

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 200, 2nd Waning of Thadingyut 1382 ME

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

Monday, 2 November 2020

Helicopter bought for disaster management, state affairs arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Union Ministers pose for documentary photo next to the helicopter bought for disaster management at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 1 November 2020. **PHOTO:MNA**

A helicopter to be used for natural disasters management and State affairs, including rescue and emergency responses, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The state-owned AW-139 type XY-AFT was inspected at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu and U Soe Win, along with members of the board respon-

sible for purchasing the helicopter, as well as deputy ministers and departmental officials.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor boarded the helicopter and flew over Nay Pyi Taw.

Using funds from the national disaster management budget, the helicopter was bought for assisting in disaster management, including rescue and emergency response to disasters in the country, and state affairs. The helicopter flew from

Malaysia on 30 October, arriving later the same day at Yangon International Airport.

Department of Civil Aviation checked the helicopter at the Yangon International Airport on 31 October, and conducted acceptance test flight flying to the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which is implementing the tasks of National Disaster Manage-

ment Committee, signed a contract with Leonardo S.P.A Company on 17 October 2019 to purchase the helicopter, and checked parts of the helicopter at the helicopter factory on 30 January 2020.

The helicopter was then sent to the workshop of the company in Malaysia. Although installation of the helicopter was completed in early April, it has to fly to Myanmar now due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The helicopter that can carry a total of 16 persons – 14 passengers and 2 pilots – and can fly over 600 kilometres is equipped with rescue gears for land and water rescue processes.

The ministry also signed a contract with Air Myanmar Aviation Service, the organization that is currently providing service for the AW-139 helicopter, for flying and maintaining of the newly-purchased one.—MNA

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2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

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Union Ministers, wives cast advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin (L) and wife Daw Lwin Lwin Hman (R) cast their advance ballots in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu (L) and wife Daw Khin Thida (R) cast their advance ballots in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu and their wives cast advance ballots for 2020 General Election in Nay

Pyi Taw. On 1 November, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and wife Daw Lwin Lwin Hman, abiding by COVID-19 guidelines, cast advance votes and signed the voting

record register at the Zeyatheikdhi Ward Election Sub-commission in Zabuthiri Township. On 31 October, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu and wife Daw Khin Thida also

voted and signed the voting record register in line with COVID-19 guidelines at the Zeyatheikdhi Ward Election Sub-commission in Zabuthiri Township. — MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Eligible voters for advance voting cast their ballots for 2020 General Election



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu cast his advance votes in Gwa Township, Rakhine State on 1 November 2020.



An elderly woman casts her advance votes in Mongphyat, Shan State on 1 November 2020.



A voter casts his advance votes in Pansai on 1 November 2020.



An elderly man casts his advance ballots in Phakant, Kachin State, on 1 November 2020.



A voter casts his advance votes in Tiddim, Chin State, on 1 November 2020.



A woman casts her advance votes in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 1 November 2020.

Please stay healthy and abide by the rules and regulations

However, health is more important at present. Health is vital to overcome the pandemic. If someone is not healthy, they could not work. As a Myanmar saying goes, 'Health is the greatest of blessings'. It is very true. Please stay healthy and abide by the rules and regulations. It is essential to wear a mask. If all the people wore masks, the infection rate of COVID-19 would decline significantly.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on containment measures against COVID-19, on 24 October 2020)



COVID protective gears from China arrive in Yangon, Mandalay



Workers unload COVID-19 protective gears imported from China at the Yangon International Airport on 1 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



Workers unload COVID-19 protective gears imported from China at the Mandalay International Airport on 1 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

COVID-19 medical supplies for 2020 General Election, purchased from the People's Republic of China, reached the Yangon Inter-

national Airport and Mandalay International Airport by special flights yesterday. Yangon has received the COVID-19 supplies by

the special flight for seven times so far while Mandalay has received 10 times. The KN95 masks, protective face masks, boots and

PPE medical protective clothing will be distributed to voters, polling station staff and volunteers, in order to prevent the spread of

COVID-19 disease, in the Multi-party General Election on 8 November 2020. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

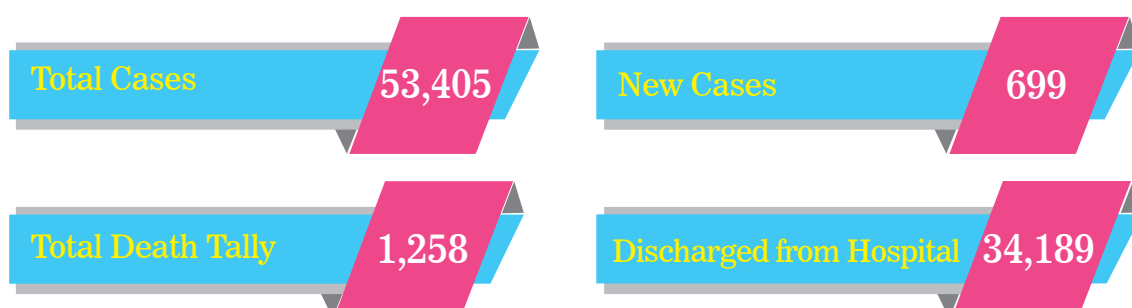
Campaign speech of political party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speech of Union Betterment Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 2 November for the second time. — MNA

699 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 November, total figure rises to 53,405

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 53,405 after 699 new cases were reported on 1 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 53,405 confirmed cases, 1,258 died, 34,189 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 1 November 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 1-11-2020

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Ministry of Health and Sports

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

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

280 Myanmar detainees in Malaysia fly back home by charter flight

A charter flight by Malaysia Airlines bringing back 280 Myanmar nationals who were detained in Malaysia for various reasons landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning, and relevant officials received them.

The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur scrutinized them and issued the Certificate of Identity (CI). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with relevant ministries in Malaysia, the Myanmar Embassy, relevant ministries in Myanmar and regional governments to bring back the detainees to home.

As they arrived in the Airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population; the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged proper medical check-ups, and 7-day government facility quarantine plus 7-day home quarantine for them.

To bring back Myanmar detainees and Myanmar migrant workers stranded in Malaysia



Myanmar returnees queue for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 1 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

by relief and charter 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 Myanmar

Embassy in Kuala Lumpur; and a total of 4,035 Myanmar nationals including 788 detainees have been brought back to Myanmar via a total of 24 flights to date.

Currently, Myanmar authorities have negotiated with

Malaysia to bring back more than 700 Myanmar detainees to home on 5 November under the arrangement by the Malaysian government. — MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

135 Myanmar seamen fly back home from ROK

A total of 135 Myanmar seamen stranded in the Republic of Korea because of suspension of commercial flights returned home by a relief flight yesterday.

The Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and Myanmar Seamen's Federation jointly organized the

relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) that landed at the Yangon International Airport. 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 7-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by a 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 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)

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

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

**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.

**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

CBM purchases \$43 mln in October at auction rate

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) purchased US\$43 million at an auction rate in October, CBM data showed.

The CBM reportedly purchased \$3.7 million on 2 October, \$3.8 mln each on 5, 6, 7 and 8 Oct and \$7.7 mln on 9 October, \$3.7 mln on 19 October, \$1.85 mln on 20 October, \$3.8 mln on 23 October, \$3.7 mln on 26 October and \$3.35 mln on 27 October in the auction market, totalling \$43 million. Consequently, the US dollar exchange rate is pegged at above K1,300 in Oct-end.

