations to provide further urgently needed funds – the equivalent of the total spent on cigarettes worldwide every two weeks – on behalf of global COVID-19 vaccine efforts to ensure that everyone, everywhere, gets protection from the virus.

THE Access to COVID-19 Tools – the ACT-Accelerator – along with its COVAX Facility, is a groundbreaking global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Launched at the end of April 2020, the ACT-Accelerator has secured \$3 billion, critical for its start up, but it needs a further \$35 billion – including an “immediate infusion” of \$15 billion – Secretary-General António Guterres

said at a high-level event to mobilize support for the initiative.

“These resources are crucial now to avoid losing the window of opportunity for advance purchase and production, to build stocks in parallel with licencing, to boost research, and to help countries prepare to optimize the new vaccines when they arrive.”

Any delay would further widen already vast inequalities, he warned.

‘By helping others, countries help themselves’

Mr Guterres outlined clearly that to reach that amount, donors’ paying in through official development assistance budgets, will not be sufficient.

“We need to think bigger. It is time for countries to draw funding from their own response and recovery programmes. By helping others, they will help themselves”, he said.

The coronavirus pandemic is costing the global economy \$375 billion a month and has destroyed around 500 million jobs so far.

The Secretary-General called on developed countries – which have devoted many trillions of dollars to respond to the socio-economic impacts of the crisis in their own countries – to “invest a small fraction of that, to stop the spread of the disease everywhere.”

“I call on all countries and partners to significantly step up in the next three months to provide much needed new and additional resources and to mobilize all partners and to put everyone behind a

global response to deliver. Solidarity is self-interest,” he stressed.

“Grasping that 21st-century truth is essential to end this crisis and emerge safer, smarter and stronger together,” he said, wrapping up his remarks.

‘A test of solidarity’

Amid the devastation of COVID-19, science is offering solutions, in the form of new tests, therapeutics and – hopefully – vaccines, said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

of the UN World Health Organization (WHO), speaking alongside the Secretary-General.

Science and solutions are, however, ineffective without solidarity, he added.

The head of WHO explained that the ACT-Accelerator has already delivered “impressive results” in the form of making available 120 million new rapid tests for low- and middle-income countries and securing courses of dexamethasone.

SOURCE: WHO

၂၀၂၀ ခြင်္သေ့နှစ်၊ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ထိခိုက်ဆုံးရှုံးနိုင်ခြေလျှော့ချရေးနေ့

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2020)

“ပေါင်းစည်းညီညွတ်သော စီမံဆောင်ရွက်မှုမှသည် သဘာဝဘေးလျော့ပါးရေးဆီသို့”

“It's All About Governance”

အောက်တိုဘာလ(၁၃)ရက်

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 1st October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal off North Andhra Pradesh- South Odisha coasts (India) still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay. Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 2nd October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Eastern Shan State, scattered in Northern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kachin, Southern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfall in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in Deltaic Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd October, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd October, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာများလုပ်ငန်းစဉ်များအားလုံးကို ချိတ်ဆက်ပေးပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way. **HOTLINE 09-45237515**

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာများနှင့် ခြေရာခံရေးရာများအား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်ရှိ ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. **Contact: 01-8604530**

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
ကြော်ငြာရေးနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများအားဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်ပေးပါသည်။
Advertise with us. **HOTLINE 09-974424848**

Myanmar People's Democratic Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Myanmar People's Democratic Party Chairman U Htay Kyaw presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 1 October.



Mingalaba.

Esteemed people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I am U Htay Kyaw, Chairman of the Myanmar People's Democratic Party. I want to present the party's policies.

The name of the party has reflected people's desire and stance. People in Myanmar means over 100 ethnic people of the Union such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and other national races.

The reason for the establishment of the party is to fulfil the desires and expectations of people with the participation of political forces, business groups, societies, defence and security forces to build the country. Our party is to enhance the safety of people and socio-economic development, which cannot be done by a single organization after analyzing and taking lessons from advantages, disadvantages and requirements, and performances of the government, the Hluttaw and the legislative sectors after the 2010 and 2015 general elections. Our party also aims at implementing the welfare of Myanmar people accordingly to the requirements of existing situations of the country, which has transformed from the previous administration to another.

Based on the people, our party has a legal personality as it was formed on 18 May 2017 with political party registration number 102.

Headquarters of the party is located at No.3 in Bago Lann Ward, Htauk Kyant, of Mingalardon Township in Yangon.

The goals of the party are to oppose dictatorship that is against people's desire and to establish a public administration by multiparty democracy system. Our party is also to ensure representations of people in the general management sector; the participation of people and their rights for their decisions, which play a crucial role for the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union based on the democracy and national unity. Our party also aims to work for the country in line with the national policy of Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty.

The objective of the party is that sovereignty belongs to the people and is not under the control of individuals or organization. Therefore, our party will perform any duty together with people for ensuring the sovereignty governed by the people.

The basic principle of the party is to oppose various forms of dictators/ dictatorships which can damage the

interest and lives of people. The party will also establish a genuine democracy for a healthy and lasting public administration system by developing public interest policies and a democratic political system as a rule-based organization while opposing dictatorship.

The brief policy of our party is a policy based on public interest or public policy. The existence of the country and its people is mutually related. Therefore, while people are fundamental to the country, the country is essential for the people. It is required to prioritize the basic economy for the people to foster the lives of people without just focusing on national building and development by turning a blind eye to the public interest and without centralizing the people. If people could enjoy good socio-economic fundamentals and the benefits, the country will indeed develop.

As people are suffering from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on economic, social, education, health and other sectors, the government need to prioritize in solving their problems.

The stance of the party never deviates from the three main principles.

Myanmar is a Union comprised of over 100 national races with their own culture, traditions, faiths, literature and religions, as well as their own national characteristics. Despite diversities, Myanmar national people have been living on the same land and drinking water from the same land for thousands of years in unity. Therefore, these histories, cultures, traditions and social ethics have appeared from the same stem of the Union and have been maintained until now.

