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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 203, 5th Waning of Thadingyut 1382 ME

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

Thursday, 5 November 2020

Public awareness of voting on the Election Day

(4-11-2020)

1. The Union Election Commission is managing the successful holding of 2020 General Election on 8 November in line with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines, and working for the voting of all eligible voters in the respective townships including in the areas under the stay-at-home order due to the spread of this disease.
2. The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 135/2020 dated 25-10-2020 to allow the people in the areas under the stay-at-home order in respective constituencies for advance voting or normal voting on the Election Day to be able to organize the 2020 General Election successfully.
3. Moreover, the Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 137/2020 dated 25-10-2020 to allow gathering more than 30 persons at the polling stations for ensuring compliance with the rules and disciplines issued by the Union Election Commission and the Ministry of Health and Sports in coordination in order to hold the 2020 General Election successfully.
4. Therefore, all the eligible voters who included in the voter list and have not cast their advance ballots in respective townships including in the areas under the stay-at-home order are encouraged to cast their votes on the Election Day not to lose their voting rights prescribed in the State Constitution.

Union Election Commission

COVID-19 medical devices land in Yangon, Mandalay by 12 flights from China



Medical devices imported from China are being unloaded at Yangon International Airport on 4 November. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR is importing COVID-19 medical devices from China for the November 8 Gen-

eral Election. The devices, including KN95 masks, boots and PPE medical protective clothing sets, reached

Yangon by five special flights and Mandalay by seven special flights yesterday, and will be distributed for voters, polling

station staff and volunteers in the 2020 General Election.

These devices were bought from China. The stocks started

to reach in Myanmar beginning from 21 October and are being distributed to the respective areas ahead of the elections.—MNA

Announcement on legal actions taken against one man over electoral fraud in advance voting

1. U Jue Ni (a) U Tun Myint was found guilty of casting his ballot with his fake seal without using the actual seal issued by the Union Election Commission when the officials of election sub-commission conducted advance voting at the house of U Aung Than, who lives in Aung Zeya street of No (4) Ward, Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region on 31-10-2020.
2. U Jue Ni (a) U Tun Myint who used fake seal was charged with provisions under the Section 59 of Hluttaw Election Law on 3-11-2020 and the fake seal he used was kept at Patheingyi Township Police Station.

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 seamen, nationals fly back home from Hong Kong, Malaysia

A cargo flight of China Airlines, organized by Myanmar Consulate-General in Hong Kong, landed at Yangon International Airport with 140 citizens, including 123 seamen stranded in Taiwan (China-Tapei) yesterday

morning. Another relief flight of Malaysia Airlines, organized by Asahi Kosei Sdn Bhd Company and Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia also brought back 157 citizens in the same morning.

The Ministry of Labour, Im-

migration 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.

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

national commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. —MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals arrive at Yangon International Airport by China Airlines on 4 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar returnees from Malaysia queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 4 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

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

Who is ineligible to vote?

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

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS
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Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects MRTV in Tatkon, Printing Factory, Press House in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint yesterday inspected Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) in Tatkon Township, Printing and Publishing Department in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Printing Factory and the Press House of News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and other officials arrived at the Conference Room of the MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 4 November. MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing explained TV programmes on the General Elections, activities related to COVID-19, TV Programmes marking the Yangon University centenary, plans for the Diamond Jubilee of the MRTV, and TV programmes featuring milestones of ministries.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun made discussions and necessary suggestions.

After that, the Union Minister and his entourage inspected News Studio 1 and 2 of the MRTV.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and his entourage ar-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds meeting at MRTV in Tatkon Township on its broadcast programmes. PHOTO: MNA

rived at the Nay Pyi Taw Printing Factory. Printing and Publishing Department's Acting Director-General U Ko Ko Naing explained about the activities of the department. The Union Minister and the Deputy Minister made necessary suggestions.

The Union Minister and his entourage also visited Pho Waziya Hall of the NPE. Managing

Director U Thet Swe of the NPE explained the plans to announce results of the elections to be held on 8 November; the plan to publish articles and interviews featuring Yangon University centenary, and publishing milestones (2016-2020) of ministries.

Regarding the explanations, the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister made discussions and

necessary suggestions.

During his visits to the departments, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said that all officials and staff members need to adhere to the COVID-19-related guidelines and instructions at their workplaces. The Union Minister also discussed the previous programmes featuring Myanmar motion picture centenary, current

programmes featuring Yangon University centenary, broadcast and publishing of content related to milestones of ministries and regional governments, and preparations for the Diamond Jubilee of the MRTV. He also discussed the transition to digital media and the need to adapt to technological changes.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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

CAMPAIGN speech of People's Pioneer Party (PPP) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 5 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.



