

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 18 October 2020

First batch of COVID-19 medical supplies purchased from China for General Election arrives in Yangon



THE first batch of COVID-19 medical supplies which were purchased from the People's Republic of China arrived at the Yangon International Airport by China Southern Airlines yesterday.

The consignment of medical supplies included 250 boxes of KN95 masks weighing 2,066 kg.

More COVID-19 medical supplies including KN95 masks, PPE medical protective suits, medical caps and goggles from China will arrive at the Yangon International Airport and the Mandalay International Airport between 18 October and 3 November.

The reason of purchase of the medical supplies is to distribute them to the voters and polling station staff and volunteers who will work for 2020 General Election. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Workers unload the medical supplies purchased from China at the Yangon International Airport on 17 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

Advance voting of Myanmar citizens begins in UAE, continues in Thailand, Singapore, Russia

MYANMAR Embassy in Riyadh of Saudi Arabia coordinated with relevant authorities for advance voting of Myanmar citizens in United Arab Emirates for the 2020 General Election and an outside polling station was opened at Jumeirah Creekside Hotel in Dubai yesterday.

About 250 Myanmar citizens cast their advance ballots yesterday in Dubai and the polling booth will be continuously open on 18 October.

Moreover, advance voting of Myanmar citizens in Bangkok, Singapore and Moscow continued their advance voting yesterday for the 2020 General Election. The Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok

of Thailand facilitated the voting of 367 citizens while the embassies of Singapore and Russia managed the voting of 1,800 persons and 8 persons respectively.

The relevant embassies provided systematic support and assistance in accordance with COVID-19 preventive and control measures set by the receiving countries and the voters cast their ballots systematically by following the prescribed regulations.

There were a total of 2,425 citizens cast their ballots in three Myanmar embassies and an outside polling station yesterday.—MNA *(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*



A Myanmar citizen casts an advance vote in Dubai on 17 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

Department of Food and Drug Administration Registration No: (Sa 4/ 14091/ Hta La)

Instant SHWE PHE OO Lemon Tea

KHA YAE PIN MART- Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph: 09 671443555
STARMART Nine Mile Showroom-(9)Mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph: 09 30860180, 01 9669713
STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale-Corner of 26th st and 66th st, Mandalay. Ph: 09 661702244



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 198 / 2020

1st Waxing of Thadingyut, 1382 ME
17 October 2020

Termination of registration and
dissolution of political party

United Democratic Party (UDP) registered by the Union Election Commission failed to comply with provisions in Section 12, Sub-section a-iv of the Political Parties Registration Law and Section 15, Sub-section b, c, and f of the Political Parties Registration Act. The Union Election Commission, in its plenary meeting (50/2020) held on 17-10-2020, decided to terminate the registration of the party as a political party and also dissolve it, in line with Section 12-(b) of the Political Parties Registration Law. The Union Election Commission has announced to terminate and dissolve the United Democratic Party in line with Section 27 of the Political Parties Registration Act.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Announcement of deadline for filing Form 15
application of voters who are unable to return to their
original constituency due to healthcare guidelines for
travelling related to COVID-19

1. The Union Election Commission has issued an announcement on 8 October 2020, mentioning that voters away from their original constituency and unable to return to the respective constituency can file Form 15 application to the election sub-commission in their temporary residing areas for advance voting not to lose their voting right.
2. The township sub-commissions that receive Form-15 applications will send the documents to the township sub-commissions in original constituency of voters through email or fax for scrutinizing. However, after checking the Form 15 applications with the voter lists of respective ward/village tracts, the process of sending and getting back the advance voting paper and envelopes between the two places will be carried out by official delivery system of mail.
3. Due to the existing situation in relation to COVID-19 control measures of respective areas, local situations, transport and distance, it is expected to take 7 days for sending and another 7 days for receiving the documents. The documents that did not reach to the election sub-commissions of respective townships before 4 pm ahead of the election day will be the rejected votes, causing to lose voter rights.
4. Therefore, the voters included in the paragraph 1 need to file Form 15 applications to the election sub-commissions in the residing areas not later than 25-10-2020, and the election sub-commission of respective townships will have to send the advance vote papers and envelopes of voters to the sub-commission of related township in time.

Union Election Commission

UEC removes UDP candidates from upcoming elections

THE Union Election Commission announced the cancellation of the election candidates of United Democratic Party which was recently terminated, according to the commission's meeting 50/2020 yesterday.

During the meeting, the commission ordered the

sub-commissions of the respective states and regions, Union Territory, Self-administered Division / Zones and Sub-commissions of the District Election Commissions to remove the names of the candidates who will represent the UDP party in 2020 General Election from the

candidate lists in accordance with the Sub-section (c) and (d) of the Article 36 of the Hluttaw Election Act.

The commission announced the dissolution of United Democratic Party in line with Section 12-(b) of the Political Parties Registration Law

as the party failed to comply with provisions in Section 12, Sub-section a-iv of the Political Parties Registration Law and Section 15, Sub-section b, c, and f of the Political Parties Registration Act.

UDP election candidates also lost their rights to be elect-

ed as Hluttaw representatives in 2020 General Election as they failed to comply with the provisions of the Sub-section (h) of the Article 10 of the Hluttaw Election Law. — MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

ROK donates rapid antigen test kits to COVID-19 national committee

THE Republic of Korea contributed Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) yesterday.

A ceremony to hand over the test kits was held at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

At the ceremony, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa said that ROK was providing medical supplies and laboratory equipment for the COVID national committee.

During the ceremony of donating laboratory equipment by ROK in May, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe expressed his support for the facts included in the speech of ROK President Mr Moon Jae-in at the 73rd World Health Assembly, he said.

He continued that it is important to share information and experience about COVID-19 among

the countries, the pandemic is a problem that is bigger than expected, and the countries are fighting against the virus with the experiences gained in the first wave.

ROK already shared the experiences of successful holding of elections during COVID-19 to the officials of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Standard Q COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Devices were additionally provided as testing capacity is somewhat important in controlling and combatting the virus.

Although there are hardships caused by COVID-19, they can become the opportunities for improving health sector.

ROK had been in cooperation and friendship with Myanmar for many years, and further cooperation will be promoted, he added.

Union Minister Dr Myint

Htwe said that ROK Government, ROK-based companies and 22 social organizations has donated medical supplies and laboratory equipment worth over US\$ 2.5 million to Myanmar, and the donation of the test kits helped Myanmar increase its testing capacity. He further said that our country could conduct continuous testing of COVID-19 because of assistance from ROK and cooperation from ROK Ambassador and ROK Embassy officials.

Information and experiences about COVID-19 in Myanmar will be exchanged with ROK.

The provision of assistance during the COVID period will promote the friendship between the two nations and will be beneficial for long term, he added.

ROK Ambassador handed over 95,000 diagnostic test devices worth US\$ 500,000 donated by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to Director-Gen-



Prof. Dr Zaw Than Tun (R) accepts the COVID-19 antigen test kits donated by ROK at the Medical Research Department in Yangon on 17 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

eral of Medical Research Department Prof. Dr Zaw Than Tun who returned certificate of honour.

