

NATIONAL

Security management committee holds meeting for 2020 General Election

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends ASEAN Youth Conference

PAGE-4

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 4 November 2020

## Myanmar Hluttaw receives donation of face masks from Thai Parliament



Thai officials present 300,000 face masks for Myanmar Hluttaw on 29 October in Bangkok. PHOTO: MNA

**T**HE House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand presented 300,000 face masks to the Pyithu Hluttaw of Myanmar on 29 October.

On behalf of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than accepted the masks.

Mr Chuan Leekpai, the

Speaker of the Thai House of Representatives, also donated 2,000 masks on 24 April, and Mr Suchart Tancharoen, the First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand

handed over 60,000 masks on 26 June respectively for mitigating the situation of COVID-19 through the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.—MNA

### INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**

Myanmar nationals, seamen fly back home from abroad via ROK

PAGE-2

**NATIONAL**

10 flights land in Yangon, Mandalay with COVID-19 medical devices from China

PAGE-4

**LOCAL NEWS**

Power substations opened in Hmawby, Htantabin

PAGE-6

**LOCAL NEWS**

CTUM calls for actions against employers unless workers allowed off on Election Day

PAGE-6

**BUSINESS**

Myanmar-Thailand trade tops \$20 bln in past 4 years

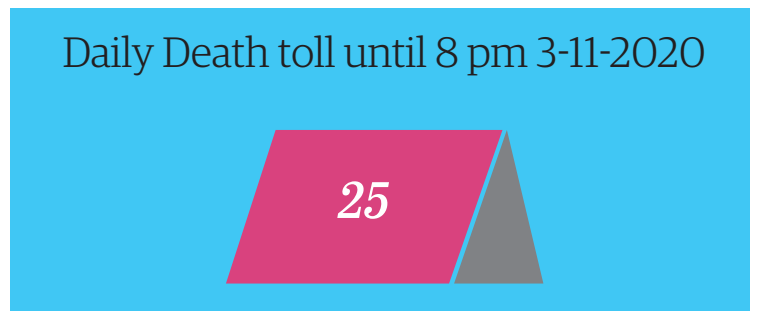
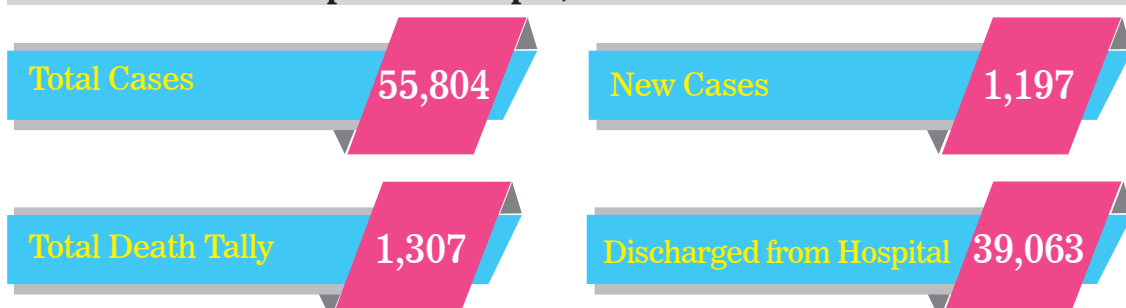


PAGE-5

## 1,197 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 November, total figure rises to 55,804

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 55,804 after 1,197 new cases were reported on 3 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 55,804 confirmed cases, 1,307 died, 39,063 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 3 November 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

## Announcement about spreading election disinformation

1. In the 2020 General Election, voters aged 60 and above cast their advance votes at the polling stations of their relevant Election Sub-commissions in accordance with the regulations.
2. The Union Election Commission would like to express thanks to the relevant negotiating committees and officials for their constructive and proper coordination in resolving difficulties encountered in the advance voting processes.
3. However, some officials from some political parties expressed (by saying, writing, or sharing posts on Facebook) that they were having problems with advance voting processes.
4. It is learnt that those information consist of not only correct information but also false facts, exaggerations, the facts that can mislead voters by concealing accurate information, and indirect facts.
5. Saying, writing or sharing incorrect information and baseless information is disrupting the voting processes and the elections, so it is a violation of section 58(d) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law.

*Union Election Commission*

## Announcement on legal actions taken against two women over electoral fraud in advance voting

1. Daw Moe Myat Thuzar, who is a middle school teacher in Shawchaung village of Sipwarchaung village-tract in Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Region, was found guilty of casting her ballots more than one time— in Sipwarchaung village-tract on 30-10-2020 and in Meitaline village-tract on 31-10-2020.
2. Daw Aye Mar Win (a) Ma Pei Pya, who is the representative of Hluttaw Candidate U Khin Maung Soe from Union Solidarity and Development Party at No.2 polling station in Myoma Ward in Hlegu Township, north district in Yangon Region, gave a tick-marked fake seal which was not issued by the Union Election Commission to Deputy Polling Station Officer Daw Tin Tin Win for casting of three voters.
3. Daw Moe Myat Thuzar who cast advance ballots two times and Daw Aye Mar Win (a) Ma Pei Pya, who gave a tick-marked fake seal, have been charged with provisions under the Section 59 of Hluttaw Election Law.

*Union Election Commission*

### Section 59 (f) of Hluttaw Election Law

IT is prohibited voting in any election at more than one 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.



## Myanmar nationals, seamen fly back home from abroad via ROK



Myanmar nationals queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 3 November. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR Airways International flew 103 Myanmar nationals back home by its 29<sup>th</sup> relief flight, organized by Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, yesterday evening.

The group of these Myanmar returnees included 2 from South Africa, 2 from Canada, 3 from Brazil, 3 from Britain, 2 from Indonesia, 10 from the United States and 81 from the Republic of Korea. A chartered relief flight, organized by Myan-

mar Embassy in Seoul and the Myanmar Seamen's Federation, landed at the Yangon International Airport with 145 seamen who have expired their employment contracts with their shipping lines, in the same evening.

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

# 2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



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

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

**2020**  
General Election  
Sunday, 8 November 2020

**DAYS**

**4**

## Security management committee holds meeting for 2020 General Election

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, in his capacity as the Chairman of Security Management Central Committee on 2020 General Election, presided over a coordination meeting of the committee at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday via videoconferencing.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the Committee Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, Deputy Ministers from the respective ministries, Security and Border Affairs Ministers from the region and state governments, the Permanent Secretary, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force and the directors-general of relevant departments.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed security measures and procedures during the election period. And the attendees at the meeting discussed prevention of the spread of misinformation on social media, visit of international election observers and formation of emergency management committees.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut chairs meeting of Security Management Central Committee on 2020 General Election, on 3 November.  
**PHOTO: MNA**



## Substitute day to be granted for Deepavali National Holiday

THE Deepavali National Holiday will fall on 14 November (Saturday) this year (14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut ME 1382).

