

NATIONAL

Khumi (Khami) National Party, Wa National Party (W.N.P) and Karen National Democratic Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

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Announcement on advance voting for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

1. The 2020 General Election will be held on 8 November. Due to the spike in COVID-19 infections, the government is working its best on prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.
2. During this time, local voters, who are outside their constituencies, are unable to return to the places where they have to vote due to the policies and standard operating procedures of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the directives and health guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports. It is necessary for the
3. Therefore, the voters, not to lose their voting rights, can apply for documents of Form 15 at the township sub-election commissions of respective constituencies they are living in. It is hereby announced that the election sub-commissions which received the applications will contact township election sub-commissions in the original constituencies of the voters as early as possible in carrying out the special task.

Union Election Commission

Myanmar returnees fly back home from France, Singapore by relief flights

Eighty-one Myanmar nationals landed at the Yangon International Airport by a relief flight organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Paris after they were stranded in France due to the suspension of international flights yesterday morning.

The MNA relief flight organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore also brought 63 seamen back home from Singapore yesterday evening.

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.

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

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Myanmar returnees from abroad are queuing at immigration counters at Yangon International Airport on 8 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

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"People are the key"

Announcement for voters

1. Union Election Commission has published the final version of voter lists at the sub-commission offices of respective wards/village tracts and at the villages from 1-10-2020 to 14-10-2020 for 14 days after receiving requests, amendments and additions of voters on the previous editions of the lists.
 2. The stay-at-home order remains in force to prohibit people from going outside for unnecessary reasons as part of control measures against COVID-19.
 3. Therefore, for the voters who have difficulties due to healthcare directives based on times/areas, the UEC has published the updated voter lists until 4-9-2020 on web application findyourpollingstation.uec.gov.mm, and the mobile application findyourpollingstation.apk at Google Play to download and check the name lists.
 4. However, there have been some delays in searching the names due to a large number of viewers at the same time. And that the voter lists for different regions and states can be viewed in the following web applications.

(a) Kachin State	http://bit.ly/kachin-voters
(b) Kayah State	http://bit.ly/kayah-voters
(c) Kayin State	http://bit.ly/kayin-voters
 - (d) Chin State <http://bit.ly/chin-voters>
 - (e) Sagaing Region <http://bit.ly/sagaing-voters>
 - (f) Tanintharyi Region <http://bit.ly/tanintharyi-voters>
 - (g) Bago Region <http://bit.ly/bago-voters>
 - (h) Magway Region <http://bit.ly/magway-voters>
 - (i) Mandalay Region <http://bit.ly/mandalay-voters>
 - (j) Mon State <http://bit.ly/mon-voters>
 - (k) Rakhine State <http://bit.ly/rakhine-voters>
 - (l) Yangon State <http://bit.ly/yangon-voters>
 - (m) Shan State <http://bit.ly/shan-voters>
 - (n) Ayeyawady Region <http://bit.ly/ayarwaddy-voters>
 - (o) Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory <http://bit.ly/naypyitaw-voters>
5. Processes for searching voter lists will also be explained on the respective web applications and UEC Facebook page.
- Union Election Commission*

Govt subsidizes over K2.3 bln for 33,802 insured employees in Yangon

GOVERNMENT is giving out cash assistance for the insured employees from private-owned industries, factories and workplaces operated by business firms and registered at the Social Security Board in Yangon Region since 5 October. The Ministry of Health and Sports issued order numbers 107/2020 and

108/2020, and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population released order numbers 196/2020 and 198/2020 to control COVID-19 outbreak. The insured employees from the workplaces under the stay-at-home programme in these orders could receive 40 per cent of their salary from their

contribution to Social Security Fund for June 2020. After scrutinizing the applications online and through township offices for the social fund, a total of K2,362.733 million cash assistance has been allowed for 33,802 insured employees from 313 workplaces.

The insured workers from industries, factories and workplaces in Mon State, Bago Region, Mandalay Region and Ayeyawady Region that are included in the stay-at-home order will also enjoy cash assistance under this programme.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

55 Myanmar seamen spend hotel quarantine in Kawthoung



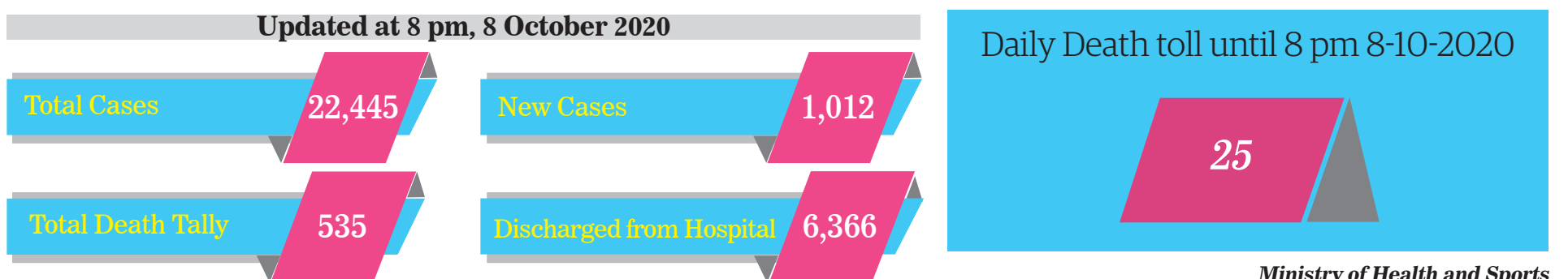
A total of 55 Myanmar seamen who signed off from the ships anchored in the Andaman Sea arrived in Kawthoung on 7 October evening and are currently kept under hotel quarantine. Out of 55 seamen, 3 signed off from MV Horizon-9 of India, 16 from MV Hupeh of Singapore, another 16 from MT CT Frontier of Singapore and 20 from MV Green Bay of Bangladesh. The local officials of jetty and health departments helped them with medical tests and other supplies and put under 14-

day hotel quarantine, while their swabs will be sent to the National Health Laboratory of Yangon. These 55 Myanmar seafarers had swapped duties with 4 seafarers including Captain U Zin Linn Pyae for MV Horizon-9, with 16 seafarers including Captain U Linn Zaw Latt for MV Hupeh, with 16 seafarers including Captain U Aung Win Tun for MT CT Frontier and with 18 seafarers including Captain U Wai Linn Aung for MV Green Bay.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar seamen are seen at Kawthoung border checkpoint on 7 October. PHOTO: KYAW SOE

1,012 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 October, total figure rises to 22,445

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 22,445 after 1,012 new cases were reported on 8 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 22,445 confirmed cases, 535 died, 6,366 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA



2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

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

2020

General Election Sunday, 8 November 2020



Campaign speeches of 2 political parties will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speeches of Kokant Democracy and Unity Party and Democratic Party (Myanmar) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm today for the second time. — MNA

Govt continues providing social security benefits for insured workers

GOVERNMENT is providing cash assistance to the employees of the factories, workplaces and businesses entitled to social security benefits amid COVID-19 second wave, according to the virtual meeting of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Thein Swe said that 40 per cent of social security benefits amounted K19.64 billion have been already provided for 800,260 insured workers of 6,429 departments during the first wave of COVID-19.

The ministry has been scrutinizing the remaining departments to continue provision of cash assistance from the social security fund, he added.

Due to the rise in second wave of COVID-19 infections, the ministry issued Order 196/2020 on 24 September to provide second batch of social security benefits for insured employees.



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds virtual meeting with representatives from labour organizations and UMFCCI officials on provision of social security benefits for insured workers on 8 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

A total of 1,832 factories and workplaces applied for the social security benefits between 24 September and 7 October via online web portal.

Among them, a total of 33,802 insured employees from 313 departments were provided with 40 per cent of social security benefits amounted

K2.363 billion. The ministry is scrutinizing the remaining factories and work establishments to continue provision of the social benefits.

The ministry has provided 60 per cent of social security benefits for the insured workers of being quarantined, positive COVID-19 patients, be-

ing treated at hospitals, and pregnant women in accordance with laws.

The cash assistance was paid to related factories and workplaces by cheque and via online, he said.