The event was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr Thet Khaing Win, Direc-

tor-General of the Union Minister's Office Dr Tha Tun Kyaw, Chief Representative of KOICA Myanmar Ms Lee Young-Soo and officials from ROK Embassy in Myanmar. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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

21

Union Minister U Thaung Tun delivers Keynote Address at 2020 UNSW ASEAN Conference

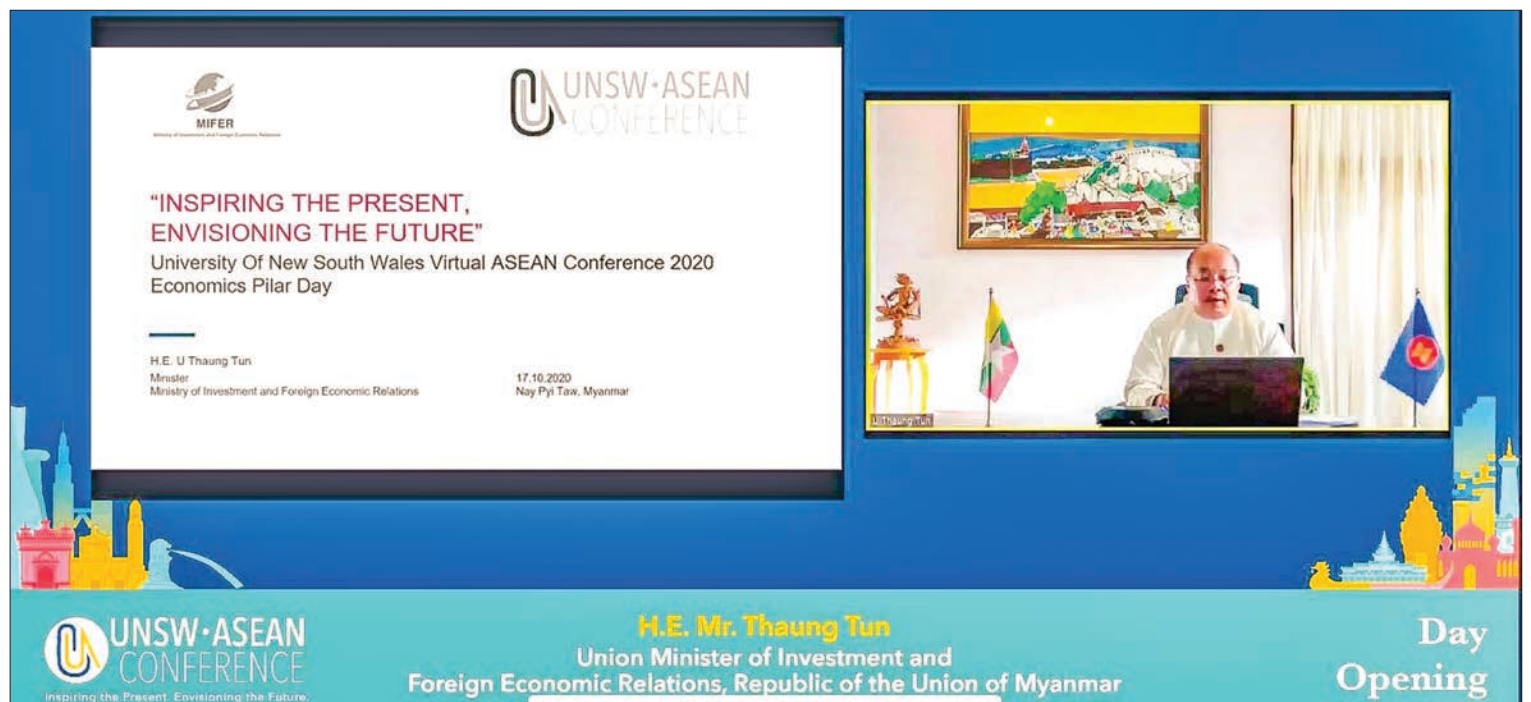
U THAUNG TUN, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations yesterday delivered a keynote address entitled “Inspiring the Present, Envisioning the Future” during the University of New South Wales (UNSW) ASEAN Conference 2020.

Recognizing UNSW as a centre of scientific and technological excellence, the Minister began with a special message directed toward Myanmar scholars:

“I must also state how pleased I am to see so many young Myanmar scholars attending UNSW. To those scholars, you represent the best of Myanmar. You truly do. And, when you return home, you will receive a warm welcome and find a nation that embraces your newfound skills – skills which will surely be in high demand, in both the public and private sectors.”

Coinciding with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the Union Minister used the opportunity to reflect upon Myanmar’s development journey, believing that the Myanmar story should provide cause for optimism, noting that:

“GDP per capita has risen more than eleven-fold between 1990 and 2018. Poverty has been halved within the span of a single generation. For most



Union Minister U Thaung Tun speaks at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) ASEAN Conference via videoconference on 17 October 2020.

of our people, malaria and illiteracy are vestiges of the past. While global growth has indeed slowed, Myanmar remains amongst a small handful of nations who will post positive growth this year— growth that we are now converting into tangible improvements in the lives of our people.”

The Union Minister also noted how Myanmar’s development gains are today being challenged into deep and structural changes in the country’s social and economic fabric, noting how Myanmar had:

“...successfully channelled

this period of economic growth into a noticeable shift in our country’s economic makeup – triggering a transition from agriculture to industry. As a result, female participation in our country’s labour force has increased, with more women now working in more diverse sectors than ever before.”

The Union Minister went on to rally the next generation, calling for their assistance in addressing global challenges such as the devastating impacts of climate change, repairing a fragile multilateral, rules-based order, and addressing widening

inequality within countries, all in the context of an ongoing battle against COVID-19.

The Union Minister made particular note of the upcoming signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as providing a platform for shared prosperity and security across the region and establishing a modern, comprehensive and mutually beneficial economic framework that will facilitate the expansion of trade and investment throughout the world.

“I believe our shared prosperity and security can only truly be safeguarded within a func-

tioning multilateral system. The imminent signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership at the 4th Summit of RCEP Leaders next month will be, I hope, a testament to that.”

The Union Minister also used the opportunity to express thanks to the people of Australia for the country’s long-standing commitment to the expansion of peace, democracy and prosperity in Myanmar, including through, increased trade and investment, through government-to-government ties, and expanding people-to-people connections.—MNA

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.

"People are the key"

Advance voting of Myanmar citizens begins in UAE, continues in Thailand, ...



Myanmar nationals in Russia line up for advance voting at the polling station in Moscow on 17 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)



Two Myanmar voters show their inked little fingers after casting ballots at the polling station in Myanmar Embassy, Bangkok on 17 October 2020.



Myanmar citizens queue outside the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore to cast advance votes on 17 October 2020.

Myanmar returnees fly back home from Malaysia, South Korea



Myanmar nationals line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 17 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur landed at the Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 175 Myanmar nationals including 40 Myanmar seamen and 40 Myanmar prisoners released from detention centre after they were stranded in Malaysia due to the suspension of international flights yesterday afternoon.

The MAI relief flight organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and Crew Change Supporting Myanmar also brought back 136 Myanmar seamen from South Korea yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immi-

gration 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.

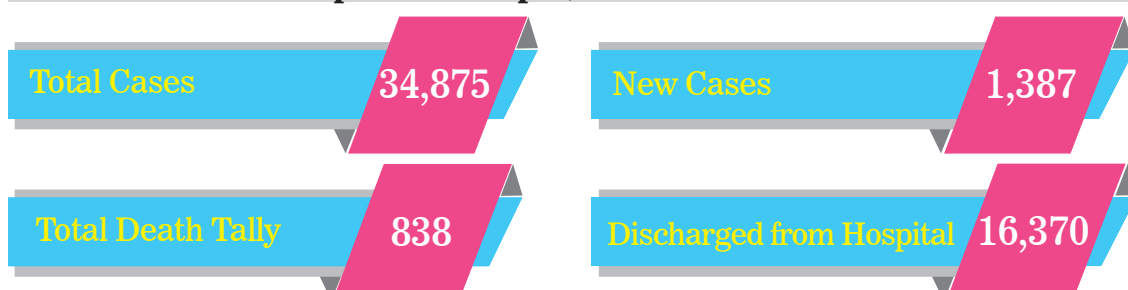
To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and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

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

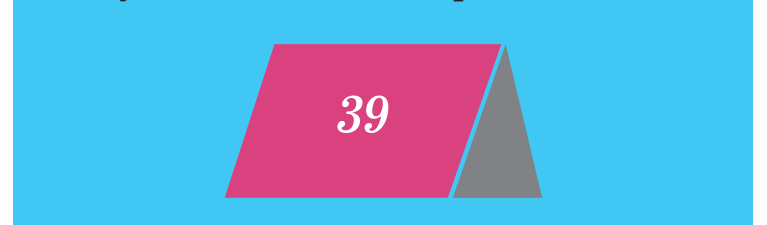
1,387 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 October, total figure rises to 34,875

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 34,875 after 1,387 new cases were reported on 17 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 34,875 confirmed cases, 838 died, 16,370 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 17 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 17-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko donates rice to monasteries, nunneries in Lewe

A rice donation to the monasteries and nunneries was held in Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The ceremony at Paukmyaing Parirati Monastery was attended by local senior monks, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, the Permanent Secretary, the Director-General and officials of Religious Affairs Department attended the ceremony.

The Union Minister and de-

partment heads took five precepts from Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda and shared merits by pouring the water of libation after donating the rice and offertories.

