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Sunday, 11 October 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement (189/2020)

9th Waning of Tawthalin, 1382

(10 October 2020)

Announcement for advance voting rights of elderly persons

1. In accordance with the Section 45 (c-3) of Hluttaw election law and its by-law 51 (b), for the persons residing in the constituency who are unable to come to the polling booth to vote in person due to their old age, the Ward or Village-tract election sub-commissions concerned shall arrange their advance voting with advance ballot papers.
2. The Union Election Commission, due to the current outbreak of COVID-19, will work with the Ward or Village-tract election sub-commissions for the advance voting of persons aged 60 years and above (born in 1960 and before), who are more vulnerable to infection and residing in the townships under the Stay-at-Home order and in the townships with dense population (over 5,000 persons in one square kilometre), at their homes from 29-10-2020 to 5-11-2020.

SEE PAGE-2

Myanmar citizens cast advance votes in foreign countries



Myanmar citizens in China cast advance votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing on 10 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

ADVANCE voting of Myanmar citizens abroad started at 27 Myanmar embassies, two missions, two consulate-general offices and four extra polling stations in foreign countries yesterday.

Eighty-five Myanmar citizens voted at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, 303 in Canberra, 19 in Islamabad, 41 in Jakarta, 84 in Manila, 36 in Paris, 110 in Phnom Penh, 25 in Pretoria, 13 in Riyadh, 36 in Vientiane, and 104 at the Consulate-General Office in Chiang Mai yesterday.

Advance voting at the Myanmar embassies in Berlin, Ottawa, Oslo, Rome, Vienna, and Washington, Myanmar permanent missions in Geneva and New York, and Consulate-General Office in Los Angeles also began yesterday in accordance with the respective cities' local times.

SEE PAGE-7

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Announcement for advance voting rights of elderly persons

FROM PAGE-1

3. Except for the townships included in the paragraph 2, the eligible voters aged 60 years and above in other townships can cast their advance votes at Ward/Village-tract election sub-commissions if they are not possible to come to the polling booths in person. If they are not possible to come to the polling booths in person due to their health conditions and they report the situation, then the Ward/Village-tract election sub-commissions will arrange their advance voting.

4. Therefore, among the eligible voters for 2020 General Election, those aged 60 years and above can cast their advance votes at the respective Ward/Village-tract election sub-commissions from 29-10-2020 to 5-11-2020 in accordance with the provisions of above paragraph 2 and 3.

The following table is the list of townships with over 5,000 population in one square kilometre.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

The list of townships with over 5,000 population in one square kilometre

Sr.	Township	Remark	Sr.	Township	Remark	Sr.	Township	Remark
	Yangon Region		12	Thakayta		24	Mayangon	
1	Pazundaung		13	Bothtaung		25	Dagon Myothit (North)	
2	Pabedan		14	South Okkalapa		26	Dagon	
3	Kyauktada		15	Yankin		27	Shwepyitha	
4	Sangyoung		16	Kamayut		28	Dagon Myothit (South)	
5	Tamway		17	North Okkalapa		29	Seikkyi/Khanaungto	
6	Lanmadaw		18	Hline			Mandalay Region	
7	Latha		19	Bahan		30	Mahaangmye	
8	Mingala Taungnyunt		20	Hlinethaya (East)		31	Chanayethazan	
9	Ahlon		21	Hlinethaya (West)		32	Chanmyathazi	
10	Dawbon		22	Kyimyindine		33	Aungmyethazan	
11	Thingangyun		23	Insein		34	Pyigyidagun	

Statement on adherence to healthcare guidelines in 2020 General Election

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

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Announcement for voters

1. The Union Election Commission has announced that the eligible voters who have been living outside their constituencies at least 90 days can fill and submit Form (3-A) at the sub-election commissions of relevant residential quarters/village-tracts from 17-9-2020 to 10-10-2020 so that they can cast vote for the candidates in the respective constituency where they are living if they do not want to go back to their original constituencies.
2. These voters are informed again that the Form (3-A) can be submitted to the election sub-commissions of relevant residential quarters/village-tracts, not later than the 10-10-2020 deadline.

Union Election Commission

Centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry to be held virtually

CELEBRATIONS for the 100th anniversary of Myanmar film industry will be held virtually at Studio 1 of Myanmar Radio and Television in Yangon on 13 October.

The event will be live-streamed on MRTV Facebook page and MRTV Live at 5 pm.

It will be rebroadcast again with other programmes of the 100th anniversary of Myanmar film industry at 9 pm on 13 October.

It can also be watched on MOI Webportal Myanmar Facebook page and Myanmar Digital News Facebook page.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



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

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

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers Statement via video link at Online Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on margins of 75th Session of United Nations General Assembly

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin delivered a statement via video link at the Online Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held on 9 October 2020 on the margins of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Meeting was held under the theme “Bandung +65: More Relevant, United and Effective NAM against Emerging Global Challenges, including COVID-19”.

In his statement, the Union Minister underscored the need to strengthen the unity and cooperation within the Movement, on the occasion of its 65th Anniversary, to effectively respond to unprecedented challenges — rising geopolitical tensions, warming planet and waning multilateralism, which are compounded by a new health crisis of COVID-19. In this regard, he encouraged NAM members to keep the market open, secure smooth flow of trade and to ensure global access to vaccines at an affordable price.

The Union Minister stated



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) via videoconference on 9 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

that the Movement was founded at the time of the Cold War by newly independent nations based on the Bandung Principles to build a peaceful and

prosperous world and a just and equitable order where states can determine independently their own destinies, and Myanmar, as a founding member of the

Movement, has steadfastly pursued the non-alignment as a key component of its Foreign Policy, with solid faith in the Bandung Principles.

He also mentioned that Myanmar is undergoing a democratic transition, and grappling with numerous challenges including in ending the decades-long armed conflicts, uplifting the socio-economic lives of the people and amending the undemocratic Constitution, complicated by the mounting smear campaign against Myanmar, and reaffirmed Myanmar’s full commitment to overcome these challenges.

Furthermore, the Union Minister called upon NAM member states to strengthen the unity of the diverse membership and resolve the issues between the members of the Movement in an amicable and constructive manner by trying to understand each other’s challenges, to make the Movement stronger to rise up to the global challenges.

The Non-Aligned Movement is currently chaired by Azerbaijan for the term 2019-2022. The Online Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted a Political Declaration.—MNA

ADB to provide Myanmar with \$30 mln loans for COVID response

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US\$ 30 million loans to help Myanmar to access health service in the region and to respond to the coronavirus disease, according to an announcement released by ADB on 9 October.

It is an additional loan that will be provided to the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) health security project. The loan will

help the development of the government’s healthcare and management sector in the township hospitals in 31 districts from across the country. And, it will also help the health system to respond to COVID-19 and other future public health threats.

“ADB’s fast-track financing through the ongoing health security project will help scale up the government’s response to

COVID-19 based on its health sector contingency plan, which aims to ensure that regular health services continue to be provided during the pandemic,” said ADB Senior Social Sector Specialist Rikard Elfving.

“The investment will focus on hospitals serving vulnerable groups, including minority populations challenged by poverty and inadequate access to es-

sential services such as health care,” he added.

It will also contain the programme that will help to improve their ability of the public health care in township hospitals in districts of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

This year, ADB is committed to providing \$6.6 million in loans from the GMS Health Security Project to help strengthen Myan-

mar’s early response to the pandemic, such as the purchase of medical supplies and equipment.

To reduce the impact of public health, livelihood and economy caused by the pandemic and to help the poor and vulnerable group, ADB has approved to provide \$ 250 million loans on 21 August. —Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fourth meeting organized on drafting bill to amend Farmland Law

THE fourth coordination meeting to draft bill for the Law Amending for Farmland Law (2020) was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Min Oo, Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myo Tint Tun, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and directors of related departments.

During the fourth session to draft bill for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 2, the Law Amending for Farmland Law (2020) which was signed by the President on 14 February 2020, the officials of the Department of Agriculture Land Management, Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Mechanization Department and other related departments respectively proposed the points that should be added in the bill. The Union Minister and other officials discussed in details in accordance with section and sub-section regarding land-use rights for nomadic hill farming sector. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu attends the fourth coordination meeting to draft bill for the Law Amending for Farmland Law (2020) yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Well-wishers donate cash for COVID-19 national committee

A ceremony to donate cash to National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, on behalf of the well-wishers, said that the ministry's staff willingly donated cash to honour the Ministry of Health and Sports staff and volunteers who are working in the front line of COVID-19 preventive measures.