By the Order 76/2020 of Union Government (dated 3 November), the following working day of 13 November (Friday) will be substituted as a holiday, and that 13 and 14 November will be proclaimed as the public holidays under the Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Acts.—MNA

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

CAMPAIGN speeches of Mon Unity Party and New Democracy Party (Kachin) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 4 November for the second time. — MNA

## 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.



## 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 8<sup>th</sup> April.—MNA

**In the foreign investment sector, our country is relatively better than in 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 in 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)*



**Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends ASEAN Youth Conference**



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye participates in ASEAN Youth Conference online on 3 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye joined the ASEAN Youth Conference presided

over by Viet Nam, as the current ASEAN chair via videoconferencing yesterday afternoon. Present at the meeting were

Secretary-General of ASEAN and Ministers for Youth Affairs in ASEAN countries. During the meeting, Pres-

ident of Viet Nam Youth Federation Minister Mr Nguyen Anh Tuan and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Dato Lim Jock Hoi respectively made an opening speech and remark on development of youth affairs in ASEAN regions.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presented the plans for the development of youths in Myanmar, youth policy drafted in 2016, approval of youth policy containing the majority of young representatives on 8 November 2017, the introduction of youth policy by the State Counsellor on 5 January 2018, the active performance of youths in COVID-19 measures, formation of National-Level Volunteer Steering Committee by the State government to provide and to give training to the volunteers including the youths, publishing of volunteer handbook, appreciation of volunteers and civil society organizations, efforts of the government to achieve more youth participation in the tran-

sition processes for democracy, peace and for the establishment of democratic federal union.

He also discussed the importance of innovative ideas and technologies in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world, formation of youth networks in many places of Myanmar, being ready to communicate with the youths of ASEAN regions in implementing the ASEAN affairs, organizing of ASEAN (Myanmar) with 2 young representatives as secretary and joint-secretary, plans to link with ASEAN countries for the youth exchange programme, innovation programmes and expos, work plans for the development of youths and supports for ASEAN youth networks.

The conference then proceeded and approved a joint statement by the ASEAN Youth Affairs Ministers for the promotion of youth cooperation among ASEAN countries.—MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

**10 flights land in Yangon, Mandalay with COVID-19 medical devices from China**

More COVID-19 medical devices to be used in multiparty democ-

racy elections on 8 November reached Myanmar yesterday.

Seven special flights landed in Yangon and three in Mandalay,

carrying KN95 masks, boots and PPE medical protective clothing

sets for voters, polling station staff and volunteers.—MNA



Officials are checking unloading of COVID-19 medical devices from China at Mandalay International Airport on 3 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



COVID-19 medical devices imported from China arrive in Yangon on 3 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Myanmar-Thailand trade tops \$20 bln in past 4 years

THE value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with neighbouring country Thailand in maritime trade and border trade was estimated at US\$18.865 billion in the past four financial years, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry indicated.

The ministry reported that exports surpassed imports in trade with Thailand in the past four years, with exports reaching over \$10.731 billion and imports valued at over \$8.13 billion.

Between 2016-2017FY and 2019-2020 (as of August), Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade partner among the ASEAN states, followed by Singapore and Malaysia.

Thailand accounted for 14.45 pc of total trade in 2016-2017FY with an estimated trade value of US\$4.6 billion, 15.54 pc in 2017-2018FY with a trade value of \$5.57 billion, 15.55 pc in 2018-2019FY



Trucks seen at the trade zone at Myawady border post. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

with \$5.46 billion and 13.92 pc in 2019-2020FY (Oct-April) with \$3.15 billion respectively.

Exports of natural gas from Taninthayi Region has contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand in the previous year. This year, corn

exports to Thailand rose significantly compared with the earlier years, the Ministry of Commerce stated. Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corns, bamboo

shoots, sesame seeds, garment, footwear, plywood and veneer, broken rice and other commodities to Thailand.

It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such

as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products from the neighbouring country.

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Myeik, Mawtaung, Hteekhee, Kawthoung and Maese border areas respectively. Among them, Hteekhee performed the most extensive trade in border trade with Thailand, followed by Myawady.

Nevertheless, the surge in coronavirus cases in Myanmar led Thailand to close the border areas. Consequently, the trade via land border sharply fell in the current FY 2020-2021.

Apart from its leading trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was mostly carried out with the regional trade partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners. - Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Companies registered on MyCO exceed 12,000 in 10 months this year

By Nyein Nyein

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached over 12,000 in the past ten months (January-October) 2020, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Typically, over 1,000 new companies are registered every month. This year, the figures of registered companies stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February and 1,015 in March, only 348 companies in April, 798 in May, 1,314 in June, 1,650 in July, 1,551 in August, 1,378 in September and 1,693 in October, as per statistics of the DICA.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA. When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies registered on MyCO. The figure stood at 2,218 in September 2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November, 1,364 in December, 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, and over 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August and 1,181 in September. The figures reached a fresh new peak of 2,059 in October 2019. Then, 1,615 new companies in November and 1,772 in December 2019 were recorded, data of the DICA showed.

Since the establishment of the online registry platform, 38,340 new companies and 46,377 existing companies have registered and re-registered on MyCO, bringing

the total number of registered companies to 84,717 by October-end.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017. According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

More than 16,000 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their position only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the Register, according to the DICA notice. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Sino-Myanmar trade flow grows since early Oct despite delay at border

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH the flow of the trade at Sino-Myanmar border is delayed, the trade flow has grown since early October, said U Min Thein, the vice-chairman of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

"The Sino-Myanmar border trade has improved significantly since 8 October. Around 50 trucks carrying 640 rice bags each are entering through the border daily. So, around 32,000 rice bags are entering daily. And more than 30,000 rice bags are sold to China daily. Similarly, the corn has been permitted to enter as well. Around 30 trucks carrying corn bags are entering as well as other trucks carrying a variety of beans, sugar liquid and other goods are also entering every day. About 150 trucks are entering China daily," he further said.

Likewise, about 150 trucks from China carrying construction materials, medicines, food products and other personal goods are entering Myanmar.

Although around 450-500 truckloads of cargo were not unusual earlier, now, only around 150 trucks can go through the border, and this has caused delays in trade. There is difficulty in the flow of goods into China because of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 detecting and replacing the drivers, he added.

"There is a delay of the goods flow. The drivers started having the COVID-19 tested since mid-October.

For example, in Mandalay, there are five checkpoints to test the COVID-19 for Mandalay-Muse trucks' drivers. Earlier, it was a three-day trip to Mandalay-Muse. Now, one truckload has to go for a six-day trip, which is three more days. It is a ten-day trip to reach Shweli through 105<sup>th</sup> Mile. Early, it was only a five-day trip to reach Shweli from Mandalay. Now, we have to take at least 16 or 17 days to reach Shweli. Now, we are facing many difficulties; however, the trucks are entering as usual," he explained.

Muse Highway Freight Forwarders Association requested Myanmar truck drivers to enter China because some of Myanmar's export products such as fruits and aquaculture products have to go through delays and some shipments suffer spoilage as a result of China's restriction for security reasons.

China has locked down a city on the border with Myanmar except for hospitals and shopping centres in Shweli on 14 September after authorities detected new coronavirus cases there on 12 September.

Besides, China's Customs office was also suspended beginning from 15 September, and the Sino-Myanmar border economy has stopped completely. However, China reopened its Customs office at Shweli border crossing on 22 September, and the bilateral trade has been resumed.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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**CHIEF EDITOR**Aungthu Ya  
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm**DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR**Aye Min Soe  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Aung Khin

**LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS****EDITORS**Ye Htut Tin  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Aung Htein  
Tun Tun Naing  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR TRANSLATOR**

Zaw Htet Oo

**TRANSLATORS**Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,  
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar  
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,  
Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,  
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,  
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
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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.

