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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 201, 3rd Waning of Thadingyut 1382 ME

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

Tuesday, 3 November 2020

Announcement of Union Election Commission

THE Union Election Commission has issued the announcement 203/2020, dated 28-10-2020, to end electoral campaigns from 12 midnight of 6-11-2020 until the completion of elections on 8-11-2020 so that the elections can be held successfully and the vot-

ers can cast their ballots for any Hluttaw candidate independently.

During this period, political parties, Hluttaw candidates and electoral representatives for the General Election on 8 November 2020 are also prohibited

using social network websites (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), online websites and other media channels for posts and subjects in relation to electoral campaign.

Union Election Commission

More medical devices imported from China reach Yangon, Mandalay



MEDICAL devices for COVID-19 prevention imported from China arrived at Yangon and Mandalay international airports yesterday.

These healthcare supplies will be used in the multiparty democracy elections on 8 November for the voters, polling staff and volunteers.

The items on three flights to Yangon and another three flights to Mandalay included KN95 masks, protective facemasks, boots, PPE sets and medical protective clothing.—MNA

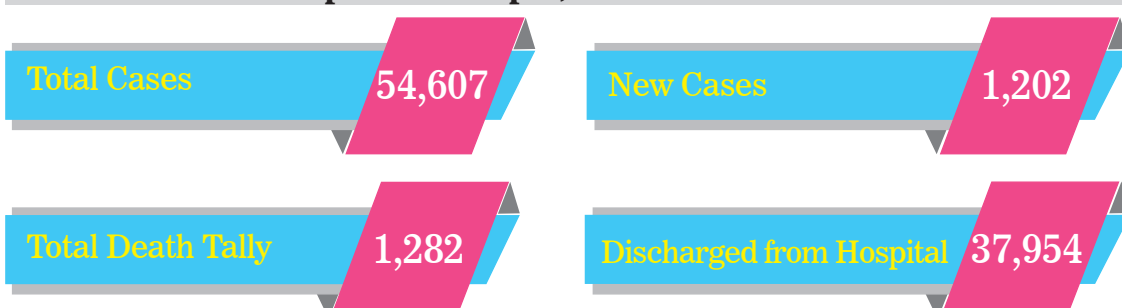
(Translated by Aung Khin)

COVID-19 medical devices imported from China arrive at the Yangon International Airport on 2 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

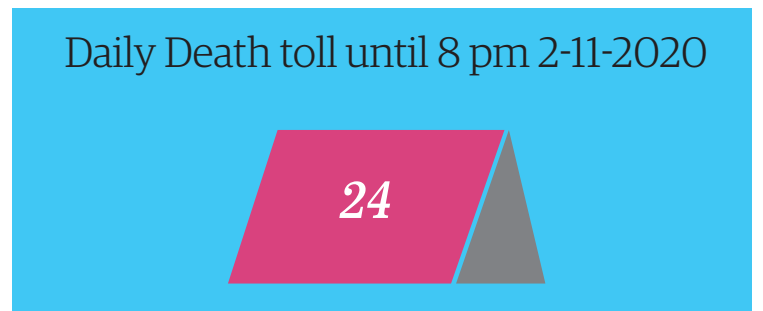
1,202 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 November, total figure rises to 54,607

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 54,607 after 1,202 new cases were reported on 2 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 54,607 confirmed cases, 1,282 died, 37,954 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 2 November 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 2-11-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

In the foreign investment sector, our country is relatively better than some neighbouring countries



Although our country is facing a great challenge, we are trying to control the situation as best we can. A certain degree of results has been produced from our efforts. We can say that in the foreign investment sector, our country is relatively better than some neighbouring countries. Our FDI target adopted in 2016 has reached 98 per cent this year. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, we missed only 2 per cent of our target. By looking at it optimistically, the goal could be achieved in the remaining two months. Even if we could not fulfil the overall target, achieving 98 per cent is a considerable success amid the crisis. Most of the neighbouring countries have faced worse situations. I don't mean any disrespect to other countries. I just want our people to understand. Although our expectation was to achieve 100 per cent, since we achieved 98 per cent, we could say that this is quite a performance.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 situation amid containment measures, on 26 October 2020)

Section 59 (f) of Hluttaw Election Law



IT is prohibited voting in any election at more than on Hluttaw constituency as per Section 59 (f) of Hluttaw Election Law. Whoever found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats or with both.

Section 59 (g) of Hluttaw Election Law



IT is prohibited voting more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he has the right to vote as per Section 59 (g) of Hluttaw Election Law. Whoever found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats or with both.

Section 59 (h) of Hluttaw Election Law



IT is prohibited obtaining or casting ballot paper or advance ballot paper by impersonating another person as per Section 59 (h) of Hluttaw Election Law. Whoever found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats or with both.



Medical devices for COVID-19 prevention arrive in Yangon on 2 November.
PHOTO : MNA (NEWS ON PAGE 1)



Workers are unloading COVID-19 preventive items from China at Mandalay International Airport on 2 November. **PHOTO : MNA (NEWS ON PAGE 1)**

Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for the second times

CAMPAIGN speeches of Yeomanry Development Party (YDP) and Democratic Party of National Politics for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 3 November for the second times. — MNA

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

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

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, their wives cast advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Ministers, Deputy Ministers and their wives yesterday cast their advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw's Zabuthiri Constituency.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and his wife Daw Hla Hla Mu; Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and his wife Dr Nam Kham Mai; Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and his wife Daw Soe Soe Ko; Deputy Ministers for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo and U Thar Oo went to the Zayatheikdhi Ward Election Sub-commission in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw and cast their advance votes in ac-

cordance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines.

Permanent Secretaries, other government officials, elderly people (aged over 60), and election staff members who really need to vote in advance also cast their advance votes at the Election Sub-commission.

There are three polling stations at the Election Sub-commission. There are 2,137 eligible voters for advance voting at the polling station number 1; there are 2,225 voters for advance voting at the polling station number 2; and 2,134 voters for advance voting at the polling station number 3.

Similarly, voters cast their



Union Minister U Win Khaing. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo. PHOTO: MNA



advance votes in polling stations in Zabuthiri, Dekkhina

nathiri, Pyinmana and Lewe Townships in Dekkhina District yesterday.

(From Left to Right) Daw Hla Hla Mu, wife of Union Minister U Win Khaing; Dr Nam Kham Mai, wife of Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe; Daw Soe Soe Ko, wife of Deputy Minister U Soe Aung. PHOTO: MNA

According to the current figure, there are 89,816 eligible voters in Zabuthiri Township; 28,167 eligible voters in Dakkhinathiri Township; 134,603 eligible voters in Pyinmana and 218,671 eligible voters in Lewe Township.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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.

Mandalay Chief Minister inspects construction of Ayeyarwady Centre for COVID-19 patients



Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung is giving advice on construction of Ayeyarwady Centre for COVID-19 patients in the compound of Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 2 November 2020. **PHOTO: KO MOE**

MANDALAY Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung visited construction site of Ayeyarwady Centre for COVID-19 patients in the compound of Mandalay Thiri Stadium yes-

terday.

Mayor of Mandalay City Dr Ye Lwin also looked into the project to provide assistance from his office.

Set up by the Ayeyarwady

Foundation, the COVID-19 Treatment Centre (Chanmyathazi) will be a 300-bedded facility equipped with HDU and oxygen therapy for 100 beds, and it will also have the test

and care unit.

The foundation has established a 1,000 bedded centre in Yangon for COVID-19 patients.—Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Mobile market scheme expanded to 8 townships in Yangon on 3 November



Mobile market becomes popular in Myanmar during COVID-19 outbreak.. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

By Nyein Nyein

MOBILE market scheme will be extended from four to eight townships due to the high demand of residents in Yangon, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

In a bid to reduce the crowd at markets, bring fresh food to the consumers and contain the possible spread of the coronavirus in the region, the mobile market was started to run in three townships on 26 October on a trial basis, the UMFCCI stated.

People can purchase food at a fair price in their ward. From

3 November, the trucks will run simultaneously in eight townships.

On 3 November, the trucks arranged by Yangon City Development Committee and the affiliated association of UMFCCI are to be located at the corner of Waibargi street and Bogyoke street, Bohnma 4 and 5 streets in North Okkalapa Township in eastern District, in front of BEHS (5) on Zeyathukha Street, U Bahan Street, Pyi Taw Thar Road in Thingangyun Township, 18th, 20th, 21st and 22nd streets, Boywel Street and Sintohdan Street in Latha Township, Kwinkyang park, Thirimingala housing and Aungzayya hous-

ing in Ahlon Township, Wahso Ward, Mandaing Street and Aungtakun Street in Dawbon Township, southern District, Yanpyay Ward and the corner of Thadayon and Anawmar streets in Thakayta Township, Kyogone Ward in Insein Township, Kyan-sithar Street and its housing in Hlinethaya Township.

The trucks will offer the packaged CP chicken, pork, beef, mutton, fresh and saltwater fish, egg and vegetable at a fair price.

The mobile market plan will proceed to other eight townships. The UMFCCI will update the daily sales plans through their Facebook Page and CITY

FM programme.

The trucks are hanging mobile market vinyl, and the respective officials from YCDC will monitor them.

The management team of the mobile truck will accept the goods supplied by the registered farmers only. The team will also set the fair price in individual wards for low-income people. Those truck operators must strictly adhere to the traffic rules, the rules set by the municipal, and the health guidelines for the coronavirus, the UMFCCI stated.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Gold market reopened but remains sluggish

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic gold market has reopened yet it still remains sluggish, said U Ohn Myaing, general secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

“The demand is low and the trade isn’t lively yet. Transactions take place only between the sellers who want to cash out and the investors,” he said.

On 2 November, pure gold fetched K1.31 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) in the domestic market, while the gold has registered at US\$1,880 per ounce in the international market. “The domestic gold price is about K20,000 lower than the international rate,” he continued.