He added that the ministry has accommodated suspected patients at three Workers' Hospitals and social security clinics were cooperating with the Ministry of Health and Sports, saying that the ministry will continue participating in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.

Then, Union Minister Dr



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe (R) receives the cash presented by Union Minister U Thein Swe at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Myint Htwe said that there might be small waves of infections in the country after the second wave of COVID-19

and before the vaccine is developed.

He said that the employees and supervisors are necessary

to follow the health rules and related ministries and departments are needed to cooperate in dealing with the problems

with long-term plans.

He urged labourers to wear masks and face shields and to avoid crowded places as possible as they can when the factories and industries resume operations.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population's Union Minister and staff donated K11.6 million; Dr Zaw Thu Aung+Dr Su Myint Tin, daughter Ma Shin Thant Myint Thu and son Mg Khant Phone Myint Thu from Australia, and U Nyunt Tin (author-Pyithayar)+ Daw Nan Shwe Myint family donated K1million each, and staff of the Union Minister Office (Health) of the Ministry of Health and Sports K400,000.

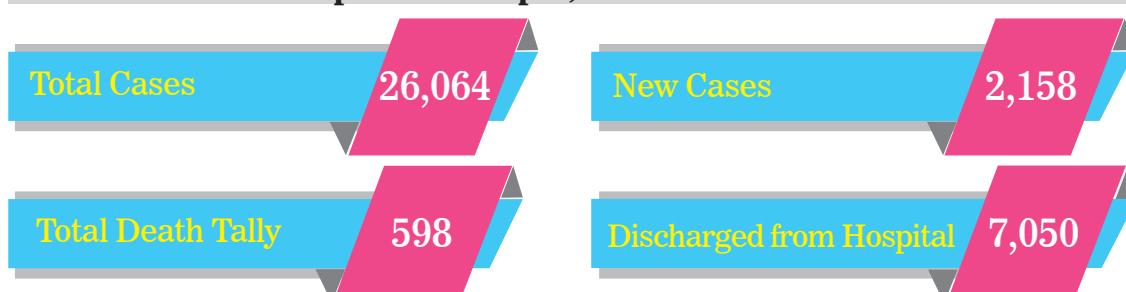
Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein received the cash donation and returned certificates of honour to the donors.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

2,158 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 October, total figure rises to 26,064

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 26,064 after 2,158 new cases were reported on 10 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 26,064 confirmed cases, 598 died, 7,050 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 10 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 10-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

An advantage of advance voting for people over the age of 60

Advance voting for people over the age of 60 will help to reduce the number of voters at the polling stations on election day. Social distancing of 6-ft apart from each other could be practised to avoid close contacts among the voters. It will be safe for all. The government will distribute masks and face shields to the voters.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports to people regarding COVID-19 situation, on 9 October 2020)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports Order 124/2020

9th Waning of Tawthalin, 1382 ME
10th October 2020

The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in the exercise of power conferred under section 21 (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. In order to carry out preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 COVID-19 in real-time manner and for more effective control of disease spread, the Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 107/2020 dated 20-9-2020 for Stay-at-Home programme of people in all townships of Yangon Region (not including Cocogyun Township); Order 108/2020 dated 22-9-2020 for additional stipulations of persons included in the exceptional categories of businesses from the Stay-at-Home programme; Order 113/2020 dated 5-10-2020 for prohibiting the workers from the cut-make-pack system industries from going to their workplaces from 8-10-2020 to 21-10-2020.
2. While the Stay-at-Home order is still needed in the townships with a higher number of positive cases for ensuring effective control of the pandemic, adjustments to healthcare restrictions are also required not to lose employment opportunities of workers and regular operation of businesses in these areas.
3. The Ministry of Health and Sports has also issued COVID-19 special prevention guidelines and directives for the factories, workshops, workplaces, construction sites.
4. Therefore, both employers and employees of factories, workshops and workplaces in Yangon Region need to abide by the rules and directives in paragraph 3. The regional government will also examine the level of adherence to the directives of MoHS. The CMP factories, workplaces and SMEs that meet the 'A-level' practices in COVID-19 containment measures will be allowed for resumption of their businesses commencing 12-10-2020 based on the decision of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

*Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister*

MPMEEA organizes 18th Annual Conference virtually

THE opening ceremony of 18th Annual Conference of Myanmar Pharmaceutical & Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association was held online yesterday.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Sports and its staff, expressed thanks to MPMEEA for providing assistance in the purchase of quality medicines and medical supplies with fair prices amid COVID-19.

The ministry's Food and Drug Administration Department is undertaking the procedures for safety of medicines and medical equipment in accordance with National Drug Law, related laws and agreements between ASEAN countries, he said.

He added that MPMEEA is an important partner organization of the ministry, saying the as-

sociation to organize discussions with officials from Medicines and Medical Equipment Distribution Division to draft policies and systems that will enable effective cooperation between the ministry and the association.

He urged the association's experts to openly give advice on the weaknesses and needs in distributing medicines and medical equipment, inviting tenders, online appointment date application system and certificates management system during the discussions.

The ministry allocated only K147 billion for the purchase of medicines and medical equipment in 2019-2020FY, but the ministry will use up to K300 billion in 2020-2021FY.

Therefore, it is important to purchase quality medicines and medical equipment with fair prices,



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the 18th Annual Conference of MPMEEA on 10 October 2020. **PHOTO:MNA**

es, he added.

He called for cooperation from the association in building specification bank, collection of detailed data and quality specifications, which is crucial for the purchase of medicines and medical equipment.

Union Minister for Com-

merce Dr Than Myint said Deputy Minister for Commerce is member of COVID-19 related Medicines and Medical Equipment Purchase Committee, and the ministry is cooperating with United Nations Office for Project Services-UNOPS and Public Health Department for the pur-

chase of medicines and medical supplies abroad.

During COVID-19 period, the ministry has given licence fee exemptions on all raw drug materials for manufacturing medicines, he added.

MPMEEA Chairperson Agga Maha Siri Suddhama Mani Jotadhara U Zaw Moe Khine made greeting remarks and detailed about cooperation and donations of the association in the ministry's COVID-19 measures, capacity building works in cooperation with Food and Drug Administration Department, and cooperation on drafting medical equipment law. The first session of the conference was concluded after announcing the names of new members selected for central executive and executive committees for 2020-2022.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Crop growers face difficulties despite high yield in COVID-19 period

THE local growers are unhappy with the market, even their crops from farmland are giving high yield during the COVID-19 period.

The local people from Kayah State are cultivating the crops for their livelihoods on a manageable scale.

"We mainly cultivate vegetables in our village. We are growing maize in monsoon and other fruits in winter. We also grow onion, tomato and cabbage. The prices of the crop are different from that of the past. The price of the crops is unstable during the pandemic period. There are also a few buyers in the vegetable market. The current economic situation during the COVID-19 period has declined. We have many difficulties during this period. The demand from the wholesale sellers has also declined. For example, we can sell only ten instead of 100 items," said U Khun Maung Than, a local grower from Linphone village.

We could not make any profit as we could not sell our crops



Tomato farming in Kayah State. PHOTO: KO SAI (LOIKAW)

well. So, we want to request the authorities to seek the market for us, he added.

Previously, the online price hit K3,000 per viss. Although the cost of onion drops to K2,000 per viss, there is no buyer. Now, the crops are harvested, and we distribute them to Loikaw, and

the surplus crops are sent to Aungban, he explained.

Starting from the outbreak of COVID-19, we have been earning only K2,000 per day instead of K5,000. We have many families, and we are facing many difficulties, said Daw Nam Nyunt Yin, waged labour.

The local people from Linphone rely upon the traditional farming businesses on a manageable scale. There are over 300 houses in the village, and nearly half of the villagers are waged labours.

—Ko Sai (Loikaw) ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

China temporarily suspends frozen meat import

CHINA temporarily suspended frozen meat import from Myanmar after it had found the coronavirus in the frozen food imported from abroad, according to the Myanmar frozen meat importers.