The online meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing, Yangon

Region minister Daw Moe Moe Suu Kyi, the permanent secretaries, the directors-general and departmental officials, representatives from labour organizations, and officials from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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မြန်မာ့ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားမှ ထုတ်လွှင့်ပြသသွားမည်

MRTV Facebook Page, MRTV-LIVE ညနေ(၅)နာရီမှ ညနေ(၅:၄၅)အထိ **Live Streaming**

MOI Webportal Myanmar Facebook Page, Myanmar Digital News Facebook Page

Myanmar-Korea Joint Cultural Performance to be aired today

THE 'Myanmar-Korea Joint Cultural Performance', to mark the 45 years of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, will be broadcast on MRTV and Myanmar Radio from 5 to 5:45 pm today, and the live streaming of the event will be launched in MRTV

Facebook page and MRTV Live from 5 to 6:30 pm. The show will also be posted on MOI Webportal Myanmar Facebook Page and Myanmar Digital News Facebook Page.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoHS discusses COVID-19 control measures in Yangon

MINISTRY of Health and Sports organized a videoconference yesterday to discuss control and treatment of COVID-19 in Yangon Region.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe talked about practical approach to control the pandemic, increasing number of confirmed cases and effective investigation in contact tracing after using test machines Cobas 6800, RT PRC and GeneXpert, as well as Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits, distribution of flowcharts at the quarantine centres to monitor the patients with chronic diseases in the stay at home areas, sharing standard treatments to the health workers and expansion of High Dependency Units and Intensive Care Units at the hospitals.

Deputy Director-General Dr Tun Myint from the Public Health and Medical Services Department in Yangon Region discussed the importance of self-reporting by the persons with suspected symptoms in containment measures, the use of Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits, and quarantine



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presides over online meeting with health officials from Yangon Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

facilities at the specific area and establishment of fever clinics.

Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun from the Department of Medical Research discussed preparations for wards and ICUs at Yangon General Hospital, the need of portable X-ray equipment and computer programme for the patients.

Rector Professor Dr Zaw Wai Soe from the University of Medicine (1) briefed on preparations at the hospitals and medical centres in Yangon, limit of human resources in health sector, whether it is necessary to establish COVID-19 treatment centres or not, working with volunteers for the data in

quarantined areas and training courses on using ventilators and PPE suits.

Deputy Director-General (Treatment) Dr Thida Hla reported on the number of inpatients at the COVID-19 treatment centres and hospitals, hiring security personnel from private companies for Thin-

gangyun People's Hospital and Insein People's Hospital in Yangon and distribution of mobile tablets in the measures.

Deputy Director-General (Lab) Professor Dr Htay Htay Tin and Deputy Director-General (Epidemiology) Dr Tun Tin discussed preparation for using Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits, tender invitation for procurement of 3 units of RT PCR machines, more needs for Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits in Yangon, Rakhine and Bago.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein said that portable X-ray machines will be supplied to Yangon General Hospital, and Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win discussed the plan for sufficient supply of Remdesivir medicines and other medical supplies.

The Union Minister coordinated the discussions and gave suggestions on information sharing and effective coordination to overcome the pandemic.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Ayeyarwady Bank, Max Myanmar Group contribute K1.5 bln to Ayeyarwady Centre for COVID-19 patients

AYEYARWADY BANK and Max Myanmar Group donated K1.5 billion yesterday for the Intensive Care Unit and the High Dependency Unit which will be operated soon at the Ayeyarwady Centre for COVID-19 patients.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region government U Phyo Min Thein visited the new 75-bedded healthcare facilities, located in the compound of Thuwunna Football Stadium in Yangon, on 7 October evening and received cash donation.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is providing possible assistance for the facilities, and the donation of K1 billion from the Ayeyarwady Bank and K500 million from the Max Myanmar Group will be used for medical equipment, medical

supplies and oxygen supply machines.

The ICU/HDU facilities were established by the close supervision of Professor Dr Zaw Wai Soe, and over 150 volunteers including doctors and nurses will provide medical treatments to the serious COVID-19 cases.

Construction of the 50-bedded HDU is also underway as a second phase to be able to expand the capacity up to 125-bedded facility.

The Ayeyarwady Centre was set up by the Ayeyarwady Foundation of the Max Myanmar Group of Companies which is also running the Ayeyarwady Bank and the Max Myanmar Group.— Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein looks around the new facility of ICU/HDU at Ayeyarwady Centre on 7 October evening. **PHOTO: KO MOE**

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

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



Advance voting begins in Brazil, India, Philippines, China's Kunming

ADVANCE VOTING of Myanmar citizens for 2020 General Election started in Brazil, India, the Philippines and Kunming of the People's Republic of China yesterday.

Eight eligible voters cast their ballots at the Myanmar Embassy in Brasilia of Brazil, 35 voters cast their votes at the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi of India, 35 voted in Baguio and Los Banos of the Philippines and 48 voted at the Myanmar Consulate-General Office in Kunming of China.

Officials from the Myan-



Myanmar citizens casting advance votes in Tokyo, Japan on 8 October. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar voters queue for advance voting at Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, South Korea on 8 October. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar people continue advance voting in Singapore on 8 October. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar eligible voters cast advance votes in Kunming city of China on 8 October. PHOTO: MNA

mar Embassy in Manila arranged the voters in the Philippines to cast votes in Baguio and Los Banos as the voters faced difficulties to go to Manila due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Moreover, Myanmar citizens continued advance voting in six embassies concerned yesterday, with 671 persons in Bangkok, 12 in Cairo, some 1,700 in Singapore, 204 in Seoul, 10 in Tel Aviv and 284 in Tokyo.

More advance voting stations will be set up at the Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia and in Nagoya of Japan on 9 October. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

6 Thai workers return home via Tachilek border

MYANMAR officials transferred 6 Thai workers including four men and two women to Thai authorities via Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge-2 in Tachilek of eastern Shan State on 7 October.

The authorities conducted medical checks on these Thai nationals before their repatriation.

The closure of factories in Tachilek during COVID-19 pandemic has led to their return.

Myanmar authorities led by Assistant Director of the Department of Immigration U Maung Maung Myint and Secretary for CNCMC U Sithu Maung handed over these Thai nationals to the Thai government delegation led by Pathpon Onnoul, Songsok Pakiang and Priawpurin Manopeaw. —Yar Say (IPRD)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Thai workers return to their country via Tachilek border on 8 October. PHOTO: YAR SAY

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.



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Italian embassy, AICS to organize 'Culture and Development in Southeast Asia' webinar

THE Embassy of Italy in Myanmar and the Italian Agency of Development Cooperation's (AICS) Yangon office will jointly organize the online event on 'Culture and Development in Southeast Asia' at 3 pm on 15 October,

The event is aimed to mark the 5th anniversary of the Agenda 2030's adoption.

"The Agenda 2030 covers the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

We firmly believe that culture, which is a major asset for our country, addresses cross-cutting policy objectives in these three priorities. Italy's actions, both in Myanmar and on a global scale, have always been coherent with these goals", said the Ambassador



of Italy in Yangon, Alessandra Schiavo.

Stemming from the belief that cultural heritage conservation and enhancement represent a driving force for economic and social development, the webinar will be an opportunity to discuss the most adequate strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda, starting from the experience gained by the Italian Cultural

Cooperation in Myanmar and Southeast Asia over the last 20 years.

"In recent years, the Italian Cooperation has widely contributed to the protection of the cultural heritage of Southeast Asia, including the support to the sites of the Pyu Ancient Cities and Bagan in Myanmar, both successfully listed as World Heritage Sites, in 2014 and 2019 respectively.

This effort was made in synergy with local institutions, international organizations and universities, demonstrating the pivotal role of the promotion and protection of cultural heritage for sustainable development and confirming the need for an integrated dimension of sustainability as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda," declared Walter Zucconi, Head of the Yangon Office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The event will be attended by representatives of Italian and international institutions active in the field of cultural heritage conservation for sustainable development, and Italian Civil Society Organizations that have worked in Myanmar for a long time and closely with local communities.—GNLM ■

Free online 'Digital Literacy Training Courses' for MSMEs to be launched

THE Digital Literacy Training Courses for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be opened via online free of charge, according to SME Development Department, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and Industry.

The training courses will be launched jointly by the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection and The Asia Foundation Myanmar.

The training courses will be conducted through zoom application, and those MSMEs

businessmen who are interested are to apply for the training courses. The training period is three days, and each day will include half-day classes.

The lessons will include particles, quizzes, group exercises and audiovisuals. The training courses include digital tools which are useful for the workplace, finding digital marketing and online payment system such as online monetary management tools.

The first training course will be opened from 12 to 14 Oc-

tober from 9 am to 12 pm. Registration can be made through <https://forms.gle/7wxg3zf5tH-jRJ4z58>. The second batch will be opened from 12 to 14 October from 2 pm to 5 pm. Registration can be made through <https://forms.gle/anwr7dgZCv-48V8NZ7>. The third batch training will be conducted from 15 to 17 October from 9 am to 12 pm, and registration can be made through <https://forms.gle/4ZL-BajdkyubcGVzV8>, while fourth batch training will be opened from 15 to 17 October from 2

pm to 5 pm and registration can be made through <https://forms.gle/B9T1iMbuvpPRig-VB9>. Only 40 trainees will be accepted for each batch.