“It is hard to predict the domestic gold price amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the tensions



There are more than 10,000 gold shops in the region, and about 50 visses of gold were traded in the previous years. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

between China and the US,” he highlighted. Yangon Region gold market, which was temporarily suspended amid the COVID-19 resurgences, was back into business on 26 October. The virtual

trade is also available through the Zoom app, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association stated. There are more than 10,000 gold shops in the region, and about 50 visses of gold were

traded earlier. During the first wave of COVID-19, Yangon gold market was closed between 29 March and 18 May.

According to gold traders, during the past four months, the

domestic gold was priced with the minimum rate of K1,216,500 (1 July) and the maximum rate of K1,296,500 (27 July). The price moved in the range of, K1,286,500 on 13 August and K1,332,500 on 7 August. The local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching an all-time record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar traders suffer loss as China suspends marine products imports

CHINA halted fisheries products imports through Muse land border effective 15 October, causing losses for Myanmar traders, industry sources said.

Myanmar traders export the frozen fish and live fish, crab, eel, long-finned eel and other fisheries products to China through Muse land border. During the last financial year ending on September 30, a total of 128,067 tonnes of fisheries products, with a total value of US\$170.735 million, were exported through Muse.

In the FY2018-2019, the figures stood at \$128.429 million with 102,018 tonnes. Therefore, the export value saw an increase of \$42.306 million, and the volume was up by over 26,048 tonnes in the past FY. Ribbonfish, Katla, white pomfret, silver pomfret, yellow pike conger, white croaker, soldier croaker, yellow croaker, Ilish, loach, mackerel and pufferfish, and pink, white, Vannamei and Tigers prawn, dried shrimp, squid and salted fish are exported to China. Myanmar’s fish exports to China in June-August dropped. It was attributed to the fights in the Shan State during August and fishing banned season.

During the early outbreak of COVID-19, trade flow was steady. During the exemption period of advanced income tax on exports, the export amount increased.

At present, the export volume of live crab dropped by \$5.966 million worth over 1,875 tonnes, and the export volume of live eel plunged by \$6.929 million worth 1,735 tonnes compared to a year-ago period. However, the country saw an increase of 24.791 million (8,617 tonnes) in fish exports, \$4.537 million (919.68 tonnes) in prawn exports, and \$25.494 million (20,059 tonnes) in other fishery products exports against last year, data of the Fisheries Department (Muse) showed.

“The suspension in fishery export does not concern with Chinese authorities. The trade is temporarily halted among the traders of China.



Prawns exported to foreign countries, of which more than 4,000 tonnes of prawns are sent to the Japanese market. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

They notified the local traders of trade suspension in advance.

On 5 October, China stopped frozen fish purchase and so did the crab and eel on 16 October. Only dried fish and prawn are flowing into China through its Mang Weing border. Chinese traders have not informed when they will be back into the business. In the meantime, the fishery products are being sold in lower Myanmar, U Myint Than, an officer from the Fisheries Department (Muse).

Ko Thein Htoo, the eel trader, shared his opinion that we are selling them at a low price as there is no demand by China. I am not happy with it. The eels are stockpiled at the depot. Some even experience capital loss. Some local traders also stopped buying the eel. The trade will return to normal once trade with China is opened. For the time being, traders are facing loss. The eel fetched only K3,000-3,500 per viss (1.6 kg). The market primarily depends on China. The trade suspension in China side harms both the traders and those harvesting eel and shrimp. The local traders can only wait for the reopening of trade in China.—Thant Zin (Muse)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Tiddim silk factory expected to produce 2 tonnes per year

A silk reeling machine installed in Tiddim silk factory and silkworm plant research farm has a production capacity of two tonnes of silk per year, Chin state Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Mineral.

The machine was purchased under the 2019-2020 regional government’s allotted fund of K300 million. Silk reeling machines are required for the silk industry to penetrate the external market, said an official from the department. Next, the price of Myanmar’s silkworm cocoon ranges between K5,000 to K8,000 per pound depending on quality.

Myanmar is listed top ten exporting countries of silkworm cocoon in 2018, constituting 2.8 per cent of global export. The country exported US\$142.96K worth ten metric tons of silkworm cocoons in 2018, according to the worldwide market.

Myanmar yearly shipped 1,000 silkworm cocoons to China through Muse land border. Also, the silk thread produced in Myanmar is exported to China through the Lweje border crossing, and the volume of exports is increasing every year. In 2018, Myanmar exported over 7,900 kg of silk thread in June, 7,200 kg each in July and August, 15,300 kg in September, and 12,700 kg in October, according to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency.

During the Vice President’s inspection tour on development works in Chin state in May 2018, he addressed that planting silkworm

plants would increase the income of the local families, and it could replace the slash-and-burn farming system. He asked for the farms to be upgraded systematically.

Demand for silk was growing in the international market, and supports of the respective departments were required to grasp a firm market share in the market. Similarly, further research needs to be conducted to produce other highly valued products from the silkworm plant in addition to the silk thread, the Vice President urged. Efforts are needed to produce value-added products through sericulture and find much-expanded domestic and external markets, said silkworm plant growers. In Myanmar, silkworm plants are planted in Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan states, and Mandalay region covering over 6,400 acres.

The agricultural department is also revamping the mulberry cultivation, once prominent in Chin State. They are helping farmers regain good crop seeds and larvae. Chin state was once called the silk capital, but due to various reasons, the cultivation of the plants and the silkworms declined.

The department is encouraging local farmers to take up the trade. They are also conducting sericulture courses so that the growers know how to rear the silkworms and produce silk properly.—Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Statement on adherence to healthcare guidelines in 2020 General Election

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

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

It is prohibited giving speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distributing or using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election as per Section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law. Whoever 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 one hundred thousand kyats or with both.



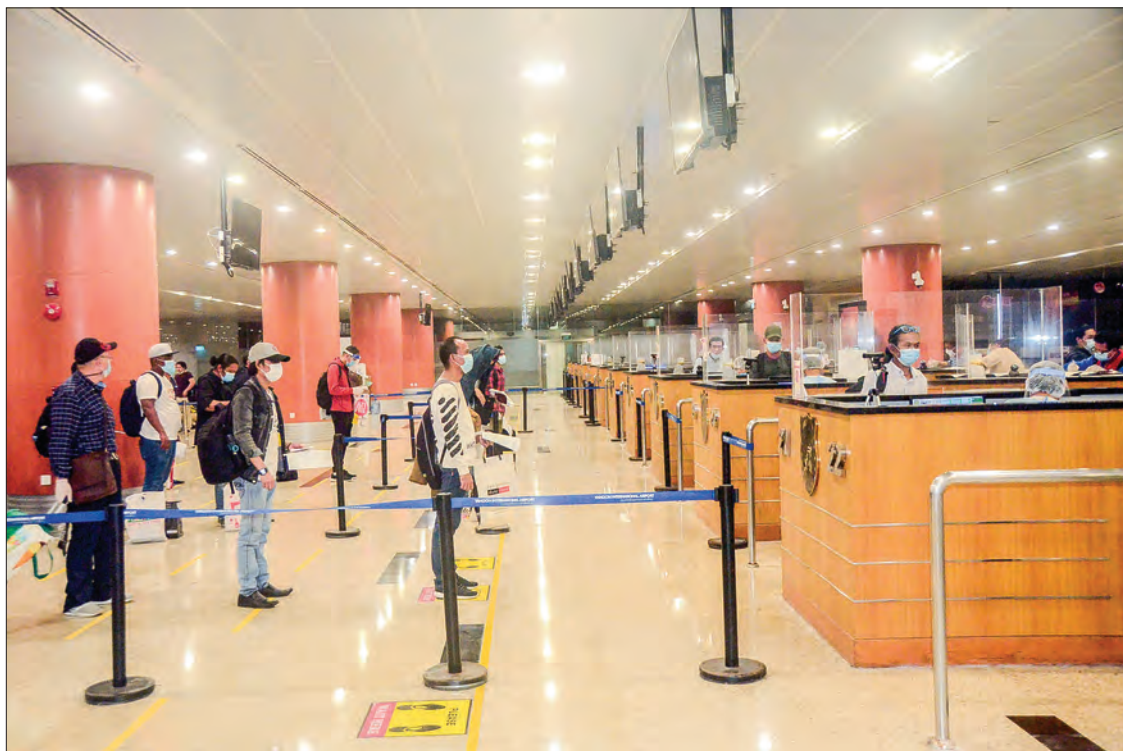
Myanmar seamen fly back home from ROK by relief flights

A chartered relief flight of Myanmar Airways International, organized by Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and Dragon Tun company, brought 135 seamen who have expired their employment contract with their shipping lines back home yesterday evening.

The group of Myanmar seamen on the flight were 123 from the Republic of Korea, 7 from Indonesia, 3 from Sri Lanka and 2 from Singapore.

Moreover, 144 Myanmar seamen, for the crew change, arrived back home from the Republic of Korea by a chartered relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines, organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and the Myanmar Seamen's Federation on the same evening.

The second group also included 141 from the Republic of



Myanmar seamen are queuing for immigration processes at Yangon International Airport on 2 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Korea, 2 from Poland and 1 from Singapore.

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

To bring back the Myanmar citizens and Myanmar seamen 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 Aung Khin)

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

ELECTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Glitches allow banned Facebook election ads to recirculate



(FILES) In this file illustration photo taken on March 25, 2020 a Facebook App logo is displayed on a smartphone in Arlington, Virginia. Facebook's profit jumped 29 percent to \$7.8 billion in the recently ended quarter as the social network reported October 29, 2020, citing a rebounding in the online ad market. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States) — Facebook on Monday acknowledged glitches in enforcing its policy on removing misleading political advertising for the US election after a report revealed banned messages were being recirculated.