At present, Myanmar is exporting the frozen meat to China via Kyin San Kyawt crossing,

Myanmar-China border.

Frozen meat traders heard that China suspended the frozen meat import starting from 3 October. Therefore, there are many exported frozen meat in the border area these days. Now, Myanmar traders are arranging to be able to ship the frozen meat to other countries

continuously. There will be fewer losses because the information has received in advance from the traders of their suspension.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, Myanmar exported the frozen meat from across the country at a value of US\$30 million daily via Kyin San Kyawt border crossing. After COV-

ID-19, the frozen meat export from Myanmar has slightly dropped.

"We haven't yet received the official letter from China. We've just heard from the traders from the border, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

—Aye Maung ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Locals care about ibis birds in Sagaing region

THE residents are taking good care of ibis birds which are one of the species of migratory birds inhabiting Lake Indaw in Sagaing Region. This lake is the third biggest one in Myanmar.

"Many hundred ibis birds reached our Lake Indaw in 2015-2016. They have been inhabiting the lake for the whole year. Now, they are mostly dwelling beside the lake around the Moat Soe Ma Pagoda Gon. They consume mostly the golden snails," said U Khin Maung Thein, a fisherman.

"These birds are benefiting the farmers by consuming the snails that are destroying our farmers' farmland. So, we want to urge the people to take good care of those birds and not kill or arrest them," he added.



Ibis birds are seen at Lake Indaw in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN (INDAW)

The birds are beneficial to the local farmers, consuming the snails which are destroying the farmlands. In many parts

of Myanmar, it is a winter bird that comes to Myanmar in winter. In some areas of Inle, there are permanently staying birds, ac-

ording to Wildlife Conservation Society WCS Myanmar.—Maung Chit Lin (Indaw) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

DG U Zaw Htay from Ministry of State Counsellor Office makes online press conference

Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of State Counsellor Office held an online press conference yesterday, and it was joined by the journalists of local and foreign media organizations.

The Director-General first explained the false news about the State Counsellor on social media, being exposed to infection of COVID-19 and substitution with another person for her health condition.

False news runs rampant as the elections have been nearer.

Investigations could identify some persons who posed the fake, false and fabricated news, together with their names, Facebook accounts, page names, profiles, address, phone numbers, gmail addresses and photos; their accounts have unveiled their political support in two main categories.

The Director-General added the State Counsellor has instructed not to take legal actions against those who posed the misinformation, but they will be published on the press meeting page and social media page of the Ministry of Information. He continued to say that some political leaders are spreading wrong news about COVID-19 situations



Director-General U Zaw Htay speaks at the online press conference on 10 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

in the country, urged them to stop the works that can cause negative impacts on the efforts of health workers; although they removed their accounts, authorities have recorded their posts which are sufficient proofs for legal actions.

He also advised those persons not to create confusions on social media without contributing their services for the public.

He also said that the State Counsellor made a discussion with the chief ministers of local governments on 9 October about commodity flows and the roles

of truck drivers and their mates who have to enter different regions; the meeting adopted a Standard Operation Procedure; the Rapid Test Kits will be used for them at a discount cost.

The Director-General then replied to the questions of media on the issues of legal action against the Chairman of United Democratic Party (Rose Party), coordination between the government the Tatmadaw in COVID-19 measures, appointment of military officers at the Ministry of Home Affairs for the duties in Rakhine State, issuing national

scrutiny card to the chairman of 'Rose Party' and investigations to departmental staff and officials who allowed the border pass to him, the instruction of government to the Union Election Commission regarding the Rose Party, possible legal actions against political leaders for their false news during COVID-19 outbreak, actions against participants who violated COVID-19 directives in political campaigns, the remark of government on the accusation of Human Rights Watch about situations in Rakhine State, specific orders of the government to

UEC, investigation on the land property of Rose Party, participation of government for the successful holding of free and fair elections during COVID-19 period, recommendations on the areas for elections, election campaign of the President and the State Counsellor, plans to hold elections in the areas with armed conflicts, discussions of border guard forces between Myanmar and Bangladesh, citizenship and voting rights for the returnees from Bangladesh to Myanmar, regular commodity flow and economic recovery, relief assistance to the people in the townships under the Stay-at-Home order, reimbursement of government for the costs in public relief aid during the pandemic, situation of two soldiers arrested by the terrorist group, covering elections for local and foreign media, editing of UEC on the broadcast campaign speeches of political parties, relaxation of directives for COVID-19 in Yangon Region, plans of government for safe voting, the number of polling booths across the country and possible procurement of Remdesivir medicine from India.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar citizens cast advance votes in foreign countries

FROM PAGE-1

Extra polling stations were set up for those who are unable to come to the Myanmar embassies and Consulate-General Offices. Eighty-eight Myanmar nationals voted at the extra polling station in Brisbane of Australia, 37 in Budapest of Hungary, 233 in Nagoya of Japan, and 223 in Macao of China.

Advance voting at the Myanmar embassies in the respective cities including Cairo and London continued yesterday, with 1,504 in Bangkok, 1,045 in Kuala Lumpur, 108 in Moscow, 4 in New Delhi, 1,022 in Seoul, 1,800 in Singapore, and 391 in Tokyo.

Myanmar nationals cast advance votes abiding by COVID-19 rules of respective countries.

A total of 7,391 Myanmar citizens abroad cast advance votes to date.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar citizens line up to cast advance votes in Moscow on 10 October.



Myanmar nationals queue to cast votes in London on 10 October.



Myanmar citizens cast advance votes in Hong Kong on 10 October.



Myanmar nationals stand in line to cast advance votes in Bangkok on 10 October.

Food safety in Myanmar is a national concern

SAFE food supplies are important for the national economy, trade and tourism, and also contribute to the security of food and nutrition as well as sustainable development of the country.

The updated figures of the World Health Organization have pointed out that an estimated 600 million—almost 1 in 10 people in the world—fall ill after eating contaminated food, with the yearly death toll of 420,000 caused by unhygienic food.

The figures have suggested sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food have been largely concerned with sustaining life and promoting good health.

Health authorities and policymakers need to consider the crucial importance of food safety as a national concern. Contaminated food may contain harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemical agents, causing more than 200 diseases—ranging from diarrhoea to cancers.

Safety of food must always be monitored through effective law enforcement. No excuse should be given to the sellers of unhygienic

foods, and traders of substandard quality raw food items.

Poor level of food safety can also tarnish the tourism industry of the country. Some regional countries emphasized the safety and hygiene of street foods to attract international tourists. The role of law enforcement authorities has become crucial in this issue. Myanmar should stand in the top ranks of food safety, and clean environment as the country's pollution level remains low in average in comparing with other regional countries.

It is required to understand unsafe food creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, affecting infants, young children, elderly persons and sick people, posing burdens on the country with regard to the development of a new generation of healthy citizens and loss of national revenue caused by declining productivity and medical expenses. The burden of diseases related to unsafe food should not be underestimated in the provision of public health and welfare.

Therefore, serious measures should be taken in the enforcement of food safety in consideration of public health under the 'new normal' lifestyle in the post-COVID-19 for ensuring strong resistance to further infectious diseases.

Safety of food must always be monitored through effective law enforcement. No excuse should be given to the sellers of unhygienic foods, and traders of substandard quality raw food items.

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HEROES: MEDICAL WORKFORCE DURING COVID-19

A Tribute to the Corona Warriors

By Khin Maung Myint

IT is undeniable that the medical professionals and the volunteer rescue workers are doing great jobs in battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outbreak of this dreadful disease in our country early this year in March, they had been risking their lives to save others by controlling the spread of the disease valiantly. It must be recognized that they managed to control it during the first wave. What they are doing is very commendable. Such heroes are common around the world as "Corona Warriors" and have no match to their courage, dedications and sacrifices.

Acts of selflessness

In March, when the first infected person, a returnee from abroad, was traced to the Chin State some young doctors volunteered to go there to help the local medical staffs. Those acts of selflessness on the part of our young doctors had drawn my attention to their selfless dedications to their profession.

Then, the number of cases increased as more returnees from abroad were found to be infected. More young doctors including those who are not in the employment of the government also volunteered.