The CBM's move is aimed at governing the market volatility and supporting the state's foreign exchange reserves, the CBM stated on 24 July.

At FX auction market, the CBM purchased \$39.5 mln in January, \$31.5 mln in February, \$21 mln in March, \$16.7 mln in May, \$39.1 mln in June, \$31.1 mln in July, \$35.6 mln in August, \$44.2 mln in September and \$43 mln in October respectively. It sold \$2.7 million to the private banks in April.

The CBM trades the foreign currency with authorized private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

"The instability in the exchange rate posed difficulties to those stakeholders engaged in the agriculture and livestock supply chains including farmers, traders and exporters. That is why the stable exchange rate is



A woman counts US dollars in Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

of vital importance for the businesses," the businesspeople pointed out.

At present, the local forex market sees the weak sentiment

amid the coronavirus outbreak and the trade disputes between the US and China, the business experts shared their opinions.

This year, the exchange rate

moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September and K1,282-1315 in October.

Last year, the rates were pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar trade deficit with China estimated at \$1.3 bln last FY

MYANMAR trade deficit in goods with China was estimated at US\$1.3 billion in the 11 months of the last financial year (Oct-Aug), the data released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

The value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with China in average trade and border trade topped \$11.19 billion as of August in the past FY.

The MoC reported that imports surpassed exports in trade with China, with exports reaching over \$4.9 billion and imports valued at over \$6.246 billion.

This year, China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19, causing traffic congestion in the border areas of two sides.

Next, the value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with the neighbouring country China through maritime trade and border trade has registered approximately at US\$46.247 billion in the incumbent government period, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry indicated.

The ministry reported that the imports outperformed the

exports in trade with China over the past four years, with exports reaching over \$21.363 billion and imports valued at over \$24.8 billion.

Between 2016-2017FY and 2019-2020 (as of August), China has been Myanmar's largest trade partner beyond the regional states. Myanmar primarily exports rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, gem and animal products to China. In contrast, machinery, plastic raw materials, CMP raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products to China through the border trade, which is often halted, on account of China clamping down on illegal goods.

Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China is too high.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders through the border trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the relevant departments and Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with China counterparts.

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

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade. Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce is trying to boost exports of rice, broken rice, agro-products, fruits and fisheries to China through diplomatic negotiations.

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the neighbouring country China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung.

Apart from its leading trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was mostly carried out with the regional trade partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Transport, communications sector tops FDI line-up in incumbent government period

UNDER the Myanmar Investment Law, transport and communications sector tops the foreign investment line-up over the four years of incumbent government period, bringing in the capital of US\$6.135 billion, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The quantum of investment in transport and communications sector is higher than in any other sectors, attracting 29 enterprises.

Between the 2016-2017 and 2019-2020 budget years, the manufacturing sector has absorbed FDI of \$6.13 billion from 706 projects. Real estate sector has attracted \$3.6 billion from 29 projects. The power sector has drawn 19 foreign investment projects worth \$3.17 billion. Twenty-four projects worth \$725.9 million has been approved in the hotels and tourism sector, while the existing enterprises increased the investments of \$363 million in the oil and gas sector. The livestock and fisheries sector has pulled in an investment of \$452.68 million from 36 foreign enterprises.

The agricultural sector has also attracted \$181.98 million from 18 foreign projects, while industrial estate sector received \$390.459 million from five enterprises. The mining sector has received over \$11 million from existing enterprises. Over \$2.63 billion in FDI has been pumped

into the other services sector from 106 businesses.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective investment committees granted permits and endorsements to 1,032 foreign enterprises over the past four years, with estimated capitals of \$25.18 billion.

Of them, Thilawa Special Economic Zone attracted investments worth \$1.36 billion from 60 enterprises under the Special Economic Zone Law in the past four years, while FDI of \$23.8 billion flowed into the country under the Myanmar Investment Law, the DICA's data showed.

Of 36 foreign countries investing in Myanmar in the past four years, Singapore put the most massive investments under Myanmar Investment Law, followed by China and Hong Kong (SAR).

MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 670,000 residents, according to the DICA.

Those enterprises have created over 96,000 jobs in the FY2016-2017, 110,000 jobs in the FY2017-2018, over 53,000 jobs in the 2018 mini-budget period, over 180,000 jobs in the FY2018-2019 and 210,000 jobs in the FY2019-2020 respectively. — Ko Htet
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

THE NOVEL "BRILIFE" VACCINE

Israel begins coronavirus vaccine trials

ISRAEL began human trials of a COVID-19 vaccine on Sunday, Hadassah and Sheba Medical Centers said.

In Sheba hospital, located in central Israel, a 26-year-old business student was injected with the novel "BriLife" vaccine created by the Israeli Institute of Biological Research (IIBR).

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who visited Sheba hospital on Sunday, said that "the true exit from the coronavirus crisis is in the development of vaccines. Therefore, this is a very important day, which gives a shot of encouragement."

At the same time, another 34-year-old volunteer was vac-



Paramedics with Israel's Magen David Adom, wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), stand next to an ambulance outside the Hadassah University Hospital Ein Kerem in Jerusalem. **PHOTO: AHMAD GHARABLI/ AFP**

inated at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

This month, about 80 more volunteers will be vaccinated

at the two hospitals, with half receiving a vaccine and the others receiving a placebo vaccine.

Then, over a period of three

weeks, the researchers will test whether the volunteers vaccinated developed antibodies.

The second phase, scheduled for December, will include safety tests to be conducted on 960 volunteers.

In the third and final phase, in about six months, the effectiveness of the vaccine will be tested with the participation of up to 30,000 volunteers.

IIBR, a governmental institute founded in 1952 and located in the central city of Ness Ziona, deals with applied research in the fields of biology, microbiology, medical chemistry, natural sciences and environmental sciences.

SOURCE: Xinhua

PACIFIC ARCHIPELAGO

Marshall Islands repatriates despite warnings

THE Marshall Islands goes ahead with its first Covid-19 repatriation flight over the weekend, despite calls for the Pacific archipelago to keep its borders closed after two workers at a US military base tested positive for the virus.

A group of 27 people arriving from Hawaii are the first islanders allowed to return since the chain of islands and atolls about halfway between Australia and Hawaii closed its borders in early March.

SOURCE: AFP

HIT THE WORST BY COVID-19 IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Iran imposes travel restrictions as virus deaths hit record

IRAN on Sunday said it will restrict travel to the cities hit hardest by the novel coronavirus, state TV said, amid a record high of daily Covid-19 deaths. The measure takes effect at Monday midday and will last until Friday, the broadcaster reported, citing an order by the interior ministry. The restrictions prevent residents from leaving and non-residents from entering based on vehicle plate numbers, but do not apply to public transportation, it added. It applies to the capitals of 25 provinces considered "red" – the highest level on Iran's colour-coded risk scale – and includes the capital Tehran with more than 8 million residents. Violators will be fined, the order

added. Limited restrictive measures were imposed on Saturday in those cities, forcing the closure of some public spaces and businesses. Iran has been hit the worst by Covid-19 in the Middle East, and has recorded several daily fatality and infection highs in recent days. Daily deaths reached a record 434 on Sunday, health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said, adding that 7,719 more people tested positive for the virus in the past 24 hours. In total, 35,298 people have died from coronavirus, according to official figures. The rising toll has prompted several health experts and officials to call for a full lockdown in the capital. *SOURCE: AFP*



Mask-clad Iranians shop at the Tajrish Bazaar market in the capital Tehran, on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEYOND 2 DEC

Govt says new English lockdown could last longer than month

A new four-week coronavirus lockdown in England will be extended if it fails to reduce infection rates, the government said Sunday, as it faced criticism over

the abrupt decision to shut down again.