Amidst changing modern ideology and concepts, the history of Myanmar; its culture, customs and ethics should not be tarnished. The party will work together with individual or organizations with the same concept and policy while opposing copycatted idea, policies and practices of foreign countries that do not meet the existing situations, norms and practices of the country.

Therefore, the three fundamental principles of the party are:

1. National Interest
2. National Security
3. National Development.

The party will always take efforts to achieve freedom, equality and justice in the country and among the citizens. The party will work hard to preserve Myanmar indigenous culture, race, languages, and religion, and will never betray the national interests.

The party will try to safeguard the following rights of the citizens.

- (1) Initial rights of the citizens
- (2) Right to recall (to allow removal of undutiful MPs from their positions)
- (3) Right to impeachment
- (4) Right to a nationwide referendum to enable all the citizens in the country to give their opinions

The party accepts the roles of Tatmadaw, which was born together with independence struggles of Myanmar; in protecting the country, national security and national politics as realities. It recognizes Tatmadaw as the only one legal Tatmadaw of the country. Only if Tatmadaw, all groups, and all institutions effectively cooperate, will the aims and good results be achieved. By cultivating good civil-military relations, encourag-

ing civil-military cooperation and promoting harmony, we will reach the target, and the wishes of the citizens will be fulfilled.

The citizens have many options and choices in the multiparty democratic system. There is no option in the single-party system. And the two-party system is like a seesaw fight. So only the multiparty system gives the citizens opportunities to choose. We want to request all the citizens to use the option effectively. The multiparty system has general elections in which several parties stand for. The citizens can elect the candidates they like. Voting is a duty and the right of a democratic country. So, I would like the citizens to vote in the general elections.

The election system is fundamental to get a fair and robust government.

And we would like to suggest that it is time to replace outdated election system (which ignores political essence, people's wishes and participation of the citizens) with a modern, fair, genuine and democratic election system.

The policy and the processes that will implement the policy need to be in harmony, and only if candidates do as they said, the benefit of the citizens will be served, and good results will be achieved. If a voter focuses only on the party's policy, he/she may not see the candidate's capability. If a voter concentrates solely on the candidate's qualification, he/she may not know the party's policy. If a voter focuses only on a person and a single party, he/she will see only that person and that party. But there are enormous human resources and promising candidates in all parties in the multiparty system. So we would like to suggest the voters pay attention to all parties and all candidates.

Esteemed Myanmar citizens

The yellow colour in our party's flag represents democracy. The red circle means that our party will take brave actions for the race, the religion and national interests. Each of the same-size white stars represents each of the 14 states/regions. The blue colour represents eternal peace. The golden map of Myanmar represents the country and its citizens. The golden star means that our country and our citizens will always exist gracefully and elegantly as long as the world exists.

Esteemed voters in Mayangon and Mingalardon townships, Htauk Kyant town, and Nwe Khway and Yinmabin village-tracts in Yangon Region; Thayet town, and Padaukpin, Innmange, Yaymyak, Bankone, Talapar, Twinle, Pauk-U Kar, Ywarma, Tone, Parput, Pandargon, Pyin Ai, Sintaw, Kyokya, Min Te, Pyin Taung, Htone Taung, Paikthalain, Pya Yay, Yay Paw Kyun, and Yay Phyu villages/village-tracts in Magway Region:

We would like to entrust our candidates in your care. We would like to request you to actively vote for the candidates of our party, which emblem is a golden map of Myanmar, and I will conclude here.

May all Myanmar citizens be free from pandemic diseases. I wish you all excellent health and wealth. Thanks.



Elections are the root for development of democracy.

Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) General Secretary U Myo Kyaw presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 1 October.



Greetings to esteemed citizens.

I am General Secretary U Myo Kyaw of the Arakan League for Democracy (ALD).

Firstly, ALD would like to express the profound grief from the loss of innocent lives and torture from the armed conflicts in Rakhine State, how people have fled and are suffering because of it.

ALD was formed by Rakhine-Myanmar pandit U Oo Thar Tun and Dr U Saw Mra Aung in the wake of the 8888 Uprising. From the beginning, the ALD has worked for democracy, equality for all ethnic groups, self-determination all based on the genuine federal union for the lasting peace and development of Rakhine people and all other citizens of Myanmar. We won 11 seats during the 1990 election and became the party with the third-highest number of wins.

ALD joined the United Nationalities League for Democracy (UNLD) to work together with other ethnic groups who share the same history. UNLD and NLD signed the Bo Aung Kyaw Street Declaration on 29-8-1990 to establish a Union that guarantees equality, self-determination, democracy and human rights for all ethnic people.

ALD's registration was abolished in 1992, but the political changes in 2010 allowed re-registration in 2012, and we join the United Nationalities Alliance (UNA).

We then merged with Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) to form the Arakan National Party (ANP) concerning the wishes of the Rakhine people and to further our efforts for the Rakhine interest.

Disagreement in policies led us to break away from ANP after the 2015 elections, and we registered as the ALD for the third time in 2017. We continue to be a member of UNA.

Current Myanmar was born from the Panglong Agreement, Panglong spirit, and the 1947 Constitution. The negligence of ethnic people's politics, business and social standards led to the rise of internal armed conflicts.

To put an end to the armed conflicts and pave the way for a fairer society, the entire population must work together to establish a genuine Federal Union.

That is why ALD will implement the party's policies to reform the executive, judicial and legislative branches to build that genuine Federal Union.

We need policies for the financial sector and appropriate management, natural resources, domestic and foreign investments, domestic and border trade, agriculture, forest, fisheries and other businesses, healthcare, education, social and cultural policies, regional education and planning sector.