The Union Minister and party donated a total of 145 rice bags for the monasteries and nunneries in Lewe township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—MNA ■

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko presents the offertory to a monk at Paukmyaing Parirati Monastery on 17 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

NVSC, MMA organize online seminar for ambulance drivers, paramedics



National Volunteers Steering Committee and Myanmar Medical Association organize online seminar for ambulance drivers and paramedics on 17 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE National Volunteers Steering Committee and the Myanmar Medical Association jointly conducted an online seminar

for ambulance drivers and paramedics from regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung talked about the National

Volunteers Steering Committee organized by the government for the volunteers to serve systematically while the Union Minister for MSWRR serves as secretary of the unit, jointly publishing of volunteer handbooks and volunteer trainers' handbooks with MMA, proper use and disposal of PPE to prevent infection for the emergency-vehicle drivers and helpers.

He continued that the secretary office of National Volunteers Steering Unit gathered the volunteers for this awareness campaign and present campaign is the second time while the first one was conducted with 91 volunteers from Nay Pyi Taw Council, Kayah, Mon and Rakhine states on 13 October and expressed words of thanks to MMA mem-

bers Prof. Dr Mya Thida, Prof. Dr Mar Mar Kyi, Dr Thaug Lin and Dr Thar Htet Aung for their participations.

He also discussed formation of ambulance, processes of ventilators, healthcare for patients with chronic diseases, proper use and disposal of PPE, guidance to treat the expectant mothers with COVID-19 and appreciated the participations of volunteers from Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Bago regions.

Vice-President of MMA Prof. Dr Mya Thida later briefed the reasons of awareness campaign while other attendees respectively coordinated the discussions.—MNA ■

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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

CAMPAIGN speeches of Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society and Myanmar National Congress Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 18 October for the second time. — MNA

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Workers unload the medical supplies purchased from China at the Yangon International Airport on 17 October. PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)

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Sugarcane price likely to strike K40,000 per tonne in Dec

THE price of sugarcane is likely to strike K40,000 per tonne in next sugarcane season scheduled for the third week of December until April in the financial year 2020-2021, according to the Agriculture Department.

"We have attempted to raise the price of sugarcane in next season. We targeted for the sugarcane market price to reach K40,000 per tonne. The sugarcane cultivation dropped by around 20,000 or 30,000 acres this year compared to last year. Some growers destroyed their plantations because of the offering of low price for their sugarcane. So, there will be only 400,000 acres of sugarcane this year," said an official from the Agriculture Department.

At present, China purchases Myanmar's sugarcane as raw material and offers a higher price than those in the internal market. There are 23 sugar mills in the local market. Sugar mills are ready to run, but old stocks remain in the mills, so operators are delaying the purchase of sugarcane. The sugar price will also slightly drop down to K900 per viss.



Women are planting sugarcane at a farm in Tetkon. PHOTO: GNLM

Sugarcane is one of the significant industrial crops cultivated in Myanmar. It is grown in more than half the world, including Asia and America, because of its health benefits. Sugarcane contains proteins, phosphorus, iron, zinc, and potassium, and vitamins A, B-complex, and C.

Myanmar produced about

450,000 tonnes of sugar on 440,000 acres of sugarcane plantations in the 2014-2015 financial year, over 390,000 tonnes on 390,000 acres in the 2015-2016FY, over 370,000 tonnes on 400,000 acres in the 2016-2017FY, over 500,000 tonnes on 400,000 acres in the 2017-2018FY, and 500,000 tonnes on nearly 500,000 acres

in the 2018-2019FY.

Sugarcane prices hit over K50,000 per tonne in the 2015-2016FY, K45,000 in the 2016-2017FY, K41,500 in the 2017-2018FY, and K38,000-40,000 in the 2018-2019FY, according to news released online by the Ministry of Commerce. — Zin Yaw Aye (Translated by Hay Mar)

Mandalay provides over K64 bln COVID-19 special relief loan

MANDALAY has provided over K64 billion COVID-19 special relief loans to the local farmers, according to the Mandalay Region Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB).

"Myanmar agricultural business is adversely affected by COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, the COVID-19

special relief loans were provided to the local farmers. For the moment, the government has been providing annual monsoon agricultural loans to farmers since 15 May this year," said an official from MADB.

The local farmers were provided K50,000 loans per acre with 5 per cent annual

interest rate in line with the guidance of COVID-19 loans of MADB. The bank provided the loans for a maximum of ten acres of farmland to those farmers who paid back the capital amount and the interest in due time. The loans were provided based on the acres of farmland. The bank provided K64.14 billion from 22 June to

the September-end, he added.

At present, the bank provided the loans to 230,406 local farmers, who owned 1,282,822 acres of farmlands. There are a total of 1,261 village-tracts in 23 townships, Mandalay Region. The loans will have to be returned not later than September 2021. —Aye Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)



Picture shows confiscated ironwood lumbers. PHOTO: NAING LIN (HLEGU)

Illegal ironwood lumbers confiscated on Yangon-Mandalay highway

A combined inspection team from the Forest Department stopped a vehicle carrying illegal ironwood lumbers (aka pyinkado in Myanmar) on 16 October on Yangon-Mandalay highway, Hlegu township, Yangon North District.

According to the investigation, the combined team inspected to prevent the illegal transportation on Yangon-Mandalay highway in Hlegu township. It stopped the suspected vehicles en route to Yangon

from Nay Pyi Taw. But, the car drove away at high speed from the scene.

The team tried to stop the vehicle only to catch it at Milepost 0/7. When the team searched the car and found 45 illegal pyinkado lumbers weighing 1.8174 tonnes from the car.

The Forest Department filed charges against both drivers and two followers under section 42(A) of the Forest Law.—Naing Lin (Hlegu) (Translated by Hay Mar)

Ayeyarwady Foundation signs contract to buy \$2 mln worth of medical equipment

AYEYARWADY Foundation, which is working on COVID-19 preventive measures under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports, signed an agreement to purchase medical equipment worth \$2 million from foreign country for Ayeyarwady Centre.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation currently operates 1000-bed Test and Care Ayeyarwady Centre with more than 700 volunteers including the medics and nurses for COVID-19 patients.

It will buy \$2 million worth of 1,250 beds for hospitals, 200 ICU/

HDU beds, tents, liquid oxygen storage tank (20 tonnes), PPE and N95 masks.

The AYA Bank and Max Myanmar Group donated \$2 million to buy such medical equipment and signed an agreement with the companies on 17 October.

Some of the equipment will arrive in Myanmar within one week and all the items will be in next three weeks.—Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Ayeyarwady Centre. PHOTO: KO MOE

AFTER MONTHS OF BEING GROUNDED

Hong Kong budget carrier joins 'flights to nowhere' trend

HONG KONG'S budget carrier HK Express joined airlines offering "flight to nowhere" on Thursday with an inaugural journey filled with media and influencers, sparking criticism from environmentalists.

The low-cost airliner, now wholly-owned by Cathay Pacific, has been grounded for months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A preview flight carrying around 110 passengers took off on Thursday afternoon, circled Hong Kong and returned 90 minutes later.

With the aviation industry

in deep crisis, several carriers -- including in Australia, Japan and Taiwan -- have been offering short flights that start and end at the same airport to raise cash.

But the carrier described the flight as a refresher for when travel restarts in earnest.

"You can see this as a warm-up exercise for passengers to get ready for the new normal," Iris Ho, public relations officer at HK Express told AFP.

"Passengers have not been flying for so long, and we want to educate them with our pre-

ventive measures and new arrangements on board."

HK Express said it would offer three "nowhere" flights in November at a price of HK\$388 (US\$50) -- considerably cheaper than similar sightseeing flights by other airlines. Tickets have already sold out.

Passengers will be seated apart to employ social distancing. No food will be provided and all magazines are taken away.

The airliner did not reveal how much carbon footprint each trip by the Airbus 320 left behind.

SOURCE: AFP



HK Express said it would offer three 'nowhere' flights in November. PHOTO: AFP

ONLY IN 2020

Finger pointed at Swiss yodelling 'superspreader' concert



Like archery and wrestling, yodelling is a core element of Swiss national identity. PHOTO: AFP

THE coronavirus pandemic has not deterred the Swiss from sending yodels echoing across their mountain valleys, but a concert attended by 600 people is believed to have made one canton a European virus hotspot.