The social media giant, which has faced intense scrutiny over its handling of political misinformation, said it took action after a media report showing loopholes allowing activist groups to repost ads that had been banned after third-party fact checks.

The Wall Street Journal report said some ads supporting President Donald Trump and containing false claims about Democrat Joe Biden had been reposted and shared by a conservative group after the original messages were blocked.

Facebook began removing the reposted ads after the Journal report over the weekend.

“When a fact-checker applies a rating, we apply a label and demote it while also rejecting it as an ad — this is true for all ratings,” a Facebook spokesperson told AFP.

“We reviewed these ads and are taking action on those that violate our policies, while also working to improve how we find similar ads to those that were already rated.”

The Journal said the ads were being run by the American Principles Project, a conservative group, and contained false claims

that Biden supports the far-left Antifa movement and backs sex change operations for children.

Last week, Facebook saw a rocky start to its effort to ban new political messages a week ahead of the November 3 election.

Rival parties complained new ads had been appearing despite the policy.

“We’re investigating the issues of some ads being paused incorrectly, and some advertisers having trouble making changes to their campaigns,” Facebook product manager Rob Leathern said in a tweeted message when the ban kicked in on Tuesday.

“We’re working quickly on these fixes.”

California-based Facebook has tightened its rules on political advertising ahead of the 2020 election. In particular, it has prohibited attempts to undermine the electoral process. —AFP ■

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Palestine urges Britain to recognize Palestinian state

RAMALLAH — Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtaye on Monday called on Britain to recognize the Palestinian state on the borders of 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital as compensation for the Palestinians’ suffering resulted from the Balfour Declaration.

On the 103rd anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, Ishtaye said in the weekly cabinet meeting that “this declaration violated the rights of our people and forced them to migrate from their cities and villages to other places.”

The declaration was a statement by the British government on Nov. 2, 1917, announcing its support for the Jewish people to build their state on Palestine’s lands.

Meanwhile, Ishtaye condemned the U.S. announcement of the start to include Israel as a place of birth on passports of those who were born in Jerusalem, saying that “it is a new violation of the international law, as well as the United Nations resolutions.” —Xinhua ■

CANDIDATES FOR OECD

Trump aide among 10 candidates for OECD top job

PARIS (France) — A top aide to President Donald Trump, and Australia’s former finance minister are among 10 candidates to lead the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the OECD said Monday.

The 37-nation club, which has the stated goal of boosting economic progress and world trade, will need a new secretary general when Angel Gurría’s third five-year term ends in May 2021.

On Monday, the OECD issued an official list of candidates to take over from Gurría on June 1.

They were nominated by member countries, mostly in Europe, the Americas and Asia and which account for 60 per cent of global gross domestic product.

The list includes Christopher Liddell, Trump’s deputy chief of staff for policy coordination.

A former chief financial

officer at General Motors and Microsoft, Liddell is tipped as the favourite by some because no US citizen has ever led the OECD since its creation in 1961 despite the US being the biggest contributor to its budget.

But internal sources say a defeat for Trump in the US presidential election on Tuesday would hurt Liddell’s chances.

The OECD’s predecessor, the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC),

was formed to administer US and Canadian aid under the Marshall Plan for European reconstruction after World War II.

As for Australia’s Mathias Cormann, who quit as finance minister last week to seek the top OECD job, an insider told AFP his participation in a government seen as climate-sceptic could scupper his chances because the OECD wants to prioritise the fight against climate change. —AFP ■

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT URGED TO SIGN, RATIFY U.N. NUKE BAN TREATY

Nagasaki pushes central gov’t to sign, ratify U.N. nuke ban treaty

NAGASAKI — The Nagasaki city assembly on Monday adopted a resolution urging the Japanese government to sign and ratify a nuclear weapons-banning U.N. treaty which will enter into force in January.

In the resolution, the assembly of the southwestern Japan city that was devastated by an atomic bomb attack late in World War II also asked the central government to attend meetings of the member states of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as an observer and work toward bringing a member state conference to Nagasaki.

The United Nations said in October that Honduras had become the 50th country or region to sign the treaty, reaching the threshold required for it to be ratified and paving the way for it to enter into force on Jan. 22.

The pact, which will become the first international agreement outlawing the development, testing, possession and use of nuclear weapons, was adopted in 2017. In the same year, the city assembly adopted a similar resolution.

The local assembly’s latest resolution hailed the treaty for making clear the will of humanity that nuclear weapons should

be eliminated.

It also asked the Japanese government to play a role bridging the divide between nuclear-armed countries and those not possessing the weapons, pointing out that more countries, including nuclear states, must join the treaty for it to be effective.

“Originating from the atomic bomb survivors’ pleas, (recent momentum) has turned into a huge wave,” Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue said after the adoption of the resolution, urging the parliament to actively discuss the treaty.

Chief Cabinet Secretary

Katsunobu Kato as recently as last week reiterated that “Japan shares the goal of this treaty, the abolition of nuclear weapons”, but added “as we differ in how to approach the issue, we will not become a signatory.”

The stance has frustrated the large anti-nuclear segment of the population as well as survivors of the August 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

While Japan is the only country to have suffered from atomic bombing, it also relies on the protection of the nuclear umbrella provided by the United States. —Kyodo News ■



Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue speaks as a countdown board is lit up in the southwestern Japan city on Oct. 26, 2020, with 88 days to go before the coming into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Building back better with quality investment in post-COVID-19

WHILE taking a Whole-of-Nation approach for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 pandemic, our country is also implementing the COVID-19 Comprehensive Economic Relief Plan (CERP) to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Our united efforts between the Union Government and the people proved successful in coping with the first wave of the coronavirus, but we are facing the challenge of a second wave. Amidst the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, a delegation from the US International Development Finance Corporation-DFC recently visited Myanmar to explore investment opportunities and underscore the long-term US commitment to invest in Myanmar's economic development.

About one week ahead of the US business delegation's visit, Hong Kong business enterprises and those already present in Myanmar expressed a keen interest in Myanmar's significant investment potential including areas as diverse as energy, transport, banking and finance, retail and services during a recent webinar organized by the Myanmar-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Meanwhile, foreign investor interest in Myanmar has remained resilient. Indeed, for the first time in years, Foreign Direct Investment for a single budget year has passed the USD 5 billion mark, according to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. With several new proposals for major projects in the power, manufacturing and the real estate sector now under active consideration by the Myanmar Investment Commission, the prospects look bright.

With a modernized investment law, improving energy security and public health, along with abundant resources, our country is still an attractive destination for investors.

To revive our economy in the post-COVID-19, we need to obtain a huge flow of investment into our country and we are inviting qualified, responsible investments.

Ensuring the continued flow of appropriate and responsible investments into Myanmar will play an essential role in supporting a more resilient and sustainable economic recovery and in building back better.

To achieve this, we must continue to create an environment in which most banking opportunities tend to present themselves when open and competitive markets exist, where transparency is valued, where the rule of law is strong and where individual liberty is respected.

We understand that meaningful growth and quality job creation will not be achieved without continued quality investment – quality investment that creates quality jobs.

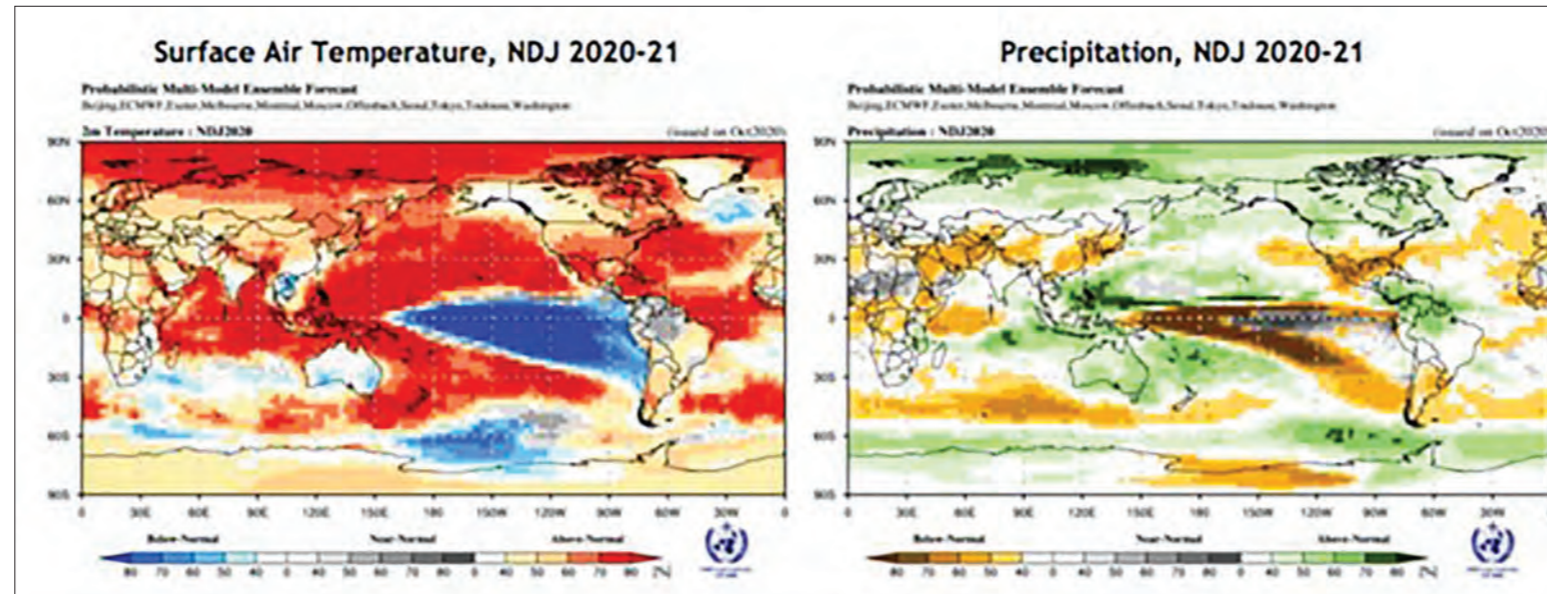
Our country's recent social and economic progress and investment-related reforms are designed to attract responsible and quality investment.