Also, the volunteer rescue teams too were busy assisting those medical professionals who are battling the disease on the frontline. Both the medical professionals and the volunteer rescue workers are at great risks of contracting the disease themselves, but they courageously and

selflessly carried on with their jobs relentlessly.

Some of the medical professionals and volunteer rescue workers contracted the diseases trying to save others, but their comrades are unperturbed. Their courage, dedication, selflessness and their professionalism are un-parrelled to anything we had ever witnessed in any other profession. Here, I would like to point out that the type of courage these professionals display is moral courage, which is very rare.

Political tactics

Some undesirable elements tried to sabotage the battle against the pandemic by promulgating infodemics on the social media that a certain doctor and a nurse from the Mandalay Region who volunteered to come to Yangon had succumbed to the disease. That turned out to be false. It can be deduced that whoever did that wanted to scare away the would-be volunteers. However, as far as I know they didn't succeed; volunteers are still coming. This is a very lowdown political tactics to be used at such times like these. It is totally unacceptable, whatever motives are behind them.

The authorities too had meticulously prepared to meet the challenges of the pandemic during the months ahead, before our country was actually struck in March. Here, it should be accepted that, though the authorities had prepared before hand to confront the virus head-on, there may be some shortcomings in the beginning. We had heard of the shortages of medical equipments, especially the ventilators and the PPE outfits.



Medical doctors and nurses who will volunteer for Rakhine State's COVID-19 fight arrive in Sittway on 25 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Those shortcomings were immediately corrected. Many generous donors, both locals and from abroad, sprang up to the occasion donating cash and equipments that had to be bought from foreign countries. In no time the disease was put under considerable control. For over two or nearly three months the numbers infected and died stood still at a respectable position among the countries in the region. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) gave credit for that achievement.

Unfortunately, the second wave, which the authorities had been anticipating and thoughtfully been ardently warning the populace, struck. It all started in the Rakhine State. Being close to the countries to the west, where the spread of the disease are alarmingly very fast, that state had to bear the brunt. The rapid and

timely counter measures taken by the authorities managed to control the spread in that area to a certain degree.

Contact tracing

However, thousands of travellers from those areas had already dispersed to other parts of the country before traveling bans were put in place. There was no idea how many who travelled overland had reached to other places, but the numbers that came by air numbered over five thousand. Most of them failed to report to the authorities, so the contact tracing was made difficult. Thus the surge in numbers of those infected increased and naturally the daily death rates increased too. Also the virus had managed to change into a new strain that is now more faster in spreading.

One of the reasons why the

death tolls rose is, because some people secretly tried to treat themselves at home. They went to the hospitals at the last moments only when they couldn't stand the disease anymore; by then it's too late. They died almost immediately after arrival at the hospitals or within a few days.

The second wave spread faster. The hospitals were caught unprepared to cope with the sudden surge in the number of patients at first. Here, our young generation doctors and nurses came to the rescue. Many doctors and nurses from some States and Regions, where the virus were less active volunteered to go to places that were hard hit.

Volunteer medical professionals

After the first batch of volunteer medical professionals went to

Rakhine as reinforcements, other volunteers from some other States and Regions followed suit to aid those combating the disease at the hospitals in Yangon. Yangon Region, especially the Yangon city proper became the most severely hit within days of the emergence of the second wave.

Thanks to the philanthropist donors, many facility quarantine, and temporary makeshift hospitals sprang up in Yangon. More and more donors emerged to do what they can to relieve the burden on the government. Those donors donated everything from makeshift hospitals, allowing their buildings to be turned into temporary hospitals and facility quarantine centres, essential hospital equipments, beddings, other necessities and foods for the patients at those hospitals and for those placed under quarantine. Some donated ambulance cars to the fire brigades and volunteer rescue teams.

I deem all those mentioned above — the medical doctors, nurses, volunteer rescue workers, philanthropists, donors and last but not least, the authorities who are efficiently directing the combat against the COVID-19 pandemic — to be heroes in their own rights.

As heroes their endeavours, their dedications, their selfless sacrifices and their courage should be acknowledged and honoured. After all these are over, in appreciation of their good works, considerations should be made to bestow those who deserve with rewards. If I may make a suggestion, some sort citations should be created to honour them. I salute each and everyone of the corona warriors.

SOURCE: UNFPA

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL 11 OCTOBER 2020

Let's listen to girls and uphold their rights

Statement by UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem

IT is every girl's right to speak and to be heard. Today, on the International Day of the Girl, let's commit to listening to and lifting up girls' voices.

Too often, their voices are silenced, in households, in schools and in the public sphere. For millions of girls around the world, silence is enforced through female

genital mutilation, child marriage and other harmful practices. Not only do these practices violate a girl's bodily integrity and autonomy, they steal her confidence and ability to make informed choices about her life.

They happen in a moment. Their consequences last a lifetime. And they are happening right

now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. A study by UNFPA and partners shows that the pandemic could result in 13 million more child marriages and 2 million more cases of female genital mutilation between now and 2030, beyond the millions already expected to take place. Adolescent pregnancy is on the rise. Girls under lockdown

and out of school are highly vulnerable to harm. With the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as our guide, we need to do better to ensure that girls are not left behind. We cannot allow the current crisis to derail the future of an entire generation. Let's redouble our efforts towards a gender-equal world, one where every girl has the

power to make informed choices about her body and her life. Equipped with the right knowledge and skills, surrounded by a peaceful home, safe school and a nurturing community, and protected by the law and duty-bearers, she will have the tools to thrive.

As adolescent girls traverse the path from childhood to wom-

anhood, their sexual and reproductive health and rights become even more consequential. With a newfound ability and desire to make decisions about their bodies, their lives, and their world, they are speaking up about their needs and their dreams. It is time for us to listen.

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2020)

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"It's All About Governance"

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Next Generation Supplement be suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic

Dear students and contributors:

We, the Global New Light of Myanmar daily, will suspend our Next Generation Supplement pull-out, which comes out every Sunday, beginning from Sunday 11th October due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will announce one week ahead of schedule when we again begin publishing the section.

With Best Wishes,
Editorial Team

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

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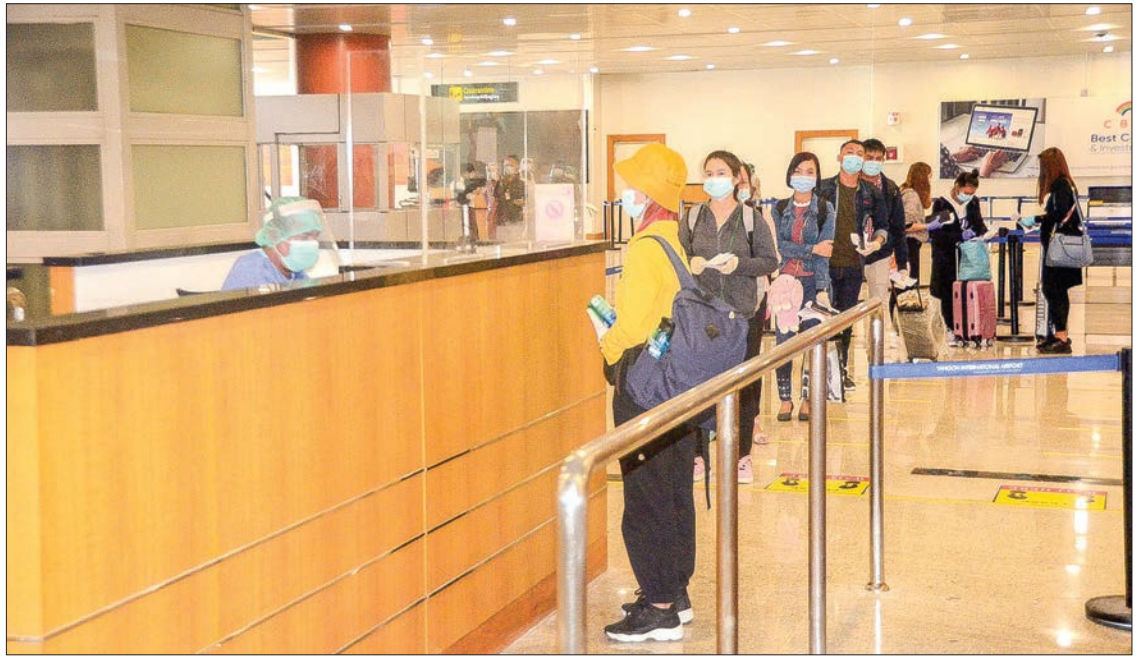
169 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Malaysia on 10 October

A total of 169 Myanmar citizens from Pen Apparal Sdn Bhd Company who were stranded in Penang, Malaysia because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flight yesterday.