After the training, they will receive certificates of completion and mobile data. Those who want to know further information may contact the following numbers 0943103730 (U Thaw Zin) and 09060090800 (Daw Cho Lat Lat Hlaing).—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ha Mar)

Huawei donates medical supplies to Mandalay govt to fight COVID

By Nyein Nyein

HUAWEI donated over K16 million worth medical supplies to Mandalay regional government to assist in the fight against COVID-19, according to an announcement released by Huawei on 7 October.

The company also donated over K4 million worth 8,000 three-layer masks and 120 bottles of hand gel to the Mandalay regional government in May for the first time. Additionally, Huawei donated

over K12 million worth protection equipment such as 5,000 three-layer masks and 1,000 N95 masks in the outbreak of COVID-19 second wave.

Through this donation, Huawei Myanmar holds a chance to support the front-liners and the volunteers from the hospitals across the region.

"Prevention is better than cure. We hope this will partly help to handle the issue of COVID-19 second wave in Myanmar and to reduce the infection rate among the local com-

munity. Through our donation, we want to assist the relieve programs of Mandalay Regional Government to focus more on recovery procedures and rebuild Mandalay back into the normal," said Mr Ding Zhaoyi, CEO of Huawei Myanmar.

The COVID-19 second wave started in Myanmar in early August of 2020, and Mandalay is one of the most affected areas. The state and regional governments have tightened the restrictions on townships which are included

in the stay home plan to control the spread of COVID-19.

During the pandemic period, Huawei has donated over K130 million worth PPE suits, AI technology support, safety goggles, hand sanitizers, three-layer masks and N95 masks to COVID-19 Prevention Central Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw Council, Yangon regional government, Kayah regional government and other departments. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

Myanmar agricultural exports increase in 2019-2020 FY



Agricultural industry contributes 22 per cent of Myanmar export.
PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING

Myanmar's exports of farm products remarkably soared to US\$3.69 billion between 1 October 2019 and 25 September 2020 in the 2019-2020 financial year from \$3.2 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the last FY2019-2020, the agro-export figures reflect an increase of \$474 million against a-year ago period.

Myanmar's agricultural exports rose regardless

of the impact of the coronavirus on foreign demand.

In the exports sector, the agricultural industry performed the best, accounting for 22 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural industry are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

More than 100,000 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated un-

der the contract farming system this year, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and unpredictable weather conditions. In a bid to remedy the businesses stricken by the COVID-19, the government also provided the agricultural loan of K150,000 per acre of paddy. — Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon) ■

Manulife launches two life insurance plans to help families in Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

Manulife Myanmar has launched two life insurance products designed to help families make better financial decisions and improve their financial security.

Families in Myanmar can now choose Manulife Protector to safeguard their financial future and Manulife Education Life to save for a child's education. Both plans also offer unique COVID-19 benefits.

Robert Elliott, Chief Executive Officer of Manulife Myanmar, delivered a message that this challenging year has made people more conscious of the need to protect their family's future. As a company is committed to serving the insurance and financial needs of the people of Myanmar, Manulife has created two products to help families better secure their future and make their lives every day better. We are also offering superior

COVID-19 protection to help ease the emotional and financial worries of families at this time.

Manulife Protector is a comprehensive life insurance plan that is designed to protect the insured's family in an unexpected and unfortunate event when the insured can no longer do so. Also, it is kind of long-term savings if the protection is not needed. Customers can start a life insurance plan for K5,000,000 with flexible payment terms. The oldest age for life insurance is 55 years old for the 10-year plan and 45 years old for the 20-year plan.

Manulife Education Life allows parents to save for their child's future education, with insurance to take care of the child's education needs in the unexpected and unfortunate event if they are not able to do so.

It can start with a face amount of K5,000,000 and offers flexible premium payment terms,

as well as the option to select Double Benefit for extra life insurance protection.

Customers that purchase either plan from now until 31 December 2020 are automatically entitled to special COVID-19 benefits that cover themselves and immediate family members.

These provide a potential maximum one-time K600,000 total payouts if the life insured and/or their immediate family members (maximum four payments per family) are diagnosed with COVID-19; a further K600,000 to cover intensive care costs if the life insured is hospitalized in an ICU ward; and an extra death benefit of K6,000,000, if the life insured unfortunately passes away due to COVID-19.

Manulife Protector and Manulife Education Life are now available. Customers can purchase the plans from Manulife agents. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar attracts domestic investments of over K10,000 bln under incumbent government

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic investments of over K10,000 billion made by Myanmar citizens have brought into Myanmar over the four-and-half years of the incumbent government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

A total of 575 domestic enterprises put investments of K10,150 billion into the country between the financial year 2016-2017 and the 2019-2020FY.

The domestic investments stood at K1,604 billion from 52 enterprises in the FY2016-2017, K3,978 billion from 119 enterprises in the

FY2017-2018, K995 billion from 105 businesses in the 2018 mini-budget year (April-September), K1,691 billion from 169 enterprises in the FY2018-2019, and K1,881 billion from 130 projects in the FY2019-2020 respectively, the DICA's data showed.

Those domestic investments permitted by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and endorsed by the respective region and state investment committees can flow into the following 12 sectors: oil and gas, power, transport and communications, real estate, hotels and tourism, mining, livestock and fisheries, industrial estate, agri-

culture, construction, manufacturing and other service sectors.

Of them, the real estate development sector has pulled the most massive domestic investments, followed by other service sectors in the second place and manufacturing sector in the third place. The construction sector, however, did not pull domestic investments in the past four and a half years, the DICA stated.

The MIC is screening the investment projects at the soonest according to the COVID Economic Relief Plan, prioritizing the labour-based businesses.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Commemorating 45 years of Diplomatic Relations

Myanmar-Korea

Joint Cultural Performance

▷ [Highlights] 5-5:45pm, 9th Oct, **MRTV TV**

▷ [Full] 5-6:30pm, 9th Oct, **MRTV-LIVE facebook** (+ all MOI FB pages)

For detail ↓

► **Korean Embassy** and Myanmar **MORAC** present Special Performance.
"with Congratulatory Remarks by the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi"

■ **MORAC**

- Ganggang Sullae(Korean song)
- Graceful Gems Dance(Myanmar song)

■ **ROK Embassy(Pyeong Taek Nong Ak Preservation Society)**

- Nong Ak(Korean song)
- Lutti(Myanmar song)

■ **MC**
Khar Ra & Aye Chan Moe

■ **Special Performance**
Ni Ni Khin Zaw & Billy La Min Aye

Using technology, improving human resources, key to dealing with rising COVID-19 cases

Since the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19 in mid-August, the Ministry of Health and Sports has doubled its efforts in response to the fast-spreading virus, making the best use of its resources.

The authorities have taken steps to increase hospital capacity, including the opening of COVID-19 centres in cooperation with the donors, to deal with the overflow of patients.

With rapid testing and contact tracing efforts in areas such as Yangon Region, where cases are mounting, we could find more positive cases and provide early treatment to them.

To effectively implement the COVID-19 control measures at the ground level, it should be worth noting that the leadership and supportive role of social ministers of regional and state governments is sine qua non.

When it comes to expanding COVID-19 centres in Yangon beyond the current facilities, we need to find more human resources to run the new expanded infrastructure. Because human resources, including trained health professionals are limited, it is obviously a major constraint on our ability to fight the pandemic.

...we need to turn to technologies that allow health care professionals to care for many patients at home, which will also assist in minimizing exposure to the virus. This can be helpful for hospitals to take care of critically ill patients under less pressure.

With the number of COVID-19 positive cases reaching 22,445 on 8th October, with 535 fatalities, we would like to recommend that hospitals ensure they have enough protective equipment for staff and use technology where it is possible.

With the use of rapid antigen test kits, nationwide mass testing for COVID-19 is discovering new cases daily, and the number of Covid-19 cases is expected to continue to rise in Yangon Region. While focusing on physical infrastructure including building COVID-19 centres, hospitals and buying equipment, we need to make more efforts for building health professional and volunteer capacity.

It is worth noting that the health authorities in Yangon Region are providing training to health workers with using breathing machines and systematic using of personal protective equipment-PPE.

Though nobody can predict when this pandemic would end, we must revitalize our efforts and make stronger commitments to defeat the pandemic.

MOVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH: LET'S INVEST

COVID-19 disrupting mental health services in most countries, WHO survey

World Mental Health Day on 10 October to highlight urgent need to increase investment in chronically underfunded sector

THE COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted or halted critical mental health services in 93% of countries worldwide while the demand for mental health is increasing, according to a new WHO survey. The survey of 130 countries provides the first global data showing the devastating impact of COVID-19 on access to mental health services and underscores the urgent need for increased funding.

The survey was published ahead of WHO's Big Event for Mental Health — a global online advocacy event on 10 October that will bring together world leaders, celebrities, and advocates to call for increased mental health investments in the wake of COVID-19.

WHO has previously highlighted the chronic underfunding of mental health: prior to the pandemic, countries were spending less than 2 per cent of their national health budgets on mental health, and struggling to meet their populations' needs.

And the pandemic is increasing demand for mental health services. Bereavement, isolation, loss of income and fear are triggering mental health conditions or exacerbating existing ones. Many people may be facing increased levels of alcohol and drug use, insomnia, and anxiety. Meanwhile, COVID-19 itself can lead to neuro-

logical and mental complications, such as delirium, agitation, and stroke. People with pre-existing mental, neurological or substance use disorders are also more vulnerable to SARS-CoV-2 infection — they may stand a higher risk of severe outcomes and even death.

"Good mental health is absolutely fundamental to overall health and well-being," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization. "COVID-19 has interrupted essential mental health services around the world just when they're needed most. World leaders must move fast and decisively to invest more in life-saving mental health programmes — during the pandemic and beyond."

Major disruptions to mental health services

The survey was conducted from June to August 2020 among 130 countries across WHO's six regions. It evaluates how the provision of mental, neurological and substance use services has changed due to COVID-19, the types of services that have been disrupted, and how countries are adapting to overcome these challenges. Countries reported widespread disruption of many kinds of critical mental health services:

- Over 60% reported disruptions



A yoga instructor concludes a live streamed yoga class via the Zoom online video conferencing platform in the midst of coronavirus. Introverted personality types and those used to home-working might actually welcome the opportunities this provides to live a healthier lifestyle, in terms of being able to prepare healthier food at home and take exercise during the day. PHOTO: ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP

to mental health services for vulnerable people, including children and adolescents (72%), older adults (70%), and women requiring antenatal or postnatal services (61%).

- 67% saw disruptions to counseling and psychotherapy; 65% to critical harm reduction services; and 45% to opioid agonist maintenance treatment for opioid dependence.
- More than a third (35%) reported disruptions to emergency interventions, including those for

people experiencing prolonged seizures; severe substance use withdrawal syndromes; and delirium, often a sign of a serious underlying medical condition.

- 30% reported disruptions to access for medications for mental, neurological and substance use disorders.
- Around three-quarters reported at least partial disruptions to school and workplace mental health services (78% and 75% respectively).

While many countries (70%) have adopted telemedicine or teletherapy to overcome disruptions to in-person services, there are significant disparities in the uptake of these interventions. More than 80% of high-income countries reported deploying telemedicine and teletherapy to bridge gaps in mental health, compared with less than 50% of low-income countries.

WHO has issued guidance to countries on how to maintain essential services — including COVID-19 and recommends

that countries allocate resources to mental health as an integral component of their response and recovery plans. The Organization also urges countries to monitor changes and disruptions in services so that they can address them as required.

Although 89% of countries reported in the survey that mental health and psychosocial support is part of their national COVID-19 response plans, only 17% of these countries have full additional funding for covering these activities.

This all highlights the need for more money for mental health. As the pandemic continues, even greater demand will be placed on national and international mental health programmes that have suffered from years of chronic underfunding. Spending 2% of national health budgets on mental health is not enough. International funders also need to do more: mental health still receives less than 1% of international aid earmarked for health.

Those who do invest in mental health will reap rewards. Pre-COVID-19 estimates reveal that nearly US\$ 1 trillion in economic productivity is lost annually from depression and anxiety alone. However, studies show that every US\$ 1 spent on evidence-based care for depression and anxiety returns US\$5. SOURCE: WHO

ECONOMIES: THE COVID-19 EFFECT

Ending lockdowns no guarantee of quick economic rebound: IMF

BUSINESS shutdowns amid the coronavirus pandemic imposed an economic cost, but removing restrictions is no guarantee of a quick recovery unless the virus is defeated, the IMF said Thursday.

Voluntary social distancing played nearly as large a role in the economic impact of Covid-19 as the forced restrictions, the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) chapter on lockdown effects.

Using mobility data from Google and Vodafone, the report found that voluntary social distancing made an "important contribution" to the recession, which "should caution against expecting a quick economic rebound once lockdowns are lifted."

"This is especially relevant for coun-



Demonstrators march down Fulton St. in front of closed businesses on June 6 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City, the US. PHOTO: AFP

tries that lift lockdowns prematurely, when infections are still relatively high," the

IMF said. Despite the short-term economic

costs, lockdowns may lead to a faster economic recovery by containing the virus and reducing voluntary social distancing, according to the research.

But the IMF rejected the debate as a simple tradeoff between lives and livelihoods, since rising infection rates hit the economy as well, making people less willing to venture out. "By bringing infections under control, lockdowns may thus pave the way to a faster economic recovery as people feel more comfortable about resuming normal activities," the report said. The Washington-based crisis lender in June projected a nearly five per cent global recession this year, but IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva this week said new data show the situation is "less dire"

although certainly not rosy.

The IMF is due to release the updated WEO forecasts on Tuesday.

The report showed strict lockdowns early in the pandemic were more effective in containing the spread of the illness, and could be lifted sooner, compared to restrictions imposed after the case level had risen.

But the authors caution that "as long as significant health risks persist, economic activity is likely to remain subdued."

They repeated Georgieva's call for officials to resist the impulse to withdraw policy support too quickly and instead should "preserve spending on social safety nets."

SOURCE: AFP

What a good day!

Your trust wakes you up
Every morning at first,
It's a good day to pass.

Your honest always shines,
And makes you never lie
It's a good day to die.

Your openness knows no bounds,
With ease to succeed long
It's a good day to be strong.

Your thought smells clear,
Done work is still cheer
It's a good day to share.

Your action ever sharpens,
And makes your future brighter
It's a good day to strengthen.

Your speech is forever true,
And creates you to be new
It's a good day to you.

Chit San Maung (M.Ed)

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 8-10-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyarwady River
According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (1) inch above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.
It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Seiktha to take precaution measure.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 4:00 pm Thursday 8th October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay and East central Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.
SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Cambodia is reaching Gulf of Thailand and moving to westwards. It is likely to cross Southern Thailand and Southern Myanmar areas on tonight. It is forecast to reach the Andaman Sea at (9.10.2020).
FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 9th October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Naypyitaw, (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah States, Scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady Regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon -Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-11) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon -Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

Khumi (Khami) National Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Khumi (Khami) National Party Chairperson U Kyaw Tun presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Esteemed national, ethnic voters

I wish you a joyous heart. I am U Kyaw Tun, Chairperson of Khumi (Khami) National Party based in Paletwa in Chin State. Before our Khumi area was annexed by the British, the area had autonomy and was ruled by Ayai (aka) Taung Min who are ethnic Khumi people. After the Khumi area was annexed by the British, it was ruled by the Arakan Hills Civil Justice Regulation (1874 -76) and the Arakan Hill Tract Basic Principle Act (1906).

Ten areas, including the Arakan Hill Tract, were not the territories of ancient Myanmar kings, so the areas were ruled by the British as Hill Tract Area (1). The areas include (1) Shan State (2) Thaug Thut, Sin Ta Lane, and Khamti (3) Arakan Hill Tract (4) Chin Hill Tract (5) Naga Hill Tract (6) Hu Kaung Tract (7) Triangle Tract (8) Kachin Hill Tract (9) Thanlwin District and (10) "Wa" Area.

Esteemed people

Following section 1 (c) of the Aung San-Attlee Agreement, Shan, Kachin and Chin, alongside Myanmar, and Arakan could sign an agreement in Panglong to have independence and form a Union. Under section 1 (d) of the Aung San-Attlee Agreement, the Hill Tract Area (1) agreed that they, alongside Myanmar, will gain independence as Unified Myanmar, and to be parts of the Union as decided by the Frontier Scrutiny Committee. Moreover, the combination of Arakan Hill Tract and Chin Hill District, those of Hu Kaung Tract, Triangle Tract, and Kachin Hill Tract,

those of "Wa" Area and Shan State, and those of Naga and Myanmar are included in Unified Myanmar with their consents.