We are making arrangements for greater participation by private sector hospitals and medical clinics in the COVID-19 containment efforts



We have experienced the second wave of the COVID-19 disease, the Ministry of Health and Sports has achieved a greater level of understanding as to how to confront, how to overcome this challenge, how to take care of the new positive cases and provide them with treatment. As their knowledge and understanding reach a higher level, they are now able to give more effective care and treatment. At this time, we are making arrangements for greater participation by private sector hospitals and medical clinics in the COVID-19 containment efforts. This is to make it possible for people to have a choice. If they wish to go to a private medical clinic or a private hospital, whether it is for COVID or any other underlying health problem or any other disease, they can do so according to their own choice. As they make their own choice, the Ministry of Health and Sports has prescribed rules and regulations in coordination with the private medical clinics and hospitals for the safety and comfort of the people, hospitals and the general public. In this way, people can make their own choice, and this gives some relief to the government hospitals. We believe that this would help us in our efforts to confront the COVID-19 disease.

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

MoLIP discusses distribution of COVID-19 medical devices for 2020 General Election

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held a coordination meeting of Central Receiving and Distributing Committee on COVID-19 Medical Devices for 2020 General Election yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Receiving and Distributing Committee on COVID-19 Medical Devices for 2020 General Election, the Deputy Ministers as members of the Committee, the Permanent Secretaries, officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council and the Ministers from the respective states and regions via virtual meeting (Zoom).

Union Minister U Thein Swe said the Committee has bought COVID-19 medical devices from China and is distributing to the respective states and regions in order to ensure that voters, polling station staff and volunteers have full physical and mental security and to vote in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of



Union Minister U Thein Swe discusses distribution of COVID-19 medical devices for 2020 General Election on 4 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Health and Sports.

The imported COVID-19 medical devices arrived by a total of 114 flights from China to Myanmar between 17 October to 2 November. The Committee has been distributing them systematically according to the stay-at-home areas as the main priority.

The Union Minister expressed words of thanks to the departmental officials who successfully arranged flights

to transport COVID-19 medical devices from China in a short period of time despite the limited number of international airlines. He added to return the surplus with statistics after the distribution to the relevant polling stations and to submit the expenses with required documents.

Afterwards, the Committee members and officials discussed the receipt and transport status of the medical devices at Yangon

and Mandalay International Airports, difficulties in distributing to the relevant polling stations, cost calculation in returning the extra devices, the arrangement to send the devices in time to the polling stations before the election starts and the Union Minister coordinated the meeting.

For 2020 General Election on 8 November, the Government purchased 35 million of KN95 mask, 10 million of examination gloves PVC (Vinyl), 9 mil-

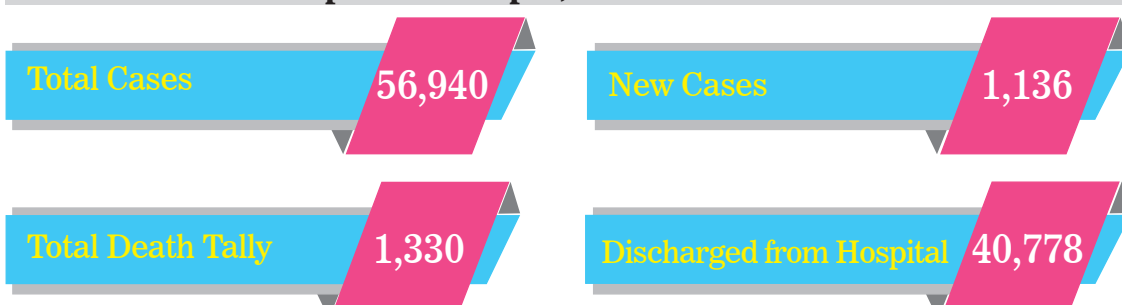
lion of face shield, 2.5 million of surgical gowns, 2 million of surgical caps, 500,000 protective face masks, 500,000 PPEs, 500,000 goggles, 500,000 surgical gloves, 500,000 boots and 500,000 boots covers. The purchased COVID-19 medical devices have been transported to respective airports by 114 flights up to 2 November and will be continued to arrive till 5 November.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

1,136 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 November, total figure rises to 56,940

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 56,940 after 1,136 new cases were reported on 4 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 56,940 confirmed cases, 1,330 died, 40,778 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 4 November 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 4-11-2020

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Ministry of Health and Sports

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins 4th ICAIT via videoconferencing



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins the first day online event of 4th International Conference on Advanced Information Technologies on 4 November. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi took part in the first-day event of the 4th International Conference on Advanced Information Technologies through videoconferencing

yesterday.