The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and Pen Apparal Sdn Bhd Company jointly organized the repatriation of Myanmar citizens with the Myanmar Airways International (MAI) relief flight that landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening.

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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international



Myanmar returnees from Malaysia line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 10 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the

National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and

Treatment of COVID-19.— MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Laykaekaw Myothit ring road in Myawady completed



Ring road of Laykaekaw Myothit fully completed. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN**

THE surfacing of the two-mile ring road of Laykaekaw Myothit in Myawady Township, Kayin State fully completed, according to the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The ministry started the paving of the two-mile ring road Laykaekaw Myothit, Myawady Township in Kayin State with the use of K220.452 million from the Union budget for the development of border areas in 2019-2020FY.

The ministry constructed two roads in 2014-2015 financial year funded by the Kayin State government, one road in 2018-2019 FY with the Border Affairs Ministry, Union Fund in Laykaekaw Myothit. In 2020-2021 FY, the Ministry will construct

one road, three concrete bridges and 15 five-foot box culverts in the township with the Union Fund of the Ministry.

Laykaekaw Myothit in Myawady Township was built on 1 February 2014. There are 786 houses, 786 households with about 1,200 populations. Assistant Director for the Myawady Township Development Supervisory Office U Aung Kyaw Zaw said that the local people can travel comfortably and the developments on education, health, business and social affairs will increase if the Ministry upgrade the Laykaekaw Myothit Ring Road as a paved road.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Over 500-bed Inya COVID-19 Centre opens to patients

INYA Covid-19 Centre converted from Yangon Convention Centre began operation yesterday evening following the construction work was completed.

KBZ Bank and Shwe Thanlwin Skynet, the donors for the hospital, have fully converted the Yangon Convention Centre to an over 500-bed hospital within 10 days.

Inya Centre was handed over to the Yangon Region Government and Ministry of Health and Sports by the officials of the companies through the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein yesterday afternoon.

In the evening, the hospital



Arrangements inside Inya COVID-19 Centre. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

was opened to COVID-19 positive patients, and about 200 patients are expected to be taken

to the hospital yesterday. There are 104 beds equipped with Oxygen therapy system and 412 regular beds at the centre.

The centre has provided three meals a day to patients free and arranged a food court for doctors and health workers.

KBZ Bank contributed K700 million while Shwe Thanlwin (Skynet) K300 million to the initial fund while Yangon Convention Centre Company has allowed the YCC building as a COVID Centre in the fight against the global pandemic.

Modern information technologies equipped at the hospital has allowed the medical professionals to care for positive patients remotely assisting them in minimizing exposure to the virus.— GNLM



Inya COVID-19 Centre will accommodate over 500 patients. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

Campaign speeches of three political parties for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speeches of Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party, Party for Democracy and Peace and Shan Nationalities Democratic Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 11 October for the second time. — MNA

WHITE HOUSE SUPER-SPREADER EVENT

US virus expert criticizes Supreme Court nominee gathering

DR Anthony Fauci, a member of the White House coronavirus task force, described the gathering for President Trump's Supreme Court nominee as a "super-spreader" event after more than ten guests at the event tested positive for the virus.

As well as President Trump and his wife Melania, guests who later tested positive included two senators, the White House press secretary and former Trump counsellor Kellyanne Conway.

When asked for his thoughts on the matter, Dr Fauci said "The data speak for themselves - we had a super-spreader event in the White House, and it was in a situation where people were crowded together and were not wearing masks."

The doctor also noted that experts have recommended



Guests, many of them without masks, watching President Trump introduce Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court in the Rose Garden at the White House on Sept. 26. Judge Barrett addressing the crowd. **PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP**

the wearing of masks since the pandemic was declared more than six months ago. He also

condemned talk of a coronavirus "cure" - the word President Trump used to describe the ex-

perimental Covid-19 treatments he received during his recent stay in hospital. **SOURCE: AFP**

URGENT COOPERATION REQUIRED

Virus measures strand almost 3 million migrants: UN

MORE than 2.7 million migrants who wished to return home have been stranded abroad because of restrictions put in place to fight the coronavirus pandemic, the United Nations said on Friday.

The world needs to urgently step up cooperation to allow people to return in a safe manner despite the coronavirus constraints, said the UN's International Organization for Migration.

The IOM warned in a report that border closures and travel bans had left large numbers of migrants stranded. **SOURCE: AFP**

GOOD NEWS FOR HUNDREDS OF VACCINES BEING DEVELOPED

Potential COVID-19 vaccines unaffected by mutation: Australian study

RESEARCH by Australia's national science agency has found that potential vaccines for COVID-19 would not be affected by how the virus has mutated.

A study published by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) on Thursday has dispelled fears that vaccines would not be effective against multiple strains of SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19.

According to the study most candidate vaccines have been modelled on the 'D-strain' of the virus that was dominant at the outbreak of the pandemic.

However, the virus has since evolved into the 'G-strain', or 'D614G' mutation, which now accounts for 85 per cent of SARS-CoV-2 genomes.

The CSIRO team tested both strains of the virus on the blood of ferrets that had been vaccinated with INO-4800, a candidate vaccine developed by Inovio Pharmaceuticals, finding that it was effective against both D- and G-strains.

"This brings the world one step closer to a safe and effective vaccine to protect people and save lives," Larry Marshall, the chief executive of the CSIRO, said

in a statement.

"Research like this, at speed, is only possible through deep collaboration with partners both in Australia and around the world."

Lead author of the study, S.S. Vasan from the CSIRO's Dangerous Pathogens Team, said the findings were good news for hundreds of vaccines being developed around the world.

"Most COVID-19 vaccine candidates target the virus' spike protein as this binds to the ACE2 receptors in our lungs and airways, which are the entry point to infect cells," said Vasan.

"Despite this 'D614G' mu-



Research by Australia's national science agency has found that potential vaccines for COVID-19 would not be affected by how the virus has mutated. **PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND/ AFP/FILE**

tation to the spike protein, we confirmed through experiments and modelling that vaccine candidates are still effective.

"We've also found the G-strain is unlikely to require

frequent 'vaccine matching' where new vaccines need to be developed seasonally to combat the virus strains in circulation, as is the case with influenza."

SOURCE: Xinhua

THE ARTS AND COVID

Hong Kong performers long for the stage as pandemic drags on



Irene Lo practising in the living room of her Hong Kong flat. **PHOTO: AFP**

HONG KONG'S performing arts community has been brutally hit by the coronavirus pandemic, which has left theatres empty and stage lights cold -- and there is little hope on the horizon even as entertainment venues begin to reopen.

The same pain felt by performers in Broadway and the West End is being experienced by artists in Asia, even while governments there have had greater success at tackling the coronavirus. The region has had a much better track record of keeping down infections, but the often drastic social-distancing measures used to combat the virus have kept entertainment venues shuttered.

In her cramped Hong Kong apartment that has served as a studio, stage and gym for the past six months, ballerina Irene Lo fastens her pointe shoes and effortlessly lifts one leg into a full split. "We're all missing the stage so much," she tells AFP. **SOURCE: AFP**

CORONAVIRUS ELECTION

In Philadelphia, Democrats embrace early voting - Trump's bugbear

HUNDREDS of voters line up for Joe Biden: less than a month before the presidential election, images from Philadelphia are likely to irritate Donald Trump who says the Democratic stronghold is a potential source of fraud. This week, a line of voters wearing masks stretched around the town hall of the largest city in the swing state of Pennsylvania to cast "mail-in ballots" for the Democratic candidate under the supervision of municipal employees and police. **SOURCE: AFP**

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Japan agrees with Mongolia towards boosting investment



Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi (L) and his Mongolian counterpart Nyamtseren Enkhtaivan in Ulaanbaatar on Oct. 9, 2020. **PHOTO: JAPAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY/KYODO**

JAPAN agreed Saturday with Mongolia to continue close cooperation towards boosting its investment in the landlocked country wedged between China and Russia. It was confirmed during a meeting in Ulaanbaatar between Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Mongolian President Khaltmaa Battulga, who explained about the country's exploration of mineral resources and construction of railway infrastructure, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Motegi asked the president for his cooperation toward the smooth opening of a new international airport in the Mongolian capital, a project financed by Japan's loans. The opening of the airport has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting took place a day after Motegi held talks with his Mongolian counterpart Nyamtseren Enkhtaivan, as well as Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh. On Friday, Motegi said Japan will extend 25 billion

yen (\$236 million) in emergency loans to Mongolia to assist its efforts to revitalize the economy battered by the pandemic.