The second national lockdown, hastily announced late Saturday following warnings

hospitals could be overwhelmed within weeks, is set to come into force from Thursday and end on December 2.

But senior minister Michael

Gove said the government would maintain the stringent measures if the R rate – the number of people one person with the virus is likely to infect – remained above one.

"With a virus this malignant, and with its capacity to move so quickly, it would be foolish to predict with absolute certainty what will happen in four weeks' time," he told Sky News.

"And so therefore of course we will review what requires to be done but we have a clear plan over the next four-week (period)," he added.

Under the new rules unveiled by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, people must stay at home except in cases where exemptions apply, such as for work, education or exercise.

In contrast to the months-long UK-wide lockdown earlier this year, schools, colleges and universities will remain open.

But pubs and restaurants

will shut unless serving takeaway food, while all leisure and entertainment venues and non-essential shops will close.

- 'Too slow' -

The ramped-up response came as Britain surpassed one million cases, after announcing nearly 22,000 new infections Saturday.

The government's scientific advisors have warned Covid-19's prevalence, and resulting hospitalisations and deaths, are rising faster than their most dire predictions.

They cautioned that under the current trajectory, intensive care units and ventilator capacity could be overwhelmed by early December while winter deaths could be double the current toll.

Britain is already among the hardest-hit countries in Europe, with total Covid-19 related deaths nearing 47,000, after another 326 fatalities were announced.

SOURCE: AFP



Shoppers walk along a near-deserted street in the centre of Bradford, west Yorkshire on October 31, 2020, as the number of cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 rises. **PHOTO: AFP**

ROYALIST SUPPORTERS

Thousands stage show of support for Thai king

THOUSANDS of royalists thronged to Bangkok's Grand Palace Sunday for a glimpse of the Thai king, a massive show of support after months of protests calling for an overhaul of the government and reform of the monarchy.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn sits at the apex of Thai power, his influence permeating every aspect of society.

But the once-unassailable institution faces unprecedented challenges from a growing pro-democracy movement, some of whose leaders call for reforms including an end to draconian royal defamation laws.

On Sunday, royal devotion



A royalist supporter holds a portrait of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn. PHOTO: JACK TAYLOR/AFP

was on display as thousands Palace clutching portraits of King Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida.

"We will live loyally, die faithfully," chanted the crowd as he emerged from the palace to greet them. "Long live the King!"

Zigzagging through the crowd, the inscrutable monarch received flowers from his supporters, at one point saying "thank you" and signing his portrait, according to footage from local media.

The king -- who spends long periods of time in Germany -- has been in the kingdom in recent weeks to mark a Buddhist holiday and the anniversary of his father's death.

The visit has coincided with non-stop demonstrations from mostly young activists, who have

staged guerilla rallies drawing thousands to Bangkok's most traffic-clogged intersections as a show of defiance.

While the movement is leaderless, they are united in their demand for the removal of Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha, a former military chief who came to power after staging a coup in 2014.

But calls for reform of the monarchy have drawn a backlash from Thailand's conservative bloc, rousing royalist groups to stage their own rallies.

"We came here to show our loyalty to the king," said Bin Bunnurit, a Thai former actor who decried the students' demands.

SOURCE: AFP

HOW PEACE DIED WITH YITZHAK RABIN

'Generation Rabin' quest for peace dims 25 years after assassination



Israeli President Shimon Peres lights a candle during a memorial service in memory of the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin (portrait R) in Jerusalem on November 08, 2011. PHOTO: GALI TIBBON/AFP/FILE

Twenty-five years after Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, enthusiasm appears to have waned among a generation of young Israelis who pledged support for the peace he sought with the Palestinians.

On November 4, 1995 -- two years after his famous White House handshake with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sealed the historic Oslo accords -- Rabin was gunned down during a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

His murder by a Jewish extremist opposed to Oslo, Yigal Amir, triggered an outpouring of grief, with young Israelis flocking to light candles in the plaza outside Tel Aviv city hall -- since renamed Rabin Square.

Adopting the motto to "nei-

ther forget, nor forgive", waves of young Israelis who asserted their demand for peace came to be known as "Generation Rabin."

For Rabin's granddaughter Noa Rothman, whose emotional eulogy at his funeral captured global attention, the thirst for peace expressed by Israeli youths a quarter century ago has been beaten down by the steady refrain of sceptics.

"We repeated that there was no partner for peace and, in doing so, we sidelined the basis for rapprochement (with the Palestinians)," the 43-year-old told AFP.

Focus 'shifted'

While the trauma of his murder persists, Generation

Rabin's call to end the Palestinian conflict has dimmed, and for a new crop of young Israelis ending the conflict is not a top priority, said Ilan Greilsammer, political science professor at Bar Ilan University.

Young people "have shifted their focus", he said.

Factions of Israeli society continue to push for change, as evident in the sustained protests against right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"But they demonstrate against corruption and attacks on democracy," not for peace, Greilsammer said.

"Peace with the Palestinians, which was central at Rabin's time, is no longer so," he added.

SOURCE: AFP

AS ELECTION DAY NEARS

'Vote for your life': Why 2020 might be the Covid-19 election

At the end of January, a little after the first confirmed case of Covid-19 in the United States, the New York Stock Exchange hit an all-time high, and Donald Trump's biggest concern was the impact of Boeing's woes on the economy.

"The American Dream is back, bigger, better and stronger than ever before," the US president declared in Davos, already in campaign mode.

Fast-forward nine months. More than nine million confirmed infected with the coronavirus and close to 230,000 have died from Covid-19 -- making it the third leading cause of death for the year.

The numbers become even more grim when the hundred

thousand or so additional deaths from misdiagnosed Covid-19 cases and indirect causes are added to the tally.

Despite an impressive rebound in the third quarter, millions of Americans lost their jobs, shattering the most reliable electoral argument of American presidents in search of a second term -- that of economic strength.

Trump's defeat at the polls next Tuesday is far from assured, and the Republican believes the electorate will punish his rival Joe Biden for failing to campaign extensively on the ground.

But his handling of the pandemic has certainly cost him votes.

SOURCE: AFP



An elephant wearing a face mask is displayed outside a campaign event for Senate candidate Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) at Dahl Auto Museum, as part of her RV tour of Iowa, on October 31, 2020 in Davenport, Iowa. PHOTO: AFP

Respect rule of law to ensure 2020 General Election free, fair, safe

HOLDING elections in the time of pandemic will not be easy but should not be viewed as impossible without considering reasonable measures that could protect both health and democratic rights.

The coronavirus crisis rewrites the rules of political campaigning.

Avoiding a big gathering with more than 50 people is mandatory to slow the spread of coronavirus during the election campaigns because our country is facing a rapidly moving pandemic, and any death, any case, is tragic.