The judicial branch must be allowed to have courts on all levels to ensure compliance with federal union judicial system. The legislative branch also needs regional and state Hluttaw representatives to be elected by the people from the same region and enact the necessary laws.

ALD has pledged to work together with UNA and other political parties who genuinely wish for federalism to implement the political policies and work programmes mentioned earlier. For as long as we had gained independence, there have been armed conflicts, and it has escalated in Rakhine State. We need to work together and establish a

culture of fairness to put an end to armed conflicts.

The armed conflicts are eating away at our national treasures and resources. It has caused us to lag in business, education, healthcare and other sectors and pushed the people into poverty. It leads to the disintegration of the nation. The lesson we learn from this is a failure to implement a Federal Union will destroy the country. ALD believes ethnic equality and self-determination and establishing a Federal Union is the true Union spirit.

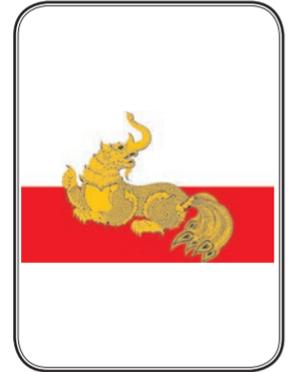
In conclusion, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was formed on 4 January 1948 because of the Panglong Agreement signed on 12 February 1947. There would have been no Union of Myanmar if not for the Panglong Agreement. The essence of the agreement is equality for the Bamar and other ethnic groups and self-determination, which will be brought about by building a genuine federal union to end armed conflicts and instil lasting peace. ALD will endeavour for lasting internal peace and development of the Rakhine region and all of Myanmar through establishing a genuine Federal Union.

We urge voters to cast their votes for the parties that will bring about a Federal Union and to the voters in Rakhine State to choose which representatives from Rakhine parties are in line with your regional interests and will execute practical implementations.

Arakan League for Democracy has selected only the best candidates that will bring about genuine change for Rakhine and the entire nation.

Let's establish a real Federal Union and bring about lasting peace.

* * * * *



WORLD

GERMAN TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The updated list of Germany's no go areas includes Belgium and most of France

GERMANY has expanded its list of at-risk regions to include neighbouring Belgium, and Iceland. This updated list, set against a background of rising cases of Covid-19, also covers most areas of France.

The latest update by the Robert Koch Institute, released on Wednesday evening, indicates that 17 EU countries are now classified as at risk, either in part or completely.

In France, the Loire and Burgundy regions have been added to the list. The entire country is now

considered a risk zone, with the exception of the Grande Est border region, which was particularly hard hit at the beginning of the pandemic, but has since shown signs of stabilisation.

Parts of the United Kingdom are listed for the first time, along with areas in Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cautioned on Thursday night against heading out on "tourist trips", and recommended avoiding "non essential travel" to these new areas,

where the rising number of Covid-19 cases exceeds 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, over a seven day period.

This is also the case in Luxembourg. Tourists returning from these territories will be required to be tested, when they return, and placed in isolation, depending on the result.

The German ministry did, however, lift warnings for travel to more than 160 territories outside the European Union and the Schengen area.

SOURCE: AFP

TENSIONS BETWEEN EU AND UK

EU launches legal action over UK Brexit bill

THE European Union launched legal proceedings on Thursday in response to the British government's attempt to overturn parts of the Brexit withdrawal agreement.

The infringement

procedure, which could come before European courts, has not derailed post-Brexit trade talks, but reflects mounting tension in Brussels as time runs short for a deal.

"This morning, the

Commission has decided to send a letter of formal notice to the UK Government. This is the first step in an infringement procedure," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

SOURCE: AFP

New Armenia, Azerbaijan shelling despite calls for halt

ARMENIAN and Azerbaijani forces intensified their shelling Thursday despite fresh calls from world leaders for an end to days of fighting over the disputed Nagorny Karabakh region that have left nearly 130 dead.

Police also deployed in large numbers in the streets of Stepanakert, the capital of the break-away province, after two explosions, as drones buzzed overhead and sirens sounded during the night.

The rival Caucasus nations have been locked in a bitter stalemate over the Karabakh region since the collapse of the Soviet Union when the ethnic Armenian region broke away from Azerbaijan.

SOURCE: AFP

Turkey begins life under strict social media rules

ANKARA—Turkey on Thursday entered a new era of tight social media restrictions which threaten to erase the local presence of Facebook and Twitter should they fail to take down contentious posts. The legislation was rammed through parliament by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AKP party and follows the government's crack-down on opposition newspapers and television channels.

Facebook's human rights officer Iain Levine tweeted that the move "raises many concerns (about) human rights".

But while fearful, free speech advocates are not certain whether Erdogan's government will be able to implement the law's most punitive measures -- or if social media companies will ever fully comply.

"We believe that these days it's really impossible in a country like Turkey to suppress social media -- it is so much a part of people's lives," said Emma Sinclair-Webb, the Turkey director



The new law threatens to erase the local presence of platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. **PHOTO: AFP**

of Human Rights Watch. Under the new rules, platforms with more than one million daily users must open offices in Turkey that can deal with local court decisions to remove offending content within a day. If not, they face advertising bans, multi-million-dollar fines and -- crucially -- bandwidth reductions of up to 90 per cent, making the platforms effectively unusable. They also require social media companies to "take necessary measures" to

store user data locally, although binding legislation to that effect was taken out of the final version of the law passed in July.

'Twitter schmitter!'

Erdogan has made no secret of his disdain for social media, although his RT Erdogan Twitter account has 16.7 million followers. "Twitter schmitter!" he declared in 2014, vowing to "wipe all of these" platforms out.—AFP ■

Google to invest \$1bn in deals with news partners: CEO

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California—Google plans to invest \$1 billion on partnerships with news publishers worldwide to develop a "Showcase" app to highlight their reporting packages, CEO Sundar Pichai said in a statement Thursday.