## Power substations opened in Hmawby, Htantabin

Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and a Hluttaw Representative open a 33/11 kV 5 MVA substation on 3 November. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

YANGON region government Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun inaugurated the three power substations in Hmawby and Htantabin townships in Yangon Region on 3 November morning.

The two 33/11 kV 5 MVA power substations are located in Hmawby Township, that were constructed by Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation. The chief minister and party then reached 33/11 KV 5 MVA substations (Tatthit Kyun) in Htantabin Township, Yangon Region at 11 am and formally opened the power substation. After completion of the projects under the National Electrification Plan, a total of 1,425,636 households (85.91 per cent) in Yangon Region will be electrified up to 2020-2021 Financial Year.—Myint Maung

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## CTUM calls for actions against employers unless workers allowed off on Election Day

By Nyein Nyein

THE Confederation of Trade Unions in Myanmar (CTUM) asked the government to take action against those employers or executives under the existing laws if the workers are forced to work overtime and not allowed off to vote for the 2020 Myanmar General Election which is scheduled to hold on 8 November 2020.

Myanmar scheduled to hold its general election on 8 November, and it falls on Sunday which is a non-busi-

ness day.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, Hluttaw Election Law, Hluttaw Election By-Law, 2020 Union Election Commission's notifications, the person who threatens or limits the ability of the voters to exercise the voter right or who suppress the vote will be taken actions under the existing laws.

Some workplaces, factories and work establishments are alleged to make their workers work overtime on that day. It is the suppres-

sion of the rights to vote, the CTUM stated.

Therefore, the CTUM has notified the workers and executives not to ask the workers to work overtime as it is meant to violate the notifications and rules under the existing laws.

Every citizen has the fundamental right to vote. It is considered the duty of the citizens, and we must protect voting rights.

The workers are also required to report to the respective election commission if the voter suppression is

found and if they are forced to work and not allowed off to vote on the election day. They must realize that the voting rights are protected by the country under the law, as per the CTUM's press statement.

The CTUM requested the sub-commissions at the state and region, district, township and ward/village levels to ensure every eligible worker has the rights to vote and take action against employers who limit the ability of the voters under the existing laws.

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Banana growers upset despite high yield

BANANA growers are unhappy because there is no demand from the traders even if there is a high yield of banana. Now, the growers are worried about getting the return on the investment costs of cultivation of the banana, according to the local banana growers.

"The banana yield has been high starting from the first week

of October in Nay Pyi Taw. Earlier, we earned K1.5 million per acre of banana plants. Now, the bananas are sold at retail price, and thus the farmers make K600,000 per acre. A bunch of bananas is sold for K500 in the retail market.

We earn income from the banana depending upon the type and size. The famous banana

among the consumers is Phee Gyan and Thee Hmwe species. Some species of bananas are challenging to sell well, even in the retail market. Now, we don't have demand from the traders, and it is difficult to get back even the costs of cultivation", said a local banana grower from Nay Pyi Taw.

There are more than

220,000 banana plantations across the country, and most of them are grown in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady Region, Mandalay Region, Kayin State and Shan State.

The banana is mostly grown in June and July and plucked between October and January.

—Aye Maung  
*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

09251022355

US VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

## Prayers for Kamala Harris at ancestral Indian village

VILLAGERS from the southern Indian ancestral home of US vice-president hopeful Kamala Harris prayed Tuesday for her victory in an election on the other side of the globe as polls opened.

Harris, 56, was born in California, but was often taken to India by her mother – breast cancer specialist Shyamala Gopalan – and has spoken about the positive influence of her grandfather.

Her maternal grandfather P.V. Gopalan, a senior Indian civil servant, was born in Thulasendrapuram village in Tamil Nadu state.

At the village's main temple Tuesday, some 60 locals offered prayers, bathed an idol of Dharma Sastha – an avatar of Hindu god Ayyappan – and served food as part of a ceremony.

SOURCE: AFP

WINNING BIG?

## On US election day, Trump says he feels 'very good' about chances

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he felt good about his chances for victory as US election day opened Tuesday, predicting that he would register big wins in key states such as Florida and Arizona.

"We feel very good," a hoarse-voiced Trump told Fox News in a phone interview.

Trump said he expected victory in all the key states that will decide the election, but said he would not "play games" by declaring his win too early. "We think we are winning Texas very big. We think we are winning Florida very big. We think we

are winning Arizona very big," he said.

"I think we are going to do very well in North Carolina. I think we are going to do well in Pennsylvania. We think we are doing very well everywhere."

Running behind in most opinion polls, Trump bashed Democratic opponent Joe Biden, "biased" media and the "extreme" left as he repeated his argument for reelection to four more years in the White House.

"Joe Biden is not prime time," he said.

SOURCE: AFP



Trump said he expected victory in all the key states that will decide the election, but said he would not "play games" by declaring his win too early. PHOTO: AFP

UNDERGOING THIRD-PHASE TRIALS

## Dubai ruler joins coronavirus vaccine trial

DUBAI ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum said Tuesday he had received an experimental coronavirus vaccine, becoming the latest United Arab Emirates official to take part in the trials.

Two vaccines are undergo-

ing third-phase trials in the UAE, one produced by Chinese drug giant Sinopharm, and Russia's Sputnik-V, named after the Soviet-era satellite. "While receiving the COVID-19 vaccine today," Sheikh Mohammed captioned a photograph of himself he posted

on Twitter with his sleeve rolled up, as a healthcare worker in full protective equipment administered the injection. "We wish everyone safety and great health, and we are proud of our teams who have worked relentlessly to make the vaccine availa-

ble in the UAE," he said, without specifying which vaccine he took. Chinese drug giant Sinopharm began the third phase of trials for a Covid-19 vaccine in the UAE in July and Emirati officials say the results have been positive.

SOURCE: AFP

TRUMP VS. BIDEN

## Biden leads in polls going into Election Day but battlegrounds tight

DEMOCRAT Joe Biden leads in the national polls and most of the battleground states going into Election Day but President Donald Trump is insisting they're wrong and he'll repeat his upset victory of 2016.

Biden, the 77-year-old former vice president, has enjoyed a solid lead over Trump, 74, in the national polls for months, at times reaching double digits.

But US presidential elections are not decided by the popular vote.

They are won in the 538-member Electoral College, where each state has a number of electoral votes equivalent to its representation in the House and Senate.

And the electoral votes of battleground states such as Florida and Pennsylvania could determine the winner of Tuesday's battle for the White House.

Here is a look at the latest national polls and polls in key battleground states:

### National polls

An average of national polls by the RealClearPolitics (RCP) website gives Biden a 6.7 point



Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex in Miami, Florida on October 5, 2020. PHOTO: ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP

lead over Trump – 51 per cent to 44.3 per cent.

That is roughly in line with the averages of other leading outlets such as FiveThirtyEight.com, which has Biden up by 8.5 points nationally.

### Florida

In Florida, Biden has a one-point lead over Trump, according to the RCP average of state polls.

A Siena College/New York Times poll has Biden up by three points in the Sunshine State but a Washington Post/ABC News poll has the Republican incumbent up by two points.

### Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, Biden has a 4.3-point lead, according to the RCP average of polls in the Keystone State, which has 20

electoral votes.