At the late September yodelling event in the rural Schwyz canton, people in the audience were asked to maintain social distancing, but mask-wearing was not required.

"We can't do anything about what happened with this yodelling group. We found out nine days after the performances that several people from the group were infected," event organiser Beat Hegner told RTS public television.

Now the pandemic has spread through the region, with 1,238 cases compared with just 500 in mid-September.

On Wednesday alone, 94

people tested positive, twice as many as the day before.

The overloaded cantonal hospital has asked people to begin wearing masks and avoiding gatherings.

"There's an extremely high rate of positive tests. We've gone from 30 to 50 per cent," hospital chief Franziska Foellmi said.

"It's time we reacted. The explosion in the number of cases in Schwyz is one of the worst in all of Europe," chief doctor Reto Nueesch posted online.

Cantonal authorities have stepped up infection control measures, making mask-wearing compulsory at all public and private events with more than 50 people and in situations where distancing can't be maintained.

But people can still go to the shops without covering their nose and mouth.

SOURCE: AFP

Environmental degradation is a cause for poverty

Environmental degradation is a cause for poverty in many countries by causing disasters and reducing the capacity of the environment in supplying social and ecological needs.

Excess and overconsumption of natural resources has turned out environmental degradation and has made impacts on essential ecosystem services in mitigating floods and landslides, which, in turn, leads to increased risks from disasters and natural hazards.

Environmental degradation and the associated decline of ecosystems are posing disaster risks. For example, deforestation of slopes may cause landslide hazards. Poor rural households in developing countries are suffering from land degradation and can cause the loss of productive capacity after the quality of fertile soil has declined.

As the world has seen an increase in population growth and economic development, consumption of natural resources has also surged in energy, transport, urbanization and globalization.

birds, amphibians and many terrestrial species.

Regarding the regulating services, mangroves are crucial for protecting coastlines from storm surges, flooding and erosion. A decline in mangrove ecosystems can reduce flood regulation functions which protect local communities while posing risks of severe weather conditions.

As the world has seen an increase in population growth and economic development, consumption of natural resources has also surged in energy, transport, urbanization and globalization. Meanwhile, environmental conservation works become essential for countries of the world.

There have been substantial losses of energy, freshwater, forests, marine habitats, clean air and fertile soil from the pursuit of unlimited economic growth.

Therefore, for preventing unsustainable development and poverty, every country needs clear and practical strategies to take care of our environmental problems.

Mangrove ecosystems are affected mainly by the climate and environmental situation of Myanmar. Agriculture, aquaculture and urbanization have removed many areas of mangrove forests which are more vital to the coastal communities in terms of protection service, storm surges, flooding and erosion which are grave risks for coastal communities. This ecosystem stands at the transition between marine and terrestrial ecosystems and provides important services to both.

Mangrove forests provide nursery and breeding areas for many marine species, and they are essential for conserving habitats of healthy fisheries, migratory

REMDESIVIR HAS NO SUBSTANTIAL EFFECT ON MORTALITY IN COVID-19 PATIENTS

COVID-19: 'Little or no' benefit from trials of anti-virals, says WHO

Latest results from a UN-coordinated international trial on four COVID-19 therapeutic drugs, indicate that they have "little or no" positive impact on preventing deaths in patients infected with the new coronavirus.

THE Solidarity Therapeutics Trial, overseen by the World Health Organization (WHO), shows that medications Remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon, repurposed to treat new coronavirus infections, "appeared to have little or no effect on 28-day mortality or the in-hospital course of COVID-19 among hospitalized patients", WHO said in a statement on Friday.

The study, which began in March and spans more than 30 countries, looked at the effects of these treatments on overall mortality, initiation of ventilation, and duration of hospital stay in hospitalized individuals.

Other uses of the drugs, for example in treatment of patients in the community or for prevention, would have to be examined using different trials, the WHO explained.

Associated blood pressure risks

In a related announcement, the UN health agency said that COVID-19 had also highlighted the increased vulnerability of people with high blood pressure to the coronavirus.

The warning is based on data from more than 120 countries showing significant COVID-related disruption to treatment for people suffering from chronic health conditions, with findings showing these patients make up 50 to 60 per cent of all deaths from COVID.

Dr. Bente Mikkelsen, Director of WHO's Department of Noncommunicable Diseases, said that more than 1.13 billion people around the world suffer from hypertension.

Of this number, 745,800,000 live in low and middle-income countries and 80 per cent of these

nations have fewer than 50 per cent of people on treatment.

Many unaware they are sick On average, one in four men suffer from the condition, compared with one in five women, according to WHO data. In addition, two in five people are not aware that they even have hypertension.

"When it comes to COVID-19 and hypertension, the 122 countries that have reported tells us that in over 50 per cent of the countries their health care services is disrupted fully or partially... In addition, we see a high number of fatalities", Dr Mikkelsen told journalists in Geneva.

Noting that global figures have yet to be calculated, she added that for those countries where data was available, "we see in the range of 50, 60 per cent of the people that are severely ill and die in hospitals from COVID have hypertension, diabetes", and oth-



An IHU Mediterranee Infection Institute staff member in Marseille, France, shows strips of chloroquine (left) and hydroxychloroquine tablets, which are both being tested for Covid-19 treatment. PHOTO: AFP

er non-communicable diseases.

Pandemic resurgence

Highlighting how the pandemic has made a resurgence in many countries across all continents after the easing of restrictions, and the additional health

contributed to worsening hypertension rates globally.

To coincide with World Hypertension Day on 16 October, Dr Mikkelsen unveiled a series of recommendations and products developed by the WHO to promote action on hypertension "during and beyond the pandemic".

By doing so, health authorities can help people to keep their blood pressure under control and prevent stroke, heart attack, and kidney damage, the WHO believes. The new protocols are based on successful patient blood pressure management in 18 countries involving more three million people.

Today, only 20 per cent of the world's nations are on track to reduce hypertension by 25 per cent by 2025, a global target set by the World Health Assembly in 2013, according to the UN health agency. SOURCE: UN NEWS

A UNIQUE FORUM FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESPONSE ACTORS

Action Plan on Improving Responses to Gender-based Violence During COVID-19

National Roundtable: bring together High-level representatives from the Government of Myanmar, Civil Society Organizations and UN Agencies

#COVID19

The COVID-19 pandemic will compound existing gender inequalities, and increase risks of gender-based violence

Learn more: unfpa.org/COVID19

UNFPA

Senior representatives from the Myanmar Government, UN Agencies, and civil society came together on 16 October, 2020 to discuss strategies for increasing coordination on gender-based violence (GBV) in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The roundtable provided a unique forum for GBV response actors to discuss their experiences addressing GBV during the pandemic, and to jointly develop a strategic action plan to improve responses to GBV in the coming months. UNODC and UNFPA organized the roundtable in light of the increasing need to address new coordination challenges which have emerged as a result of COVID-19, while risks and incidence of GBV were also growing in parallel, and to provide a forum to agree to coordinated responses which could quickly be put in place to mitigate some of the emerging GBV prevention and response challenges.

"Coordinated multi-sectoral GBV prevention and response are critical to meet the diverse needs of GBV survivors and support their healing, reintegration and empower-

ment based on a survivor-centered approach," emphasized UNFPA Representative for Myanmar, Ramanathan Balakrishnan. "During COVID-19, its importance is even more paramount. The fact that we are all here today demonstrates our willingness and commitment to work together and complement each other to ensure safety, protection and dignity of vulnerable women and girls in Myanmar."

Gender-based violence is a significant challenge facing Myanmar in normal circumstances, but as COVID-19 restrictions have made implementing a coordinated response more difficult, it has also brought together, at an unprecedented scale, a variety of stress factors, such as lockdown and curfew policies, put in place to curb the spread of the virus; the disruption of economic, social and protective networks; sudden changes in family functioning; increased substance abuse; and decreased access to services. As a result, a number of participants at the roundtable highlighted that incidence of GBV has been increasing, with some expressing alarm over the growing number of reports being received.

While COVID-19 has created challenges, participants at the workshop agreed improved coordination could significantly improve the situation.