According to the agreement, the section (196) of the 1947 Constitution says, "There shall be a Special Division of the Chins comprising such areas in the Chin Hill District and the Arakan Hill Tract."

Our party's policy

- (1) The development of all national, ethnic people in Khumi area
- (2) To achieve full national, ethnic rights
- (3) To create a Federal Union

Our party's objectives and work programmes

(1) Road communications are essential, so we will try to improve roads and marine transport. We will rebuild the Sein Sim Airport. Moreover, we aim to generate more electricity and improve telecommunications.

(2) Our party will provide long-term and medium-term loans for the development of the agriculture and industrial sectors, and the service sector. Our party will provide kinds of technical training.

(3) Our party aims to open border trade centres in the borders with India and Bangladesh, and will work hard to promote the exports of local products. We will eradicate poverty in our township so that it will be no longer considered the most impoverished township of the Chin State.

(4) The job opportunities in the area must be for the residents who are national, ethnic people. We will

set up an industrial zone in the area.

(5) For the survival of Khumi ethnic people, our party will promote the national identity of Khumi people -- language, literature, traditional music, traditional dance, culture and historical inheritance. We will value and celebrate Khumi National Day.

(6) Our party will make great efforts to regain Paletwa District. If we gain the District, we can have Paletwa Township, Sami Township, Meeza Town and Than Htaung Town. Moreover, we will work hard to get a minister for Khumi ethnic affairs and a Khumi self-administered area.

(7) Our party will continue the Paletwa Town expansion project.

Esteemed national, ethnic voters

Our Khumi party is demanding an appointment of a minister for Khumi ethnic affairs and a Khumi self-administered area. No other party thinks that it is essential. Still, our Khumi party made the demands for the future of Khumi people, and Khumi younger generations so that Khumi people and Khumi national area can survive. It is not for separation from the Chin State. Please trust in our Khumi party's political objective. In conclusion, I would like to earnestly request the voters to vote for the Hluttaw candidates of our Khumi party.



WORLD NEWS

2020 ELECTION

Covid-positive Trump says 'no' to virtual debate

US President Donald Trump, who is still being treated for Covid-19, said Thursday he will refuse to take part in the presidential debate next week after it was switched to a virtual format.

"I'm not going to do a virtual debate," he told Fox Business News, saying this was "not acceptable to us."

He accused the bipartisan organizers of trying to "protect" his opponent Joe Biden, who won

the chaotic first exchange on September 29 by a wide margin, according to most instant polls.

The Biden campaign said the former vice president looked forward to "speaking directly to the American people," apparently open to the virtual format.

The Commission on Presidential Debates said earlier it was making the change so as to "protect the health and safety of all involved".

It said the debate would have a town hall structure, with the candidates in remote locations.

Trump tested positive for Covid last week and spent three days in the hospital before returning to the White House on Monday evening. Even though he was still contagious he dramatically removed his mask upon arriving at the mansion and posed for photographers.

SOURCE: AFP

Japan to ease travel restrictions for China, 11 other countries, regions next month: local media

JAPAN is reportedly planning to ease travel restrictions to China and 11 other countries and regions next month, local media reported here Thursday.

According to the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper, the 11 countries and regions also in-

clude Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia and China's Taiwan, among others.

The Japanese government said it will urge travellers to not make unnecessary trips and to refrain from visits that are not

urgent, the newspaper said. A day earlier, Japan and Australia discussed the promotion of further talks towards easing travel restrictions both countries have placed on each other due to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

SOURCE: Xinhua

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Anger as Turkish army reopens Cyprus resort turned ghost town

TURKISH troops Thursday reopened parts of a Cyprus seaside resort that became a ghost town amid war in 1974, sparking controversy days ahead of an election in the breakaway Turkish north.

The move at the long-deserted holiday paradise of Varosha threatened to further inflame tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean, where Turkey has been engaged in a bitter maritime disputes with Greece and Cyprus.

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades slammed the move as a "flagrant violation of international law and the resolutions of the UN Security Council" while its close ally Greece warned it would raise the issue with EU partners.

As the gates were opened for the first time in decades, with troops guarding the site,

scores of visitors streamed in taking smartphone pictures of a city seemingly frozen in time, with trees and bushes growing from abandoned cafes, shops and houses.

A seaside suburb of the historic city of Famagusta, Varosha was Cyprus's premier resort in its early 1970s heyday, frequented by Hollywood stars and other celebrities.

But the 1974 Turkish invasion that divided the small island prompted a mass exodus of the city's Greek Cypriot inhabitants, consolidating an ethnic divide that has persisted to this day. The only regular visitors to Varosha have been Turkish troops guarding the fenced zone's southern limit where it abuts Cyprus government-held territory and the occasional UN peacekeeping patrol.

SOURCE: AFP

Wa National Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Wa National Party Chairman U Sai Pao Nup presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Esteemed voters and people

I wish you all auspiciousness and mental and physical wellbeing. I am U Sai Pao Nup, Chairman of Wa National Party of the Wa Self-Administered Division in northern Shan State.

With respect, I would express gratitude to the chairman and members of the Union Election Commission for this opportunity to present political policy, stance and work programmes of our party at this auspicious time when the third general election of the Union of Myanmar is just around the corner.

Esteemed voters and people

We, the Wa party's members, founded the party with the national spirit of partaking in the collective efforts for the progress of the Wa region and the Union of Myanmar. So, we have laid down the vision, mission and stance of the party for the correctness and accuracy of the work programmes. Before presenting them in detail, I would like to give a brief account of the situation, topography and nature of the Wa Self-Administered Division. Only then will the people understand more about the policy, stance and work programmes of the party.

Esteemed voters and people

Wa Self-Administered Division is in northern Shan State. Wa ethnic people are living in northern, southern and eastern Shan State. During the colonial time, the Wa regions were collectively called Wa State. After Myanmar regained independence, they were put into the areas administered by Shan feudal lords. They were formed as a part of Shan State of the Union of Myanmar. Under the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Hopang, Mongma and Panwai were grouped into Hopang District, and Nahpan, Metman and Pangsang (Pankham), into Metman District, and the two districts are then formed into Wa-Self Administered Division.

According to the records, 18 ethnic groups are living in the area for 4,000 years. The place had rough and hard transport because of the existence of thick jungles and steep and high mountains. Because of the absence of transportation in the area, there were no mutual relations or cooperation or mutual sharing of knowledge between the people of the same region or between them and the people of other regions or between individuals. So, the area had become isolated. Poverty went in-depth because of the lack of

educational opportunities and lack of knowledge in the whole area. In today's rapidly developing era, we must shape the future based on the lessons we learn from the past. We must take into the account the present and place in the forefront the three national causes -- non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, which are the duty of all the citizens. Our party will adopt its policy, stance and work programmes that are always in conformity with the objective conditions, changing trends and development of the country.

Esteemed voters and people

Our policy, stance and work programmes are as follows:

Name of the party

Wa National Party (W.N.P)

Party's vision and mission

- Non-disintegration of the Union of Myanmar;
- Non-disintegration of national solidarity;
- Perpetuation of sovereignty;
- Restoration of national reconciliation and eternal peace;
- The rule of law;
- Equal fundamental rights for all nationalities;
- Nurturing of ethnic religions, literature, cultures and languages of ethnic people and the emergence of genuine federal democracy.

Policy of the party

It is the Social Democratism, which avoids the two extremes and which is adaptable to our topographic, climatic, customary and cultural objectives.

Work programmes

The ideology of the work programmes is as follows:

We will consolidate our party into a compact organization serving the interest of the people. We will establish cordial and equal relations with any political organization with the vision, conviction, belief, ideology, views similar to us. If necessary, we will form alliances or partnership with them.

We have the straightforward conviction of joining hands with any party or organization in the interest of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

- We will campaign for the active involvement of our people in the politics, economy and social affairs of Wa region.

- We will conduct constant undertakings for all-round economic development and improvement of the living standard of the locals.

- We will render constant assistance for guaranteeing rights and privileges of farmers and workers.

- We will assure legal protection and encouragement for investments and dividends of the entrepreneurs who pour money into our region.

- We will encourage active participation of women in economic, social and other undertakings of Myanmar.

- We will nurture youth to have the five strengths and the habit of observing the oriental culture and traditions.

- We will duly increase the monthly salaries of teachers and education staff who are teaching the students or the future leaders with sincere loving-kindness and set up special social welfare programs, especially for the ones assigned in remote border areas.

- We will support the free compulsory primary education for all citizens in the country.