In his discussion, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that “Internet of Things (IOT)”, “Big Data”, artificial intelligence and robot technologies are replacing human workers, so nations are implementing Education 4.0 which will be compatible with Industry 4.0. The Union Minister continued that the capacities of teachers are being enhanced by using digital technology. Teachers began to use digital technology in teaching their students, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister said that policies, projects, creating jobs and creating suitable environments for life-long learning are very important in making efforts to improve the quality of education. He added that the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected many sectors of the world, including educa-

tion. He stressed the need for infrastructure and technology to make effective COVID-19 response and recovery.

The Ministry of Education has established the Myanmar Digital Education Platform (MDEP) to provide online lessons for students. Educational TV programmes have also been broadcast.

The Union Minister said that students in far-flung areas with limited access to the Internet could learn digital lessons by using the DBE Boxes and DBE Sticks provided by the ministry.

He continued that Myanmar will encourage the upgrading of university curriculums to meet the 21st century skills.

The two-day event read and discussed 41 papers of international and local universities. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Germany donates 154 million kyats to “We Love Yangon”

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, Germany Embassy Yangon donates 154 million kyats (equivalent to Euro 100,000) to “We Love Yangon”, a local nonprofit organization which is supporting the residents of Yangon in the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The donation was made yesterday morning by German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thomas Neisinger at the We Love Yangon office and received by U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region government, on behalf of We Love Yangon.

The donation made by Germany will be spent on protective equipment and basic food items for people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic reaching 4,801 families living in 42 townships in Yangon Region.

Ambassador Neisinger said, “We are happy to support Myanmar people in this unprecedented and difficult time. We feel solidarity with the most vulnerable part of the Myanmar population who are most affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am confident that Germany and We Love Yangon can bring some light to Myanmar families these

Thadingyut days.”

“We Love Yangon is extremely happy to receive the support and donation made by German Ambassador for our fight against COVID-19. We will always remember the donation of Euro 100,000 made by Germany as a symbol of great relationship between the two countries,” said U Zaw Win Khine, Secretary of We Love Yangon.

Germany has supported the United Nations organizations as well as other health and humanitarian partners in the fight against COVID-19 both globally and in Myanmar.—GNLM



Germany presents cash assistance to the ‘We Love Yangon’ for volunteering works in COVID-19 measures. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Myanmar, Japan sign Exchange of Notes, Financing Agreements of 42.779bln Yen

Myanmar government, Japanese Embassy and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed Exchange of Notes and Financing Agreements for two ODA loans yesterday.

The loan worth 27.779 billion Yen is for new Bago-Kyaikto road section of the East-West Economic Corridor which will be implemented by the Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction and another loan worth 15 billion Yen is for the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) development project (phase 3) which will be implemented by Myanma Economic Bank of the Ministry of

Planning, Finance and Industry.

The Exchange of Notes was signed by Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama while the Financing Agreements was by Director-General Daw Si Si Pyone of Treasury Department, on behalf of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and Sakakura Noriji, Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar.

The Bago-Kyaikto road section of the East-West Economic Corridor project will facilitate the transportation of local residences and can improve the local and foreign trade volume.

As it is the shorted road section of Yangon-Bago-Myawady route, it can reduce the high traffic on East-West Economic Corridor and in Bago Region. It can also solve the delays in trade flows, and as it links with ASEAN countries like Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Viet Nam, it can develop the transportation via trade route of ASEAN to many places of Myanmar.

The SMEs development project (phase-3) can grant a loan with a low-interest rate for the recovery of MSMEs which were badly hit by COVID-19 pandemic.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win signs Exchange of Notes and Financing Agreements with Japan on 4 November. PHOTO: MNA

“People are the key”

MoHS organizes virtual meeting with volunteers, social organizations over COVID-19 response efforts

THE Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday morning organized a virtual meeting with volunteer groups, social organizations and civil society organizations involved in COVID-19 response efforts.

During the virtual meeting, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe highlighted significant roles of enthusiastic volunteers in COVID-19 response efforts.

The Union Minister said that many organizations are helping the ministry control the spread of the COVID-19 disease in Yangon Region, and a tripartite group comprising of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Yangon Region government and the General Administration Department should be formed in order to make COVID-19 response efforts effective.

The Union Minister said that the ministry is striving to get and provide accurate and up-to-date information so that efficient decisions can be made rapidly in trying to control the pandemic.

He said that the COVID-19 pandemic could affect not only the health sector but also the social sector, economy and education, so people need to adhere to the COVID-19 preventive guidelines strictly. He called on social organizations to constantly review their works in order to make their efforts as effective as possible. He also urged the organizations involved in the COVID-19 response efforts to submit their activity reports to the ministry so that it can publish a book.