Trump won Pennsylvania by just 44,000 votes in 2016 and his reelection hopes could hang on taking the state again.

### Michigan, Wisconsin

Michigan and Wisconsin are two Midwestern states Trump won narrowly in 2016 but the RCP averages have him trailing in both this time.

### Arizona, North Carolina

The battleground states of Arizona and North Carolina, both of which Trump won in 2016, are also being closely watched.

According to the RCP averages, Biden has a one-point lead in Arizona, which has 11 electoral votes, while Trump leads by 0.6 points in North Carolina, which has 15 electoral votes.

### Georgia, Iowa, Ohio, Texas

Four other states are also being closely watched this time – Georgia (16 electoral votes), Iowa (six), Ohio (18) and Texas (38).

Trump won all four states relatively easily in 2016 but the polls are showing close races there this time.

Biden is up by 0.4 points in Georgia, according to the RCP average, a state Trump won by 5.1 points in 2016.

Trump is up by 1.4 points in Iowa – he won by 9.4 points four years ago – and by 0.2 points in Ohio, a significantly smaller margin than his 8.1-point win last time around.

SOURCE: AFP

# Any attempt to disrupt general elections is intolerable

**T**HE 2020 General Election has already started with nationwide advance voting.

Electoral disputes that occurred along with the advance voting have been settled through negotiations.

The UEC announced yesterday that an eligible advance voter from Mawlamyaingyun Township has been charged for fraud for voting two times.

Meanwhile, a polling station representative of a candidate of the Union Solidarity and Development Party in Hlegu Township, Yangon (North) District, has also been charged for giving a seal, which has not been issued by the Union Election Commission to the polling stations, to the polling station official to be used for advance voting.

Section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law has prohibited giving speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distributing or using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. 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 both. However, there are some officials of some political parties who have not been following the law by spreading disinformation on social media about the advance voting, though the authorities are enforcing these rules to keep the general elections smooth, free, fair and safe.

UEC has warned that those who spread disinformation or attempt by other means to disturb the voting or election can face fines and even prison time, or both under Section-58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law.

The issue of social media and disinformation has gained increasing attention as a fundamental threat to the integrity of elections worldwide.

Fake news, hate speech and disinformation on popular social media platforms, which are rampant in this age of misinformation, become challenges which can disrupt elections anywhere in the world.

In Myanmar, the number of social media users has increased from 7 million in 2015 to 21 million in 2020. Coupled with the increase in the number of social media users, it is getting harder and harder for people to distinguish between correct news and fake news on social media platforms.

We need to be on the alert about their potential to disrupt the democratic process. We need to prevent them, and when they occur, we need to be quick to react.

To end fake news, disinformation and hate speech, we all must observe the code of ethics, written with the consensus of all. The most important and effective way is the observation of morality and civic rules by each citizen.

We must not tolerate voter disinformation.



## PREVENTING FUTURE PANDEMICS: WHAT MORE COULD BE DONE?

# Future pandemics likely to be deadlier and more frequent, warns UN panel

*The United Nations Biodiversity Panel has warned that future pandemic will be more deadlier than the prevailing COVID-19. It said over 800,000 viruses, like the novel coronavirus, may be able to infect millions of people across the world. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) said the doom has been brought by the humans themselves through habitat destruction and insatiable consumption. COVID-19 is the sixth such pandemic since the 1918s influenza outbreak.*

**F**UTURE pandemics will happen more often, kill more people and wreak even worse damage to the global economy than Covid-19 without a fundamental shift in how humans treat nature, the United Nations' biodiversity panel said Thursday.

Warning that there are up to 850,000 viruses which, like the novel coronavirus, exist in animals and may be able to infect people, the panel known as IPBES said pandemics represented an "existential threat" to humanity.

Authors of the special report on biodiversity and pandemics said that habitat destruction and insatiable consumption made animal-borne diseases far more likely to make the jump to people in the future.

"There is no great mystery about the cause of the Covid-19 pandemic — or any modern pandemic," said Peter Daszak, president of the Ecohealth Alliance and chair of the IPBES workshop that drafted the report.

"The same human activities that drive climate change and biodiversity loss also drive pandemic

risk though their impacts on our agriculture."

The panel said that Covid-19 was the sixth pandemic since the influenza outbreak of 1918 — all of which had been "entirely driven by human activities".

These include unsustainable exploitation of the environment through deforestation, agricultural expansion, wildlife trade and consumption — all of which put humans in increasingly close contact with wild and farmed animals and the diseases they harbour.

Seventy per cent of emerging diseases — such as Ebola, Zika and HIV/AIDS — are zoonotic in origin, meaning they circulate in animals before jumping to humans.

Around five new diseases break out among humans every single year, any one of which has the potential to become a pandemic, the panel warned.

### Land use

IPBES said in its periodic assessment on the state of nature last year that more than three-quarters of land on Earth had already been severely degraded by human activity.

One-third of land surface and three-quarters of fresh water on the planet is currently taken up by farming, and humanity's resource use has rocketed up 80 per cent in just three decades, it said.

IPBES conducted a virtual workshop with 22 leading experts to come up with a list of options that governments could take to lower the risk of repeat pandemics.

It acknowledged the difficulty in counting the full economic cost of Covid-19.

But the assessment pointed to estimated costs as high as \$16 trillion as of July 2020.

The experts said that the cost of preventing future pandemics was likely to be 100 times cheaper than responding to them, "providing strong economic incentives for transformative change".

"Our approach has effectively stagnated," Daszak said.

"We still rely on attempts to contain and control diseases after they emerge, through vaccines and therapeutics."

### 'Withering reminder'

The IPBES suggested a global, coordinated pandemic re-



A researcher works on a vaccine against the new COVID-19 virus at the Copenhagen University research lab in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 23 March, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

sponse, and for countries to agree upon targets to prevent biodiversity loss within an international accord similar to the Paris agreement on climate change.

Among the options for policymakers to reduce the likelihood of a Covid-19 re-run are taxes or levies on meat consumption, livestock production and other forms of "high pandemic-risk activities".

The assessment also suggest-

ed better regulation of international wildlife trade and empowering indigenous communities to better preserve wild habitats.

Nick Ostle, a researcher at the CEH Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, said the IPBES' assessment should serve as a "withering reminder" of how reliant humanity is on nature.

"Our health, wealth and well-being relies on the health, wealth

and wellbeing of our environment," said Ostle, who was not involved in the research process.

"The challenges of this pandemic have highlighted the importance of protecting and restoring our globally important and shared environmental 'life-support' systems."

SOURCE: AFP



## TYPICAL RISK GROUPS ARE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

# WHO highlights influenza risk for young children, pregnant women during COVID-19

*It's still unknown how the coming influenza season in the Northern Hemisphere is to unfold. However, strong surveillance systems for influenza are already in place and are still working even during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**E**XPERTS from the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted on Monday the influenza risk for young children and pregnant women during the COVID-19 pandemic, calling for strong surveillance and testing.

Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead for WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said at a WHO press briefing on Monday that it's still unknown how the coming influenza season in the Northern Hemisphere is to unfold. However, strong surveillance systems for influenza are already in place and are still working even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She recommended that people at

high risk for influenza take vaccinations this year as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage.

Her view was echoed by Janet Diaz, the WHO Clinical Management Lead, who emphasized that surveillance is the key against the influenza season, and that although influenza and COVID-19 do have common symptoms, there are still some differences.