However, over the past several weeks, social distancing regulations were not always followed during election campaigns, and members of the public attending campaign events were sometimes negligent in following the health guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports. All have a role to ensure

no spread of infection during electoral campaigning.

The UEC sent a message to all violators yesterday that the election campaign rules violators will face legal punishment by authorities.

According to a recent survey about risks which have the potential to disrupt the upcoming general elections, the COVID-19 pandemic posed a 46 per cent chance of disrupting the elections, while election campaigns were set at 13 per cent. The survey has shown that free and fair general elections can also be threatened by poor monitoring of the elections (4 per cent); by fake news, rumours and misinformation (3 per cent); by voters having insufficient voting education (3 per cent); by disruption caused by racism and religionism (3 per cent) and by incorrect voting lists (2 per cent).

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

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

The authorities will take action against those who threaten the free and fair manner of the general elections by disrupting the electoral opportunities of the people, including threatening, inciting riots based on racism and religion, and harming the peace of the community and the rule of law, as violators will face legal punishments.

We would like to urge every citizen to uphold the rule of law and also make clear that any kind of activities that disrupt the electoral process has no place in a civilized democracy.



over the past several weeks, social distancing regulations were not always followed during election campaigns, and members of the public attending campaign events were sometimes negligent in following the health guidelines

SOME PEOPLE WHO GET INFECTED WITH COVID-19 WILL HAVE LONG-TERM SYMPTOMS.

Long-term symptoms of COVID-19 'really concerning', says WHO chief

With some COVID-19 patients reporting long-term symptoms, including damage to major organs, the World Health Organization (WHO) urged Governments to ensure they receive necessary care.

“ALTHOUGH we're still learning about the virus, what's clear is that this is not just a virus that kills people. To a significant number of people, this virus poses a range of serious long-term effects,” said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, speaking in Geneva on Friday during the UN agency's latest virtual press conference.

The situation also underscores how herd immunity is “morally unconscionable and unfeasible”, he added.

Vast spectrum of fluctuating symptoms

The WHO Director-General described the vast spectrum of COVID-19 symptoms that fluctuate over time as “really concerning.”

They range from fatigue, a cough and shortness of breath, to inflammation and injury of major organs – including the lungs and heart, and also neurological and psychologic effects.



According to a survey conducted by the British Medical Association (BMA), a third of doctors have treated patients with long-term COVID-19 symptoms, including chronic fatigue and anosmia.

PHOTO: ISTOCK/SANJERI

Symptoms often overlap and can affect any system in the body.

“It is imperative that Governments recognize the long-term effects of COVID-19 and also ensure

access to health services to all of these patients,” he said.

“This includes primary health care and when needed specialty care and rehabilitation.”

its long-term consequences.

Professor Paul Garner, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in England, was “fit and well” when he fell ill with the disease in March.

For four months, he battled cyclical bouts of fatigue, headaches, mood swings and other symptoms, followed by three months of complete exhaustion.

“When I overdid things, the illness would echo back, it would come back. And it was completely unpredictable,” he said, speaking via videolink.

Professor Garner reported that his health has only begun to improve within the past two weeks.

“I never thought I would have seven months of my life wiped out by this virus,” he said. “It has just gone, evaporated.”

Against herd immunity Stories like this underline how people facing the long-term

effects of COVID-19 must be given the time and care they need to recover fully, according to the WHO chief.

“It also reinforces to me just how morally unconscionable and unfeasible the so-called ‘natural herd immunity’ strategy is,” he said, adding, “not only would it lead to millions more unnecessary deaths, it would also lead to a significant number of people facing a long road to full recovery.”

He explained that herd immunity is only possible when a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine has been distributed globally, and equitably.

“And until we have a vaccine, Governments and people must do all that they can to suppress transmission, which is the best way to prevent these post-COVID long-term consequences,” he stated.

SOURCE: UN News



SLOVAKIA TO TEST ALL CITIZENS OVER AGE OF 10 FOR CORONAVIRUS.

Slovakia to test entire population for coronavirus in global first

Slovakia on Saturday begins a programme to screen its entire population for coronavirus with antigen tests in what would be a global first, but critics have said the plan is poorly thought out.

SOME 45,000 medical workers, army and police are being deployed to carry out the tests in the EU member state of 5.4 million people, collecting swabs at around 5,000 testing points.

“The world will be watching,” Prime Minister Igor Matovic said earlier this week, adding that the measure would save “hundreds of lives”.

Antigen tests give quick results – sometimes within minutes – but are not seen as being as reliable as the PCR test for which nasal swabs have to be sent to a lab for analysis.

Participation in the testing is not mandatory but anyone who is not able to produce a negative test certificate if stopped by police could get a heavy fine.

Anyone who tests positive has to go immediately into quarantine for 10 days. “This will be our road to freedom,” Matovic said, hinting

that virus restrictions could be eased once testing is complete or reinforced if the programme is not carried out in full.

Slovakia would be the first country of its size to undergo nationwide testing, although mass testing has taken place in entire Chinese cities.

Smaller European states such as Luxembourg and Monaco have also announced mass testing programmes.

Government ‘threatening people’

Like other countries, Slovakia has seen a sharp rise in coronavirus cases although it is below the EU average.

On Friday it reported a record of 3,363 new daily infections, bringing the total to 55,091. The death toll currently stands at 212.

The government is hoping to complete the nationwide testing over two days and carry out another round of mass tests next

weekend.

But it has struggled to find medical workers to staff all the testing sites and has been forced to offer cash bonuses for doctors.

During pilot testing in four high-risk regions last weekend, people had to queue for up to two hours in some cases.

The Slovak Association of General Practitioners has criticised the government's plan, saying it is ill-prepared.

The association said that the “mass concentration of millions of people” at testing sites “is at odds with the recommendations of infectious disease experts to reduce public contacts and mobility as much as possible”.

Many ordinary people – like Radovan Babinec, an unemployed man living in the capital Bratislava – want to stay away.

“The government and the prime minister are threatening people,” the 40-year-old told AFP.



People at a café in Bratislava, Slovakia, on May 6, 2020, amid the Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: VLADIMIR SIMICEK, AFP

Anton Dubovsky, a 67-year-old petrol station operator, said he and

his son would not go.

“I am not convinced this test-

ing is a good idea at all,” he said.

SOURCE: AFP

UN Secretary-General's Message on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

New York, 2 November 2020

ON this year's International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, the world, including the media, faces an entirely new challenge: COVID-19.

The pandemic has highlighted new perils for journalists and media workers, even as the number of attacks on their physical safety has grown. There were at least 21 attacks on journalists covering protests in the first half of 2020 – equal to the number of such attacks in the whole of 2017. There have also been additional constraints on the work of journalists, including threats of prosecution, arrest, imprisonment, denial of journalistic access and failures to investigate and prosecute crimes against them.

When journalists are targeted, societies as a whole pay a price. If we do not protect journalists, our ability to remain informed and make evidence-based decisions is severely hampered. When journalists cannot do their jobs in safety, we lose an important defence against the pandemic of misinformation and disinformation that has spread online.

Fact-based news and analysis depend on the protection and safety of journalists conducting independent reporting, rooted in the fundamental tenet: “journalism without fear or favour”.