During the virtual meeting, the participants discussed various topics such as volunteer works at quarantine centres, COVID-19 treatment centres and hospitals; installation of oxygen systems in Yangon General Hospital; donating food and other necessary things to the centres and the hospitals, and COVID-19 surveillance at high-way bus stations.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein said that the ministry would provide more N95-masks and personal protective equip-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discusses COVID-19 control measures with volunteering groups online on 4 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment (PPE) to volunteers. She added that the ministry is providing COVID-19 tests for volunteers by using Rapid Antigen Test Kits.

Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Khaing Win said that the ministry will take care of the matters that it can do and will submit the issues that the min-

istry cannot do to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The Union Minister said that the support given by the charity organizations would benefit not only COVID-19 treatment but also long-term healthcare

systems.

The Union Minister concluded that the ministry will coordinate with relevant organizations in order to regularly hold virtual meetings with volunteers, social organizations and charity organizations.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh participates in web-based Conference for 24th Ministerial Conference (MC 24) of Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh takes part in 24th GMS Ministerial Conference online on 4 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh attended the 24th Ministerial Conference of the Greater Mekong Subregion

(GMS) via videoconference on the morning of 4 November 2020.

The conference was chaired by Ms Zou Jiayi, Vice-Minister

of Finance, People's Republic of China and co-chaired by Mr Ahmed M. Saeed, ADB Vice President for East Asia, South-east Asia and the Pacific.

During the video conference, the GMS Secretariat and ADB representatives presented on progress made regarding the longer-term GMS Strategy 2030, and the medium-term GMS COVID-19 Recovery and Response Plan 2021-2023.

The GMS ministers offered comments and guidance on those plans and articulated preferred next steps.

Representatives presented reports on the Development Partners Meeting, the 11th Economic Corridor Forum and GMS Business Council Meeting, held last month.

The ADB presented recommendations drawn from a study titled 'Greater Mekong Subregion 2030 and Beyond: Integration, Upgrading, Cities and Connectivity'.

GMS Ministers then provided recommendations and responses to these reports.

Mr Sok Chenda Sophea, the GMS Minister of Cambodia then presented preparations and arrangements for the upcoming 7th GMS Summit, to be hosted by Cambodia in March 2021.

During the final session, GMS Ministers endorsed the third progress report of the Regional Investment Framework 2022 and the Joint Ministerial Statement. The Conference came to an end with the closing remarks delivered by the Chair.

The conference was attended by GMS Ministers, Deputy Ministers, National Coordinators and Senior Officials from six GMS member countries (Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam), representatives from both development partner and private sector organizations as well as the representatives of ADB.—MNA

Ministry of State Counsellor Office holds press briefing on existing situations in relation to elections

Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor affirmed the prioritized policy of the government for ensuring an independent, free and fair election on 8 November during his press briefing yesterday on existing situations in the country ahead of 2020 General Election.

Organizing multiparty democracy elections

U Zaw Htay explained the reasons why the 2020 General Election could not be postponed despite the outbreak of COVID-19 as the time frame for commencing the third Hluttaw is related with the preparations for the election process that will need at least 77 days and the provisions of State Constitution.

He added that about 80 countries worked for holding elections and referendums between early 2020 and 1 November; among them 62 countries organized the elections; although 39 countries reassessed their plans, 22 countries organized the elections.

The director-general talked about the successful holding of Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong with one-third in the number of attending representatives from 700 persons in line with the healthcare guidelines; however, the event could made agreements to establish a Democratic Federal Union in the post-2020.

U Zaw Htay also explained the five steps of preparations led by the State Counsellor in support to the Union Election Commission in accordance with the rules and

laws—advance voting for elderly persons, voting rights for the eligible voters in the areas under stay-at-home order, coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports for the voting of people at the hospitals or quarantine centres, the establishment of more polling stations up to 42,047 this year to avoid crowd in comparing with 40,233 in 2015 General Election and COVID-19 preventive plans for the elections after holding voting demonstrations to explore the healthcare measures in voting.

Elections are taking place

The director-general said that the advance voting began on 1 October at Myanmar Embassy in Singapore, and the number of voters increased by three-times in comparing with that of 2015 General Election; people at home are actively participating in the elections.

He continued to say that the elections play a crucial role in democratic reform processes and that the government has prioritized holding an independent, free and fair election. He also assured the Union Election Commission will not neglect any constructive criticism; however the recent announcement of Tatmadaw was likely based on the inaccurate and unreasonable remarks of some political parties and individuals, and that it may cause worry and instability instead of ensuring a free and fair election.

He remarked that the announcement of Tatmadaw and the interview of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with the Pop-

ular News media fail to meet the provisions of Constitution and the existing laws.

The director-general also referred to Article 26 (a) of 2008 Constitution and Article 2 (e) of Civil Service Personnel Law, while the Union Election Commission is an independent body and shall not be responsible to the Union Government.