She highlighted that young children and pregnant women are at risk from severe disease with influenza but not showing severe disease in COVID-19. If the two groups show symptoms of acute respiratory infection, they need to be tested first before taking



A school staff member distributes hand-cleansing gel among students returning from Halloween break in Antibes, southern France, Nov. 2, 2020. PHOTO: SERGE HAOUIZ/XINHUA

different treatment pathways.

She added that another difference is corticosteroid, which is right now used for the treatment of COVID-19 and can reduce the mortality in patients with severe and critical COVID-19. But she highlighted the risk of corticosteroid in influenza, saying there has been concern that corticosteroid can actually increase viral replication.

She believes it's important to first understand when influenza is starting to circulate in communities, and then put on differential diagnosis based on the knowledge of difference in severity and treatment pathways between influenza and COVID-19.

Meanwhile, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday confirmed on Twitter that he has been identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. "I am well and without symptoms but will self-quarantine over the coming days, in line with WHO protocols, and work from home," wrote the WHO chief.

According to Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, the WHO chief is currently very well and continuing to work from home.

SOURCE: Xinhua



**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 3 November, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 4 November, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kachin, (Northern and Southern) Shan, Chin States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Taninthayi Regions and Eastern Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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## SAVING ANGKOR WAT

## Cambodia's ninja gardeners tame jungle growth



Angkor Archaeological Park was Cambodia's most popular tourist destination before the coronavirus pandemic seized up global travel **PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY/AFP**

STACKING a ladder against the towering spires of Cambodia's archaeological marvel Angkor Wat, Chhoeurm Try gingerly scales the temple's exterior to hack away foliage before it damages the ancient facade.

The 50-year-old is part of a crack team of gardeners ensuring the kingdom's most valued heritage site is not strangled by overgrown tree saplings sprouting from the sandstone's cracks.

For two decades, Chhoeurm Try has made the treacherous climbs barefoot up to Angkor Wat's central tower, which rises 65 metres high (213 feet) above the archaeological complex in the northern city of Siem Reap.

"If we make a mistake, we will not survive," he tells AFP after returning to the ground.

But he soldiers on, aware that the fight to hack away tough

roots is an ongoing battle against nature.

"When the sapling trees grow bigger, their roots go deep and cause the stones to fall apart," he says.

Preserving the dozens of temples at Angkor Archaeological Park is a delicate year-round job taken on by the 30-member team.

The world heritage site contains monuments dating from the 9th to 15th century, and was Cambodia's most popular tourist destination before the coronavirus pandemic seized up global travel.

"We love and want to preserve the temples," Chhoeurm Try says. "If we don't preserve them... the younger generation would not get a chance to see them."

SOURCE: AFP

GROUNDBREAKING  
TECHTunisian  
startup 3D  
prints solar-  
powered  
bionic hands

A Tunisian startup is developing a 3D-printed bionic hand, hoping the affordable and solar-powered prosthetic will help amputees and other disabled people across Africa.

Unlike traditional devices, the artificial hand can be customised for children and youths, who otherwise require an expensive series of resized models as they grow up.

The company Cure Bionics also has plans to develop a video game-like virtual reality system that helps youngsters learn how to use the artificial hand through physical therapy. Mohamed Dhaouafi, the 28-year-old founder and CEO of Cure Bionics, designed his first prototype while still an engineering student in his home city Sousse.

"One team member had a cousin who was born without a hand and whose parents couldn't afford a prosthesis, especially as she was still growing up," he said.

SOURCE: AFP

## IN THE HEAT OF POLITICAL CRISIS

## Belarus launches nuclear plant despite Baltic outcry

BELARUS on Tuesday launched its controversial Russia-built nuclear power station despite safety concerns from neighbouring Baltic states three decades after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The launch comes as Belarus strongman president Alexander Lukashenko faces historic protests against his claim to victory in August presidential polls that Western leaders and his critics say were fraudulent.

Ahead of the vote, Lukashenko hailed the plant -- commissioned to ease the country's dependence on energy imports -- as a "breakthrough into the future".

"The turbo generator of the first reactor of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant was connected to the unified electricity system of

the country," the Belarus energy ministry said. The power station has proved divisive over safety concerns and due to its location around 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the border with EU and NATO member Lithuania.

Lithuania's Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius criticised the launch saying it had gone ahead despite unresolved safety issues and described the energy project as "geopolitical".

The EU and the international community "simply cannot stay indifferent to such cynical ignorance," Linkevicius wrote on Twitter. Lithuania said it had immediately stopped electricity imports from Belarus and neighbouring Latvia said it had also blocked imports of energy gen-

erated at the plant. The government in Vilnius has also offered free iodine tablets to around half a million people living close to the

Belarus border to help protect them from radiation in case of an accident.

SOURCE: AFP



Belarus's new nuclear power plant, pictured here while still under construction, is located close to the border of Lithuania and its capital Vilnius. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese nuclear regulator's  
website becomes inaccessible

THE Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan said Tuesday its official website became inaccessible possibly due to cyberattacks.

The incident comes a week after the regulatory body's intranet had an unauthorized access from outside.

According to the NRA, the government's cybersecurity institute notified it of the website disruption on Tuesday afternoon. There was no abnormality when the NRA updated the website Monday evening, it said. The website remained inaccessible for hours, but the problem was resolved by around 8:30 p.m., the NRA said.

SOURCE: KYODO

## HUGE EFFORT

Sri Lanka rescues 120 whales  
after mass stranding

SRI Lanka's navy and volunteers rescued 120 pilot whales stranded in the country's biggest mass beaching, but at least two injured animals were found dead, officials said.

Sailors from the navy and the coastguard along with local volunteers pushed back at least 120 whales by dawn Tuesday after a gruelling overnight rescue, navy spokesman Indika de Silva said.

The school of short-finned pilot whales washed ashore at Panadura, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Colombo, since Monday afternoon in the biggest-ever mass stranding of whales on the island.

SOURCE: AFP

AUDIT WARNING

## Lebanon PM urges central bank to hand over documents for audit



Protesters march on the fortified headquarters of Lebanon's central bank whose policies have been widely blamed for the country's plummeting currency and ballooning sovereign debt. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

LEBANON'S caretaker prime minister Hassan Diab urged the central bank on Tuesday to hand over missing documents needed for a forensic audit demanded by international creditors.

In September, New York based firm Alvarez and Marsal started a forensic audit of the Bank of Lebanon as part of measures towards reforms to lift the country out of its worst economic crisis in decades.

It set November 3 as a deadline for the bank to provide it with all information needed for the review, a source at the finance ministry said.

But the central bank has handed over less than half of the documents required to proceed with the audit.

It says provisions of the Code of Money and Credit and the Banking Secrecy Law bar it from releasing the rest.

"Today what is needed is for the Bank of Lebanon to give the forensic audit firm the documents and information it has requested, so that this audit can start to uncover the financial facts and causes of this collapse," Diab said in a statement.

He argued the Banking Secrecy Law does not apply to state accounts.

"Any attempt to obstruct the forensic audit is tantamount to sharing responsibility for causing the suffering of the Lebanese people," he said.

It was not immediately clear what would happen if Alvarez and Marsal did not receive all the information it had requested.

Diab's government has repeatedly accused central bank chief Riad Salameh of being responsible for the collapse of the Lebanese pound.