- We will guarantee fundamental rights and human rights — liberty, justice and equality — for all ethnic people.

- We will ensure free or low-cost advanced medical treatment for the people.

- We will provide practical assistance for the flourishing of literature, culture, traditions and arts of ethnic races.

- We will help people enjoy greater freedom of worship and the opportunity to construct religious buildings.

- We will strive for fostering Union spirit, the spirit of peaceful co-existence, mutual love and respect, and the confidence to provide mutual assistance and to live in unity under any circumstance.

- We will strive, with might and main from the respective sector, for the success of the process of national reconciliation and eternal peace.

Esteemed voters and people

We want to thank you the voters in advance so much for the invaluable support you will give us with good faith, goodwill and noble mind. With this, I conclude.



WORLD NEWS

ArcelorMittal shuts Poland blast furnace on virus slump

THE world's largest steelmaker ArcelorMittal said on Thursday it was closing the blast furnace at a plant in Poland due to a demand slump triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and cheap imports from outside the EU.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has huge consequences for

the European steel industry... demand for steel is still significantly lower than before the pandemic," said Sanjay Samaddar, CEO of ArcelorMittal Poland.

"We have to make difficult decisions -- in this case, unfortunately, the decision to permanently close the blast furnace

and steel plant in Krakow," he said in a statement posted on the company's website.

Polish media reported that 650 employees "could be directly affected" without saying whether they will be let go.

The company, which employs around 3,900 people in its Luxembourg headquarters

and production sites, also noted that there was little hope for a recovery in the steel market in the near term, meaning it needed to "take sustained measures to adapt to the lower demand".

Prior to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, ArcelorMittal held around 70 per cent of the Polish steel market

and was a leading European producer and exporter of coke.

Losses deepened at the global steelmaker during the second quarter as demand for steel slumped due to coronavirus lockdowns, according to data published in July.

SOURCE: AFP

Karen National Democratic Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Karen National Democratic Party Vice-Chairman Saw Myat Htut Win presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 7 October.

1. Karen National Democratic Party (KNDP) will put in the effort to secure the livelihoods of national, ethnic people living in the Kayin State and other ethnic people in Myanmar. The party will also work hard for the development of the entire Kayin State without harming the natural environment.

2. The party will create more jobs in the Kayin State for the people not to depend on Thailand for their livelihoods. During the period we are trying to create adequate employment, we will negotiate with other nations so that all our ethnic people working in foreign countries can get their rights by the laws.

3. To develop agriculture and other various sectors, and to make all those sectors meet the international standards, we will try to attract investments and get technical assistance. In addition to Myawady border trade camp, we aim to open new border trade checkpoints in Mae Tha Waw and Three Pagodas Pass area in future.

4. We will carry out special projects to eradicate the manufacturing and trading of illegal drugs, and drug uses that harm the future of young people.

5. To promote the literature, culture and art of the national, ethnic people in the Kayin State, we will help them get opportunities to attend primary, middle and high schools as well as colleges and universities.

6. We will cooperate with all stakeholders in

striving for genuine and lasting peace in the Kayin State.

7. When we achieve peace, we will promote the hotels and tourism industry without harming the natural environment.

8. Regarding the rights to own or operate farmlands and plantations in Kayin State, we will take into account the tradition and culture of national, ethnic people in the Kayin State.

9. We will strive for getting the same-quality services in education, healthcare, and social sectors as other states/regions do.

10. We will try to prohibit racial and religious discriminations and oppressions.

In addition to the policies mentioned above, we will make efforts to implement our other announced policies on politics and economics, farmlands and natural resources, social issues, and Kayin national matters.

Mostly, following the first fact of our political policy, we will work hard to build a Democratic Federal Union comprising of states which will have national equality and autonomy.

Under the Karen National Democratic Party's slogan "To achieve equal development, let's vote for KNDP" for the 2020 General Election, we will work hard for the country per three worldly noble principles -- liberty, equality and fairness.

Buffalo's horns, Kayin bronze drum and the sun,

Will promote the standard of living of the citizens;

To create our own fates, we will vote for KNDP;

To achieve equal development, let's vote for KNDP.



Karen National Democratic Party's 6-point political policy

1. Our party will build a Democratic Federal Union comprising states which will have national equality and autonomy.

2. Our party will try to achieve genuine peace and national reconciliation.

3. We will stand as an independent party, which is not influenced by any person, any organization or any party.

4. We will form alliances with national, ethnic parties which have the same objectives.

5. We will make efforts to draft a constitution under the basic principles of a Democratic Federal Union.

6. We will always review and criticize the situations of the country and will use non-aligned policy.

* * * * *

WORLD NEWS

COVID-19 AND ASSOCIATED TRAVEL BANS

Aussie universities seek lifeline amid international student drought

AUSTRALIAN universities are renowned for drawing millions of students from across Asia and the world, with overseas enrolments making up well over a quarter of Australia's higher education students.

COVID-19 and associated travel bans unexpectedly turned off the flow of international students and the vital revenue they bring to some of Australia's most prestigious institutions.

A billion-dollar cash injection announced as part of the federal government's big-spending pandemic budget was welcomed, but will it be enough to preserve what is great and highly sought after about Australia's universities?

News that a small number of international students would be allowed to return to Australia later in the month came as a ray of hope not just for the students eager to get back to their studies,

but for the higher education system as a whole. The pilot program by Charles Darwin University (CDU) in Australia's Northern Territory will allow up to 70 overseas students to travel from Singapore to Darwin, stemming from a range of source countries including China and Southeast Asia. While health concerns were stressed as first and foremost, CDU Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Strategy and Advancement, Andrew Everett also acknowledged the massive financial benefits that international students have brought to Australia, describing them as "critical to the university's growth." In 2019, international students made up close to one third of those studying at Australian universities, with Chinese students accounting for 37.3 per cent of all overseas enrolments with 164,458 students.

SOURCE: Xinhua

LABOUR ACTIVISTS AND GREEN GROUPS

Protesters torch police posts as opposition mounts to new Indonesia law

THOUSANDS of protesters set fire to barricades and police posts in the Indonesian capital Thursday as opposition mounted to a controversial new investment law critics say will harm labour rights and the environment.

Tens of thousands of people have protested in cities across the archipelago since Monday's passing of the bill, which seeks to attract foreign investment by

cutting red tape around taxation, labour and environment regulations. Labour activists and green groups have slammed the legislation, however, with Amnesty International saying it is "catastrophic" for workers.

Nearly 13,000 police deployed Thursday to block access to government buildings in central Jakarta failed to stop protesters from making their

way to the heart of the capital.

The protesters set fire to barricades and torched several bus stops and police traffic posts.

Police had banned the protests on the grounds it could spread the coronavirus. At least 300,000 people have been infected in the world's fourth most-populous nation so far, and more than 11,000 have died.

SOURCE: AFP

STEPANAKERT

Solidarity, defiance in under-fire Karabakh city

MOST of the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh's main city have left for safety or the frontline as fighting rages between Azerbaijan and Armenia, but those who stayed behind are finding solace in solidarity. With women and children heading to the Armenian capital Yerevan and men going to fight, it is mostly older people

left hunkering down in cellars in Stepanakert. They hide from the Azerbaijani strikes that day and night pound Nagorno-Karabakh, an Azerbaijani region now populated almost exclusively by Armenians who declared an unrecognized breakaway state as the USSR fell. Those still in the city are proudly boasting that

Stepanakert has seen none of the looting that usually accompanies wars. At the end of a deserted street, hit in the night by an Azerbaijani rocket, the intact glass front of a grocery store seems to be waiting for a customer, with its Coca-Cola ad on the door and multicoloured plastic flowers on the counter.—SOURCE: AFP

NO POLEMIC

Facebook to pause political ads as US election day ends

FACEBOOK on Wednesday said it will stop running political or social issue ads after the US polls close on November 3 to reduce chances of confusion or abuse.

The leading social network also said that any posts prematurely declaring a winner or contesting the count will be labelled with reliable information from news outlets and election officials.

"If a candidate or party declares premature victory before a race is called by major media outlets, we will add more specific information in the notifications that counting is still in progress and no winner has been determined," said vice president of integrity Guy Rosen.

Facebook and other social networks have been tightening rules as they gear up for post-election



Preparations take place for the vice presidential debate in Kingsbury Hall at the University of Utah. **PHOTO: AFP**

scenarios, including efforts by President Donald Trump to wrongly claim victory or contend the outcome is not legitimate.

The California-based internet giant has been under pressure to avoid being used to spread misinformation and inflame social division, as was the case during the presidential election in 2016.