As the world fights the COVID-19 pandemic, I reiterate my call for a free press that can play its essential role in peace, justice, sustainable development and human rights. — United Nations Information Centre, Yangon

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 1 November 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Northeast Bay and adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move towards Bangladesh coast during next (36) hrs. Weather is partly cloudy over the North and Eastcentral Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 02 November 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Shan, Kayah, Kayin, and Mon states, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions and Chin, and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (3-6) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 02 November 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 02 November 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 02 November 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FOREIGN PRESS CENTER JAPAN

Ex-Japan envoy to EU becomes president of Foreign Press Centre Japan

KAZUO Kodama, former Japanese ambassador to the European Union, assumed his post as president of the Foreign Press Centre Japan on Sunday, the centre said.

Before serving as envoy to the Brussels-based European Union from September 2016 to August 2020, Kodama, 67, was Japan's ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris for three years.

A graduate of the University of Tokyo who also studied at the University of Oxford, Kodama entered Japan's Foreign Ministry in 1976, and took up several key posts including as press secretary, consul general in Los Angeles and deputy permanent representative to the United Nations. In a statement, Kodama expressed hopes the centre will do its best to "act as a reliable facilitator between foreign press



The European Union's energy commissioner, Kadri Simson, representing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), and Kazuo Kodama (L), ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to the EU, on 2 March, 2020, signed a joint declaration on the Broader Approach activities in fusion energy. **PHOTO: EC/KYODO**

and interviewees in Japan."

Founded in 1976, the centre helps foreign press cover Japan to give a better understanding of the country through press briefings and fellowship programs,

among others.

Looking ahead to the anticipated global press coverage for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics scheduled next year, he said, "We see this as a priceless

opportunity to help promote understanding of Japan around the world, and even more, to promote a sense of closeness with the people of Japan."

SOURCE: Kyodo

THE STEAM-HAULED SIGHTSEEING TRAIN

Train inspired by anime "Demon Slayer" begins limited time run

A steam locomotive inspired by the train featured in the animated movie of the popular "Demon Slayer" manga series began its first run Sunday in Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu.

The train operated by Kyushu Railway Co., which will run for a limited time only from Kumamoto Station in Kumamoto Prefecture to Hakata Station in Fukuoka Prefecture, is a model from around 100 years ago -- the period in which the series and movie is set.

Titled "Demon Slayer -- Kimetsu no Yaiba -- The Movie: Mugen Train," the movie centers on the hero Tanjiro Kamado's efforts to save the lives of passengers aboard the "Mugen Train," named after the Japanese word for infinity, on which countless people have gone missing.

The steam-hauled sightseeing train SL Hitoyoshi, which has remained out of operation due to heavy rain in July, was used to replicate the train featured in the movie, with

the characters for "mugen" embossed on its front carriage.

Original merchandise will be sold on board the train, with commemorative goods presented to passengers dressed up in traditional Japanese wear typical of the Taisho Era (1912-1926) in which the series is set.

Around 700 people flocked to see the train pull into Kumamoto Station on Sunday as it puffed out steam, with the sound of camera shutters filling the air. *SOURCE: Kyodo*

IMMINENT CYBERCRIME THREAT

Ransomware surge imperils hospitals as pandemic intensifies



Connected devices in hospitals can become weak points for hackers looking to launch ransomware attacks, according to security experts. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

HACKERS are stepping up attacks on health care systems with ransomware in the United States and other countries, creating new risks for medical care as the global coronavirus pandemic accelerates.

Alerts from US authorities and security researchers highlight a wave of cyberattacks on hospitals coping with rising virus infections.

An unusual warning this week from the FBI with the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, underscored the threat.

The three agencies "have credible information of an increased and imminent cybercrime threat to US hospitals and health care providers," said the alert issued Wednesday, calling on health systems to "take timely and reasonable precautions

to protect their networks from these threats."

Media reports have cited several US hospitals hit by ransomware.

One of them, the University of Vermont Medical Center, said in a statement Thursday it was working with law enforcement on "a now confirmed cyberattack that has affected some of our systems" which has had "variable impacts" on patient care.

Daniel dos Santos of the computer security firm Forescout said cash-strapped medical centers are particularly attractive targets for hackers and that at least 400 hospitals had been hit in the past few weeks in the US and Britain.

Hackers are aware that "health care is the most likely to pay the ransom because their services are critical," dos Santos said. *SOURCE: AFP*

News in Brief

Saudi Twitter users grapple with 'digital authoritarianism'

THE former Saudi official's tweet expressing condolences over an activist's death seemed benign, but his mysterious disappearance soon afterwards highlighted what observers call the state's "digital authoritarianism".

Abdulaziz al-Dukhail, who had served as deputy finance minister, went missing in April along with at least two other public intellectuals also believed to be in detention for their implied criticism of the state.

In the following months, separate claims surfaced that a Twitter data breach by Saudi infiltrators in 2015 resulted in a wave of "enforced disappearances" of regime critics, many with anonymous accounts on the social media platform.

SOURCE: AFP

Orthodox priest seriously hurt in France shooting, attacker flees

AN attacker armed with a sawn-off shotgun on Saturday wounded an Orthodox priest in a shooting in the French city of Lyon before fleeing, said a police source.

The 52-year-old priest, who has Greek nationality, was closing his church mid-afternoon when the attack happened and is now in a serious condition in hospital, said the source, who asked not to be named.

The attack comes at a time when France is already on edge over the killing of three people inside a church and the beheading of a teacher who showed a class a cartoon of the prophet Mohammed.

The priest was shot in the liver at point-blank range, according to sources close to the enquiry.

No weapon was found at the scene of the shooting. The interior ministry tweeted that "an incident is underway" in the southeastern city of Lyon.

"Security and emergency personnel are at the scene," the ministry added, warning people to "avoid the area" where the attack took place. The search for the assailant was underway. *SOURCE: AFP*

A NATIONAL BATTLEGROUND OVER VIRUS PREVENTION

Australian tourist hub backs virus border closures in state election

AUSTRALIA'S Queensland state has voted to keep its centre-left government after a race dominated by debate over strict measures to prevent coronavirus spreading in the popular tourist playground.

Queensland, home to the Great Barrier Reef and known as the "Sunshine State" for its inviting weather, became a national battleground over virus prevention after its decision to shut its borders to other states to keep out Covid-19.

State Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk — who has been heavily criticised by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his conservative government over the impact of border

closures on Queensland's large tourism industry — claimed victory late Saturday. The win will write Palaszczuk into the history books as the first woman to win three elections in Australia, and by mid-2021 she will become the longest-serving female leader in the country's history.

"We stood strong, Queensland," she told supporters in Brisbane late Saturday.

"We stared down critics and we have come out of it all the better for it." Palaszczuk's government held a slim one-seat majority in the 93-member parliament heading into the election.

SOURCE: AFP



Queensland, home to the Great Barrier Reef, became a national battleground over virus prevention. PHOTO: TORY CHASE/AFP

MASSIVE HEAD COUNT

China starts once-a-decade census of world's largest population



China conducts the census every ten years to determine population growth. PHOTO: AFP

MILLIONS of census-takers began knocking on doors across China on Sunday for a once-a-decade head count of the world's largest population that for the first time will use mobile apps to help crunch the massive numbers. Around seven million community workers and volunteers will drive the two-month data-collection effort, visiting homes ranging from residential skyscrapers in downtown Shanghai to remote Tibetan mountain villages.