"This financial commitment -- our biggest to date -- will pay publishers to create and curate high-quality content for a different kind of online news experience," Pichai said.

Google has locked horns with publishers repeatedly in recent years over its reluctance to pay for displaying articles, videos and other content in its search results, which has become a vital path for reaching viewers as print subscriptions fade. It is currently in a standoff with several European media groups, including Agence France-Presse, over its refusal to comply with a new EU law governing digital copyrights.

The US giant says it should not have to pay to display pictures, videos or text snippets alongside search results, saying it drives hundreds of millions of visits to publishers' websites each month. It also points to millions of euros invested to support media groups in other ways, including emergency funding during the Covid-19 crisis.

Pichai said Google had already signed up almost 200 publications in several countries, including Der Spiegel in Germany and Brazil's Folha de S. Paulo, but the list lacked any from the United States or France.—AFP ■

Google's latest news initiative comes as the tech giant remains at loggerheads with many media over payment for displaying photos and snippets of their articles. **PHOTO: AFP**



AFP launches fact-checking programme with TikTok

PARIS —AFP announced Thursday the launch of a new fact-checking initiative with TikTok to combat the spread of misinformation over the short-form viral video app.

Under the agreement, AFP fact-check teams will verify potentially false and misleading videos posted on the TikTok platform in countries including the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand.

The verification work will allow TikTok to counter the spread of misinformation by removing such content and notifying users.

"AFP is delighted to be leveraging our global fact-checking expertise for this exciting project with TikTok," said Phil Chetwynd, AFP's Global News Director. "It is a major editorial priority for AFP to engage younger audiences on social media through fact-based journalism."

"And the deal will also allow AFP journalists to better cover and track misinformation trends on both our wires and our specialist fact-checking site factcheck.AFP.com." AFP retains full editorial independence in verifying the TikTok content that comes under review. "At TikTok, we actively work to create a safe and supportive environment for our users," said Arjun Narayan, TikTok Director of Trust and Safety, Asia Pacific. "We'll continue to keep deceptive content and accounts off our platform through our latest Fact-Checking Programme."

Since its launch in 2017, AFP's digital investigation unit has grown to become the largest global network of dedicated journalists in this field.

AFP currently works with Facebook's fact-checking programme, with 90 journalists working in 16 languages and covering 80 countries.—AFP ■

Pandemic pushes millions of shoppers online in Latin America

MEXICO CITY—Latin America's e-commerce industry is booming as millions of shoppers across the region venture online during the pandemic, many for the first time, forcing traditional businesses to adapt to survive.

The sector has been one of the big winners of the coronavirus outbreak as fears of infection and lockdown measures keep people at home.

"Covid-19 has been an accelerator of trends, and in electronic commerce it has been very powerful," said Oscar Silva, an expert in global strategies with the consultancy firm KPMG in Mexico.

"More than 10 million Latin Americans who had never bought online now do so regularly," he told AFP.

The dominant regional force is not Amazon or eBay but Mercado Libre, which has a similar business model and is present



Mercado Libre is the dominant e-commerce company in Latin America and one of the region's most valuable firms. **PHOTO: AFP**

in 18 countries.

Despite the economic turmoil unleashed by the pandemic, the Argentinian company doubled its sales in the second quarter of this year thanks to a 45 per cent rise in the number of customers to 51.1 million.

Its market capitalization reached \$55 billion, challenging Brazilian mining giant Vale for the title

of Latin America's most valuable company. The tectonic shift in consumer habits is likely to endure, said Silva.

"People were afraid of fraud or that the product wouldn't be what they expected. It's very likely that a large percentage of these customers will stay after realizing how easy and efficient online com-

merce is," he said.

Survival of the fittest

David Geisen, head of Mercado Libre's Mexican arm, said that "loyal users now buy in 12 days what they bought before in 17, frequent users in 24 days what they bought in 79, and sporadic users in 29 days what they bought in almost a year."—AFP ■

Trump signs bill averting government shutdown

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump signed Thursday a spending bill that averts a government shutdown and extends funding weeks beyond the November 3 presidential election, after Democrats reached a deal with the White House and Republicans.

The bipartisan text easily cleared the Senate Wednesday by 84 votes to

10 a week after it passed the House of Representatives.

It then went to Trump, who signed the so-called Continuing Resolution in the wee hours of Thursday, White House spokesman Judd Deere said.

Trump needed to sign the stop-gap measure by 11:59 pm Wednesday to avoid a partial govern-



FILE photo of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. The Senate approved a stopgap spending bill to avoid a government shutdown on Sept. 30, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

ment shutdown, as fiscal year 2021 technically begins on October 1.

He signed shortly after midnight, after returning from campaign stops, so technically there was in fact a mini-shutdown.

The short-term legislation keeps government federal agencies operating at current funding levels until December 11, easing pressure on Con-

gress -- and presidential candidates Trump and Democrat Joe Biden -- to address the issue during a heated election.

The measure adds nearly \$8 billion in desperately needed nutrition assistance for children and families, and extends funding for community health centres to continue to address Covid-19 and health disparities.—AFP ■

Trade to resume Friday in Tokyo after hardware shutdown

TOKYO—Stock markets will resume trade on Friday, their operator said, after a “hardware failure” caused an unprecedented day-long shutdown of one of the world’s biggest exchanges.

All transactions were suspended for the entire day on Tokyo’s two leading indexes, as well as smaller exchanges in other parts of the country, over a glitch that created problems with the delivery of market information.

“We plan to conduct buying and selling as usual tomorrow,” the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) said in a Thursday statement, hours after

officials said the issue had been identified and was being fixed.

There was no indication of a cyberattack or other foul play.

But the problem required a system restart that “would have created confusion among investors and market participants”, said TSE president Koichiro Miyahara at an afternoon press conference.

“After discussing with market participants, we decided to stop the market for the whole day.”

“We caused great inconvenience to many market participants and investors... We sincerely apologise,”

he added.