Policies against voter intimidation instituted by

Facebook four years ago have been consistently expanded to account for new trends and tactics to intimidate or prevent voting, according to vice president of content policy Monika Bickert. "As we head into the last days of this election, we know we will see spikes in efforts to intimidate voters," Bickert said at a press briefing.

Wednesday's tightening of rules included

barring posts that reference weapons or armies in encouraging people to monitor polling places on election day, according to Bickert. "We will remove statements of intent or advocacy to go to an election site with military language," Bickert said.

"We will also remove calls to go to polls to monitor if it involves exerting control or showing power."

Facebook has already banned posts directly urging people to go to polling places with weapons or to stop people from voting.

Tracking 'viral' posts

Facebook has more than 35,000 people across the company devoted to safety and security, and teams have worked on more than 200 elections around the world, according to Rosen.

SOURCE: AFP

Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.08 feet to 21.52 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 16th to October 21st, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Specific Procurement Notice Request for Bids Goods (Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Myanmar
Name of Project: National Electrification Project (NEP)
Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households and Public Facilities
RFB Reference No.: ICB S&I-DRD-3

1. The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Livestock and Irrigation now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of solar PV Systems for households and public facilities in the following Regions:
Lot 1- NEP Solar PV Packages in Shan North (6) and Shan East (5)
Lot 2- NEP Solar PV Packages in Ayeyarwaddy (10)
The Contracts will be financed by the Community Contribution.

2. For quick reference, some key qualification requirements include:

- The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be a minimum of MMK 3,800 million (equivalent) for Lot-1 and MMK 9,000 million (equivalent) for Lot-2 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.
- The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two (2) contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than MMK 1,900,000,000 (equivalent) for Lot 1 and MMK 4,500,000,000 (equivalent) for Lot 2.

The details of the qualification requirements are in the bidding document.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 (revised July 2014) ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding document during office hours 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only. In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:
Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Office No. 36, Naypyitaw,
Country: Myanmar, Tel./Fax +95 673 418635, 418636
Email: ksaung@gmail.com; dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com; drdnep.procurement@gmail.com

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 25, 2020** (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on or before **November 25, 2020** (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time. All envelopes marked "SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security" as stated in ITB 19.1 - Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.

8. The address referred to above is:
Attention: Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director, Project Manager of National Electrification Project
National Electrification Project, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.
Office No. 36, Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Tel /Fax: +95 673 418635, 418636
ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com, drdnep.procurement@gmail.com

9. Clarification of the bidding document will be conducted through e-mail or letter to the Purchaser as stated in ITB 7 of the bidding document.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0218-015N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0218-015N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARING (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (039S/041N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (039S/041N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMIT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (051N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (051N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MANTA HACER

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MANTA HACER VOY. NO. (J2006)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

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US fines Citibank \$400 mn for poor risk management practices

WASHINGTON — US authorities fined Citibank \$400 million over deficiencies in risk management practices and required an overhaul of internal controls at the global financial powerhouse, officials announced Wednesday.

The US Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued the fine, in parallel with a related action from the Federal Reserve citing



Citi will pay a \$400 million civil penalty to settle US charges its risk management practices fell short of requirements. **PHOTO: AFP**

failings at the bank.

The Fed said the crackdown reflected the fact Citi had “not taken prompt and effective actions to correct practices previously identified by the Board in the area of compliance risk management, data quality management and internal controls.”

The Fed said the issues date back to 2013, but had not been adequately

addressed.

Under the settlement with the OCC, Citi promised to appoint a compliance committee that will provide quarterly updates to the company's board on actions to improve compliance. Other requirements include upgrades to data collection and a staffing assessment to ensure adequate resources for compliance.

Citi said it was com-

mitted to righting its standing with regulators and would commit \$1 billion in risk management-related programmes in 2020.

“We are disappointed that we have fallen short of our regulators' expectations, and we are fully committed to thoroughly addressing the issues identified in the Consent Orders,” the bank said.

— AFP ■

South Korea launches antitrust probe into Google

SEOUL — South Korea has launched an antitrust probe into Google over its plan to enforce its 30-per cent Play Store commission by disallowing any apps circumventing its payment system, a top official said Thursday.

Google has always re-

quired apps offered on the Play Store's virtual shelves to use its payment system, which takes an industry-standard 30 per cent cut — the same as Apple does. The company has been lax about enforcing the rule, however, unlike Apple — which is currently

involved in a legal battle with the owners of the Fortnite game series after banning the app when developers allowed users to circumvent the payment system. The internet giant said last month the new policy — set to take effect next year — applies to fewer than three per cent of developers with apps in the Play Store. But the announcement prompted a backlash from South Korean app developers, who say the new plan will allow Google to collect too high a fee. Joh Sung-wook, chairperson of the Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC), on Thursday said Google's plan was being investigated for possible “anti-competitive practices”.—AFP ■

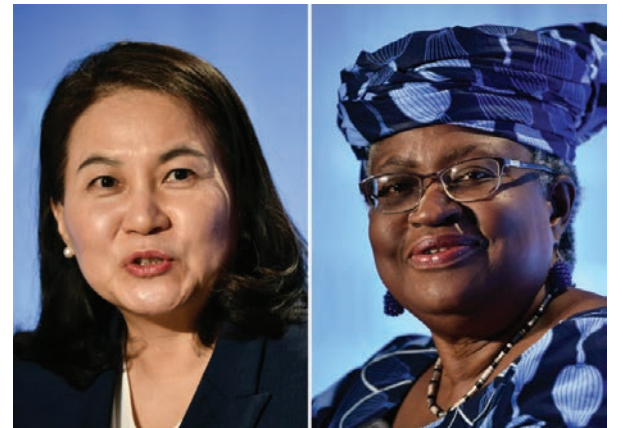


South Korea has launched an antitrust probe into Google over its plan to enforce its 30-per cent Play Store commission by disallowing any apps circumventing its payment system. **PHOTO: CCO PUBLIC DOMAIN/AFP**

Nigeria's Okonjo-Iweala, S. Korea's Yoo in run-off to lead WTO

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization is set to have its first female leader after Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and South Korea's Yoo Myung-hee made it through Thursday to the final run-off. Whoever wins the contest — with a decision due before November 7 — will take over an organization mired in multiple crises and struggling to help member states navigate a severe global economic slump triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Roberto Azevedo stepped down as WTO chief in August a year ahead of schedule. The initial pool of eight candidates to replace the Brazilian career diplomat was narrowed down to five in last month's first round.



South Korean Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee and Nigeria's former foreign and finance minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala are the finalists to lead the WTO. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Okonjo-Iweala and Yoo saw off competition from Britain's Liam Fox, Kenya's Amina Mohamed and Saudi Arabia's Mohammad al-Tuwaijri in the second round of the battle to become the next WTO director-general. “All three of the departing candi-

dates' delegations agreed to withdraw and wished their very best to the two ongoing candidates, Minister Yoo and Dr Ngozi,” WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell told reporters at the global trade body's headquarters in Geneva.—AFP ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Shanghai Forever Chemical Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Close Friend Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Forever-Glory 325 SC	Azoxystrobin 200g/l + Difenconazole 125g/l SC	Provisional Registration	P2020-5102

Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co., Ltd
Tel: 09-784772103

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Shanghai Forever Chemical Co., Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co., Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Worrior 250 EC	Pyraclostrobin 250g/l EC	Provisional Registration	P2020-3328

Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-784772103

Brexit 'to bring 150 billion euros to France by year's end'

LONDON — Financial firms will move around 150 billion euros (137 billion pounds, US\$176.6 billion) from Britain to France by the end of the year, when Britain's post-Brexit transition period ends, the head of the Bank of France said Wednesday.

The “swift” flow across the Channel includes both French groups moving assets home from British branches and moves by 43 UK-based entities “to make sure they can keep trading in

France,” Francois Villeroy de Galhau said at a Paris banking event.

A further 31 financial players, “mostly investment companies” have asked to register in France and their applications are being examined by market watchdog ACPR, he added.

But there remains “a handful of small companies”, especially in payments services, electronic cash and investments, who “must immediately speed up the process to

avoid being caught unprepared in January,” Villeroy said.

Villeroy also warned that a temporary fix allowing European financial markets to keep using London clearing-houses — which cover both buyers and sellers against the risk of a transaction going bad — could not last forever. “It wouldn't be a winning bet to wager on the status quo given the size and concentration of some clearing services,” he said.—AFP ■

Harris assails Trump virus 'failure' in newly civil election debate

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah -- Democratic vice presidential hopeful Kamala Harris on Wednesday called Donald Trump's Covid-19 response a historic failure that disqualified him from a second term, in a pointed but mostly civil debate with Mike Pence who sought to portray her as extreme.