SOURCE: AFP

PANDEMIC UNCERTAINTY

## Cash-strapped Nepal renews call to foreigners seeking adventures

NEPAL on Tuesday said for the second time in three months it is open to foreign mountaineers and trekkers after a reopening of mountaineering in late July failed to attract foreign climbers in the autumn climbing season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only a special expedition of Bahraini Prince Sheikh Mohamed Hamad Mohamed Al Khalifa took advantage of the reopening by climbing Mt. Manaslu in mid-October, while another team of Prince of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani is currently attempting to ascend Mt. Amadablam.

Rudra Singh Tamang, director general of the Tourism De-

partment, told Kyodo News that his department will allow only those foreigners who can furnish negative coronavirus tests taken in their home country before departure, stay in quarantine for a week after arriving in Kathmandu and then produce a second negative coronavirus test here to take part in climbing expeditions.

"Apart from this, they will be required to stick to their itinerary and will be required to leave Nepal after their expedition is over," Tamang said. Expedition staff will also need to follow the protocol.

Trekkers will also be required to follow a similar health protocol and will have to hire a local guide and porter. Tuesday's

call by the department is aimed more at salvaging the spring climbing season next year. Spring attracts hordes of mountaineers to Nepal's taller mountains, including Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak. The season was canceled this year due to the pandemic. Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 highest peaks. The fate of the spring climbing season next year will depend on how the coronavirus pandemic unfolds. Nepal confirmed its first coronavirus case in January and the first death from the virus in May. The number of infections has climbed to 176,500, while the death toll stands at 984.

SOURCE: KYODO

ARGYLE MINE STOPS PRODUCTION

## Not forever: world's biggest pink diamond mine closes



The Argyle mine, in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia, churned out more than 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds -- sought after for their incredible rarity. PHOTO: AFP

THE world's largest pink diamond mine has shut its doors after exhausting its reserves of the expensive gems, global mining giant Rio Tinto said Tuesday.

The Argyle mine, in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia, churned out more than 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds -- sought after for their incredible rarity.

The seam was discovered in 1979 and the Anglo-Australian firm began mining operations there four years later.

It has since produced more than 865 million carats of rough diamonds, including a small but steady stream of prized pink stones, according to Rio Tinto.

Argyle employees and indigenous landowners attended a ceremony at the shuttered mine to mark the end of operations.

The company expects efforts to decommission and dismantle the 37-year-old site will take around five years.

"A new chapter will now begin as we start the process of respectfully closing the Argyle mine and rehabilitating the land, to be handed back to its traditional custodians," mine manager Andrew Wilson said.

Over the past two decades, the value of pink diamonds has risen by 500 per cent, Rio Tinto's Sinead Kaufman told public broadcaster ABC.

SOURCE: AFP

SLUMP

## Saudi Aramco profits dive in coronavirus-hit third quarter

ENERGY giant Saudi Aramco on Tuesday posted a 44.6 per cent slump in third-quarter profit, as the coronavirus pandemic weighs heavily on the global demand for crude oil.

Aramco, seen as Saudi Arabia's cash cow, has revealed consecutive falls in quarterly profits since it began disclosing earnings last year, piling pressure on government finances as it

pursues ambitious multi-billion dollar projects to diversify the oil-reliant economy.

The world's most valuable listed company said it was committed to a bumper dividend even as third quarter net profits dropped to 44.21 billion Saudi riyals (\$11.79 billion), compared to \$21.3 billion in the same period last year.

Aramco's net profit for the

first nine months of this year also dropped 48.6 per cent to \$35.02 billion, the company said.

The latest results are in line with analysts' expectations but stand in contrast to the losses reported by Aramco's rivals, which are reeling from pandemic-driven economic shutdowns that have suppressed energy requirements.

SOURCE: AFP

## COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION

## Russia's Putin condemns 'cruel and cynical' Vienna attacks



Opera guests walk past policemen after leaving the state opera in the centre of Vienna following a shooting. **PHOTO: JOE KLAMAR/AFP**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday called the Vienna shooting a “cruel and

cynical” crime in a condolences telegram to the Austrian leadership.

Four people were killed in multiple shootings in Vienna on Monday evening in what Austri-

an Chancellor Sebastian Kurz described as a “repulsive terror attack”.

In the telegram to Kurz and Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen, Putin “strongly condemned the cruel and cynical crime which once again confirmed the inhumane nature of terrorism”.

He “expressed confidence that forces of terror will not be able to threaten anyone or sow discord and enmity among people of different religions”, said a statement on the Kremlin website.

“Putin confirmed Russia’s readiness to step up cooperation with Austria and other members of the global community in the fight against all forms and manifestations of terrorism,” it said.

Putin “conveyed words of sympathy and support to the family and friends of the victims and also wished all the wounded a quick recovery”.

SOURCE: AFP

## OPPOSITION DEMANDS ‘CIVIL TRANSITION’

## EU expresses ‘deep concern’ over I. Coast vote fallout

THE European Union on Tuesday expressed “deep concern” over post-election tensions in Ivory Coast where authorities say President Alassane Ouattara has been re-elected for a contested third term.

The EU “takes note of the announcement of the provisional results” and “expresses its deep concern over tensions, provocations and incitements to hatred that have prevailed and continue to persist” in the country, European diplomacy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

The statement came after electoral authorities announced Ouattara had won re-election by a landslide after

voting marred by deadly unrest and a boycott by the opposition, which promised to set up a rival “transitional” government.

The result had been widely expected after two leading opposition leaders called for a boycott of the ballot and a civil disobedience campaign.

“The violence that resulted in several deaths and injuries must be independently investigated to ensure that justice is done without delay,” added Borrell, who speaks on behalf of the EU’s 27 member states.

“The EU expects all stakeholders to take the lead in easing the climate and resuming dialogue... and promoting reconciliation through very



Supporters of incumbent president Alassane Ouattara take part in a campaign meeting ahead of the presidential election, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 17 October 2020. **PHOTO: SIA KAMBOU/AFP**

concrete measures that will bring an end to violence and

division,” Borrell said.

SOURCE: AFP

## PULLED OUT OF THE RUBBLE ALIVE

## Young girl rescued 91 hours after Turkey quake

A three-year-old girl was pulled from the rubble 91 hours after a powerful earthquake hit western Turkey, killing more than 100 people, officials and AFP reporters at the scene said.

“We have witnessed a miracle in the 91st hour,” Izmir mayor Tunc Soyer tweeted. “Rescue teams pulled Ayda out alive.

Along with the great pain we have experienced, we have this joy as well.”

The mayor initially said she was four years old, but Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca later clarified she was three.

Ayda was rescued from a collapsed building in the Turkish town of Bayrakli, the worst

affected by the 7.0 magnitude quake which struck Turkey and Greece on Friday afternoon.

As she was taken to safety and wrapped in a foil blanket, she called for her mother, an AFP correspondent said, as the anxious crowd broke into rapturous applause, with some hugging each other and others crying.

There were also joyous shouts of “Allahu Akbar”, or “God is Greater”. The TRT state broadcaster gave her name as Ayda Gezgin.