The problem was traced to a memory breakdown that failed to properly trigger a switch to a backup system.

Officials said the faulty hardware had been replaced and personnel would be deployed to monitor the system and avoid a repeat problem.

- Among world’s top exchanges -

The problem was identified before the market opened, with operator Japan Exchange Group (JPX) announcing a halving of trade less than 30 minutes before the opening bell.—AFP ■

NEWS In Brief

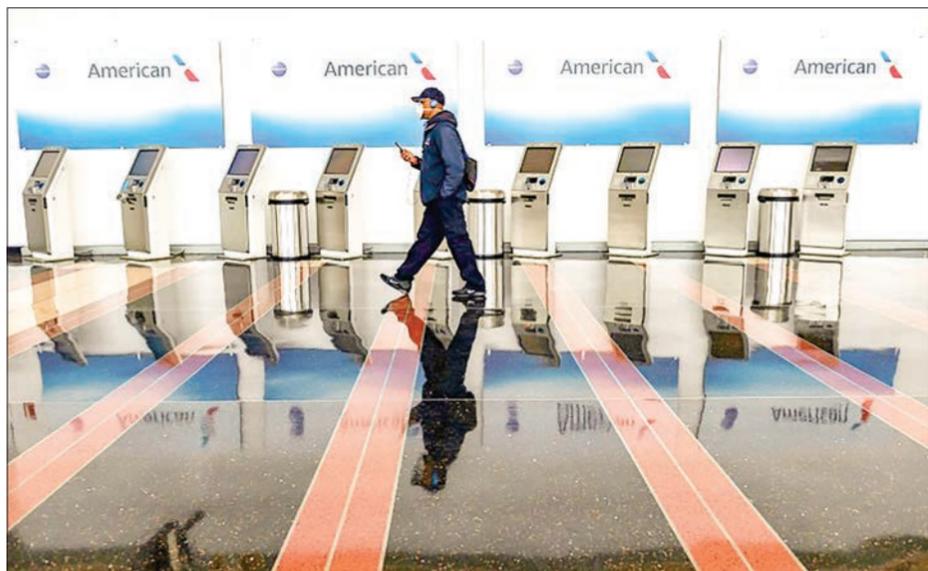
Indonesia’s deflation recorded at 0.05 pct in September 2020

JAKARTA—The Central Agency of Statistics recorded Indonesia’s deflation at 0.05 per cent in September 2020, the agency’s Head Kecuk Suhariyanto told a video press conference on Thursday. The deflation was in general due to the decrease in commodity prices in September, and the deflation also occurred in the July-August period 2020, he said. “With the deflation in September, it means that the deflation has occurred for three consecutive months from July to September. It was recorded at 0.10 per cent in July, 0.05 per cent in August and 0.05 per cent in September,” Suhariyanto noted.—Xinhua ■

Philippine central bank keeps key policy rate unchanged

MANILA—The Philippine central bank decided on Thursday to maintain the interest rate on the bank’s overnight reverse repurchase (RRP) facility at 2.25 per cent. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) also said that interest rates on the overnight deposit and lending facilities were likewise kept at 1.75 per cent and 2.75 per cent, respectively. “The Monetary Board’s decision is based on the assessment that prevailing monetary policy settings remain appropriate,” BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno told a virtual media briefing. The latest baseline inflation forecasts show a slightly lower path within the government’s 2-4 per cent target range. “This reflects the lower-than-expected inflation in August, the moderation in global crude oil prices, and the appreciation of the peso,” he said. At the same time, he said the Monetary Board “observed encouraging signs of recovery in domestic economic activity,” supported by ample liquidity in the financial system. Given these considerations, he said the Monetary Board “is of the view that a continued pause will allow prior measures by the BSP to further work their way through the economy.”—Xinhua ■

American Airlines says to start furloughing 19,000 workers



American Airlines is to start furloughing thousands of workers on October 1, the company said. PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON—American Airlines will begin furloughing 19,000 workers from Thursday, the company announced, as US officials have failed to reach a deal on fresh aid to the pandemic-hit air travel sector.

US carriers that received billions in aid from Congress had promised to refrain from laying off workers until the end of September, setting the stage for potentially thousands of job cuts in October.

“Our elected officials have not been able to reach agreement on a Covid-19 relief package... As a result, tomorrow, we will begin the difficult process of furloughing 19,000 of our hardworking and dedicated colleagues,”

CEO Doug Parker said in a letter Wednesday.

However, he sounded a note of hope saying that if lawmakers are able to hammer out a deal for new assistance, the furloughs would be cancelled and the affected teams recalled.

Since the coronavirus intensified in March, US airlines have been grounding planes and delaying jet deliveries to limit their cash-burn as air travel remains at about only one-third of its level a year ago.

Carriers have struck agreements with unions to spread out work among employees. Tens of thousands of employees have also accepted unpaid leave or early retirement packages to avert the need for involuntary terminations.—AFP ■

Transferred Distributor for Registration Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of below pesticides produced by Zagro Singapore Pte Ltd will have been transferred from JJ Pun Trading Co., Ltd. to Zagro Myanmar Ltd. So, if there is any protest, please protest to this address: Co-Secretary, Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein Township within (14) days starting from this announcement.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg.No.
1	Zathalin 33 EC	Pendimethalin 33%EC	Full	F2019-2106

JJ Pun Trading Co., Ltd.
TEL: (95) 1 368 7790-96

UNAVOIDABLE TAX HIKES

British finance chief in balancing act over virus plan



Hundreds of NHS workers gathered in Downing Street demanding a pay rise. PHOTO: AFP

UK finance minister Rishi Sunak, battling record deficits and soaring debt due to his government's emergency coronavirus response, faces a politically dangerous balancing act to pay the bill, analysts say. As the outbreak raged, total public debt rocketed above £2.0 trillion for the first time, striking a record high proportion of 102 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Commentators argue that a combination of taxation, inflation, spending cuts, and even economic growth could help balance the books for Sunak. But the public purse also faces the additional threat of a potential no-deal Brexit at the end of this year. Public sector net borrowing – the state's preferred measure of the deficit – hit a record £173.7 billion in the first five months of its 2020-2021 fiscal year, or April to August. That was an eye-watering £145 billion more than the year-earlier figure.