With Trump's weekend hospitalization for Covid-19 throwing a new importance on the role of the vice president, Pence and Harris spoke separated by Plexiglas as a safety precaution 27 days before the election.

Harris, who would be the highest-ranking woman in US history if she enters the White House under a president Joe Biden, immediately attacked Trump's record on Covid-19, which has killed more than 210,000 people in the United States, more than in any other country.

"The American people have witnessed what is the greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history of our country," said Harris, a US senator from California and former prosecutor.

"And frankly, this administration has forfeited their right to reelection based on this," Harris said before a masked and limited audience at the University of Utah.

Saying Trump treated frontline health personnel as "sacrificial workers," Harris -- pointing to Trump's own statements to journalist Bob Woodward -- accused the White House of not moving quickly despite knowing the risks of Covid-19. "The president said it was a hoax. They minimized the seriousness of it," Harris said. — AFP ■



Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Kamala Harris squared off in the first and only vice presidential debate of the campaign. PHOTO: AFP

American poet Louise Gluck wins Nobel Literature Prize



Louise Gluck gives a speech at the 2014 National Book Awards in New York City. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

STOCKHOLM — The Nobel Literature Prize went Thursday to American poet Louise Gluck, known for themes of childhood and family life that draw inspiration from myths and classical motifs.

Gluck, 77, was honoured "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal," the Academy said.

Gluck has previously won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for her

collection "The Wild Iris", and the National Book Award for her latest collection, "Faithful and Virtuous Night", in 2014.

The Academy's permanent secretary Mats Malm said he had spoken to Gluck just before making the public announcement.

"The message came as a surprise, but a welcome one as far as I could tell," Malm told reporters.

She is the fourth woman to

win the Nobel Literature Prize in the past decade, and only the 16th since the Nobel prizes were first awarded in 1901.

A professor of English at Yale University, Gluck "seeks the universal, and in this she takes inspiration from myths and classical motifs, present in most of her works," the Academy said in its prize citation.

"The voices of Dido, Persephone, and Eurydice -- the abandoned, the punished, the betrayed -- are masks for a self in transformation, as personal as it is universally valid."

Her collections "The Triumph of Achilles" (1985) and "Ararat" (1990) address "almost brutally straightforward images of painful family relations", the jury said, noting that her use of a "deceptively natural tone is striking", with "no trace of poetic ornament." Gluck is also a poet of radical change and rebirth, describing in her poem "Snowdrops" the miraculous return of life after winter; her work often marked by "humour and biting wit". — AFP ■

Google nears copyright deal with French newspapers

PARIS — Google said on Wednesday it was close to a digital copyright deal with French newspapers, which would be the first under EU rules aimed at ensuring news publishers are paid for content displayed in search results.

The main points of a deal have been hammered out, including Google's agreement to share ad revenue generated from displaying news results, the firm said in a joint statement with an association representing French newspaper publishers.

The news comes on the eve of a court ruling sought by Google whether France's competition authority overstepped its juris-

diction in ordering the tech firm to negotiate with French media groups. The US internet giant is in a standoff with European media groups including Agence France-Presse over its refusal to comply with a new European Union "neighbouring rights" law. The law seeks to give some copyright protection to media firms when their work features on websites, search engines and social media platforms.

France was the first European country to ratify the law in 2019 and in April this year the French competition authority ordered Google to open talks about compensating news publishers. — AFP ■



A newspaper kiosk in Paris. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Despite virus shutdown, North Korea to stage huge parade

SEOUL — Eight months into a strict, coronavirus-triggered border shutdown, nuclear-armed North Korea is widely expected to stage an attention-grabbing display of its latest and most advanced weaponry at a mass military parade in Pyongyang on Saturday.

The cavalcade will mark the 75th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party and satellite imagery on the respected 38North website suggests it could be huge.

"It's very clear they are preparing for a big one," Vincent Brooks, former commander of

US Forces Korea (USFK), told an Atlantic Council conference.

Thousands of goose-stepping soldiers will march through Kim Il Sung Square, named for North Korea's founder, under the gaze of his grandson Kim Jong Un, the third member of the family to rule the country. — AFP ■

UK, Ukraine to sign post-Brexit 'partnership agreement'

LONDON — Britain and Ukraine will on Thursday sign a "strategic partnership agreement" to support Kiev's sovereignty "in the face of Russia's destabilising behaviour", Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said.

The deal to intensify the two countries' political, trade

and strategic cooperation will be signed in Downing Street as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky makes a two-day visit to the UK. It will replace key elements of an existing partnership agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, as London looks to its post-Brexit future in 2021. — AFP ■

FIFA President congratulates Shan United for winning MNL 2020

FIFA PRESIDENT Gianni Infantino recently sent a congratulatory letter to Shan United, the winner of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020, according to the statement with the Myanmar Football Federation.

In a letter sent to the Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw, the FIFA President congratulated Shan United on winning the title three times in the last four seasons.

FIFA President has stated that, "Please allow me to congratulate Shan United FC for having been crowned 2020 champions of Myanmar, their third championship title in the last four seasons."

Next, he continued that, "This title is no doubt, the result of hard work, passion and commitment, and everyone at

the club can surely be proud of this important achievement. I would be grateful if you could please extend my congratulations to everybody involved, whom I encourage to continue working with determination and motivation in the future."

This year's competition has been more difficult than previous years due to the global outbreak of a pandemic but Shan United could defend their championship title for 2020 season.

On behalf of the international football community, the FIFA President has also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Myanmar Football Federation and its president U Zaw Zaw for their contribution to the local football development activities and capabilities, according to the statement with the MFF. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



File photo shows FIFA President Gianni Infantino delivers his speech at the FIFA Conference for Equality and Inclusion in Zurich on 7 March 2017. PHOTO: FIFA

Premier League chief pleads for rethink of stadium fan ban

LONDON — Premier League chief executive Richard Masters has pleaded with the government to rethink its stadium supporter ban, calling for football to be treated "fairly". Matches at the end of last season in the English top-flight and the beginning of the new campaign have been played behind closed doors due to the coronavirus crisis.

Plans to pilot a limited return of fans from Oct 1 were shelved last month due to tighter lockdown measures following a surge in cases of COVID-19 in Britain. Masters told The Times newspaper that he welcomed the return of audiences to concert venues but said football stadiums should be included. "It's good news that (concert) venues can run socially distanced events indoors, it gives them a lifeline," he said. "We are starting to see the return of the paying spectator at a ticketed event and we just believe that

football should be allowed to do the same. "We do understand why caution is needed but what we are asking for is consistency from government so that sport is treated as fairly as other activities." "We are a highly regulated environment. We have the Sports Grounds Safety Authority in place to ensure that supporters are safe at all times and we're outdoors in a highly stewarded environment. What we really need is clarity for our clubs and supporters and a road map from government."

Masters said Premier League clubs were facing a number of tough challenges including the scrapping of the October return date for fans, expectations to help clubs lower down the pyramid and the frustration of seeing entertainment arenas close to football grounds reopen with no "roadmap" for the return of supporters. —AFP ■



Premier League stadiums are empty due to strict coronavirus restrictions. PHOTO: AFP/CLIVE ROSE

'It's become a circus' - England boss Gareth Southgate blasts players for flouting anti-Covid rules

LONDON — Gareth Southgate warned breaches of coronavirus restrictions will play a part in his selection of future England squads after Tammy Abraham, Jadon Sancho and Ben Chilwell were ruled out of Thursday's (Oct 8) friendly against Wales.

The trio's arrival to join up with the Southgate's squad has been delayed after attending a surprise birthday party for Abraham last weekend, which broke regulations that gatherings should be limited to six people. Southgate said if they are not allowed to return to training before Friday, he will also not consider them for selection in Sunday's Nations League clash with Belgium.

"I think the players have already accepted they were in the wrong, they've broken those lockdown guidelines," said the former Middlesbrough manager.

"We do have an issue in terms of the Covid guidelines and making sure that any player



The head coach of England Gareth Southgate is pictured during the UEFA Euro 2020 football competition final draw in Bucharest on November 30, 2019. PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP

that comes in is as low a risk as possible in terms of the whole group."

Last month, Mason Greenwood and Phil Foden were also sent home from England duty after breaking Covid-19 rules by inviting girls back to the team hotel in Iceland. The Manchester United forward and Manchester City midfielder were not included by Southgate in his latest squad. —AFP ■