Mongolia, which shares the longest land border with China, is rich in natural resources and has transitioned into a market economy since the 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Japan views Mongolia as becoming more strategically important, not only economically but also in geopolitical terms.

SOURCE: Kyodo

AN INNOVATIVE MOVE

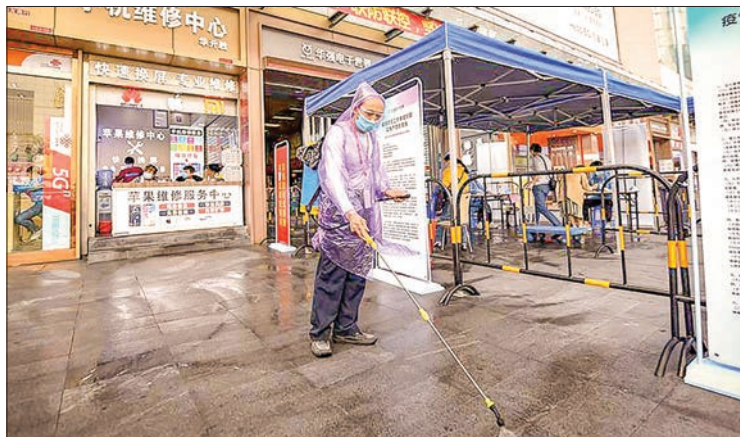
China's Shenzhen to issue 10 mln digital yuan in pilot programme

CHINA'S southern boomtown of Shenzhen will issue 10 million yuan (about 1.47 million U.S. dollars) worth of digital currency in a pilot programme to promote the application of the new form of currency.

The programme, in collaboration with the country's central bank, The People's Bank of China, will issue the currency in 50,000 "red envelopes" worth 200 yuan each via a random draw.

Shenzhen residents can apply to participate in the draw starting Friday. The winners will be notified on Oct. 12 and can download an app to receive their red envelopes.

The money can be used for shopping in designated businesses in Shenzhen's district of Luo-



The programme is an innovative move to spur consumption and domestic demand during the regular control and prevention of COVID-19. A staff member disinfects the ground at Huaqiangbei commercial area in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, Feb. 24, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

hu, which funded the programme.

The programme is an innovative move to spur consumption and domestic demand during the regular control and prevention

of COVID-19, and a routine test in the currency's research and development process, according to local authorities.

SOURCE: Xinhua

A REVISED PACKAGE

White House to propose US\$1.8 trillion stimulus plan: reports

WITH the presidential election fast approaching, the White House is preparing a US\$1.8 trillion economic rescue plan to try to coax congressional Democrats into an agreement, according to media reports Friday. President Donald Trump this week has veered wildly in his position on stimulus to help the economy recover from the damage done by the Covid-19 pandemic, but now seems to be making a major push to roll out funding before his November 3 bid for re-election.

The new proposal, an improvement over the administration's previous \$1.6 billion offer, brings them closer to the Democrats' latest package costing \$2.2 trillion.

"The president has approved a revised package," White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said. "I think we

are moving in the right direction. The gap is narrowing."

Kudlow did not provide details, but media reports quoted sources as saying the offer was increased by \$200 billion.

But even as Trump continues to express newfound optimism after abruptly shutting down the talks and then swiftly changing his mind, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Friday Congress is unlikely to agree on a new stimulus package before the US election due to "vast" differences over how much to spend.

"We do need another rescue package, but the proximity to the election and the differences of opinion about what is needed at this particular juncture are pretty vast," McConnell said at a press conference in his home state of Kentucky.

SOURCE: AFP

PESO DEVALUATION

Dollar makes a comeback as Cuba readies currency devaluation



People queue to buy food at a store in the Cuban capital Havana in September 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE US dollar is making a comeback as the favoured currency in communist-run Cuba as the country prepares to devalue the peso to relieve pressure on a battered economy. Cuba has a unique system whereby two official currencies have existed side-by-side for nearly three decades, the Cuban peso and convertible peso, the CUC. Long lines outside food stores are a common sight in Havana amid chronic shortages of basic goods, and with the government planning to call time on the CUC shopkeepers are already rejecting the currency, driving a rush to dollars for those who can get them. "CUC not accepted" reads the sign at the entry to one Havana shop. The island's economy, buffeted by ever-tightening US sanctions, has been hammered by the coronavirus pandemic, which has left Cuba without much-needed foreign revenue provided by its Caribbean beach tourism. The UN Economic Commission for Latin America forecasts GDP to plummet 8.0 per cent this year. In July, Havana opened dozens of state-run "dollar stores" in an effort to rake in foreign currency. The relatively well-stocked stores are a magnet for well-off Cubans and those with dollar remittances sent from US-based Cubans.

SOURCE: AFP

US ELECTION ROUNDUP

Fly swatters and Covid coins: this week on the US campaign trail

WITH less than a month until the US elections the race for the White House has thrown up a new trove of tidbits and odd moments, including a rush on fly swatters and a new presidential coin.

Fly swats

\$350,000 in 24 hours. Democratic contender Joe Biden's campaign rode the coat tails of a housefly that settled on the smooth white hair of Vice President Mike Pence as he debated Biden's running mate Kamala Harris in Utah on Wednesday.

The fly's presence, undetected by Pence but spotted by thousands watching the debate, triggered a landslide of jokes and comments on social media and provided the Biden campaign with a real opportunity to cash in, by immediately flogging "Truth Over Flies" fly-swatters online for \$10 a pop. The swatters sold out within a day.

Naked ballots

"I know what you're thinking, you're thinking, 'Ruffalo um ... put some clothes on,'" said actor Mark Ruffalo, naked in his bathroom, in a video posted to anti-corruption site RepresentUS.

Along with comedians Chris Rock and Amy Schumer and model Naomi Campbell, Ruffalo stripped down to warn Americans about the danger of so-called "naked ballots" -- mail-in voting slips that will not be counted unless both the envelopes provided are used.

"Follow ALL instructions carefully. If it says use two envelopes, use two envelopes. If it says use a black pen, use a black pen. Not funny. Not Sexy. But absolutely essential," the campaign warned.

Covid coins

Perhaps prematurely, since the president had not yet re-

turned from the Walter Reed military hospital, the White House gift shop started advertising a commemorative coin bearing the logo "Trump Beats Covid" on Monday.

Even though the president has since returned to the Oval Office, his doctors have shied away from backing his own pronouncement that he is cured.

"We knew our President would find a way to knockout COVID in early rounds of his battle," said the gift shop on the its website, which is not directly affiliated with the White House.

Fans were invited to pre-order the coin, featuring a motif of superheroes, for the price of \$100.

Cotton swabs for the White House

Even as the president claimed to be defeating the disease that has infected more than seven million Americans,



Covid tracing site outside the White House, where staff and the president's entourage have tested positive in unusually large numbers for Covid-19. PHOTO: AFP

and killed more than 200,000 of them, his staff and entourage were testing positive in droves.

To the extent that the Democratic mayor of Washington, DC, set up a coronavirus testing and contact-tracing site just outside the White House, which has become its own small epicentre for the deadly virus.

The city said it had set up the site because of "the growing number of positive Covid cases reported from staff working in and near the White House (...) and our understanding that there has been limited contact tracing performed to date."