'Unavoidable' tax hikes

"It is unavoidable that taxes will rise... but the right decision is to not raise taxes now," Warwick University economics professor Arun Advani told AFP. "It is hard to predict when -- it will depend on the pandemic. If we see a winter not as bad as the spring, then end of March 2021 could be the time to... lay out an economic plan."

SOURCE: AFP

VACCINE TRIALS

Regeneron says early trials promising for Covid-19 treatment

THE US biotech firm Regeneron said Tuesday its antibody cocktail against the coronavirus reduced viral load and recovery time in non-hospitalized Covid-19 patients during an early-stage clinical trial.

"We are highly encouraged by the robust and consistent nature of these initial data," said George Yancopoulos, the company's president and chief scientific officer.

"We have begun discussing our findings with regulatory authorities while continuing our ongoing trial," he added.

The results related to the first 275 patients recruited into Regeneron's Phase 1 trial. The patients were randomized to receive either a low-dose, high-dose or placebo of the drug, and they were also classed by whether their bodies had mounted their own antibody response or not.

The greatest treatment benefit was seen in patients who had not mounted their own effective immune response, which suggested the drug, called REGN-COV2, could act as a substitute in the absence of naturally occurring antibodies, according to Yancopoulos.

SOURCE: AFP

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS

Care home workers suffer Covid trauma, anxiety: study

NEARLY half of care home workers in northern Italy may be suffering from post-traumatic stress or anxiety following the first wave of the pandemic, new research showed Wednesday.

As Covid-19 began its spread throughout Europe, northern regions of Italy -- home to a high proportion of elderly people -- were at the frontline as intensive care units were inundated with patients. While much attention was focused on the physical health of first responders and doctors, far less study has been given over to the mental well-being of the nurses, cleaners and caterers at care homes.

Researchers in Italy and Britain conducted an anonymous



As Covid-19 began its spread throughout Europe, northern regions of Italy -- home to a high proportion of elderly people -- were at the frontline. PHOTO: AFP

survey of more than 1,000 care home workers to check their levels of stress and anxiety after months of caring for sick resi-

dents. They found that 43 per cent of respondents passed the symptom threshold for anxiety and PTSD. SOURCE: AFP

PANDEMIC CRUNCH BEGINS TO BITE NIGHTCLUBS

The day the music died: virus kills one of Seoul's oldest nightclubs

TUCKED away in the dazzling neon lights of Seoul's nightlife district, Club MWG, one of the capital's oldest underground music venues, closed its doors last weekend as the pandemic crunch begins to bite South Korean nightclubs.

Founded in 1994, Club MWG enjoyed its heyday in the 1990s when underground clubs were rare in the South's capital.

An intimate space with room to host 200 people, the club in Hongdae district was known for indie band performances and popular DJs, as well as LGBT party events.

But in the past decade, the venue struggled with increasing competition as the district became more commercialized.



Club MWG, one of Seoul's oldest underground music venues, closed its doors last weekend as the pandemic crunch begins to bite South Korean nightclubs. PHOTO: AFP/JUNG YEON-JE

Then the pandemic broke out -- since May, Seoul's nightclubs have been faced with repeated closure orders, hammering the final nail in Club MWG's coffin.

"It feels as if my limbs are being torn," the club's owner Kim Eun-hui told AFP about the closure.

Kim had even taken up multiple jobs -- construction worker, tutor, and part-time cleaner to name a few -- to try and keep the business running.

But since the virus restrictions, she has not been able to earn enough money to pay the rent for the venue.

"I didn't want to give up... but ended up succumbing to the coronavirus," she said. SOURCE: AFP

Spain to put entire capital under partial lockdown

MADRID—With coronavirus cases spreading like wildfire, the entire city of Madrid is to be put under partial lockdown, Spain's government said Wednesday as it stepped up measures to fight the epidemic.

But Madrid's regional government reacted furiously to the new restrictions that affect mobility and gatherings, setting the scene for a political battle which could be dragged into the courts.

"The situation in Madrid is complex and worrying," Health Minister Salvador Illa told reporters, saying that of 11,016 new cases diagnosed in Spain over the past 24 hours, nearly 44 per cent were in the Madrid region. "That's why we have agreed to adopt these measures but we're aware that hard weeks lie ahead," he said after talks with Spain's 17 autonomous regions who are responsible for

public healthcare and managing the pandemic.

Spain is currently struggling with the highest number of new cases within the EU with a rate of around 300 per 100,000 inhabitants -- but in the Madrid region, the rate currently stands at more than 780 per 100,000.

The announcement sparked a backlash from Madrid's top health official Enrique Ruiz Escudero who suggested the region could fight it through the courts. "This is not legally enforceable," he said, insisting the situation was "stable" and accusing the government of peddling "a message of alarm and agitation".

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's left-wing government has been locked in a standoff with Madrid's right-wing administration over its management of the crisis.—AFP ■



Madrid's restrictions mean people cannot leave their neighbourhood except for work, school, or medical reasons. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

U.K. experts warn coronavirus is out of control



Commuters can be seen getting off a train in London. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON—British health experts admitted Wednesday that the coronavirus was out of control as case numbers and hospital admissions rise despite a slew of new restrictions on social gatherings.

"Things are definitely heading in the wrong direction," U.K. chief scientific adviser Patrick Vallance told a government press conference, as a further 7,108 cases and 71 deaths were reported.

As England's chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, warned that hospitalizations and admissions to intensive care were also rising, Vallance added: "We don't have this under control at the moment."