We would like to urge investors to capitalize on Myanmar's potential for investment in sectors such as energy, agriculture and infrastructure.

La Niña has developed

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO Global Seasonal Climate Update – Precipitation and Temperature plots for Nov – Jan 2021



LA Niña has developed and is expected to last into next year, affecting temperatures, precipitation and storm patterns in many parts of the world, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The global declaration of a La Niña event is used by governments to mobilize planning in climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, health, water resources and disaster management. WMO is now stepping up its support and advice for international humanitarian agencies to try to reduce the impacts among the most vulnerable at a time when coping capacities are stretched by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's La Niña is expected to be moderate to strong. The last time there was a strong event was in 2010-2011, followed by a moderate event in 2011-2012.

La Niña refers to the large-scale cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure and rainfall. It usually has the opposite impacts on weather and climate as El Niño, which is the warm phase of the so-called El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

"El Niño and La Niña are major, naturally occurring drivers of the Earth's climate system. But all naturally occurring climate events now take place in against a background of human-induced climate change which is exacerbating extreme weather and affecting the water cycle," said WMO Secretary-General Professor Petteri Taalas.

"La Niña typically has a cooling effect on global temperatures, but this is more than offset by the heat trapped in our atmosphere by greenhouse gases. Therefore, 2020 remains on track to be one of the warmest years on record and 2016-2020 is expected to be the warmest five-year period on record," said Professor Taalas. "La Niña years now are warmer even than years with strong El

Niño events of the past."

WMO's new ENSO Update states there is a high likelihood (90%) of tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures remaining at La Niña levels through the end of 2020, and maybe through the first quarter of 2021 (55%). This follows more than a year of neutral ENSO conditions (i.e., neither El Niño nor La Niña). The Update is based on forecasts from WMO Global Producing Centres of Long-Range Forecasts and expert interpretation.

It is important to note that El Niño and La Niña are not the only factors that drive global and regional climate patterns. No two La Niña or El Niño events are the same, and their effects on regional climates can vary depending on the time of year and other factors. Therefore, decision makers should always monitor latest seasonal forecasts for the most up to date information.

For this reason, WMO is now adding to the existing portfolio of seasonal information provided through the National and Regional Climate Outlook Forums and has increased the frequency of the Global Seasonal Climate Update (GSCU) from quarterly to monthly. In addition to El Niño and La Niña, the GSCU incorporates influences of other climate drivers, such as the North Atlantic Oscillation, the Indian Ocean Dipole, to assess their likely effects on regional surface temperature and precipitation patterns and as such used to underpin much of the seasonal discussions with the United Nations and other partners.

Humanitarian planning

Following the devastating impacts from the 2015/16 El Niño event the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, WMO and humanitarian organizations came together to develop what is known as the ENSO cell to ensure the United Nations and its humanitarian partners receive the appropriate actionable advice. This cell is currently providing impact-based advice to United Nations and humanitarian decision makers. Seasonal climate information from WMO and other centres of expertise is incorporated into a wider humanitarian assessment to identify those areas considered most at risk. Food security, coping capacity and a number of other factors are combined to create a more holistic assessment of the actual vulnerability.

Work is now underway to expand this support to the humanitarian system by developing a dedicated coordination mechanism to channel the expertise of the WMO community directly to decision makers in order to save lives and livelihoods. This will make forecasts across different timescales available for disaster management, such as was the case during the recent flooding in Sudan, when WMO provided hydrometeorological information to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

La Niña 2020 Impacts (Summary)

The latest seasonal forecasts

indicate that the Greater Horn of Africa (below normal rainfall), Central Asia (below normal rainfall) and South East Asia, some of the Pacific Islands and the northern region of South America (above normal rainfall) will see some of the most significant precipitation anomalies associated with the 2020 La Niña event.

Africa

This year's La Niña event coincides with an important rainfall and planting season in much of East Africa, which is forecast to see drier than usual conditions. This, added to the existing impacts from the desert locust invasion, is a further worrying development which may add to the food security challenges in the region.

La Niña can lead to increased rainfall in Southern Africa and this is indicated by some recent seasonal forecast models. However, there are some nuances in these and therefore up to date forecasts should be monitored over the coming months. La Niña can also affect the South West Indian Ocean Tropical Cyclone season, reducing the intensity. WMO experts and humanitarian colleagues will convene in November to undertake a thorough analysis of the season ahead.

Central Asia

In Central Asia, La Niña events have been known to lead to a reduction in rainfall from January through to May. However, the latest seasonal fore-

casts highlight an increased likelihood that an area from the Levant through to Central Asia is likely to see below normal rainfall even earlier than usual.

SE Asia and the Pacific

La Niña is often associated with wet conditions across large parts of South East Asia, Australia and the latest seasonal outlook is consistent with historical La Niña conditions. For the Pacific Islands, the effects of La Niña will vary from country to country. Those in the Central and Eastern Pacific may be more susceptible to below normal rainfall, while countries in the South-West Pacific will become more prone to above normal rainfall.

South Asia

In previous La Niña events, South Asia has experienced a mix of effects, ranging from drier than usual conditions in the far south, wetter in much of the central regions from June to September and then again drier in the very far north / north west.

The latest seasonal outlook provides a similar mixed picture, with dry conditions expected over the next few months in the north of the region while the rest of the region is expected to see near normal conditions. In the far south of the region, the latest GSCU indicates a chance of above normal rainfall, whereas the September issue indicated a possi-

North America, Central America and the Caribbean

In North America, La Niña typically brings above-average along the northern tier of the continent along with below-average precipitation and across the South. The latest forecast model results are consistent with this historical impact analysis.

In the Caribbean, La Niña events can contribute to an increase in intensity of the hurricane season. The 2020 season has been one of the most active on record so far.

South America

In South America, La Niña can bring above normal rainfall across large parts of the north of the continent whereas further south below normal rainfall can be experienced on both the eastern and western coasts. The 2020 La Niña event shows very similar characteristics, with the northern part of the continent likely to see above normal rainfall whereas much of the southern cone is likely to see below normal rainfall.

Further References

This press release uses the authoritative information from WMO Members, Regional Climate Centres, Regional Climate Outlook Forums and the Global Seasonal Climate Update, which is based on an ensemble of models from WMO Global Producing Centres of Long Range Forecasts produced by the WMO Lead Centre for Long-Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensemble (LC LRFMME). For more detailed information please consult the web sites of the respective national meteorological and hydrological services. Links to the Regional Climate Outlook Forums, the Global Seasonal Climate Update and other authoritative sources can be found below.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Predicting US Presidential Election Results

Dear Editor

I write this around 7:30 am on 2 November 2020 US East Coast Time about 25 hours before the polls open for the quadrennial United States presidential election in the US East Coast. My 'guesses' regarding the election:

- (1) The prospect of a Trump 'landslide' (that is he winning at least 36 out of the 50 States) chances 5% to 15%
- (2) The prospect of a Biden landslide (IF most of the mail in or absentee votes are counted AND if the US Supreme Court DID NOT cheat (like in the 2000 Florida recounts in Bush v Gore) Biden winning at least 36 States: chances are 20% to 30%
- (3) The prospect of Trump declaring that he won perhaps between 12 midnight and 3 am US East Coast Time on 4 November 2020 (around 11:30 am to 13:30 pm Myanmar Time on 4 November 2020) due to the initial (EARLY not complete returns) in swing states indicating that Trump is leading (Republican voters mainly votes in person) when polls closed and while the votes are still being counted) would be 90 to 95%
- (4) The prospect of Trump winning both the popular vote (if there is comparatively only little cheating) and the electoral vote 5 to 15%
- (5) The prospect of Biden winning both the popular vote and electoral vote If there is no massive cheating 55% to 65%
- (6) The prospect of Biden winning the popular vote by several million votes but losing narrowly to Trump in the electoral votes if the Supreme Court like in Bush v Gore did NOT CHEAT again by stopping the recounts and throwing away hundreds of thousands of mail in votes or absentee votes is 30 to 65%
- (7) The prospect of post election litigation reaching the Supreme Court: 40% to 70%
- (8) If post election litigation were to be decided by the US Supreme Court the prospect of at least 5 judges of the US Supreme Court namely Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Barrett CHEATING and siding with Trump whatever the issues would be 90 to 95%
- (9) The prospect of Trump, evil man that he is, conceding on election night or the next day is zero (0) percent. This would be in stark contrast to his much more decent predecessors the losers in elections of 1960 (Nixon), 1968 (Humphrey), 1980 (Carter), 1992 (George H. W. Bush), 2000 (Gore), 2016 (Clinton) conceding their loss most of them graciously.

At least a few (of course not all) my guesses may materialize post US Presidential election. If this letter sees the light of day the US Election would have started though the results not officially certified. Still, I wish Biden-Harris Presidential ticket and Democratic Senators (especially those in swing States) and Democratic Congress women and men contesting the elections all the best.

Myint Zan

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ABORTION FIGHT IN POLAND

Abortion fight erodes support for Polish right-wing: poll

WARSAW (Poland) — Support for Poland's governing conservatives is down following a near-total abortion ban that has inspired consecutive days of mass protests nationwide, a survey showed on Monday.

In power since 2015 and re-elected last year, the Law and Justice (PiS) party saw its backing plunge by almost 10 percentage points last month, according to the poll.