"Through working together, we truly believe we can move towards having a country where incidences of GBV decline each year, and that within several years, our cooperation will lead to a Myanmar where no individual is living in fear of domestic violence," highlighted Ms Moe Hnin Lwin, Director at the Union Attorney-General's Office. "GBV is a profound issue that cannot be solved by one organization alone, and today's roundtable is a step forward in this regard."

Participants from other government agencies, including the Myanmar Police Force, the Supreme Court of the Union, the Department of Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Health and Sports, as well as leading Myanmar civil society groups, echoed this sentiment and endorsed closer collaboration moving forward.

SOURCE: UNFPA Myanmar

World Statistics Day
20-10-2020
"Connecting the world with data we can trust"
ဆက်သွယ်မှုဖြင့် စာရင်းအင်းအချက်အလက်အခြေတည် ဖွဲ့စည်းဆက်သွယ်မှု ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်နိုင်မည်။

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 17 October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and East central Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 18 October 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin and (Northern and Eastern) Shan states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region and Chin State, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and 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 (6-9) feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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ECONOMIC DEVASTATION

UK data privacy watchdog slashes BA fine as virus bites



A British Airways aircraft taxis past other parked British Airways aircraft at Terminal 5 of Heathrow Airport in west London, on July 30, 2010. **PHOTO: AFP/BEN STANSALL/FILE**

THE UK's data privacy watchdog on Friday slashed a fine imposed on British Airways over a cyber attack after taking into account coronavirus fallout on the embattled airline's finances.

The UK Information Commissioner's Office said BA would be fined a "record" £20 million (\$25 million, 22 million euros), considerably less than the proposed amount totalling £183 million.

"As part of the regulatory process the ICO considered

both representations from BA and the economic impact of Covid-19 on their business before setting a final penalty," the watchdog said in a statement.

The proposed amount was announced in July last year after computer hackers in 2018 stole bank details from hundreds of thousands of British Airways passengers.

The ICO on Friday repeated its finding that BA had infringed European Union data protection rules, or GDPR.

"Because the BA breach

happened in June 2018, before the UK left the EU, the ICO investigated on behalf of all EU authorities as lead supervisory authority under the GDPR," Friday's statement said.

British Airways, which is slashing thousands of jobs as the coronavirus pandemic decimates demand for air travel, surprised markets on Monday by announcing the sudden departure of chief executive Alex Cruz.

SOURCE: AFP

INFECTION RATES

British pubs ravaged by new virus restrictions

BRITAIN'S pub industry is bearing the brunt of new restrictions introduced to combat rising coronavirus infection rates, sending stock prices tumbling on Friday.

Millions of people in London and across Britain will no longer be able to mix with other households from Saturday, although those from the same household will still be able to go the pub.

But soaring rates in north-west England have forced even more stringent restrictions, with pubs only allowed to serve alcohol as part of sit-down meals.

The Wetherspoon pub chain saw its share price plunge by 18 percent on Friday after it revealed losses of £105.4 million (\$136 million, 116 million euros) as a result of the March to July lockdown -- its first deficit in 36 years.

The group's combative boss, Tim Martin, criticised the government for imposing the

initial lockdown for "far longer than was necessary to achieve its stated objective of 'flattening the curve'," and was scathing about the new restrictions.

"For the two months following reopening, it appeared that the hospitality industry... was adapting to the new regime and was getting 'back on its feet'," he said in a statement.

"It appears that the government and its advisers were clearly uncomfortable as the country emerged from lockdown.

"They have introduced, without consultation, under emergency powers, an ever-changing raft of ill-thought-out regulations."

He urged Downing Street to adopt the pandemic model in Sweden, in which most shops and bars are left open while people most at risk are asked to self-isolate.

SOURCE: AFP



Pubs are being hit by measures to control coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE ARTS

Turkey's ailing theatres fear politics at play in virus funding

ASMALI Sahne, an independent theatre in Istanbul, applied for desperately needed state funds as it tries to survive the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, but its request was turned down.

The co-founder of the theatre in Istanbul's bohemian Beyoglu district and other playhouse owners and actors suspect politics of playing a role in the delivery of relief funds.

They claim that independent theatres and those associated with the opposition are being left out, putting their future at stake.

Asmali Sahne felt sure it was ticking all the boxes by producing a Turkish play by a Turkish female writer.

It was the theatre's third attempt to win the funding and hoped for 108,000 Turkish lira (\$13,600) but it was given a vague reason for being refused.

"We met all the criteria but we failed once again," co-founder Muharrem Ugurlu told AFP.

"For the first time in six



Theatre owners and actors in Turkey suspect politics of playing a role in the delivery of relief funds. **PHOTO: AFP**

years since we were founded, we are discussing whether or not to bring down the curtain," he said.

"The appropriation process is not transparent, and this makes me wonder if politics plays a role."

One of Turkey's most popular stage actors, Genco Erkal,

agrees.

He has not even bothered to ask for virus rescue funds for his theatre as he thinks he would not stand a chance.

"It's all about politics," the 82-year-old told AFP, shielding from the virus at home.

SOURCE: AFP

Pfizer: no plans for emergency vaccine authorization

THE CEO of Pfizer said on Friday that the pharmaceutical company will not apply for emergency authorisation of its vaccine any earlier than the third week of November, ruling

out President Trump's previous assertion that a vaccine could be ready before Election Day.

Albert Bourla said that the company may know whether its vaccine is effective by the

end of October, but won't have the safety data required by the FDA until the end of November at the earliest.

SOURCE: AFP

HYGGE SURFING

'Cold Hawaii': Danish coast surfs on virus wave

ON Denmark's rugged western coast, far from paradise islands in the tropics, "Cold Hawaii" has become the place to be for surfers stranded by travel restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic. As the name suggests, surfers seeking out the perfect wave near the town of Klitmoller are not put off by chilly waters or nippy air, nor the lack of palm trees. This raw and rugged coastline, often under grey and bleak skies, has drawn a growing number of board aficionados in recent years. Covid-19 has "really created a big boom," says Mor Meluka, a 34-year-old Israeli who settled here with his family 11 years ago.

Surfing enthusiasts from Denmark and nearby countries

"used to travel the world", but now, "since they can't go anywhere we are definitely experiencing more guests than usual," he tells AFP.

Together with his wife Vahine Itchner, Meluka runs the "Cold Hawaii Surf Camp", a surf school that employs 15 instructors in the summer months and continues to give daily lessons even in the off-season. "You can't really know what kind of waves you're going to get. It's always different waves. If you go to a perfect surf place like Bali or Tahiti, you know exactly how the wave is going to break. Here, it changes all the time," says Itchner, who moved to Denmark at the age of 10 from Tahiti.

SOURCE: AFP



Nowadays surfing is an integral part of the local culture - and is even part of children's schoolday, with surfing lessons on their schedule. PHOTO: AFP

CURFEWS IN PLACE

Belgium announces harsher measures to curb virus spread



Cafés, bars and restaurants must close for a month from Monday, although will be allowed to operate a takeaway service. This measure will be reassessed after two weeks. PHOTO: AFP

THE Belgian federal government announced a series of new restrictions on Friday night after new cases soared.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said daily figures were higher than those reported in March, when the pandemic was declared. As the increase in cases has put pressure on hospitals, the PM announced a series of measures to slow down the virus spread.

Social bubbles must now be curbed, with close contacts reduced to just one person outside the household.

Cafés, bars and restau-

rants must close for a month from Monday, although will be allowed to operate a takeaway service. This measure will be reassessed after two weeks.

A curfew will also be put in place across Belgium from midnight to 5am, starting on 19 October.

Businesses are encouraged to let employees work from home where possible, while those that cannot will have to implement extensive health and safety measures.

Schools are to remain open, although French-speaking schools have agreed to ex-

tend the half term break by 3 days.

Although weekly markets are permitted, Christmas markets will not be taking place this year.

The Minister of Health clarified that schools would remain open normally. Unlike weekly markets, Christmas markets will not be able to take place.

Establishments in the cultural sector, such as theatres and cinemas, will remain open, but must respect health and distancing regulations.