The news channel NTV said she immediately asked for water and ayran, a salty drink made from yoghurt.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS  
IN BRIEFAT RISK FOR MILITIA  
ACTIVITY

## FBI warns of possible US election violence in protest-riven Portland

The FBI has warned of the potential for armed clashes linked to Tuesday’s US election in Portland, as the north-western city that has become symbolic of the country’s stark divisions braces for unrest.

The liberal enclave in the state of Oregon is still reeling from a summer that saw mass anti-racism rallies inflamed by the arrival of federal officers and right-wing militias, including the so-called Proud Boys.

Tuesday’s fiercely polarized vote – which could see President Donald Trump reelected, or defeated by his Democratic rival Joe Biden – has spurred fears of more deadly street violence.

Downtown businesses were boarding up windows once again as protests are planned for either a Trump or a Biden win – or a state of limbo, with delays in the vote-counting expected nationwide due to a surge in mail-in voting during the pandemic.

“The thing that is the most concerning to me is the potential for armed clashes between opposing groups,” FBI Portland Special Agent Renn Cannon told AFP.

SOURCE: AFP

## ISLAMIC TERRORISM

## Vienna gunman had Macedonian roots, tried to go to Syria: Minister Karl Nehammer

One of the gunmen in the Vienna attack which left four people dead had double North Macedonian-Austrian nationality and a conviction for trying to travel to Syria, the interior minister said Tuesday.

The 20-year-old, who was shot dead by police, was a supporter of the Islamic State extremist group and had been convicted of a terrorist offence in April last year, Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer told the APA news agency.

SOURCE: AFP



Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NO REPLY FROM THE UK

# UK snubs EU deadline over bill breaking Brexit accord

BRITAIN has failed to meet an EU ultimatum to respond to a formal complaint about its plan to breach the Brexit agreement through domestic legislation, the European Commission said Tuesday.

“To date, the EU has received no reply from the UK,” spokesman Daniel Ferrie told journalists, three days after a deadline for London to reply to Brussels had passed.

“We are therefore con-

sidering the next steps, including issuing a reasoned opinion,” -- the next stage in the EU’s legal action launched against Britain a month ago -- Ferrie said.

SOURCE: AFP

ELECTION DAY

## Equities jump, dollar down as Americans head to polls

GLOBAL stock markets jumped and the dollar weakened Tuesday as polls opened for the US election, with Republican President Donald Trump seeking to defy forecasts and defeat Democrat challenger Joe Biden.

Polling stations have opened in New York, New Jersey and Virginia, mark-

ing the start of an election day seen by Trump’s opponents as a referendum on his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the world’s worst-hit nation -- which is now also experiencing a deadly resurgence.

Asian and European equities rallied Tuesday, with traders betting on a

Democratic sweep of both the White House and Congress that would likely herald a huge new economic stimulus package to fight the virus crisis.

The dollar slid against the euro and pound, while oil prices clawed back some of their recent losses.

- Markets tempting

fate? -

“The markets tempted fate on Tuesday, forgetting the lessons of 2016 as they preemptively celebrated a Joe Biden victory,” said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell, referring to Trump’s surprise victory over Hillary Clinton four years ago.

SOURCE: AFP



Global stock markets jumped and the dollar weakened Tuesday as polls opened for the US election. The Tokyo Stock Exchange. PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI / AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0220-017N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0220-017N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1127 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1127 S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (267W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (267W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1085)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1085)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORD PEAK

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORD PEAK VOY. NO. (2020007)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (044W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (044W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD.**



I think Myanmar is the right place to invest in manufacturing business because of human resource quality, but future growth is depending on us.

## Following is the exclusive interview with Mr Hideki Okuyama, Managing Director of Myanmar Yazaki Thilawa.

**Q: Could you please tell us the production volume and annual export for your factory?**

**A:** Our product of export involves the automotive wire harness to the foreign market, which involves Thailand. We are targeting a sales volume of 10 million per year.

**Q: Could you please tell us anything to expect about your business?**

**A:** I think Myanmar is the right place to invest in manufacturing business because of human resource quality, but future growth is depending on us. In any business, the customer wants better quality and product as soon as possible, and as cheap as possible. If we achieve our target providing value to the customer, we can go for growth. It is a little early to judge at this moment.

**Q: Please tell us about the technology transfer and capacity building for Myanmar workers.**

**A:** Our business is a relatively labour-intensive type of business. One of the essential keys to success is how to motivate people. We have set a benefits programme in accordance with acquired operational skills. For middle management, I expect them to learn management skill through working at the company, and if we can leave talents in Myanmar as a consequence, it may call technology transfer, I think.

**Q: How many workers are here, and how is the factory managing to prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

**A:** Actually, we have 489 employees. My duty under COVID-19 is to secure the life and safety of our employees. So we are working with primary motto against COVID-19 as “protect yourself is to protect the others”.

As you know, there are two infection routes of COVID-19.



One is through the small specks of the liquid, and the other one is through contact. We are implementing for everyone to wear a mask, of course. In case of a closed and crowded area, like on a ferry or a working place like a training in room, we require our people to wear industrial glass.

For the contact, we have them frequently wash hands, disinfection and social distancing.

Thus, we are following the guideline of the Ministry of Health and Sports. Also, in order to capture the changing points, we require our employees to tell us about the health conditions of the family they are living together with.

**Q: Could you tell us about the challenges and achievements of your company during the investment in Myanmar.**

**A:** We are doing business

here in Myanmar in order to achieve our corporate policy, which is a cooperation step with the world and the cooperation needed by society. In order to achieve the policy as a private company, we need to achieve sustainable profit. So, the actual challenge is to achieve some of our productiv-

my appreciation to the Myanmar government, for their quick and containing actions to maintain a relatively lower level of infection cases in the country.

**Q: Please tell us your advice to attract foreign investment into Myanmar.**



ity target for it. We have just eight months after starting our operation, our productivity is still low, but it's improving day by day. Once we achieve those targets, we may go for the next step.

**Q: How is your factory managing for the livelihood of the workers amidst the COVID-19?**

**A:** Our employees are mostly coming to work and directly going back home. It's just the home and the factory. I really appreciate our employees' cooperation under Covid-19. However, the number of tests being made are still low, and there is potential expansion. Then, we will keep actual actions we are taking against COVID-19 without being relaxed.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I'd like to express

**A:** One of the comments on making investments in Myanmar is the lack of infrastructure, the lack of human resources for management, and the unclearness of laws. I'm sure the Thilawa SEZ solves the question of infrastructure. It is my mission to create human resources. So, in line with the advance of legislation, Myanmar would attract more investment.

**Q: Would you like to say anything else for Myanmar?**

**A:** I think Myanmar is a nice place to invest because of human quality. I like for my employees to experience the pleasure of growing and contribution through our company's business activities. My dream is to contribute to the economic growth of Myanmar in future.

**Mr Asano, Managing Director of Suzuki Thilawa company.**

Suzuki has a factory in the Thilawa industrial zone, and another factory in South Dagon established in 1999. So, that makes two factories.

The factory in Thilawa produced 11,000 units in 2019. We are currently only producing for the local market in Myanmar, so we have no exports yet.

I want to talk about market activity first. The AAM (Automotive Association of Myanmar) reports Suzuki has a 60 per cent market share.

Suzuki Myanmar is constructing a new factory in Thilawa industrial zone that operates on a CKT system. We have invested about US\$120 million into this new factory.