He also recounted the advice of President on ensuring free, fair, transparent, independent and trustful elections during the meeting with UEC chairman and members on 8 July 2020, and it was also attended by the Union Ministers for the Ministry of Union Government Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence Services, the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Ministry of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as well as the Union Attorney-General and commission members.

The director-general also pointed out that the UEC have only 9 days, 7 months and 4 years to prepare for the free and fair elections amid the outbreak of COVID-19 not to lost the rights of voters.

He also confirmed the announcement of UEC on 30 October 2020 in line with Section 66 (d) of Hluttaw Election Law, and such announcement was also made by the previous commission on 1 No-



Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor. **PHOTO: KO KYAW**

ember 2015.

He then talked about disputes on advance ballots which also occurred in the previous elections of 2010, 2015 and 2020; criticisms of successive UEC chairmen.

The previous UEC received only 36 per cent of trust from the respondents in the survey of the Yangon School of Political Science and the Myanmar Asian Barometer. However, the PACE survey has shown the increase of public trust in the present UEC.

U Zaw Htay called for collaboration of relevant stakeholders for

successful holding of the elections safely.

He concluded his explanation on the tasks of Union Government for completion of the general elections, challenges of UEC due to the lack of resources, the collaboration of ministries and legal actions against violation of laws during advance voting. The director-general answered the questions of media before concluding the press briefing.—Myo Min Naing

(Translated by Aung Khin)



COVID-19 medical devices from China are being unloaded in Yangon on 4 November. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

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Winning an election by any means possible shows lack of integrity

THE Union Election Commission is committed to holding the 2020 general elections in accordance with five standards: freedom of choice, fairness, transparency, accessibility, and compatibility of public desire.

It has been found that the nearer the Election Day is drawing, the higher the occurrences of cases of disinformation and disruptions caused by advance voting.

President U Win Myint met with the UEC on 8th July this year and stressed the importance of holding free and fair General Elections. As the UEC is an independent body, the result of the General Elections must be the one aspired by the people, he said at the meeting.

Disputes over advance voting happened in previous general elections in 2010 and 2015, and now in 2020. There were many complaints caused by human errors in the 2015 General Elections.

There have been some complaints against advance voting these days, and investigations will be made into these cases in accordance with the law.

The investigation will decide who attempted to disturb the general elections. It is not appropriate to judge before the Election Day that the ongoing general elections are not fair.

Winning an election by any means possible shows a lack of integrity and should be a cause for shame. For these kinds of people, the stronger the desire to defeat someone, the more cunning their plans will become.

Holding a free and fair election is a matter of dignity for the country and the people. Political parties are also obliged to take part in the general elections without affecting dignity and morals of others.

There have been some weaknesses in the UEC, which is making efforts to ensure eligible citizens do not lose their right to vote with limited resources.

Disinformation, false and groundless accusations about the UEC can damage trust among the stakeholders, including political parties and voters, and tarnish the dignity of the UEC.

Meanwhile, it is necessary to prevent disinformation, rumours and hate speech directed at the free and fair manner of the general elections.

We would like to urge the people of Myanmar to be on alert to the potential misuse of social media to spread false news and disinformation about the 2020 General Elections.

We would like to send a message to all violators that the authorities will have a no-tolerance stance towards those who threaten the free and fair manner of the general elections by disrupting the electoral opportunities of the people, including threatening, inciting riots based on racism and religion, and harming the peace of the community and the rule of law, as violators will face legal punishments.



A Spinozist and Toynbee attempt to salve the wounds of the Trump Presidency

By Dr Myint Zan

IN the early afternoon of 8 November 2016 in Yangon, the results of the 2016 United States presidential election became available through radio and television broadcasts. The then 12 or 13-year-old Myanmar girl a former neighbour in Yangon learned about it at an international school. From what her mother told me, she forbore her tears and her composure until she arrived back home from school. And then she cried inconsolably and non-stop for about two hours.

If Trump's election in 2016 triggered a sense of sorrow and such an emotional response in a 12-year-old youngster in far away Myanmar one can imagine the sense of despair felt at least by a significant minority of approximately 65 million Americans who voted against Trump in 2016 and perhaps (as one writes on 4 November 2020) in 2020 as well.

If one tries to hit the ground with one's hand, one will surely hit it, goes a Burmese saying. Likewise, especially even if Trump loses both the electoral and popular vote, he and his cohorts will certainly use every 'legal' (or barely legal) and political trick, shenanigans, underhanded, evil methods by hook or by crook (a crook that he is) to continue to stay in office.

If the litigation regarding the results of the election were to reach the US Supreme Court, it is 'as sure as one's hand hitting the ground' that at a minimum the (In) Justices Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Barrett the most-right wing Court in decades they

WILL side with Trump whatever the legal and political issues that could emerge in the hypothetical (but not unlikely as of 4 November 2020) scenario.