China conducts the census every ten years to determine

population growth, movement patterns and other trends, using the findings to apportion resources for education, health, transportation, labour, elderly care and other services. The previous tally in 2010 counted 1,339,724,852 persons, an increase of 5.83 percent, or 73,899,804 people — equal to adding more than the population of France over 10 years.

Much of the attention on this year's census — expected to take two years to fully compile — will focus on whether it indicates any population bump from China's relaxation of its former

"one-child policy". The policy was introduced in the late 1970s to slow rapid population growth amid concerns over too many mouths to feed, but was relaxed four years ago to allow two children due to fears over China's fast-ageing society and shrinking workforce.

But the change has not yet resulted in a baby boom. The national birth rate last year was the slowest since the founding of Communist-ruled China in 1949, with many Chinese today choosing smaller families amid rising living costs. SOURCE: AFP

AFTER TWO YEAR COURT BATTLE

Sri Lanka returns illegal waste to Britain after court order

SRI LANKA has started shipping 242 containers of hazardous waste, including body parts from mortuaries, back to Britain after a two year court battle by an environment watchdog, officials said Saturday.

Sri Lanka has started shipping 242 containers of hazardous waste, including body parts from mortuaries, back to Britain after a two year court battle by an environment watchdog, officials said Saturday.

Several Asian countries have in recent years been pushing back against an onslaught of international refuse from wealthier nations and have started turning back the unwanted shipments of garbage as they battle against being used as the world's trash dump.

The first 20 containers of medical waste, which included body parts from mortuaries, were loaded on the MV Texas Triumph on Friday and another 65 will be sent within a week, customs spokesman Sunil Jayaratne said.

"The balance will be shipped as soon as another vessel is available," Jayaratne said. Sri Lanka's court of appeal two weeks ago ordered the repatriation of the bio-waste from hospitals and tonnes of plastic waste imported in violation of local and international shipping regulations. SOURCE: AFP

SUPER TYPHOON GONI

World's strongest typhoon of 2020 makes landfall in Philippines

NEARLY a million people in the Philippines were evacuated in the eastern part of the main island of Luzon on Sunday as Goni, the world's strongest ty-

phoon of 2020, made landfall in the country.

Packing wind gusts of up to 310 kilometers per hour when it first struck, decreasing to 295 kph in

the afternoon, it is one of the strongest typhoons to hit the Philippines since Haiyan, which killed more than 6,300 people in November 2013. The National

Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council said the typhoon's strong winds and intense rainfall are affecting 19.8 million Filipinos in 12 different regions nationwide. There were no immediate reports of fatalities or extensive damage.

The typhoon, downgraded from a super typhoon after making landfall, is expected to leave Philippine territory Monday evening, heading toward the South China Sea.

Just days ago, Typhoon Molave hit northern Philippines and killed 23 people, with property damages estimated at 290 million pesos (\$6 million) and over 1.8 billion pesos for agriculture. SOURCE: Kyodo



A rescue worker covers children in a raincoat as they evacuate before Typhoon Goni hits on Nov. 1, 2020 in Manila, Philippines. PHOTO: KYODO

TURBULENT PERIOD

Fed in holding pattern amid tense US election

THE Federal Reserve's policy setting committee meets this week at a turbulent time: one day after voters head to the polls in the deeply uncertain US presidential election.

But the body pointedly keeps itself out of politics, and analysts expect the policy-setting Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC) will do little to rock the boat at its two-day meeting beginning Wednesday.

The Fed already zeroed out borrowing rates and offered massive credit facilities amid the coronavirus downturn, recently expanding them to reach more firms and nonprofit organizations. "I think November's meeting is too soon for there to be a dramatic break," said David Wilcox, a former top economist at the Fed who is now with the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "This is a sort of a placeholder meeting while they wait for those situations to clarify." Political uncertainty ahead of the vote comes amid continued



Don't expect Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell to weigh in on the US election. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

worries about the world's largest economy amid the coronavirus crisis. While the Fed moved quickly with new credit lines and the rate cut as the pandemic arrived, the initial momentum to get aid bills through Congress has petered out despite increasingly desperate pleas for more aid from Fed Chair Jerome Powell.

John Mousseau, president and chief executive officer at Cumberland Advisors, said the

central bank is likely to again encourage lawmakers to continue the push for new stimulus after the election in the final weeks before a new Congress is installed in January. "The Fed has done their job," he said.

And as they call for more aid next week "the message will be delivered to a lame duck Congress that might actually act on what the Fed's doing."

SOURCE: AFP

SALES FIGURES

Car manufacturers in India post rise in sales amid pandemic

TWO major car manufacturers in India on Sunday posted a rise in sales figures during the month of October.

While Maruti Suzuki India Limited posted a growth of 18.9 percent over the same month of the previous year, the Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL) registered a growth of 8.3 percent.

While Maruti sold 182,448

units in October, Honda sold 10,836 units in the said month.

Maruti exported 9,586 units, even as Honda exported a total of 84 units in the month.

The growth in car sales figures is mainly attributed to the ongoing festive season in the country, when the buying sentiment among the countrymen is comparatively higher, compared

to the rest of the year.

Rise in car sales assume significance even as India remains among the worst hit countries globally by the COVID-19 pandemic. As per latest official figures, the country's COVID-19 tally stood at 8,184,082 and the death toll at 122,111 as of Sunday.

SOURCE: Xinhua

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES

Trump attacked GOP economic orthodoxy and got away with it

AFTER taking control of the Republican party, President Donald Trump led it through a reshaping of its economic principles few ever expected. Protectionism replaced free trade, the national debt ballooned and balancing the US budget was put on the back burner in what experts describe as a shake-up of conservative economic orthodoxy that may outlast Trump, even if he loses at the ballot box on Tuesday.

"The Republican Party is not going to return to what it was before," said Edward Alden, a senior fellow on the Council on Foreign Relations. "The party has become deeply confused ideologically and it's not at all clear what it stands for anymore on."

Trump's economic vision will be put before voters when the president stands for a second term against Democratic chal-



Trump postponed the deadline for balancing the national budget by five years to 2035 and approved \$3 trillion in aid to support the economy during the coronavirus downturn. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

lenger Joe Biden. A slew of Senate seats up for grabs could also move control of that chamber to the Democrats. But no matter which party controls the White House and Congress after the dust settles, Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University, says Trump's doctrine will endure. "The GOP seems to have struck a Faustian bargain with Trump, abandoning some of its core economic principles in favor of pushing forward its social agenda along with lower taxes, deregulation and rightward tilt of the judicial system," he said. "Whatever the outcome of the upcoming election, Trump has changed the substance and tone of the Republican Party in ways that will take a long time to reverse."

SOURCE: AFP

OCEAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDEX

China's marine economy posts steady growth

THE China Ocean Economic Development Index, which gauges the country's ocean economic development, rose 2.3 percent from 2018 to 134.3 in 2019, according to data released by the National Marine Data and Information Service.

The sub-indices for marine economic development level, efficiency and potential rose 4.2 percent, 0.9 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively, the data showed.

The country's gross ocean product rose 6.2 percent year on year to 8.9 trillion yuan (about 1.32 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2019.