SOURCE: AFP

RARE SPECIES

Back in the pink: Hong Kong dolphins enjoy rare quiet as pandemic halts ferries

RARE pink dolphins are returning to the waters between Hong Kong and Macau after the coronavirus pandemic halted ferries, but scientists remain deeply concerned about their long-term survival in one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

The tell-tale flash of pink leaping from the waters alerts Naomi Brennan to the presence of a local Chinese white dolphin and she jots the animal's location into a GPS device. Conservationists like Brennan regularly board boats in the Pearl River Delta to document how the mammals, known for their eye-catching pink colouring, are faring. "Today we encountered three different groups of dolphins -- six adults and two sub-adults," she explained.

"They were engaging in a range of behaviour, from feeding to travelling and socialising." For years keeping tabs on the dolphins has been a disheartening task.

The population has fallen by 70-80 per cent in the past 15 years in what is one of



The population of pink dolphins has fallen by 70-80 per cent in the past 15 years, in what is one of the world's most industrialized estuaries. PHOTO: AFP

the world's most industrialized estuaries.

But this year their numbers have bounced back -- and they have the pandemic to thank.

Ferries between Hong Kong and Ma-

cau have been suspended since February, providing local marine scientists an opportunity to study how the mammals have adapted to the "unprecedented quiet".

SOURCE: AFP

COVID-19 TRANSMISSION RISK ON AIRCRAFT

Low risk of Covid infection on planes if masks worn: US military

THE risk of being infected with the coronavirus on an airliner is very low if passengers wear masks, according to a study carried out aboard Boeing long-haul jets by the US military and published Thursday.

Researchers using sensors and fluorescent tracers measured the volume of airborne contagious matter emitted by a dummy simulating an infected person breathing normally.

The passengers most exposed to the infected person -- those just in front of, behind or beside the dummy -- were represented in the study by the sensors. Some 300 test rounds were carried out on the ground and in flight over the course of eight straight days in August in cooperation with United Airlines on Boeing 767 and 777 jetliners.

SOURCE: AFP

STOCKS AND SHARES



Pound wobbles as Johnson says get ready for 'no-deal' Brexit

THE British pound wobbled Friday, boosting London stocks, after UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned he was ready to walk away from European Union trade talks and prepare for a "no-deal" Brexit.

Sterling fell below \$1.29 before crawling back after Johnson accused the EU of failing to negotiate seriously -- and declared Britain should "get ready" for an Australia-style agreement based on World Trade Organization rules from January "unless there is a fun-

damental change of approach" from Brussels.

A Johnson aide ramped up the rhetoric by adding that trade talks were over unless Brussels "fundamentally shifts its position."

Their comments came after an EU summit this week demanded Britain urgently give ground on fair trade rules to unblock post-Brexit negotiations.

"Sterling fell sharply on comments from PM Boris Johnson calling for the UK to prepare for a no-deal exit in

January and accusing the EU of not negotiating seriously," said Markets.com analyst Neil Wilson.

Analyst Craig Erlam at Oanda commented that "the market is broadly taking it for what it is, one final push at concessions from the EU."

But he added: "It would be terrible for all of this to end without a deal after four years of work and in the midst of a pandemic when businesses are already pushed to the brink."

SOURCE: AFP

Boris Johnson said Britain should get ready for an Australia-style agreement based on WTO rules from January "unless there is a fundamental change of approach" from Brussels. PHOTO: AFP

FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT

US deficit hits record \$3.1 tn amid pandemic spending surge: govt

THE US budget deficit surged 218 per cent to a record \$3.1 trillion in the fiscal year ended September 30 due to a massive increase in spending to help the economy weather the coronavirus pandemic, the government announced Friday.

That was more than double the previous record deficit of \$1.4 trillion hit in 2009 during the global financial crisis.

As spending ramped up and tax receipts fell due to the widespread business shutdowns, the Treasury Department said total government US debt soared to \$26.9 trillion -- larger than the size of the economy which shrunk in the second quarter to less than \$20 trillion.

The budget gap under President Donald Trump already had been on the rise prior to the

pandemic and hit \$1 trillion this year for the first time since 2012 following the massive tax cut passed in late 2017.

Administration officials tried to put a positive spin on the figures, crediting Trump with acting quickly to deploy resources to ease the economic damage for American businesses and families.

SOURCE: AFP



The US Treasury Department said the US budget deficit surged to a record \$3.1 trillion in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020 due to a massive spending increase to help the economy weather the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

RCEP agreement to be inked in November: Thai ministry

THAILAND'S Ministry of Commerce said on Friday that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement is ready to be signed in November, and is expected to take effect in the second half of next year.

At the 8th RCEP Ministers' Meeting held on Aug. 27 through videoconferencing, it was confirmed that the free trade agreement (FTA) would be signed at the 4th RCEP Summit during the 37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Viet Nam in mid-November, said Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the ministry's Trade Negotiations Department.

Auramon said the signing method will be discussed with Viet Nam as the chair of 10-member ASEAN in 2020.

"The RCEP agreement will enter into force only if at least half of or six ASEAN members and half of the non-ASEAN members (three out of six) enact it," Auramon said. "As for Thailand, we must seek approval from the Cabinet. After that, there will be a process to seek approval from Parliament." She also confirmed that the RCEP deal is expected to come into effect as early as around the second half of 2021.

According to Auramon, RCEP will be the largest FTA in the world, comprising 16 member countries with a combined population of almost 3.6 billion (48.1 per cent of world population), combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than 28.5 trillion U.S. dollars (32.7 per cent of world GDP) and total trade val-

ue of over 11.2 trillion U.S. dollars (29.5 per cent of world trade).

Fifteen countries, with the exception of India, will sign the deal, Auramon said. She said Thailand would at least gain from non-ASEAN members in many ways, such as China, South Korea and Japan. Thailand will be able to open up new markets and reduce tariffs on Thai products, such as agricultural products, namely tapioca flour, fisheries, fruit juices, pineapple, coconut juice, paper and automotive parts, she said. RCEP comprises 16 countries, namely Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

SOURCE: Xinhua

ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

EU int'l trade in August remains under pre-pandemic levels

THE European Union (EU)'s international trade in goods in August remained under the pre-pandemic levels, with a decline of exports and imports by 14 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively compared to August 2019, Eurostat said on Friday.

From January to August, the EU's exports of goods fell to 1,229.9 billion euros, down by 12.4 per cent year-on-year, and imports fell to 1,118.8 billion euros, a decrease of 13.4 per cent.

According to the EU's statistical office, China was the bloc's biggest trading partner in the first eight months, with

an increase of imports by 4.4 per cent plus a slight drop in exports -- by 1.1 per cent.

China overtook the United States to become the top partner for the EU in July, when the European trade with the U.S. recorded a significant drop in both imports and exports.

In August, the exports of goods decreased year on year for all EU member states except Slovenia and Slovakia. The largest decrease, at minus 48.7 per cent, was registered in Malta, according to Eurostat. (1 euro = 1.17 U.S. dollars)

SOURCE: Xinhua

IN NARCOTICS PLOT

US charges Mexican ex-defence chief with drug trafficking

A former Mexican defence minister has been detained in the United States and charged with drug trafficking and money laundering in the latest high-profile arrest linked to the country's powerful cartels.

Salvador Cienfuegos, a key figure in ex-president Enrique Peña Nieto's 2012-2018 government, was detained at Los Angeles airport on Thursday while on a trip with his family.

He is accused of conspiring to produce and distribute "thousands of kilogrammes" of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana in the US between December 2015 and

February 2017, documents released by federal prosecutors in New York said.

The 72-year-old retired general nicknamed "The Godfather" allegedly abused his position "to help the H-2 Cartel, an extremely violent Mexican drug trafficking organization," according to the documents.

"In exchange for bribe payments, he permitted the H-2 Cartel -- a cartel that routinely engaged in wholesale violence, including torture and murder -- to operate with impunity in Mexico," the indictment said.

SOURCE: AFP

A LANDSLIDE VICTORY

Ardern wins landslide in New Zealand election



Jacinda Ardern has dubbed the vote "the Covid election" and campaigned on her government's success in eliminating community transmission of the virus. PHOTO: MARTY MELVILLE AFP

PRIME MINISTER Jacinda Ardern won a landslide victory in New Zealand's general election Saturday, leveraging success battling Covid-19 to gain an unprecedented outright majority and the chance to implement her reform agenda.

With two thirds of the vote counted, Ardern's centre-left Labour Party was on 49.2 per cent and forecast to take around 64 seats in the 120-member parliament.