The late President Gerald R. Ford's stated in a speech as a newly sworn-in President on 9 August 1974 (after the late President Richard Nixon resigned as a result of the Watergate 'affair') stated that 'our long national nightmare is over'.

But even if (IF) Trump were to leave the office at the end of his first term to us (I would use the words unabashedly) liberals and progressives the long national (and international for those of us non-Americans concerned for the welfare of fellow world citizens) nightmare would not be quite over: **A Spinozist Attempt at 'Solace'** Now, what philosophical solace can be obtained especially if Trump (somehow or the other) continued in office as it is not unlikely (now)?

Arguably, the writings of Spinoza (24 November 1632-21 February 1677), the 17th-century Dutch philosopher, just might (not?) give some solace.

Spinoza categorized two ways or modes of viewing the world or the human condition, using the Latin phrases sub specie durationis (viewing it from the viewpoint of duration, temporality) and sub specie aeternitatis (viewing it from the viewpoint of eternity). Not elaborating on what 'eternity' means, in the context of Spinoza's philosophy this writer's humble take would be that a certain mode of thinking and cognition is necessary for people to overcome or



Painting of Spinoza.

transcend the almost overwhelming tendency of viewing things only from the perspective of duration, time or more appropriately temporality. For the purpose of this article and limited space here this elaboration from philosopher Thomas Nagel (born 4 July 1937) may suffice.

QUOTE

... humans have the special capacity to step back and survey themselves and the lives to which they are committed... Without developing the illusion that they are able to escape from their highly specific and idiosyncratic position, they can view it sub specie aeternitatis -- and the view is at once sobering and comical.

UNQUOTE

From T. Nagel 'The Absurd' (1971) 68 (2) Journal of Philosophy, pp.716-27.

Taken the extreme distaste of Trump personally and politically by this writer --and I am sure millions share this in America and non-Americans around the world - it would be extremely hard 'to escape from our own highly specific.. position based on sub specie

durationis' (especially if Trump were to continue as President for a second term).

An Attempt to 'Understand' from a Toynbee Perspective

Arnold Toynbee (14 April 1889-22 October 1975) was a historian who was born more than 256 years after Spinoza and died almost 300 years after Spinoza passed away in February 1677.

An obituary of Toynbee appeared in the 3 November 1975 issue of Time magazine. The last sentence of the obituary reads:

QUOTE

Toynbee felt that there was a kind of intellectual provincialism, too, in what he called "the dogma that 'life is just one damned thing after another,'" for he had "a lifetime conviction that human affairs do not become intelligible until they are seen as a whole."

UNQUOTE

Replace the phrase the dogma that 'life is just one damned thing after another' with the scenario of 'the continuation of Trump presidency'.

In his decade's long work on

A Study of History Toynbee surveyed around 4000 or more years of human history covering '21 civilizations'. Hence if one tries to take a broader (historical) perspective going back a few thousand years, how does the Trump presidency 'factored in' from Toynbee's perspective? As stated, Toynbee had indirectly exhorted us to see 'human affairs as a whole' so that they can become 'intelligible'.

In that bleak, foreboding and yes despicable but likely scenario which as one writes (4 November 2020) of Trump clinging to the office 'by hook or by crook' neither Spinoza's sub specie aeternitatis nor Toynbee's 'seeing things as a whole' is of practical help or use. For the activists, lawyers, volunteers etc.- let's not mince words- among the Democrats and Joe Biden's supporters- it is only through immersing (in) sub specie durationis (the aspect of duration, temporality) that the intricacies and technicalities of the 'here and the now' (rather than 'eternity' or 'viewing human affairs as a whole') that this possible Trumpian evils have to be faced and --if possible with some luck either overcome, if not then endured,

Only if such efforts from an aspect of duration (to quote Spinoza again in English translation) fails then the Spinozist and Toynbee perspectives come into the picture, so to speak, 'as a whole' to provide solace as regards the second term of a Trump presidency and further damage and the wounds it would continue to inflict.

Should the much better scenario of Trump almost force (though not, one hopes, through

physical or military force) to leave the Presidency were to occur then the Spinozist and Toynbee perspectives might somehow come 'in handy' for those of us (and not only in America but at least in some parts of the world) to retrospectively salve the wounds caused by the Trump presidency?

Update: This article was initially written on 18 October 2020. As the writer correctly 'predicted' (3 November 2020 GNLM Letter to the Editor) Trump HAD claimed 'victory' around 2 pm Myanmar time on 4 November 2020. As of 10:30 pm, Myanmar Time on 4 November 2020 and 10 am US East Coast Time on 4 November 2020 Biden has won either 224 or 238 electoral votes out of the 270 needed to clinch the Presidency. Trump has said he would 'resort' to the US Supreme Court to stop counting most of the mail-in ballots in the 'swing states' of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin which, in this writer's view does not have any legal or moral basis. Still, if it reaches the Supreme Court, the majority of the Supreme Court is likely to side with Trump though the writer would be very pleased if he is proven wrong.