Just 30.9 per cent of respondents now say they support the PiS compared to 40.5 per cent two weeks ago, according to a survey with 1,000 respondents carried out for the Dziennik Gazeta Prawna daily and RMF FM radio.

The liberal opposition Civic Coalition (KO) saw a slight uptick in support, winning the backing of 25.3 per cent of respondents surveyed Saturday, against 23.3 per cent in the previous poll.

Ranked third is the new centrist movement Poland 2050, which received 14.7 per cent, up from its previous 9.3 per cent.

According to another opinion survey carried out for the Rzeczpospolita daily, more than 70 per cent of Poles would like Jaroslaw Kaczynski to step down from his position as PiS leader.

Also the deputy premier in charge of security, the 71-year-old is seen as Poland's true powerbroker.

Analysts believe Kaczynski is behind the October 22 Constitutional Court ruling which would allow abortions only in cases of rape, incest and when the mother's life is at risk.

Until then, terminations had also been allowed in instances of severe foetal anomalies but the court ruled that was "incompatible" with the constitution.—AFP ■

FUGITIVE US WHISTLEBLOWER

Edward Snowden aims to become dual US-Russian citizen

MOSCOW (Russia) — Fugitive US whistleblower Edward Snowden said Monday he had applied for Russian citizenship but would keep his US nationality.

The former American intelligence contractor, who revealed in 2013 that the US government was spying on its citizens, has been living in exile in Russia since the revelations.

Snowden's tweet comes weeks after he was granted permanent residency in the country, and just days after his partner Lindsay Mills announced she was pregnant.

He tweeted: "After years of separation from our parents, my wife and I have no desire to be separated from our son."

The 37-year-old said that "in this era of pandemics and closed borders, we're applying for dual US-Russian citizenship".

Moscow only recently relaxed its strict citizenship laws to allow individuals to hold Russian passports without rejecting their original nationalities.

In the short thread, Snowden



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 30 May 2017 US former CIA employee and whistle-blower Edward Snowden delivers a speech by video conference during the debate at the "Estoril Conferences - Global Challenges Local Answers" held at Estoril, outskirts of Lisbon. PHOTO: AFP

emphasised that he and Mills would "remain Americans, raising our son with all the values of the America we love -- including the freedom to speak his mind."

The former US contractor is wanted in the US on espionage charges after he leaked information showing that agents from the National Security Agency were collecting telephone records from

millions of US citizens.

Earlier this year, US President Donald Trump said he would "take a look" at pardoning Snowden but has not made further comment on the matter.

A 2015 petition calling on then-president Barack Obama to pardon the whistleblower was rejected by the White House.—AFP ■

SO-CALLED OSAKA METROPOLIS PLAN

Osaka metropolis plan rejected by slim margin in 2nd referendum

OSAKA — Voters once again opposed by a slim margin reorganizing Osaka city into a metropolis akin to Tokyo in a second referendum on the proposal Sunday, bringing uncertainty to local and national politics as it effectively ended the career of a key proponent.

The so-called Osaka metropolis plan, which was backed by Osaka Mayor Ichiro Matsui and Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura, was aimed at correcting the overconcentration of population and power in Tokyo as the major western Japan city faces a shrinking economy.

"We have lost because I failed to (convince people). I will absolutely accept the will" of Osaka residents, Matsui said in a press conference late Sunday following the results in the binding referendum. The mayor said he would retire from politics after completing his term in April 2023.

A total of 692,996 voters turned down the metropolis plan in Osaka, which was supported by 675,829 voters, according to the local election board. In the



A voter (R) receives a ballot from an official wearing a face shield to prevent coronavirus infection in Osaka on Nov. 1, 2020, as a referendum is held on a plan to restructure the western Japan city's 24 administrative districts into four special wards with greater authority and elected leaders. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

2015 poll, the plan was similarly rejected by a narrow margin.

Sunday's result now brings down the curtain on the plan, with Yoshimura saying he will no longer push it. Voter turnout stood at 62.35 per cent, 4.48 per-

centage points lower than the previous referendum.

Matsui intends to step down as leader of the regional political group Osaka Ishin no Kai by the end of the month, with plans to hand the reins to acting leader

Yoshimura, sources close to the matter said Monday.

While he will continue to head the Japan Innovation Party, a national political party, for the time being, his retirement deals a major blow not only to the two

parties but also Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who enjoyed a close and personal relationship with him.

Suga had been using the Japan Innovation Party, which favors amending Japan's pacifist Constitution, to keep opposition parties fragmented, while adding pressure on Komeito, the junior coalition ally of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which has been backing the reform, according to LDP sources.

With the local LDP chapter opposing the metropolis plan, however, Suga had tried not to make his position known while his administration closely followed the course of the referendum.

Asked about the outcome, Suga declined to comment as a representative of the central government but said, "I think (the vote) stirred up debate on the metropolitan administration system." "The people of Osaka must have agonized (in making a decision)," said Suga, noting how the plan was rejected for the second time by a slim margin.—Kyodo News ■

CHILDREN'S SONG "BABY SHARK"

'Baby Shark' becomes most-watched YouTube video

SEOUL (South Korea) — The wildly infectious and relentlessly repetitive children's song "Baby Shark" became the most-watched YouTube video on Monday, with more than seven billion plays.

The bane of parents and teachers worldwide, the South Korea-produced song has gone from the realm of children's YouTube to a global viral sensation, with a catchy and addictive melody buoyed by a hypnotically

colourful video.

"Baby Shark Dance", the English-language version of the song, clocked up over seven billion views on YouTube at around 0400 GMT on Monday, dethroning Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's "Despacito" as the most-watched video on the platform.

The ubiquitous children's song and earworm, first uploaded to YouTube in June 2016, is a remix of an American campfire

song by the Seoul-based production company Pinkfong.

Its YouTube success paved its route into the global music charts, reaching the number 32 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 in January 2019.

It has picked up plenty of adult fans along its way to global viral fame: the Washington Nationals baseball team took it up as an anthem and went on to win the World Series last year, prompting the White House to play the tune during the celebrations.

One US town played the song on a loop, while another, Florida's West Palm Beach, used the melody to try to discourage homeless people from congregating in a public area.

It has also been pressed into anti-pandemic service, with a coronavirus-themed version, "Wash Your Hands", teaching children the importance of personal hygiene.

Two of the last four tracks to hold the most-played record on YouTube are South Korean — rapper Psy's megahit "Gangnam Style" held the title for more than three years until it was dethroned by Wiz Khalifa's "See You Again".—AFP ■



This illustration picture taken on July 24, 2019 in Paris shows the logo of the US Youtube logo application on the screen of a tablet. PHOTO: AFP

SUICIDE IS A CHRONIC SOCIAL PROBLEM IN SOUTH KOREA



An undated photo released by South Korea's Yonhap news agency on November 2, 2020 shows late comedian Park Ji-sun. PHOTO: AFP

South Korean comedian found dead with her mother

SEOUL (South Korea) — A prominent South Korean comedian was found dead at her home in Seoul on Monday alongside her mother, multiple reports said.

The bodies of Park Ji-sun, 36, and her mother were found by police, Yonhap news agency reported.

Park was reportedly being treated for an unspecified illness and the Seoul Shinmun newspaper cited a police officer as saying there were "no signs of outside intrusion or murder".

Suicide is a chronic social problem in highly competitive South Korea and the leading cause of death for people aged between 10 and 39, according to government data.

More than 13,700 people took their own lives last year.

Park was a graduate of the elite Korea University, where she studied education, but charmed audiences with her down-to-earth and self-deprecating humour — often light-heartedly playing the role of a woman repeatedly rejected on a date. "I am lucky as a comedian that I can use my face to make people laugh," she said in an interview with the Hankyoreh newspaper.

Several South Korean celebrities have killed themselves in recent years, among them K-pop singers Goo Hara and Sulli, both of whom had been subjected to vicious cyber-bullying, and Kim Jong-hyun of the boyband Shinee. —AFP ■

CENTURIES-OLD SKYSCRAPERS

Yemen's ancient 'Manhattan of the Desert' risks collapse

SHIBAM (Yemen) — Dubbed the "Manhattan of the desert" for its centuries-old skyscrapers, Yemen's ancient city of Shibam escaped damage in the civil war — but faces collapse from disrepair amid rains and floods.

Against a backdrop of cliffs looking like America's Grand Canyon, the UNESCO-listed World Heritage site is strategically built on a rocky spur high above the river valley of Wadi Hadramawt, in the arid centre of Yemen.

Some of the hundreds of fantastical sun-dried mud-brick towers soar seven stories high, many dating back to the 16th century, all crammed inside a traditional fortified wall built for protection.

The UN describes the city, once an oasis stop for the camel caravans on the spice and in-

tertainment routes across southern Arabia, as "one of the oldest and best examples of urban planning based on the principle of vertical construction."

But Shibam is struggling.

The mud-brick constructions need constant repair, but Yemen's economy has collapsed in the brutal civil war raging since 2014, creating what the UN describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

"The city looks like it was hit by a disaster — without precedent," said Abdulwahab Jaber, a local official in the town, 480 kilometres (300 miles) east of the capital Sanaa.

Jaber said at least four towers have been completely destroyed and 15 others damaged in recent floods, which have killed scores of people across Yemen.

Victim of conflict

The sun-baked earth walls are crumbling.

Hassan Aidid, head of the General Organisation for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen, said that the roofs and the exterior of the mud towers had sustained the most damage.

"Residents of the city have been unable to restore them because of the war and the difficult situation in which they live," Aidid told AFP.

Yemen is gripped by a war between Iran-backed Huthi rebels — who control the capital — and a beleaguered government supported by a Saudi-led military coalition.

Shibam is controlled by the internationally-recognized government, but while it has largely been spared direct conflict, it has not escaped the effects of



An aerial picture taken on 17 October 2020, shows a view of Shibam City in Yemen's central Hadramawt governorate. PHOTO: AFP

the war.