No leader has achieved an absolute majority since New Zealand adopted a proportional voting system in 1996, leading to a succession of multi-party governments.

While the count has not been finalised, the figures were enough for opposition leader Judith Collins to concede after phoning Ardern. "Congratulations on your result because it is, I believe, an outstanding result for the Labour Party. It has been a tough campaign," Collins told cheering supporters in Auckland.

Her conservative National Party was expected to take around 35 seats in what appears to be its worst result in nearly 20 years.

Ardern's performance beat pre-election opinion polls and put Labour on course for its strongest showing since 1946.

Party president Claire Szabo praised the campaign of the charismatic leader, who sparked a wave of support dubbed "Jacinda-mania" when she took over the party in 2017 as it was languishing in the polls.

"There's no doubt the strong, great leadership we've had from Jacinda Ardern has been a massive factor in all this," she told NZ.

Ardern had dubbed the vote "the Covid election" and campaigned on her government's success in eliminating community transmission of the virus, which has caused just 25 deaths in a population of five million.

SOURCE: AFP

CAMPAIGNING

Trump stumps in Florida, Georgia, countering signs of Democratic surge



US President Donald Trump is campaigning hard in Florida, which he won in 2016. PHOTO: AFP

US President Donald Trump fought Friday to recover from sinking election polls by campaigning with a hardline pitch to America's right wing, claiming at rallies in Florida and Georgia that his Democratic opponent Joe Biden would deliver communism and a "flood" of criminal immigrants. While Trump put on a brave face, the fact that he was fighting at all for the two southern states he won four years ago illustrated how much ground he has to make up against Biden in the 18 days left until the election.

With his polls sliding and US Covid-19 infections spiking, Trump is focusing entirely on his core Republican base, in hopes that highly energized supporters will turn out in huge numbers.

In Ocala, Florida, the coronavirus was an afterthought.

Instead, Trump tossed the large, loudly cheering crowd red meat on immigration, race, and his conspiracy theory that Biden is steeped in corruption.

Spicing his stump speech with lurid exaggerations, Trump claimed that the "Biden family is a criminal enterprise." He said Democrats "have nothing but disdain for your values" and "want to turn America into a communist country" — a reprise of his successful 2016 message tapping into white, working-class resentment.

"It's time we sent a message to these wealthy liberal hypocrites," he told the cheering crowd in Macon, Georgia on Friday night. Trump also dived into racially charged comments on Latin American migrants, saying Democrats will "flood your communities with illegal aliens,

drugs, crime."

Biden highlights pandemic

Biden, meanwhile, was campaigning in Michigan where he ripped into Trump's handling of the coronavirus — the strongest issue of his campaign.

"He keeps telling us that this virus is going to disappear like a miracle," Biden said in Southfield.

"My lord! It's not disappearing, in fact it's on the rise again, it's getting worse, as predicted," Biden said. He also homed in on another area where Trump has run into regular controversy — his often lackluster responses when asked to condemn extreme right-wing groups and white supremacists. He said Trump's comments were a "dog whistle" to such groups.

SOURCE: AFP

SHELLING ON GANJA

Azerbaijan vows retaliation for deadly strike on civilians in Ganja



Rescue teams sift through rubble of a missile that struck the Azerbaijani city of Ganja. PHOTO: AFP

A missile strike levelled a row of homes in Azerbaijan's second city of Ganja on Saturday, killing 12 and injuring more than 40 people in their sleep in a sharp escalation

of the conflict over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev vowed on Saturday to take revenge on Armenia after a mis-

sile strike killed 12 sleeping people in the city of Ganja, a dramatic escalation in the conflict over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. The early hours attack, which also saw a strike on the nearby strategic city of Mingcevir, came hours after Azerbaijani forces shelled Stepanakert, the capital of the ethnic Armenian separatist region. The explosions in Ganja levelled a row of houses and left at least 40 people injured in an attack Aliyev described as "a war crime".

In televised remarks, he said his army would "take revenge on the battlefield" and promised to capture Karabakh by driving out Armenian forces "like dogs".

SOURCE: AFP

By Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)

Fifteen over-bridges in downtown area of Yangon



The photo shows Nanattaw over-bridge in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, Region.

OVER-BRIDGES were built at the key places in the downtown area of Yangon by the government that took office after 8888 uprising.

Among the over-bridges, there is an over-bridge built crossing Bogyoke Aung San Street near University of Nursing in Lanmadaw Township and another in the shape of a rectangle at the junction of Maha Bandoola and Shwedagon Pagoda Streets, the next at the junction of Anawrahta and Shwedagon Pagoda Streets and the last at the junction of Anawrahta and Sule Pagoda Streets.

The demolition of the over-bridge that was built crossing Bogyoke Aung San Street near University of Nursing in Lanmadaw Township is not long ago. The over-bridge crossing Sule Pagoda Street near Anawrahta Street was not the shape of the rectangle like now when the construction was underway. It had only two stairways for descending and ascending. The passengers were crowded because the brick stairway was narrow and so another stairway was constructed. Since then the vehicles were not many and most of the people went on foot. In 2016, the Department of Roads and Bridges under the control of Yangon City Development Committee upgraded to the rectangular shape over-bridge.

But now those who are going on

short journey on foot on the key roads and streets of Yangon can be seen moving from dawn till dusk every day. Similarly those who are going on long journey by car can be seen travelling on these roads and streets from the morning to night. The increasing number of travel on foot and vehicles on these roads and streets might cause road accidents almost every day.

For the safety of the passengers and the vehicles, the Department of Roads and Bridges under the YCDC is building one over-bridge after another in the busy places of the passengers and the vehicles.

The Department of Roads and Bridges under the YCDC built a total of 15 over-bridges during two times of the parliamentary terms from 2014 to 2020. There are four over-bridges in Kamayut Township, two in Kyauktada Township, and one each in Mayangon, Mindaladon, Lanmadaw, Latha, Bahan, Thingangyun, Botahtaung, Sangyoung and Dawbon Townships.

Eight out of the fifteen over-bridges are of concrete type stairs and the rest are the modern ones installed with escalators.

Pansodan over-bridge crossing Strand Road in Kyauktada Township was built on 15 April in 2014 and the construction was completed on 12 December in the same year. It has two escalators and two brick stairs. The 67.5 metre long over-bridge was built

crossing tarred Strand Road and concrete Strand Road. The construction cost was K594 million in total.

Gamonepint over-bridge crossing Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township was built on 15 June in 2014 and the construction was completed on 5 March in 2015. It has two escalators and two brick stairs. The 30.97 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K400.127 million.

Aung San Thuriya Hla Thaung over-bridge crossing Pyay Road near Aung San Thuriya Hla Thaung Basic Education High School in Mingaladon Township was built on 3 April in 2014 and the construction was completed on 31 March in 2015. It has two concrete type stairs. The 30.3 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K204.385 million.

Lanthitlan over-bridge located at the top of Lanthit Road in Lanmadaw Township was built on 4 October in 2014 and the construction was completed on 31 March in 2015. It was built crossing two Strand Roads apart from Maha Bandoola Street and it has brick stairs. The construction cost of the 101 metre long over-bridge was K675.692 million.

Hledan over-bridge crossing Insein Road in Kamayut Township was built on 30 October in 2014 and the construction was completed on 31 March in 2015. It has ordinary brick stairs. The 25.72 metre long over-

bridge was built at a cost of K160.811 million.

Tada Phyu over-bridge crossing Pyay Road in Kamayut Township was built on 1 November in 2015 and the construction was completed on 29 February in 2016. It has ordinary brick stairs. The 26.86 metre long over-



bridge was built at a cost of K167.491 million.

Lanmadaw rectangular over-bridge in Latha Township was built at the junction of Anawrahta and Lanmadaw on 1 September in 2015 and the construction was completed on 31 March in 2016. It has ordinary brick stairs. The 83.8 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K399.982 million.

Malar Saung over-bridge crossing Pyay Road in Kamayut Township was built on 1 December in 2015 and the construction was completed on 31 March in 2016. It has ordinary brick stairs. The 25.16 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost K122.31 million.

There was Sule over-bridge in Kyauktada Township in the past and it was upgraded into the rectangular over-bridge by Departments of Roads and Bridges under the YCDC on 1 December in 2015. It was built crossing Sule Pagoda Street and Anawrahta Street and the construction was completed in 2016. The 98.9 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K324.453 million.