China's marine economy has shown a positive trend in opening up, as the country's economic and trade exchanges with countries along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road continued to advance.

The trade volume between China and these countries rose 5.8 percent year on year in 2019, the data showed.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Aerial photo taken on Aug. 1, 2020 shows fishing boats sailing out of a fishing port in Dongshan County, southeast China's Fujian Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

News in Brief

Swordsman in medieval clothing kills two in Quebec rampage

A swordsman dressed in medieval clothing killed two people and wounded five others in a Halloween rampage in Quebec City, Canadian police said early Sunday after arresting the suspect.

The attacks occurred late Saturday in multiple locations in the Old Quebec neighborhood, near the tourist hotspot Chateau Frontenac and the National Assembly, the Quebec provincial parliament, according to police. The suspect, "a man in his mid-20s," was armed with a sword and dressed in "medieval clothing," Quebec City police spokesman Etienne Doyon said during a press briefing.

SOURCE: AFP

France makes new arrests over Nice church attack

FRENCH police have made two new arrests in the probe into an attack on a church in the southern city of Nice that left three dead, as authorities seek to understand the profile of the suspected killer, judicial sources said on Sunday.

Authorities are now holding a total of six people for questioning to understand if they were linked to Tunisian Brahim Issaoui, who prosecutors say carried out the knife rampage early Thursday morning in the Notre-Dame Basilica.

SOURCE: AFP

LEADERSHIP ELECTION

Merkel's CDU to elect new leader in mid-January



German Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU will choose her successor in January. PHOTO: AFP

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU party will elect its new leader in mid-January after a planned vote in early December was pushed back because of a surge in coronavirus infections.

The three hopefuls for the top job in the Christian Democratic Union had put forward the date, party general secretary Paul Ziemiak said in a tweet late Saturday.

"This agreement is a strong signal for cohesion in our party," he wrote after talks with outgoing party chief Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

North Rhine-Westphalia state premier Armin Laschet, corporate lawyer Friedrich Merz and foreign affairs expert Norbert Rottgen are vying for the post.

The candidates have proposed an online congress if meeting in person were to be impossible because of re-

strictions to curb coronavirus transmission.

The chief of the CDU traditionally leads it and its smaller Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union to the polls.

The chosen candidate would have a strong claim on the post of chancellor and be in pole position to replace Merkel should the conservative bloc win next year's election.

Merkel protege Kramp-Karrenbauer took over as leader of the party in 2018, after the veteran chancellor said she would not seek a new mandate at next year's polls.

But the race for the party's top job was thrown wide open when Kramp-Karrenbauer resigned just a few months into the post over her handling of a regional election scandal.

The battle for the post has been overshadowed by the pandemic.

SOURCE: AFP

POLARISED COUNTRY

Moldova elects president amid Russia-West tug of war



An activist distributes campaign newspapers of pro-Moscow incumbent and candidate Igor Dodon on a street in Chisinau. PHOTO: AFP

VOTERS in ex-Soviet Moldova went to the polls on Sunday to elect a president under the watchful eye of Moscow which wants the polarised country to remain in its orbit amid political and security crises on Russia's borders. Pro-Moscow president Igor Dodon is seeking a new 4-year mandate, with his biggest challenge coming from longtime pro-Western rival Maia Sandu who wants Moldova to join the European Union. Experts predict a second-round runoff on November 15, as neither Dodon nor Sandu are expected to secure an outright majority on Sunday.

The impoverished country of

3.5 million has long been divided between those favouring closer ties with the EU and those who cling to Soviet-era relations with Moscow. Although part of the Soviet Union until its collapse in 1991, the tiny country between Ukraine and Romania has close historic ties with Romania and its main language is Romanian.

Many voters, wearing masks against the coronavirus, expressed disappointment with politicians as they cast their ballots in the rainy capital Chisinau.

"We have been waiting for a change for 30 years," Vasile Mardare, a 64-year-old physical education teacher, told AFP.

"I voted for the candidate who will bring Moldova closer to Western living standards." In recent years, Moldova has been rocked by multiple political crises and a \$1 billion bank fraud scheme equivalent to nearly 15 percent of the country's GDP. Casting his ballot with his wife Galina, Dodon said the country was tired of upheaval.

"More than ever, Moldova must keep away from chaos," he said. "I have voted for a strong Moldova, for economic development and political stability and for balance in relations with our foreign friends and partners."

SOURCE: AFP

THE TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL

Pandemic-hit Mexico marks somber Day of the Dead



With its bright colors and cartoonish skeleton costumes, the Day of the Dead festival has become an internationally recognized symbol of Mexican culture. PHOTO: AFP

IN Mexico death is usually a cause for celebration during the Day of the Dead festival, but this year parades are canceled and cemeteries closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

From November 1-2, peo-

ple across the country normally deck their homes, streets and relatives' graves with flowers, candles and colorful skulls.

The traditional festival, which in 2003 was added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural

Heritage list, centers around the belief that the living and the dead can commune during the brief period. With its bright colors and cartoonish skeleton costumes, the Day of the Dead has become an internationally recognized symbol of Mexican culture.

But this year the authorities have urged people to stay at home to avoid spreading the coronavirus, which has killed more than 90,000 people in Mexico – one of the world's highest tolls.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador declared three days of national mourning for coronavirus victims to coincide with the festival. Many families will remember those who have passed away in the privacy of their homes.

SOURCE: AFP

My All Time

Fav Mogok

(Part-I)

By Thiha Lu Lin
(THIHA, THE TRAVELLER)

MOGOK is really cool and beautiful in all seasons. I have been there two times in the raining season and two times in winter. After two years of my last visit to Mogok, everything has become new to me and there are also many new places to visit there.

The reason I learnt more about new places was that I didn't go on my own like I used to, instead, I joined a tour from Mogok Ikan Travel for my visit to Mogok this time.

Mogok Ikan is a tour agency based in Mogok. It was convenient since the tour included food, transportation, accommodation and sightseeing to every place of the town as well as the service provided historical knowledge and beautiful photos at the same time.

Two-night and three-day trip to Mogok

Two-night and three-day trip is enough to visit Mogok. Two-night sleep of Mogok Ikan Travel is not sleeping on bus as some other tour packages, I slept in a good hotel for two full nights and the tour was almost three full days. I slept in the car on the way to Mogkok and arrived in the next early morning. After fresh-up, we started the tour. It was really convenient because the tour included not only breakfast, lunch and dinner but also local snacks on the first day.

The second day included hotel breakfast lunch and dinner. The tour was finished until 3 pm on the third day and I was impressed that the tour made sure not to miss any place in Mogok and not to miss any local foods.

How to get to Mogok?

People can reach to Mogok via flight from Mandalay or by car from Yangon as well as by bus. I went there by High Class bus and it was noticeably safe.

I liked the safe driving on the 999 turns of Madara-Mogok road. Bus attendants were also very helpful: giving the necessary medicines, lucky draw programme once the bus started going and giving 3,000 kyats gift vouchers for the next time you buy a ticket.

Mogok can be reached from Madara or Pyin Oo Lwin. Madara road is better and safer than Pyin Oo Lwin road although it has a lot of turns whereas Pyin Oo Lwin road is very narrow bad. Besides, security is not always considered good.