The fighting has almost completely halted public spending.

The city, with its densely-packed tower houses and alleyways often too narrow for cars, was put on the UNESCO

heritage list in 1982 — but in 2015 it was also added to the "List of World Heritage in Danger".

It came shortly after the Saudi-led military coalition joined the war to support the government against the Huthi rebels.—AFP ■

AN INFECTION WITHOUT ANY SYMPTOMS

WHO chief in quarantine after contact tests positive for Covid-19



This handout picture taken and released by the World Health Organization on 5 October 2020 shows World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wearing a protective face mask attending a WHO executive board holds special session on the Covid-19 response at the health agency's headquarters in Geneva. **PHOTO: AFP**

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The World Health Organization chief said late Sunday that he was self-quarantining after someone he had been in contact with tested positive for Covid-19, but stressed he had no symptoms.

"I have been identified as a

contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a tweet.

"I am well and without symptoms but will self-quarantine over the coming days, in line with WHO protocols, and work from home,"

he added.

Tedros has been at the forefront of the United Nations health agency's efforts to battle the pandemic.

Covid-19 has claimed nearly 1.2 million lives and infected over 46 million people worldwide since

emerging in China late last year.

'Suppress the virus'

Tedros stressed on Twitter that "it is critically important that we all comply with health guidance."

"This is how we will break chains of #COVID19 transmission, suppress the virus, and protect health systems." The 55-year-old former Ethiopian minister of health and foreign affairs has for months reiterated that each person has a role to play in halting the spread of the virus.

The WHO urges all individuals to be careful about hand-washing, wearing masks and keeping a distance, while it calls on authorities at various levels to work to find, isolate, test and care for cases, then trace and quarantine their contacts.

His comments came as there is growing anger and exasperation over new coronavirus curbs as several European nations wound back the clocks to the spring with fresh lockdowns and restrictions aimed at halting galloping infections and deaths.

European governments are desperate to stem the worrying spike in infections.

The continent has registered more than 279,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Geneva, where WHO is headquartered, declared a fresh state of emergency on Sunday and said it would go beyond Swiss national measures and shut down all bars, restaurants and non-essential shops. Authorities in the region of some 500,000 people said the new measures were needed due to surging cases -- with more than 1,000 positive daily tests in recent days -- and also ballooning numbers of Covid-19 patients in Geneva hospitals and emergency care units. The health situation is also deteriorating in the United States, which under President Donald Trump has become one of the harshest critics of WHO and its leader over the Covid-19 response. Trump is pulling the US out of the WHO, accusing it of being a "puppet" of China and of mismanaging its handling of the global pandemic.

Already the worst-affected country with 230,586 deaths, the US also registered 776 new fatalities on Saturday, the largest number in the world, according to an AFP tally from official sources.—AFP ■

REFORM UK

'MrBrexit' Nigel Farage launches anti-lockdown party

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Nigel Farage, the driving force behind Brexit, was on Monday set to relaunch his political party as "Reform UK", with a main focus to oppose the government's coronavirus lockdowns.

The former leader of the UK Independence Party launched the Brexit Party 21 months ago to increase pressure on the government of then-prime minister Theresa May to deliver Brexit.

With Britain having left the European Union in January, the party retreated into the shadows, but the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the imposition of a second lockdown has spurred Farage to relaunch his party.

"While we are still keeping a close eye on Brexit, it is time to redirect our energies," he wrote in the Sunday Telegraph.

"The single most pressing issue is the government's woeful response to coronavirus. The

'strategy' has been to terrify the nation into submission, coupled with a barrage of lockdowns, rules, regulations and threats.

"This is no way to tackle a disease that may be around for a long time, perhaps forever," he added. Farage warned the debate over how to respond to the outbreak was "becoming even more toxic than that over Brexit", and called on the government to adopt measures seen in Sweden, which has imposed local measures rather than full lockdowns so far.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on Saturday that England would lock down again with virus cases spiralling and the death toll approaching 47,000. He also wants the party to "take on powerful vested interests" such as the unelected upper chamber of parliament the House of Lords, public sector broadcaster BBC and immigration authorities, he added.—AFP ■

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Coronavirus: latest global developments

PARIS (France) — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

Death toll tops 1.2 million

The virus has claimed at least 1,201,450 people worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally on Monday at 1100 GMT based on official sources.

More than 46,543,100 cases have been registered across the globe.

The United States remains the most affected country, with 231,003 deaths. The countries with the next-highest death tolls are Brazil with 160,074, India with 122,607, and Mexico with 91,895.

Germany shutdown begins

To curb the spike in the country, a round of shutdowns begins, which will last until the end of the month. Germans will not be confined to their homes, but bars, cafes and restaurants must close, as well as theatres, operas and cinemas.

Portugal emergency

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa says his govern-



A participant wears a bucket as protection during a demonstration against the coronavirus Covid-19 restrictions in Munich, southern Germany, on 1 November 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

ment intends to declare a health emergency enabling stricter curbs to be imposed in the fight against a surge in infections.

Prince William had virus

British media reports that Prince William, second-in-line to the British throne, contracted the virus in April but kept his diagnosis secret.

The Sun newspaper says the Duke of Cambridge, 38, was diagnosed shortly after his father, heir-

to-the-throne Prince Charles, announced he had caught the virus in late March. But he did not make the diagnosis public "because he didn't want to alarm the nation", the tabloid says.

Ryanair loss

The Irish no-frills airline says it sank into the red in the first half of its financial year due to the pandemic fallout and warns of more losses to come.—AFP ■

EFFECT OF US ELECTION ON GLOBAL EQUITY MARKET

World equities advance on eve of US election



(FILES) A pedestrian walks past a stock prices board showing numbers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 3 February 2016. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Global equity markets mostly rose Monday after last week's painful global sell-off, with attention riveted on the American presidential election and a backdrop of rising coronavirus infections across the United States and Europe.

After a hesitant start, Europe rebounded sharply as dealers shrugged off a growing number of virus lockdowns in the region, including in England, but analysts cautioned against complacency.

In late morning deals, London gained 1.2 percent while Frankfurt and Paris

each rose around 2.0 percent.

Oil prices slid as the reimposition of lockdowns caused worries about demand, while selling was fanned by a pick-up in Libyan output.

'Encouraging rebound'

"It's an encouraging rebound that we are seeing — but I am not getting carried away yet," OANDA analyst Craig Erlam told AFP.

"There are so many major risk events over the next few days," he warned, adding that a contested US vote would be "the worst possible outcome".

Asia was meanwhile buoyed by upbeat Chinese

PMI manufacturing data published over the weekend as the world's second biggest economy regains strength.

"Perhaps the PMI data is giving these markets a bit of a bump but even this is not anything to get too excited about," added Erlam.

"Europe is going back into lockdown and it may just be a matter of time until the US follows suit."

After months of rallying from March lows, equities were brought to a juddering halt in October as virus cases surged, forcing governments across Europe to reimpose tough lockdown measures, throwing a tentative eco-

nomie rebound into chaos.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the weekend said England would implement a four-week lockdown from Thursday to temper a second wave, with similar measures taken by France, Portugal, Austria, Greece and Ireland.

In addition, Germany, Spain and Italy are enforcing stricter containment measures.

This week 'could spell mayhem'

The disease is also rampant across the United States, which last week recorded a record number of infections, dealing a further blow to President Donald Trump's hopes of re-election on Tuesday.

The Republican president continues to trail Democrat opponent Joe Biden in national and battleground state polls.

"This week would have been chaotic for investors at any rate, but viewed through the intensifying pandemic lens as Covid-19 rages in the West, it could spell mayhem," said Axi strategist Stephen Innes. Polls suggest a Biden win could come with a Democratic sweep of both houses of Congress, which would likely see a huge stimulus spending package passed. A win for Republicans in either of the races is expected to result in a much smaller sum.—AFP ■

G-20'S COMPASSION TOWARDS POOR NATIONS

G-20 to agree to forgive part of poor nations' debts amid pandemic

TOKYO — Finance chiefs of the Group of 20 major economies will agree to forgive part of the debts owed by poor countries in an additional step to help them take measures against the coronavirus pandemic, sources close to the matter said Monday.

The G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors are aiming to reach the agreement when they meet online on Nov. 13. But the sources also said there is uncertainty over whether China, the developing world's biggest creditor, will commit sufficiently to the emergency scheme.

The teleconference will precede a virtual G-20

summit scheduled for Nov. 21 and 22.

The debt waiver would come on the top of an earlier G-20 agreement to suspend bilateral debt payments by developing nations through June 2021 as the battle to secure global growth amid the pandemic drags on. Under the envisaged plan, principal and new interest will be exempted depending on the economic conditions of borrowing countries, the sources said. Private lenders could be urged to participate in the scheme.

The G-20 finance chiefs said last month in a statement following their previous virtual meeting

that they had agreed on a framework going beyond just the suspension of debt servicing, signalling they were considering some debt forgiveness.

The focal point will be on whether they can ensure the effectiveness of the scheme. The United States, European nations and Japan have expressed discontent with some other G-20 members that they claim are undermining the group's initiative by classifying their state-owned financial institutions as commercial lenders. Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso has specified that China's commitment is insufficient.

The G-20 groups Ar-



Officials hoist flags of the Group of 20 nations on June 28, 2019, at the Intex Osaka convention center. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

gentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, In-

donesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea,

Turkey, the United States and the European Union.—Kyodo News ■

INDONESIA INFLATION RATE

Indonesia records 0.07 per cent inflation in

JAKARTA — Indonesia recorded 0.07 per cent inflation in October 2020, after three consecutive months of deflation, according to an official on Monday.

Head of the Central Agency of Statistics Suhariyanto said that the inflation occurred due to increasing prices of various commodities in October, namely

foods, beverages and tobacco group, clothing and footwear groups, health groups, recreation groups, sports and culture, education groups and food and beverage supply groups.