SOURCE: AFP

TO THINK, LIVE AND WORK IN NEW WAYS

Microsoft to let employees work from home permanently: report

SOFTWARE giant Microsoft will let employees work from home permanently if they choose to, US media reported on Friday, becoming the latest employer to expand work-from-home provisions prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

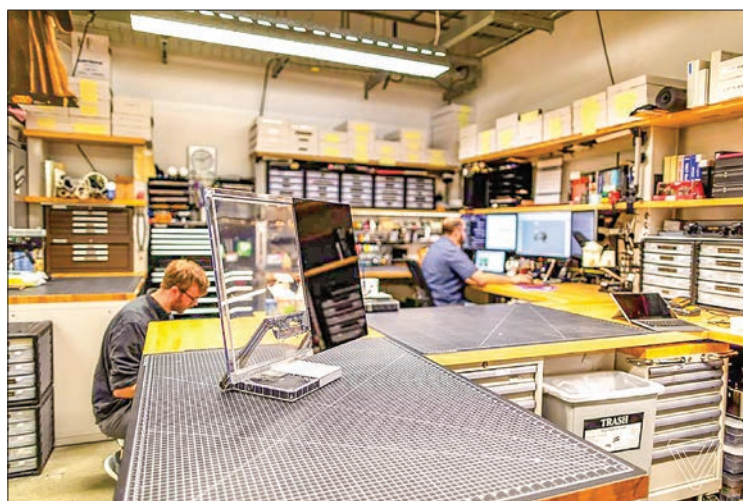
The Verge said most Microsoft employees are still at home as the health crisis drags on, and the company doesn't expect to reopen its US offices until January of next year at the earliest.

But when it does, workers can choose to work from their residences permanently, although in that case they will have to give up their office space.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged all of us to think, live and work in new ways," Microsoft's Chief People Officer Kathleen Hogan said in a note to employees obtained by the tech news outlet.

"We will offer as much flexibility as possible to support individual workstyles, while balancing business needs and ensuring we live our culture."

In a statement to AFP, a Microsoft spokesperson didn't address whether work-from-home



Microsoft has announced that staff won't have to return to the office, even once the COVID-19 pandemic is over. PHOTO: AFP

would be made permanent but said, "Our goal is to evolve the way we work over time with intention -- guided by employee input, data and our commitment to support individual workstyles and business needs while living our culture." The Verge report said employees will need approval from their managers to work remotely on a permanent basis, but can spend less than 50 per cent of their week outside the office without approval.

Some employees won't be eligible for remote-work arrange-

ments, such as those who work in Microsoft's labs or train other employees.

In its memo, the company co-founded by Bill Gates said it is possible for its workers to relocate across the United States or perhaps overseas, The Verge reported.

Those that relocate may see their salaries change depending on where they go, and while the company will cover expenses for employees' home offices, it won't cover relocation expenses.

SOURCE: AFP

HEINZ-CHRISTIAN STRACHE

Scandal-hit star of Austrian far-right attempts return

THE former beacon of Austria's far-right, former vice-chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache, may be under investigation for embezzling more than half a million euros, but that has not deterred his most ardent supporters.

"He's the only one who's honest," says Elisabeth Bauer, a 53-year-old chef, sipping a drink at an outdoor Oktoberfest in Vienna organized by Strache's new political party.

Despite vowing to step away from public life after a corruption scandal that triggered the spectacular collapse of the Austrian government last

year, Strache is back and running for mayor of Vienna in this Sunday's city elections.

His straight-talking, man-of-the-people image and hard-line anti-migration rhetoric made him one of the most successful far-right leaders in Europe.

It also propelled him into Bauer's living room, which she says is still plastered with his posters. Unconcerned about his youthful flirtation with neo-Nazism, she says Strache fights powerful elites and speaks to working-class citizens like herself on equal terms.

SOURCE: AFP

UK becomes latest nation to withdraw envoy from Belarus

THE UK has joined several eastern European nations in withdrawing its ambassador from strife-torn Belarus in protest at President Alexander Lukashenko's expulsion of diplomats from Poland and

Lithuania.

In a tweet late yesterday, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the UK "condemns Belarus's decision to expel Polish and Lithuanian diplomats".

SOURCE: AFP

Green energy should power Myanmar's data evolution

OUR modern societies rely on electricity and are accelerated by connectivity. Fueling Myanmar's data evolution, shifting towards green and sustainable sources of energy is essential, writes Telenor Myanmar CEO Jon Omund Revhaug.

Myanmar is considered one of the countries' most vulnerable to climate change. More intense and frequent floods, cyclones and draughts are causing loss of life, damage to infrastructure and the economy. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020, Myanmar has had the highest weather-related losses in the

world in the past two decades. Accelerating a transition to clean and sustainable energy sources is important for Myanmar as it seeks a low-carbon pathway to inclusive growth.

The telecommunications sector helps cut carbon emissions by reducing the needs of transportation via videoconferencing and digital communication services, and by optimizing energy consumption through sensors and advanced Internet of Things (IoT) systems. Telenor Myanmar believes mobile operators have a responsibility to seek cleaner energy as we power the country's data evolution. While

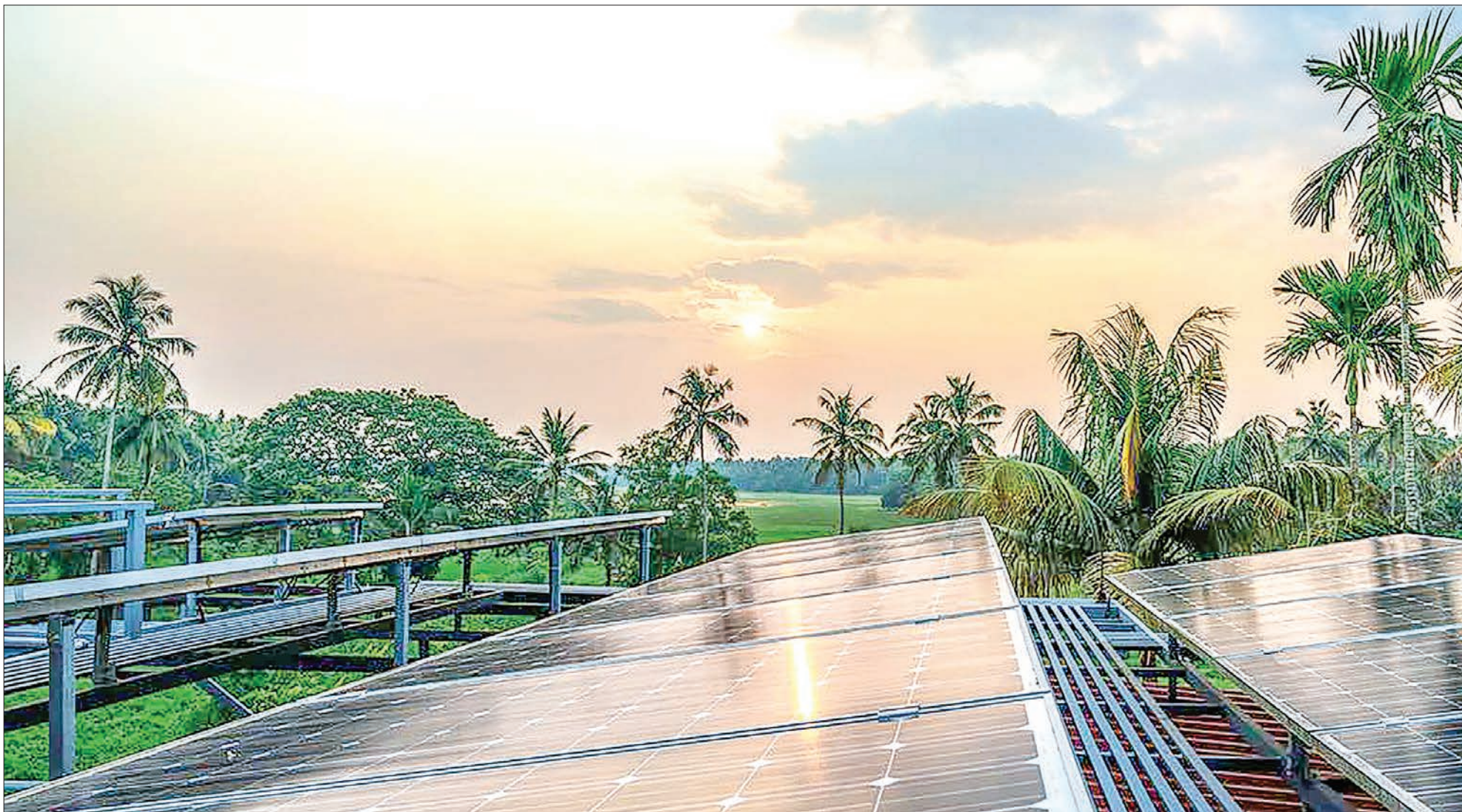
the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a reduction in demand for all fossil fuels, renewables are experiencing an increase in demand. According to the IEA, global CO2 emissions are set for the largest year-to-year reduction on record. Without continuous and concerted efforts by governments and businesses, however, this effect may be temporary.