The CKT factory under construction will finish its assemble line in September 2021. The wiring line and painting line will be complete in September 2022. Once these three lines are finished, we will be able to produce our products with the CKT system and estimate the production of 40,000 vehicles per year.

“One of our challenges working here is implementing the CKT system. But challenges exist everywhere. We believe we can find solutions, together with the government of Myanmar, when we face any challenge.”

We need policies that will benefit foreign investors if we want to attract them to Myanmar. Another thing is that we need to create policies for sustainable development for foreign investment to stream into Myanmar.

Myanmar's auto industry will develop like the graph rising to the right side. There are 52 million people in Myanmar, and you would need to produce 20,000 vehicles per year to meet the demand for new cars. That is why I believe the auto industry in Myanmar will grow swiftly.

**U Zarni Tun, General Manager**

Suzuki has two companies in Myanmar. One is the Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co Ltd, and the other one

“One of our challenges working here is implementing the CKT system. But challenges exist everywhere. We believe we can find solutions, together with the government of Myanmar, when we face any challenge.”

## Exclusive interview: Suzuki Thilawa

is the Suzuki Motor Co Ltd in South Dagon. They have over 400 employees combined. Since COVID-19 began, we have aligned our management with guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and have implemented necessary assistance and accountability. We have also imparted the necessary information to our staff. COVID-19 has caused low income for businesses, and we at Suzuki are facing that challenge as well. The cars we

produced from before Thingyan and towards its end made zero sales. You could say there was no income. We had to suspend employees and night shifts. But we still paid our staff full wages. We didn't lay off anyone either. We are expanding a new factory so you could say the company was able to safeguard the livelihoods of its employees properly. While Suzuki has more than 400 employees here, there are only 9 Japanese working



Mr Asano, Managing Director of Suzuki Thilawa Company. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA (GNLM)



U Zami Tun, General Manager. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA (GNLM)

with them. What I want to point out is that 99% of the company is running on staff from our nation. There are only 3 Japanese now during COVID, so we are operating technology acquired from Japan with Myanmar staff. We regularly send our employees to Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and India for training and building capacity in order to develop our human resource.

Suzuki showrooms are increasing across Myanmar and factories are expanding, so this will be of much assistance in grooming the youths of our nation to be an additional source of human resource. We will be hiring new employees by the hundreds when we open our new factory.

The increase in vehicle production for Suzuki can be of great assistance to more opportunities in technology and employment for Myanmar citizens. That is why Suzuki will adhere to the comprehensive policies of the Myanmar government.

(By GNLM Team)



PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA (GNLM)





Manchester United defender Harry Maguire. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

## Struggling Man Utd have leaders, insists Maguire

LONDON — Manchester United skipper Harry Maguire on Tuesday rejected former captain Roy Keane's assertion the team lacks leadership and heart after a terrible start to their Premier League campaign.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side are languishing in 15th spot in the table with just a single point from their four home

games.

That is in sharp contrast to their form in the Champions League, with a 2-1 win against last season's finalists Paris Saint-Germain and a 5-0 thumping of RB Leipzig already under their belts.

Sunday's 1-0 loss to Arsenal meant United had failed to win any of their opening four top-flight games at Old Trafford for the first time since 1972/73.

Keane, who is now a TV pundit, was scathing in his assessment of his former club, saying he

did not "see guys you want to be in the trenches with, guys you trust" and that the team lacked leaders. But Maguire rejected those comments as the players prepare to fly to Turkey for Wednesday's Group H match against Istanbul Basaksehir. "I can for sure say there are a lot of leaders in the squad," said the England international. "I am the captain and I've got a lot of leadership around me as well, staff and players, so, for sure, there's a lot of leaders in this squad."

Solskjaer was also asked about Keane's remarks but avoided criticizing his players or former team-mate.

"Roy has always been outspoken and I'm very glad that I've got the players that we have here with us," said the Norwegian boss. "We've got different jobs and Roy's job is to give his opinion and I always listen to Roy."

"But we move on here with a great group of players, strong group of players, and I'm sure we'll see a response."—AFP

## Ibra flirts with international return amid age-defying form

STOCKHOLM — Zlatan Ibrahimovic on Monday sent a signal that he might be considering an international comeback as he continues to produce show-stopping displays for AC Milan that defy his advancing years.

Ibrahimovic, who turned 39 last month, posted a picture of himself on his social media channels in a Sweden kit with the message "Long time no see".

However when asked by Swedish sports daily Sportbladet, Sweden's team manager Stefan Pettersson said he had no recent

contact with Ibrahimovic.

Sportbladet also reports the Swedish Football Federation has not contacted AC Milan about the player.

Ibrahimovic, who retired from international football after Euro 2016, has been in superb form since the start of the new Serie A season.

His haul of seven goals in just four matches has made him the league's top scorer despite missing two of Milan's six Serie A matches after testing positive for coronavirus.

On Sunday he starred as unbeaten Milan won 2-1 at Udinese to maintain top spot in Serie A, setting up Franck Kessie's 18th-minute opener before scoring the winning goal from an acrobatic bicycle kick with seven minutes remaining.

Sweden face Denmark in a friendly match on November 11 before taking on Croatia and France in the Nations League over the course of the following week. They are bottom of Group 4 in League A after losing all four of their matches so far.—AFP



Zlatan Ibrahimovic has scored seven goals in four Serie A appearances this season. PHOTO: ANDREAS SOLARO AFP/FILE

## Wales manager Ryan Giggs arrested: reports

LONDON — Wales manager and Manchester United great Ryan Giggs has been arrested on suspicion of assault, according to UK newspaper reports late Monday.

The Football Association of Wales issued a statement saying: "The FAW is aware of an alleged incident involving the National Team Manager, Ryan Giggs. The FAW will be making no further comment at this current time."

The Sun newspaper said police were called to the 46-year-old Giggs's home late on Sunday after reports of a disturbance.

Giggs was arrested and questioned on suspicion of actual bodily harm and assault, the newspaper said.

The Sun quoted a statement from Greater Manchester Police as saying: "Police were called at 10.05 pm on Sunday to reports of a disturbance. A woman in her 30s sustained minor injuries but did not require any treatment."

"A 46-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of section 47 assault and section 39 common assault."

Wales have cancelled Tuesday's press conference



Arrest allegations: Ryan Giggs. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

when Giggs was due to name his squad for the friendly against the USA, and Nations League fixtures with the Republic of Ireland and Finland later this month.

Giggs was appointed Wales manager in January 2018 after a stellar playing career in which he won 13 Premier League titles, two Champions Leagues, four FA Cups and three League Cups with Manchester United, and was capped 64 times for Wales.—AFP

## Maradona admitted to hospital in Argentina: reports

BUENOS AIRES — Former Argentine football great Diego Maradona was admitted to hospital Monday for medical checks, Argentine media reported.

His hospitalization was not

believed to be related to the coronavirus pandemic which is ravaging the South American country, according to several reports.

Maradona, who has a history of drug and alcohol abuse and

poor health, is considered at high risk of coronavirus complications should he be infected.

He has suffered two heart attacks in the past and contracted hepatitis.

The 1986 World Cup winner celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday last week, after emerging from a period of precautionary self-isolation after a bodyguard showed symptoms of the virus, though he later

tested negative.

The former Argentine captain and coach is being treated at a clinic in La Plata, south of Buenos Aires, where he is coach of the local team, Gimnasia.—AFP