Suhariyanto noted that the inflation during January-October 2020 was recorded at 0.95 per cent, while the annual inflation

was recorded at 1.44 per cent year-on-year.

This inflation indicates an upward trend in commodity prices in Indonesia, Suhariyanto added.

Last July, Indonesia recorded deflation of 1.10 per cent. The deflation in August and September was recorded at 0.05 per cent each.—Xinhua ■

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 - (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME - KANYIN ABOUT (5353) TONS
2019-2020 EXTRACTION YEAR
 - YANGON DEPOT (2076) TONS
 - EX-DEPOT (2037) TONS
2018-2019 EXTRACTION YEAR
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US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Biden condemns Trump fans allegedly harassing campaign bus

WASHINGTON (United States) — Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden on Sunday denounced the alleged harassment of one of his campaign buses by Donald Trump supporters on a Texas highway, in an incident the FBI confirmed it is investigating.

Video posted on Twitter appears to show multiple trucks with Trump flags surrounding and slowing the Biden/Harris bus.

The president himself tweeted a video of the incident late Saturday, saying, "I LOVE TEXAS."

Democratic officials said the bus, carrying state congressional candidate Wendy Davis, stopped its journey and cancelled two planned events and a news conference, citing "safety concerns".

"We've never had anything like this -- at least we've never had a president who thinks it's a good thing," Biden told supporters in Philadelphia Sunday.

He added that the president's son, Donald Trump Jr, made a video urging backers to "keep it up", and find where Biden running mate Kamala Harris

is and greet her the same way.

"Folks, that's not who we are. We are so much better than this," Biden said.

The FBI's San Antonio office told AFP Sunday they were investigating the Texas incident but declined to give further comment.

An SUV belonging to the Democratic caravan was reportedly sideswiped. No injuries were reported, and it was unclear whether anyone involved was armed.

During a rally in Michigan, Trump explicitly embraced the action, saying that the Texas protesters were trying to "protect" the Biden bus.

And he later slammed the investigation on Twitter, insisting "these patriots did nothing wrong."

"Instead, the FBI & Justice should be investigating the terrorists, anarchists, and agitators of ANTIFA, who run around burning down our Democrat run cities and hurting our people!" he said.

Additional videos shared on Twitter showed scenes of long

traffic backups on New Jersey's Garden State Parkway and New York's Governor Mario M Cuomo Bridge and Whitestone Bridge, reportedly caused by pro-Trump drivers.

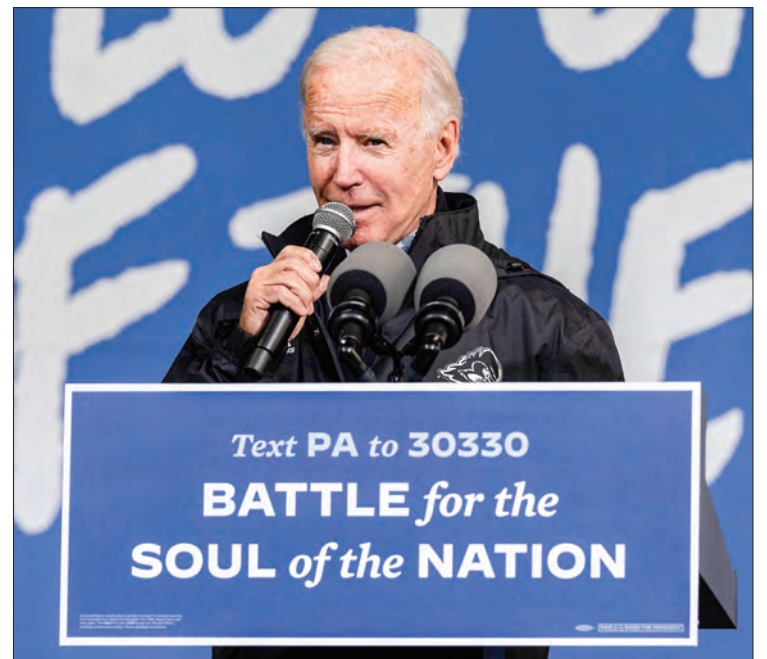
In the videos, the bridges are packed with cars covered in Trump flags.

Local media in Colorado reported that thousands of Trump fans, also driving cars covered in Trump flags, caused traffic backups on interstate highways in a show of support for the president.

The reported incidents came amid high concern about voter suppression or intimidation, and post-election violence.

Amid the continuing fears, Democratic officials in Floyd County, Georgia, said Sunday they were cancelling a campaign event after learning that a "large militia presence is expected" due to Trump's planned evening rally in the city of Rome, Georgia.

The bus was separate from a visit to Texas on Friday by Harris, whose presence was seen to show that Democrats see a chance of flipping the tradition-



Democratic Presidential Candidate Joe Biden delivers remarks during a Souls to the Polls Event at Sharon Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 1, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

ally conservative state.

"Rather than engage in productive conversation... Trump supporters in Texas (Friday) instead decided to put our staff, surrogates, supporters, and others in harm's way," Tariq Thowfeek, a Texas spokesman for the Biden campaign, told The Texas Tribune.

Local media said the incident occurred on the I-35 highway, southwest of Austin, the state capital.

The Texas Tribune quoted the state's Republican chairman, Allen West, as dismissing the incident as "fake news and propaganda", adding, "Stop bothering me". —AFP ■

FRANCE TEACHER ATTACK

France honours slain teacher as school resumes

PARIS (France) — France on Monday honoured the teacher beheaded in front of his school by a suspected Islamist radical in a murder that shocked the country, as millions of students returned to classes after the autumn break.

Schoolchildren across France were to observe a minute of silence at 11:00 am (1000

GMT) to remember Samuel Paty, who was killed in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, outside Paris, on October 16 just as the holiday began.

Paty had shown his class a cartoon of the prophet Mohammed for a lesson on freedom of expression, spurring an online campaign targeting him. His killing further set France on edge

as President Emmanuel Macron spearheads a campaign against Islamist radicalism.

On Thursday morning, three people were knifed to death in a church in the southern city of Nice in another strike the government described as an act of "Islamist" terror.

"I know your emotion after the terrorist attacks, including one in front of a school against a teacher," Macron said in a message to pupils on his Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook social media channels.

"Today, in class, you will pay homage to Samuel Paty. We will all think of him, you and your teachers," he said, adding: "The plan of terrorism is to manufacture hatred."

Prosecutors say Paty was beheaded by an 18-year-old Chechen man, AbdullakhAnzorov, who was killed by police.

Prime Minister Jean Castex was also due to travel to Conflans-Sainte-Honorine to pay his respects to Paty alongside Education Minister Jean-Michel

Blanquer.

Schools in France reopen with the country at maximum terror alert and parents told not to linger at school gates after dropping off their children.

Macron has vowed to defend the right to freedom of speech and that France will never renounce caricatures, after the furor created in the Muslim world by the republication of cartoons of the prophet Mohammed in September by the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo.

The stabbing rampage in Nice is suspected to have been carried out by BrahimIssaoui, a 21-year-old who arrived in Europe from Tunisia in September. He remains in serious condition in hospital after police shot him.

Charlie Hebdo republished the cartoons to mark the start of the trial of suspected accomplices in the 2015 massacre of its staff by Islamist gunmen. The trial was Sunday delayed for at least a week after three defendants tested positive for coronavirus. —AFP ■



Students and teachers gather at the Aragon secondary school in Muret on November 2, 2020, in homage to slain history teacher Samuel Paty, who was beheaded by an attacker for showing pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in his civics class, on October 19, 2020, in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, northwest of Paris. PHOTO: AFP

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Algeria constitution reform passes by 66.8% on record low turnout: official

ALGIERS (Algeria) — Algerians approved a revised version of the North African country's constitution with two thirds of votes cast, the electoral commission said Monday, after record low turnout in the previous day's referendum.

The revised constitution passed with 66.8 per cent of the vote, National Independent Elections Authority (ANIE) chief Mohamed Charfi told a press conference.

He had earlier announced turnout of just 23.7 per cent, a historic low for a major poll. —AFP ■

JAPAN PLEDGE TO BECOME CARBON-NEUTRAL BY 2050

Japan carbon pledge boosts hopes of ammonia backers

TOKYO (Japan) — Japan's pledge to become carbon-neutral by 2050 is offering hope to industry heavyweights pushing ammonia as the fuel of the future — but critics say the corrosive gas is still far from a clear-cut clean energy.

Burning ammonia, unlike fossil fuels, does not emit planet-warming carbon dioxide, and it is easier to transport than liquid hydrogen, also touted as a potential source of green fuel.

That has attracted the interest of a consortium of major Japanese firms, keen to launch large-scale imports into the country, which has few fossil fuel reserves and limited nuclear capacity since the Fukushima disaster.

"Ammonia is the cheapest and most viable option" for Japan, Shigeru Muraki, executive vice-president and representative director of the Green Ammonia Consortium, told AFP.

Formed last year, the consortium groups 70 major Japanese firms who hope to use ammonia first at coal power stations



This picture taken on December 11, 2019, shows a view of ammonia tanks at an industrial plant at the Jubail Industrial City, about 95 kilometres north of Dammam in Saudi Arabia's eastern province overlooking the Gulf. PHOTO: AFP

and eventually at gas plants too.

The hunt for greener fuels has new urgency after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in October set a 2050 deadline for the world's third-largest economy — still heavily coal dependent — to reach carbon neutrality.

Muraki believes ammonia could generate a tenth of Japan's electricity needs "before 2040."

But whether the gas can provide a silver bullet depends

a lot on future technological innovations, not least because most currently available methods for producing ammonia themselves emit carbon dioxide.

Grey, blue... and green?