The book that the writer edited Legal Education and Legal Traditions: Selected Essays has recently been published in Springer Link (springerlink.com). The book includes eight Chapters; one of which written by Dr Myint Zan deals in part with the philosophy of history of Arnold Toynbee and a brief contextual comparison with an aspect of Spinoza's philosophy.



SUPER TYPHOON GONI : 'STRONGEST LANDFALLING TROPICAL CYCLONE ON RECORD.'

Humanitarians respond as millions caught in wake of devastating 'super typhoon'

UN agencies and humanitarian actors in the Philippines are mobilizing to support communities hit by super Typhoon Goni, which has barreled across the country, leaving massive devastation in its wake.

TYPHOON GONI – known locally in the Philippines as Rolly – made landfall early morning on Sunday (local time) with catastrophically violent winds of up to 280 kilometres-per-hour and torrential rainfall within a 230-kilometer diameter of its centre.

According to the UN Office

for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), around 68.6 million people are affected, with 24.3 million living in the worst-hit areas. Of the 2.3 million vulnerable people living in the most affected areas, an estimated 724,000 are children.

Significant flooding and damage to infrastructure are

being reported. According to initial reports, 10 people have lost their lives, including a five-year-old child, due to drowning and falling debris.

Gustavo Gonzalez, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines, said that relief workers have not waited for the landfall to mobilize teams and

take action. "UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs are already working with relevant Government departments and offices, Philippine Red Cross, and with private sector groups to coordinate our efforts to support the conduct of rapid needs assessments and swiftly assist the most vulner-

able people caught in the typhoon's destructive path," he added.

'Prepare for the worst'

Mr. Gonzalez also called on everyone to follow the guidance being given by the authorities.

"The people of the Philippines are incredibly resilient, but this is a very dangerous ty-

phoon ... we must prepare for the worst and be ready to save lives," he said.

"In the next hours and days we must do everything in our power to save lives and ensure that no-one is left behind," added the UN official.

SOURCE: UN News

U Myint Thu presents Credentials to the Director-General of the United Nations

U Myint Thu, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations in Geneva, presented his Credentials to Ms Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations, on 28 October 2020 in Geneva. — MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Wednesday 4 November, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 5 November, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Shan, Chin States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kachin State, scattered in Magway, Bago, Yangon Regions and Rakhine, Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Region. 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 in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady Regions and Southern Shan, Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 November, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 November, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 November, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Printed 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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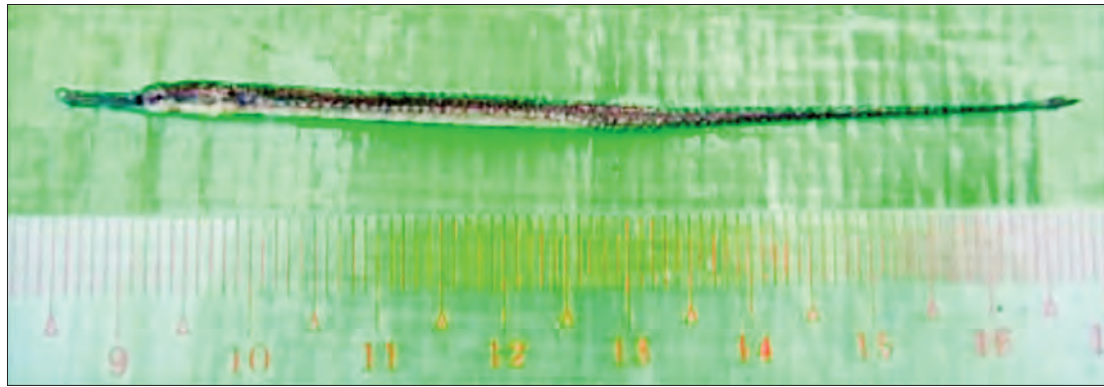
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Indawgyi Lake conserves rare fish species 'Microphis Dunckeris'

Microphis Dunckeris fish species need an isolated inhabitat for their survival.

PHOTO : PEINZALOTE THEIN NYUNT

INDAWGYI Lake conserves the world's rare fish species called Microphis Dunckeris, which inhabit only in Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State in Myanmar, according to Fauna & Flora International (FFI-Myanmar)

The FFI Myanmar is arranging to conserve the fish species called Microphis Dunckeris by designating the Lake as a conservative zone

to prevent this species from extinction.

"This Microphis Dunckeris fish species is rare, and we could not find them anywhere in the world; we could find them only in Indawgyi Lake in Myanmar. It is a huge lake. This fish species is living in an isolated area. If the isolated area is damaged, those fish species will disappear. This rare fish species are living at the bottom

of the Indawgyi Lake.