Mobile networks in Myanmar largely run on electric grid power and diesel generators. The sector's energy consumption is associated with always-on mobile network equipment. When grid power experiences insta-



bility, diesel generators help ensure connectivity remains undisturbed. To balance efficient base energy access with robust backup power capabilities, many of Telenor Myanmar's base station sites are equipped with hybrid power systems keeping a diesel

generator as a fallback solution if grid power becomes unstable. Together with our network partners, we are also equipping remote base stations with solar power panels and state-of-the-art battery packs to reduce emissions further.



Telenor Myanmar has connected more than 1,100 sites to solar power and also continued its efforts to move from diesel generators to the grid wherever it's available.



Mobile networks in Myanmar largely run on electric grid power and diesel generators.

As part of strong focus towards green energy solution, so far Telenor Myanmar has connected more than 1,100 sites to solar power and also continued its efforts to move from diesel

generators to the grid wherever it's available. On top of the 70% energy savings per site, these efforts have reduced fuel consumption over the last three years by more than 10 million liters. Despite more than 15% network expansion and around 5 times increase in data traffic, CO2 emissions have been reduced by around 5%. Operating in nine markets across the Nordics and Asia, Telenor Group has implemented renewable energy sources across markets. The Group aims to run a carbon-neutral operation in the Nordics by 2030 and has set an ambition to reduce emissions from its Asian operations by 50% by the same deadline.

Lasting and significant impact will rely on more companies and sectors taking the same responsibility, and I would like to take the opportunity of this 2020 World Energy Week to commend our partners and experts who work every day to make sure that Myanmar's best data experience is produced and delivered in the most sustainable and responsible way.

The telecoms industry brings the world together. The sector has proven an essential foundation to uphold modern societies in the face of natural disasters and the ongoing pandemic. It is a common responsibility to ensure that the

rebound in emissions is not larger than the decline we now see, and that we're able to build back our energy systems – and our infrastructure – better. It's about bringing more to the lives of our customers and societies we serve.

About Author

Jon Omund Revhaug, born 1967, is the CEO of Telenor Myanmar. Prior to his current role, he served as the founding CEO of Telenor Procurement Company (TPC) in Singapore. Revhaug has been instrumental in establishing Telenor Group's global sourcing function and setting up TPC, which sources equipment and services for Telenor operations across the Nordic and Asia. Jon Omund Revhaug has extensive international and operational experience from his 20 years with the company. He started his career in Telenor in 2000 as Project Manager in the Norwegian Operations team.

Education: Jon Omund Revhaug holds a Master of Management degree from BI Norwegian Business School and a Cand.Mag. degree in Economics and Biology from the University of Tromsø, Norway.



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower (A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon. Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.



Roberto Firmino scored twice and Marquinhos and Philippe Coutinho also got goals as Brazil hammered Bolivia 5-0 in their opening World Cup qualifier in Sao Paulo on Friday. **PHOTO: TWITTER/CBF_FUTEBOL/AFP**

Football: Roberto Firmino brace helps Brazil hammer Bolivia in World Cup qualifier

SAO PAULO—Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino scored a brace as Brazil romped to a 5-0 victory over Bolivia in their opening 2022 World Cup qualifier on Friday (Oct 9).

Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho and Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos also got on the scoresheet while star forward Neymar set up two goals in a totally one-sided encounter that sent Brazil top of the South American qualifying table.

In a Corinthians Arena deserted due to Covid-19 restrictions, Bolivia showed almost no ambition as Brazil dominated throughout, with PSG's Neymar starting after overcoming a back problem.

Inside the first minute, winger Everton volleyed wide from inside the six-yard box and three minutes later his cross was headed off-target by Marquinhos from a similar position.

Bolivia could not get out of their half, or on the ball, as Coutinho and Everton created a slew of chances down Brazil's left.

The pressure told on 16 minutes as Marquinhos headed home from an identical position to his earlier chance as full-back Danilo swung over a cross from the right following a short corner.

Even a first half downpour couldn't dampen Brazil's thrust as Coutinho forced a diving one-handed save from goalkeeper Carlos Lampe with a deflected shot.

At times it looked like a handball game with Brazil camped on the edge of Bolivia's box, and the visitors keeping 10 men behind the ball at all times.

But on the half hour, left-back Renan Lodi got in behind the defence and his cross from the left was turned home from barely a yard out by Firmino.—AFP ■

MDY Football Academy turned into 100-bed quarantine centre



The front view of Mandalay Football Academy which has been transformed into 100-bed quarantine centre. **PHOTO: MFF**

UNDER the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports and Mandalay Region government, the Myanmar Football Federation and The Ayeyawady Foundation have jointly upgraded the Myanmar Football Federation Academy (Mandalay) as a quarantine centre that can care for up to 100 COVID-19 suspected patients, according to the statement of the MFF yesterday.

MFF president U Zaw Zaw who is also the chairperson of the Ayeyawady Foundation, is providing the facilities of the

quarantine centre in Mandalay through the foundation, according to the MFF.

Under the leadership of the U Zaw Zaw's foundation, beds, blankets and personal utensils were exchanged in every room of the Myanmar Football Federation Academy's quarantine centre in Mandalay, said MFF football authorities.

By the efforts of MFF and Ayeyawady Foundation volunteers, the centre has set up and installed with CCTV and surveillance systems; electrical

systems and backup generators, sufficient medical supplies and accessories plus bathrooms and toilets; and accommodation for health workers and volunteers.

Systematic measures are being taken in the centre to ensure proper waste disposal, said football authorities.

The MFF president's Ayeyawady Foundation will also provide food and accommodation for the MFF quarantine centre in Mandalay, according to the foundation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Everton's Ancelotti and Calvert-Lewin win award double

LONDON—Everton's Carlo Ancelotti was named the Premier League Manager of the Month for September, while Dominic Calvert-Lewin made it a clean sweep for the club as the in-form striker won the Player of the Month prize on Friday (Oct 9). Ancelotti is the first Everton boss to win the award since David Moyes in 2013. The Italian

claimed the accolade for the fifth time, having won it on four occasions while in charge of Chelsea between 2009 and 2011. Ancelotti has guided Everton to the top of the Premier League after winning their opening four league matches for the first time since Harry Catterick's team in 1969-70.—AFP ■

On top: Novak Djokovic was psyched up for his semi-final. **PHOTO: AFP/THOMAS SAMSON**



Chapter 56 as Djokovic and Nadal eye history in Roland Garros blockbuster

PARIS—Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal meet for the 56th time on Sunday in a Roland Garros final blockbuster with history on the line for both men.

World number one Djokovic is chasing an 18th Grand Slam title and a second French Open which would make him the first man in half a century to win all four Slams twice.

Defending champion Nadal, the world number two, can win a 13th Roland Garros and 20th major which would tie the all-time men's record held by Roger Federer.

Victory on Sunday would also give the 34-year-old Spaniard a 100th match win in Paris against just two defeats in 15 years.

One of those losses came against Djokovic in the 2015 quarter-finals, the last time the pair clashed on the crushed red brick surface of Court Philippe Chatrier.

The Serb has won 37 matches in 2020 with his one defeat self-inflicted via his infamous default at the US Open. Stefanos Tsitsipas, who pushed Djokovic to five sets in a breathless semi-final, sees few flaws in the top seed's game. "He has reached almost perfection," said the Greek. The 22-year-old matched Djokovic when it came to all-out assault on Friday night but at the crunch moments, the Serbian wall stood firm as the world number one saved 11 of 15 break points he faced.—AFP ■