Ammonia — composed of hydrogen and nitrogen — is already produced en masse from fossil fuels and exported worldwide to make fertiliser.

It maintains a liquid state at around -33 degrees Celsius (-27.4

degrees Fahrenheit), meaning it is much simpler and cheaper to transport than liquid hydrogen at -253 degrees Celsius.

In eco terms, the holy grail is "green" ammonia, manufactured with chemical reactions involving water, air and sustainable electricity. It is 100 percent renewable and carbon-free, according to the Royal Society, an independent scientific organisation.

Researchers hope "green" ammonia could one day power a low-carbon planet, but for now most ammonia is "grey" — extracted from natural gas or coal.

This method emits on average around 2.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide for each tonne of ammonia produced, according to the International Energy Agency — accounting for about one percent of global CO2 emissions today.

Comparing the emissions from producing grey ammonia to those from burning coal is complicated, experts say, but they agree that it won't be considered environmentally friendly unless produced renewably. —AFP

PAKISTAN'S MOVE ON GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Pakistan PM vows to make contested region a full province

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan) — Prime Minister Imran Khan has angered India after declaring that part of the contested Kashmir region will provisionally become a full province of Pakistan.

Pakistan has administered the area now known as Gilgit-Baltistan since shortly after the country's birth in 1947, but New Delhi asserts the mountainous territory bordering China and Afghanistan is an integral part of Kashmir that it claims belongs to India. "We have decided to grant provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan, which was a long-standing demand here," Khan said in a speech in Gilgit city Sunday.

The move comes after New Delhi last year imposed direct rule over Indian-administered Kashmir, upending a decades-long status quo and drawing strong condemnation from Islamabad.

Khan, who was speaking ahead of local elections slated for November 15, did not provide a timeline for the move.

China has spent years



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan addresses the legislative assembly in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir on August 5, 2020, to mark the one-year anniversary after New Delhi imposed direct rule on Indian-administered Kashmir. PHOTO: AFP

building infrastructure projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, home to an estimated 1.3 million people, including a long stretch of the Karakoram Highway, a key component to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Khan said the modern and well-maintained road had brought important progress to Gilgit-Baltistan and the move to make the area a province would help "uplift backward areas and

poor segments of society".

Any change in status would require a constitutional amendment. If finalised, it would make Gilgit-Baltistan Pakistan's fifth province.

New Delhi condemned Khan's announcement, saying it would "bring material changes to a part of Indian territory".

"Such attempts by Pakistan, intended to camouflage its illegal occupation, cannot hide the

grave human rights violations, exploitation and denial of freedom for over seven decades to the people residing in these Pakistan-occupied territories," Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Shri Anurag Srivastava said in a statement.

India and Pakistan each control parts of Kashmir and both countries accuse the other of illegal occupations.

Two of the three wars the rival neighbours have fought since independence have been over Kashmir — home to shrinking Himalayan glaciers seen as vital lifelines to the water stressed countries.

In a move that outraged Pakistan, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government last year revoked articles in the Indian constitution that guaranteed Kashmir's partial autonomy and other rights including its own flag and constitution.

The two parts of Kashmir are divided by a UN-monitored "Line of Control" that is the subject to frequent cross-border shellings. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

At least 19 students dead as gunmen storm Kabul University

KABUL (Afghanistan) — At least 19 people were killed Monday when militants stormed one of Afghanistan's main universities in a brutal, hours-long assault that saw students left in pools of blood in their classrooms.

The attack on Kabul University, which came as violence surges across Afghanistan, marked the second time in less than two weeks an educational institution was targeted in the capital.

Survivors described horrific scenes following the incident that unfolded around 11:00 am (0530 GMT) when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the campus. —AFP

Philippine govt. says Typhoon Goni killed at least 16, 3 missing

MANILA — The Philippine government said Monday that at least 16 people were killed as powerful Typhoon Goni ravaged the eastern part of the country over the weekend, adding that at least three people remain missing.

The country's Office of Civil Defense said in a statement that the deaths, including a 5-year-old boy, occurred in Catanduanes, an island province located in the Bicol Region of Luzon, and nearby Albay Province. It said most of the deaths were caused by flooding and mudslides. — Kyodo News

At least 50,000 take part in anti-France rally in Bangladesh

At least 50,000 people took part Monday in the biggest demonstration yet in Bangladesh over French President Emmanuel Macron's defence of the right to publish cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, police said. A rally which started at Bangladesh's biggest mosque was stopped from getting close to the French embassy where security has been stepped up. — AFP

FIFA ranking: Myanmar national squad stands fourth in ASEAN



Myanmar star striker Aung Thu (No. 9) carries the ball during an international friendly match against Singapore on 11 June 2019. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar men's national football team is currently standing fourth in the ASEAN region and ranked 134rd in the world with 1,081 points, according to the FIFA rankings released in October 2020.

Myanmar and Thailand moved a point up while Singapore fell a point down in the FIFA Ranking of this month.

Team Viet Nam is still standing first in ASEAN with a world ranking of 94 and 1,258 points earned.

Meanwhile, Thailand's national football team is placed second in ASEAN with FIFA ranking of 113 and 1,178 points.

The Philippines squad is third with a world ranking of 124

and 1,136 points.

Next, Malaysia national team is fifth in ASEAN and 154th in the world ranking with 1,040 points earned. In the meantime, Singapore is next with FIFA world ranking of 158 and 1,020 points.

Indonesia and Cambodia are tied in the seventh place in ASEAN with FIFA ranking of 173 and 964 points each and Laos is next in the eighth with FIFA world ranking of 188. Brunei and Timor Leste are in the ninth and tenth place with FIFA ranking of 191 and 197.

Myanmar had highest records of FIFA ranks as 97 in April 1996 and lowest as 182 in August 2012, according to the FIFA. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

'Cristiano is back': Ronaldo returns with double in Juventus win

MILAN (Italy) —Cristiano Ronaldo came off the bench to score a brace on his return from coronavirus as Juventus got back to winning ways in Serie A with a 4-1 victory against promoted Spezia on Sunday.

The champions ended a run of three consecutive draws to move third in Serie A, four points behind leaders AC Milan, who beat Udinese 2-1 earlier in the day thanks to a spectacular late winner from Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Sassuolo overtook Juventus to reclaim second spot, two points behind Milan, after a 2-0 win over Napoli, their first ever success at the Stadio San Paolo.

Ronaldo replaced Paulo Dybala in the 56th minute in Cesena with the match level after Tommaso Pobega had cancelled out Alvaro Morata's opener for Juventus.

But the Portuguese striker put Juve in front just three minutes later.

Adrien Rabiot grabbed a third on 68 minutes, with Ronaldo scoring a second from the penalty spot with 15 minutes to go for his fifth goal in three league games this season.

"Cristiano is back. This is the important thing," said Ronaldo, who had been furious at missing Juventus' Champions League 2-0 defeat in midweek by Lionel Messi's Barcelona.

"I was stopped for a long time even though I had no symptoms and felt good. Today I got back to doing what I like, playing football."

Ronaldo had been Covid-positive for 19 days after a test while on national duty with Portugal, missing four games.

The nine-time defending champions had won their open-

er against Sampdoria in September, their only league victory on the pitch, before three draws.

Between those matches they were awarded a 3-0 victory after Napoli refused to travel to Turin on October 4 because of coronavirus cases.

Before Ronaldo took to the pitch, Juventus had laboured against top-flight newcomers Spezia.

Morata netted after quarter of an hour from Weston McKennie's cross, but after seeing three goals disallowed for offside against Barca, he had another one ruled out nine minutes later.

But Pobega's deflected shot past Gianluigi Buffon pulled Spezia level after half an hour.

Ronaldo ran onto Morata's through ball before rounding the goalkeeper and tapping home to put Juve back in front.—AFP

Online Taekwondo Poomsae Championship organized

THE Myanmar Taekwondo Federation and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Myanmar jointly organized the Online Taekwondo Poomsae Championship 2020 yesterday to mark 45th Myanmar-ROK diplomatic relations.

At the virtual event, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe made opening remarks, and ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa explained the purpose of the event.

President of the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Mya Han also made a speech at the event.—Tin Soe (MyamaAlin)



Myanmar Taekwondo Federation and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea jointly organize Online Taekwondo Poomsae Championship on 2 November. **PHOTO: TIN SOE**

England put World Cup 'trauma' behind them as France shine in Six Nations

LONDON (United Kingdom) —England may have consigned some of the "trauma" of last year's World Cup final defeat to the history books by winning the 2020 Six Nations, but France could have the greatest cause for optimism after the end of a coronavirus-hit Championship.

Almost a year to the day since England lost to South Africa in the World Cup final, a 34-5

win away to Italy in Rome saw them take the Six Nations title from France on points difference, despite Les Bleus' 35-27 defeat of Ireland later on Saturday.

Back in February, before Covid-19 became an all-too-familiar phrase and Europe's major rugby union venues had not started to resemble training grounds in the absence of spectators, England opened the tournament with

a 24-17 loss to France in Paris before finding their form again.

"Losing a World Cup final can be quite traumatic and it puts a dent in you and it leaves a scar that you carry around for the rest of your life," said Jones, who should know given he was also the coach of his native Australia when they were defeated by England in the 2003 showpiece match. England's game remains based

on their familiar pack strength, with Maro Itoje and Tom Curry leading the way ahead of the upcoming Autumn Nations Cup that replaces traditional tours by the southern hemisphere giants.

"We are endeavouring to play England rugby, which is about set-piece and defence," said Jones. "Then we are looking to add to that."

Maturing France

France were on course for a Grand Slam until prop Mohamed Haouas was sent off in an eventual defeat by Scotland in March.

Yet again France paid heavily for individual indiscipline, as they had when Sebastian Vahaamahina was shown a red card during a World Cup quarter-final defeat by Wales.—AFP