Bahan 3rd street over-bridge crossing Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township was built on 1 September in 2015 and the construction was completed on 3 March in 2016. It has two escalators and two brick stairs. The 26.253 metre long over-bridge was built at a

cost of K401.918 million.

The over-bridge crossing Laydaunk Kan Road near Sanpya Market in Thingangyun Township was built on 1 April in 2017. The construction was completed on 31 July in the same year. It has ordinary brick stairs. The 33.53 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K189.45 million by Mya Thet Tin Company under the supervision of the YCDC.

Botahtaung over-bridge crossing tarred Strand Road and concrete Strand Road in Botahtaung Township was built on 27 February in 2018. The construction was completed on 6 September in the same year. It has two escalators. The 53 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K722.735 million by Mya Thet Tin Company under the supervision of the YCDC.

Mahamyaing over-bridge crossing Pyay Road in Sangyoung Township was built on 27 February in 2018. The construction was completed on 6 September in the same year. The time of building this over-bridge is the same as that of Botahtaung over-bridge. The 24.4 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K578.675 million by Mya Thet Tin Company under the supervision of the YCDC.

The fourth over-bridge in Kamayut Township is located at the junction of Nanattaw Street and Bayintnaung

Street. It was built on 12 March in 2019. The construction was completed on 30 September in the same year. It has three escalators and three brick stairs. The 106.3 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K1,969.18 million.

The last one is Yamonna over-bridge in Dawbon Township which was built at the junction of Yamonna and Minnanda Streets. The time of building this over-bridge is the same as that of Nanattaw over-bridge. The construction began on 12 March in 2019 and was completed on 30 September in the same year. It has three escalators and three brick stairs. The 32.61 metre long over-bridge was built at a cost of K999.25 million.

The government spent a large sum of money on the implementation of the over-bridges for ensuring the safety of the people and the vehicles, but most of the travellers are crossing the roads only under the over-bridges ignoring stepping onto the over-bridge and it is inviting the risk of seeing an accident. For that reason, all the on-foot-travellers should cross the roads through the over-bridges in the downtown Yangon.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)



The photo shows Yamonna over-bridge in Dawbon Township, Yangon Region.

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 Bogyo 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

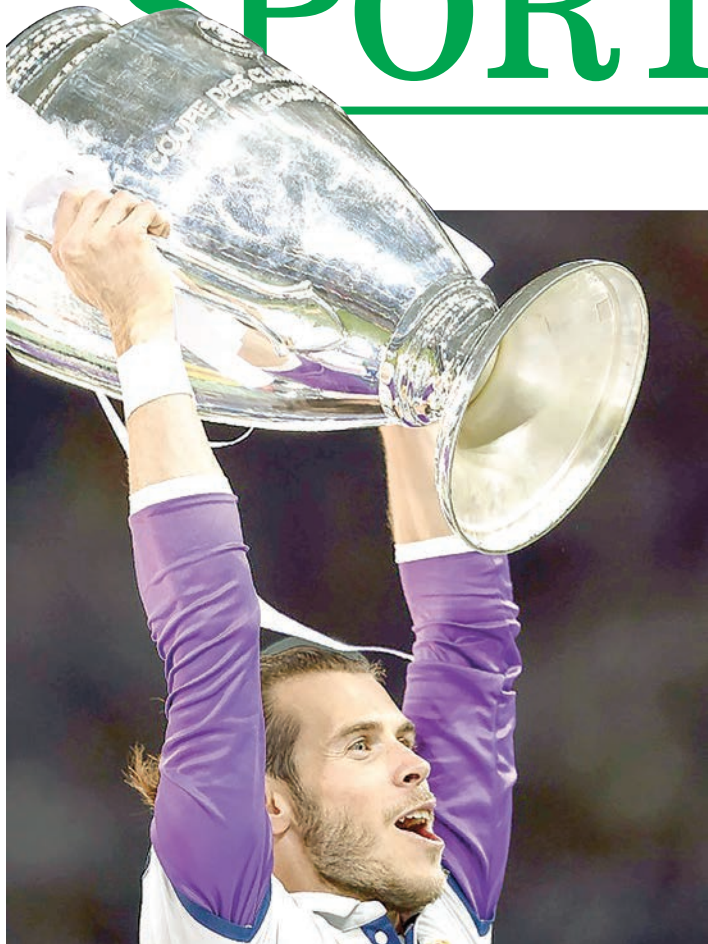
No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

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.



Gareth Bale scored in two Champions League finals for Real Madrid and won the competition four times. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bale return adds stardust as Mourinho targets trophies for Spurs

LONDON — Gareth Bale is expected to make his second Tottenham debut against West Ham on Sunday, but Jose Mourinho claims even the Welsh star's place is not guaranteed as he revels in the squad depth at his disposal. Bale has returned to north London on a season-long loan from Real Madrid after seven years of highs and lows since joining the Spanish giants for a then world-record fee. He scored in two Champions League finals as Madrid won the competition four times in his first five seasons.

But Bale's performances also attracted plenty of criticism, while he struggled with injuries and the adaptation to life in Spain.

Injury has also delayed his Tottenham return on the field, but the familiar surroundings have made the 31-year-old more relaxed after his Madrid misery and he has been pictured in the stands supporting his new team-mates. Mourinho said on Friday that Sergio Reguilon, who also moved from Madrid to Spurs last month, commented that Bale looks a "different guy" from the shy figure in the Spanish capital. But questions remain over whether he can emulate the success of his first spell with Tottenham, when he developed into one of the world's best.—AFP ■

Aung La N Sang to defend middleweight title against De Ridder on 30 Oct

MYANMAR'S sports icon and ONE Championship two, division world champion Aung La N Sang will defend his ONE's middleweight title against Reinier De Ridder of the Netherlands with a special event named "Inside The Matrix" in Singapore on 30 October 2020, according to an official statement with the ONE Championship.

Aung La N Sang has fought 36 bouts in ONE Championship totally, and he has won 26 and lost 10 bouts. Meanwhile his opponent De Ridder has no loss record with a total of 12 wins of 12 bouts.

Their fighting bout will be a main 93 Kg event, and another three world titles' challenging events will be seen under the same roof.

In the ONE Lightweight World Championship title event, Christian Lee of Singapore will defend his World Title against undefeated top lightweight contender Lopicus of Moldova.

Next, in the ONE Featherweight World Championship title event, Martin Nguyen of Viet Nam, also known as "The Situ-Asian" will defend his title against former LFA Featherweight Champion Thanh Le of Viet Nam.

In another highly-anticipated match, ONE Women's Strawweight World Champion "The Panda" or Xiong Jin Nan of China, will take on former ONE World Title Challenger, Tiffany Teo of Singapore.

Ahead of the special fighting event of ONE Championship in Singapore on 30 October, Myanmar's star Aung La N Sang has said on his social media that: "Hope you all are staying safe and healthy. Are you excited for my next fight on 30th Oct? Thank you for all the love and support, the Burmese Python added.

The spectacular-free bouts will be streamed live on ONE Super Application and ONE Championship's YouTube Channel, according to the event organisers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



PHOTO: ONE Championship

Boxing: Heavyweight champion Joshua to face Pulev in first fight in year

LONDON—Anthony Joshua is set for his first fight in over a year after the world heavyweight champion said Friday (Oct 16) he would defend his titles against Kubrat Pulev at London's O2 Arena on Dec 12.

Britain's Joshua was originally scheduled to fight Pulev on June 20, with a second date in July also mooted amid the coronavirus pandemic.

December's bout will be the first time Joshua has fought since outpointing Andy Ruiz Jr to regain his titles on December 7, 2019.

Pulev himself announced the bout with Joshua on Monday but

did not specify a venue.

This will be Joshua's first home bout in more than two years, with his IBF, WBA, WBO and IBO up for grabs.

Spectators are currently barred from major sporting events in Britain but Joshua remains hopeful he can yet have something of a home crowd to roar him on.

"I have a lot of history with the arena, but without the fans something huge is missing," said Joshua.

"I am really hoping that, safety permitting, we might be able to bring some boxing fans in, but we will have to see.—AFP ■



Anthony Joshua (L) and Kubrat Pulev will face off in London in December. **PHOTO: AFP/GEOFF CADDICK**