More than 42,000 people have died from COVID-19 in Britain, the worst toll in Europe, de-

spite a nationwide stay-at-home imposed in late March.

The lockdown was eased in June but authorities have in recent weeks reimposed restrictions on social gatherings, including a ban on groups of more than six and early closing for pubs.

Standing alongside Vallance and Whitty, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it was "still too early to tell" if these would have an effect and urged people to follow the rules. "If we put in the work together now then we give ourselves the best possible chance of avoiding that outcome and avoiding further measures," he said.

CONTEMPT FOR PARLIAMENT

Despite the warnings about rising case numbers, many of

Johnson's Conservative lawmakers are increasingly angry at the limits imposed on personal freedom.

More than 50 MPs had earlier threatened to support a motion in parliament demanding more scrutiny of future regulations, accusing ministers of governing "by decree." House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle refused to put the amendment to a vote for procedural reasons, sparing Johnson a rebellion.

But then he himself launched a scathing attack on Johnson's "contempt" for parliament.

Hoyle has repeatedly admonished ministers for announcing virus restrictions to the media before parliament and for not allowing time for debate before they come into force.—AFP ■

As coronavirus rebounds in New York, Orthodox Jewish communities decry stigmatisation

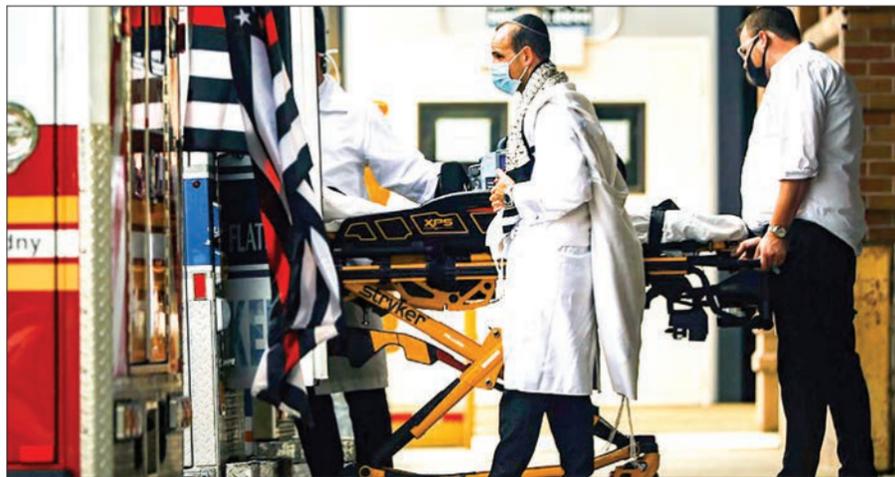
NEW YORK—As cases of coronavirus tick up again in New York, particularly in neighbourhoods with significant populations of Orthodox Jews, some residents of those areas say they feel attacked or insulted, accusing the authorities of creating a stigma based on their faith.

For two weeks, the positivity rate - the proportion of positive results out of the total number of tests performed - has been rising in America's most populous city.

After 23,800 deaths, and months as the globe's epicentre of the pandemic, New York recently became a model of containment.

But after long hovering around 1 per cent, that key positivity indicator on Tuesday (Sept 29) exceeded 3 per cent, what Mayor Bill de Blasio called "cause for real concern".

According to the authorities, the



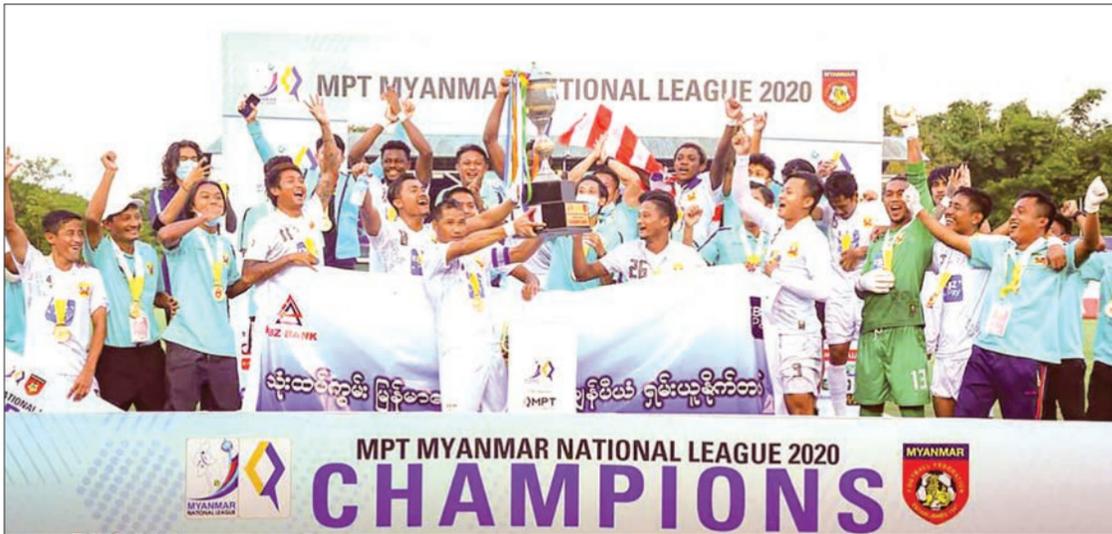
New York medical workers attend to an ambulance gurney outside of Maimonides Medical Centre in Borough Park where three members of the city's Orthodox Jewish communities died from the coronavirus over the last four days on September 28, 2020 in New York City. PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/AFP

most significant jumps involve neighbourhoods of Brooklyn, where Orthodox Jewish populations are substantial, and

coincided with gatherings linked to the recent holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.—AFP ■