Remember Mogok Ikan for



Ancient pagodas in the compound of east monastery

the visit to Mogok

In Mogkok people often

have to contact car rental agents from hotels. It is a little difficult to know in advance. When Mogok Ikan Travel arranges the tours, it is very convenient for visitors to Mogkok. It is a one stop service with a wide range of fine restaurants and local cuisine and also a wealth of information on places to visit and knowledge. 180,000 kyats (excluding the car to come to Mogok) for one person for two-night three-day hotel, foods, tour car, guide and a photographer is more than worth it.

If you want to visit Mogok with Mogok ikan, you can call 095010534, 09402525708.

Visiting Mogok

To visit Mogok, as mentioned earlier, we can visit on our own without having to go through a local tour. Here are



Manimingalar Htar Pwe



Inner part of big natural caves near the view point



Shwezigon pagoda constructed by Sitagu Sayadaw



Buddha images of Phaungdaw Oo pagoda



Views at Padamyar pagoda

places to visit in Mogok. But the visit will not be easy by asking for directions to the way to places. If we join a tour, we can relax and unwind.

I'm not going to travel with this person asking for directions. Once connected, you can relax and unwind. To visit Mogok, it should be divided into East and West (Kyat Pyin). It has a lot to do with its parts.

Shwezigon Pagoda

From the Shwezigon Pagoda built by Sitagu Sayadaw, you can enjoy the panoramic view of the city and the mountains. There is also a globe-shaped pagoda nearby, and Shwezigon is now being rebuilt on the former globe-shaped pagoda. This place is a great place to see the scenery.

Ancient pagodas at the East-Village monastery

It is a unique feature of Mogok to see the ancient pagodas around the city. Ancient pagodas can also be seen at the foot of Chanthagyi Pagoda and in this East Village Monastery near Kyarnikan Lake (Kya Lake near Gems Office) on Bogyoke



Regional food of Mogok

Road. These are some of the famous pagodas in Mogok.

Linn Yang Chi 28 pagodas

If you are interested in mountaineering pilgrimage, you can also visit the Twenty-Eight Pagodas. You may have a slight knee pain as you have to climb stairs from the slope. It is a pagoda that can be seen on a high mountain from Mogkok.

Phayar Ta Htaung Chinese Temple

Phayar Ta Htaung Chinese Temple also known as the Chinese Nunnery, is a good place

to visit. You can explore the monastery and see a thousand Buddha statues on the walls.

Chan Tha Gyi Pagoda

Chan Thar Gyi Pagoda, said to have been built by the king of Pyi, is located in the center of the city. Old people knows it as Minn Pagoda. Chan Tha Gyi Pagoda was built in 1538 AD by King Min Khaung and is now 482 years old.

Chan Tha Gyi Pagoda is located on a hill, so you can see the beauty of the eastern part of Mogok up close.

Inside you can see statues and the identical pagodas with Chan Tha Gyi pagoda made by silver and gold.

You will also see pre-donat-

ed relics for the renovation of the pagoda. People donated all kinds of Mogkok Gems. There are also jewelry stores and souvenir shops on the way to the pagoda.

Historical Shwe Gu Gyi Pagoda

The historical Shwe Gu Gyi Pagoda is located near Chan Tha Gyi pagoda.

Maha Muni Pagoda

People also pay visit Maha Muni Pagoda which is near the Pan Chan Htar Pwai.

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung, Khine Thazin Han)

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Tennis: Djokovic-conqueror and lucky loser Sonogo into Vienna final

VIENNA—Lucy loser Lorenzo Sonogo of Italy followed up his shock win over world number one Novak Djokovic by beating Britain's Dan Evans to reach the Vienna ATP final on Saturday (Oct 31). Sonogo had condemned Djokovic to his heaviest best-of-three-set loss in the quarter-finals where the 17-time major winner claimed just three games. The world number 42, who described that as "the best victory of my life", saw off Evans 6-3, 6-4 and will face red-hot Russian Andrey Rublev in Sunday's final.

"I'm really happy. After yesterday it was not easy playing against Evans because he has a good talent," said Sonogo.

"He has a good backhand and it was not easy. But today I won and I am so happy." Sonogo, 25, had initially lost in the final round of qualifying in the Austrian capital to Aljaz Bedene six days ago, but entered the draw as a lucky loser when Diego Schwartzman withdrew. World number eight Rublev made the final when South Africa's Kevin Anderson retired with a leg injury at 6-4, 4-1 down. Rublev, chasing a fifth title of this truncated season, has won 18 of his past 19 matches. "I came here thinking that I have nothing to lose. I already did a really great season, so I came here to enjoy, to do my best, to fight for every point, every match, and now here I am in the final," said the 23-year-old.—AFP ■



Lucy loser Lorenzo Sonogo of Italy followed up his shock win over world number one Novak Djokovic by beating Britain's Dan Evans to reach the Vienna ATP final on Saturday (Oct 31). **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar teams to compete in 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers



Myanmar U-17 women football team pose for their group photo before their game against Iceland U-17 women team in Viet Nam's International Tournament on 3 September 2019. **PHOTO: MWF**

MYANMAR women football teams will compete in U-20 and U-17 Qualifiers of the 2022 AFC Asian Cup, with a right to host the first leg of both tournaments, according to football authorities.

Myanmar, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Viet Nam will host the first round of the Asian Cup U-17 Women's Qualifiers.

Similarly, the first round

of the Asian Cup-20 Women's Championship Qualifiers will be hosted by Myanmar, Australia, China, Chinese (Taipei), Laos, Mongolia, Singapore and Tajikistan.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has planned to hold both tournaments in 2021, with the first leg of the AFC U-20 Championship scheduled from 13 to 21 March. The second

round matches are set to play from 18 to 22 August.

Also, the first round of the Asian Cup U-17 will be convened from 3 to 11 April and second round of the tourney will be played from 22 September to 26.

Thirty-four teams will compete in the tourney, which will be divided into eight groups of four, six and five teams. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Elite sport in England exempt from fresh lockdown

LONDON—Elite sport will continue to be allowed behind closed doors despite a new month-long lockdown being imposed across England by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday.

The strict series of measures reintroduced to try and curb rising coronavirus infection rates will begin from Thursday, November 5 and last until December 2.

Pubs and restaurants will

shut unless serving takeaway food, while all leisure and entertainment venues and non-essential shops will close.

However, Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden confirmed that elite sport will continue to en-

joy an exemption to play behind closed doors.

"Travel to a place of work will be permitted," he tweeted. "This includes (but not exhaustive) elite sport played behind closed doors."—AFP ■

Japan's unbeaten 'Monster' Inoue KOs Moloney in Las Vegas debut

LAS VEGAS—Naoya 'Monster' Inoue defended his unified WBA and IBF bantamweight world titles in his Las Vegas debut on Saturday with a seventh-round knockout of Australia's Jason Moloney.

The undefeated Japanese superstar floored Moloney with a shuddering punch near the end of the round to retain both belts in spectacular fashion at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. The 27-year-old Inoue landed a vicious straight right that buckled Moloney's knees in the 118-pound fight and the Australian was unable to beat the count with just one second left in the round.—AFP ■



Elite sport will be allowed to continue behind closed doors in England despite a new national lockdown. **PHOTO: CLIVE BRUNSKILL POOL/AFP**