Canada extends ban on international travellers

OTTAWA—Canada on Wednesday extended a ban on non-essential international entries until the end of October as the country was gripped by a surge in coronavirus cases. The extension comes amid a second wave of infections caused in part by the return to school or work of millions of Canadians after summer breaks. "We are extending the existing restrictions on non-U.S. international travel into Canada until October 31, 2020," Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said in a Twitter post. The restriction, which has been in force since mid-March, makes an exception for spouses, children, parents or guardians of Canadian citizens or permanent residents. The US has a separate relationship with Canada under which non-essential travelers aren't allowed into Canada but essential workers can get across the border. That arrangement expires on October 21.—AFP ■



Shan United's players and coaches holding their championship trophy for Myanmar National League 2020 at Yangon United Sports Complex on 1 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

Shan United defend MNL championship title with a win over Yadanarbon

SHAN UNITED defended their championship title of Myanmar National League with a 2-0 win over Yadanarbon FC in a last week match of the MNL 2020 season at Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

Defending champions had a tough run in the second season, but they managed to accomplish their two years consecutive title in the MNL.

Yadanarbon played for their dignity, and the team had no hopes for top place positions.

Head coach U Aung Naing's Shan United lined up with keeper Myo Min Latt, Nyein Chan, Ye Min Thu, captain David Htan, Hein Thiha Zaw, Nanda Kyaw, Keith, Maximin, Satt Phyo Wai, Hein Phyo Win and Abubakar.

Meanwhile, under the guidance of head coach U Aung Kyaw Moe, Myanmar national team

players based Yadanarbon FC lined up with Zaw Ye Tun, Myat Kaung Khant, captain Ye Ko Oo, Si Thu Aung, Myo Ko Tun, Hlaing Bo Bo, Hein Nay San, keeper Pyae Lyan Aung, Win Naing Soe, Nay Myo Aung and Aung Wunna Soe. Shan United played energetically from the start to show they deserved to win the champion position.

Shan United's Keith scored the first goal for his team by passing Yadanarbon's keeper Pyae Lyan Aung at 36 minutes.

The first half was led by Shan United with a single goal. Yadanarbon tried better for equalizers in the second half.

But, Shan United got another goal at 70 minute, and the goal was scored by Shan United star Nanda Kyaw over an error of Yadanarbon's keeper.

Shan United did not change

to defensive play in later minutes but there were no more scores till 90 minutes-play.

The 2-0 win was enough for Shan United to hold the 2020 Myanmar National League trophy.

Another championship dreamers: Hantharwady and Ayeyawady lost their championship dream as the two teams shared a point with a 2-2 tie.

With a point difference, Hantharwady United stood in the second place while Ayeyawady United seen in the third place of this year MNL.

After the final games, the award ceremony was held at Yangon United Sport Complex and Shan United lifted their championship trophy and celebrated their victory. Shan United had won MNL titles for three times including 2017 and 2019 MNL seasons. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Man City, Man Utd ease into League Cup quarter-finals

LONDON—Pep Guardiola admitted it was vital to keep a clean-sheet as League Cup holders Manchester City got back on track with a 3-0 win against Burnley, while Manchester United joined their rivals in the quarter-finals after beating Brighton 3-0 on Wednesday.

Guardiola's side suffered their heaviest home Premier League loss under the Spaniard on Sunday when Leicester handed them a humiliating 5-2 defeat. A brace from Raheem Sterling at Turf Moor ensured they washed away some of that bitter taste from that defeat and Spanish forward Ferran Torres, a close-season signing from Valencia, added City's third goal with his first for the club.

"It was important we didn't concede and the team was good in general," Guardiola said.

"When you lose a game the most important thing is the next one. Firstly, because if you lose in this competition, you're out.

"We are still far away from our best because we're not training much. We have a lot of players out, six because of Covid and four injuries.

"But step by step when we have all the squad we will get better. We are in the quarter-finals of this competition again so it's good."

City have won the League Cup four times in the last five seasons and they remain on course to retain the trophy.—AFP ■

Neymar has 34 million euro Spanish tax debt

MADRID—Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar owes more unpaid tax than any other individual on a Spanish authorities' blacklist with debts of 34.6 million euros (\$40.5 million), according to an official document published Wednesday.



Brazil's Neymar joined Paris Saint-Germain in August 2017. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The Brazilian, who played for Barcelona from 2013 to 2017 before moving to the French club for 222 million euros in the most expensive transfer in history, tops the list of thousands of names published on the website of the Spanish tax office.

The Spanish press reported last year the country's tax authorities were pursuing Neymar for fiscal fraud dating back to his time at Barca, but it is the first time the information has been officially confirmed.

The Spanish tax office, contacted by AFP, did not say whether Neymar's presence on the list was linked to his 2013 transfer to Barcelona from Brazilian club Santos.

But it said to appear on the list of the highest debtors the individuals had to fulfil several criteria, including missing the final deadline to pay the debt.—AFP ■

Djokovic 'the snake' tackles Berankis 'the spearfisher' at Roland Garros

PARIS—Novak Djokovic, who was likened to a snake by his vanquished first round Roland Garros opponent, tackles spear-fishing fan Ricardas Berankis on Thursday for a place in the last 32. "It's like a snake killing its prey. I felt suffocated," said Sweden's Mikael Ymer who took just six games off Djokovic in the opening round in Paris. Djokovic, chasing a second French Open and an 18th major, now has a 32-1 record for the year. His only defeat was his disqualification from the US Open.

"Everyone has been talking about the conditions this year. The balls, the heavy clay, the cold weather. It all affects the play, of course," said Djokovic of the autumn weather in the French capital. "But I think it's quite suitable to my style of the game." Now it's the turn of Lithuania's Berankis, ranked 66, to try and reel in the Serb who is bidding to become the first man in half a century to win all four Grand Slam tournaments twice.—AFP ■



Easy does it: Novak Djokovic celebrates after victory over Mikael Ymer in the first round. **PHOTO: AFP**