"The local fishermen are also catching the fish and shrimp by using the fishing tools. They might catch these rare fish species as well. Therefore, our FFI Myanmar has prohibited fishers from using fishing tools. The local fishermen are also cooperating with us. We first found Microphis Dunckeris species in 2013," said U Zaw Loon, manager of

the Freshwater and Saltwater Conservative Programme, FFI Myanmar.

This fish species is similar to the water dragon species inhabiting the sea. The Microphis Dunckeris fish species inhabiting the Indawgyi Lake are living only in the freshwater area which is over 900 miles away from the sea, he added.

"To be able to prevent the scarcity of Microphis Dunckeris fish species, the Fisheries Department has been coordinating with FFI Myanmar and the local fishermen since 2015 and conducting the conservative activities diligently," said U Myo Nyunt Maung, the assistant officer of the Fisheries Department (Indawgyi region branch office).

Indawgyi Lake has five no-fishing zones for the whole year. — Peinzalote Thein Nyunt

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Health consultation phone service provided in 5 more townships

THE health consultation service over the phone has been extended up to five more townships, according to the announcement of the General Practitioners Society under Myanmar Medical Association.

This service is being provided free of charge to the people who are faced with the health problems in the pandemic period.

The extended townships are Toungoo, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Thazi and Pyawbwe.

The health consultation service is being provided with an aim to assist the people who are challenging to go outside to see the doctors. This service has already started in some townships of Yangon region beginning from 1 October. Now, five more townships have been extended to provide this service.

Under this programme, the general physicians from the association will respond to the questions to discuss the health issue via phone call.

Those who need the health assistance may call the following numbers: 095350717 (Dr San San Win) for Toungoo, 09975423969 (Dr Sandar Aung), 09978286936 (Dr San Aung), 09772200903 (Dr Khin Soe), 09796201828 (Dr Tun Aung Kyaw) for Meiktila, 09971431555 (Dr Myo Thu Aung), 09972182868 (Dr Thein Naing) for Mahlaing, 09985995465 (Dr Khin Maung Aye) for Thazi and 09407927733 (Dr Pyae Phyo Han), 09797780885 (Dr Hnin Pan Wai) for Pyawbwe.

Those who need health assistance can call these numbers from 9:00 to 12:00 noon and tell their health problems.

At present, these services have already been available in 30 townships of Yangon region and 21 municipalities in other states and regions.

Those who want to know further information can seek in Myanmar Medical Association social, medical account. — Aye Chan Moe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar reports 98 cases of human trafficking in 10 months

By Nyein Nyein

A total of 98 human trafficking cases were reported in Myanmar in the past ten months of this year, with over 140 victims involved, according to the figures released by the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force.

During that period, more than 140 people, including 36 young girls, were victimized while 265 traffickers were arrested in connection with the cases, according to the official data.

There were 15 cases in

January, seven in February, nine in March, six each in April and May, 15 in June, 14 in July, 16 in August, six in September and four in October.

The reports of human trafficking cases involved forced marriages, forced labour and forced prostitution. The victims were trafficked to China, Thailand and Malaysia as well as inside the country with the majority of victims sent to China for forced marriage, according to the Anti-Trafficking Police Force.

Out of 98 cases in the past

ten months, 72 people were trafficked for forced marriage, two for forced marriage in Myanmar, 12 for forced prostitution within the country, seven for forced labour within the country, two for forced labour in Malaysia, one for forced prostitution in Thailand, one for forced labour in China and one for surrogacy in China.

During the period, human trafficking was most prevalent in Shan State, where with 31 cases were reported, followed by the Yangon Region with 28 cases, Mandalay Region with

nine cases, Kachin State with eight cases, Ayeyawady Region with seven cases, Bago Region with six cases while Magway, Taninthayi regions and Nay Pyi Taw exposed two cases each and Rakhine State, Kayin State and Sagaing Region one case each, the official data showed.

Under the 2005 Anti-Human Trafficking Law, human trafficking is punishable by 10-year imprisonment or life imprisonment with rigorous labour.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

09251022355

Myanmar sends over 30,000 rice bags to China through Muse daily

By Nyein Nyein

MORE than 30,000 rice bags are daily exported to China through Muse 105th mile trade zone, said U Min Thein, Vice Chairman of Muse rice depot.

At the present time, about 50 trucks carrying 640 rice bags are entering the Muse trade zone, and then, the rice bags are kept sending to China, he continued.

"We deliver the rice to China as much as there is supply at the zone. Over 30,000 bags are daily traded," he stated.

Additionally, the export price of rice to China is pretty high beginning the early October. The prices of low-quality rice move in the ranges between 124 and 136 Yuan per 50-kg bag depending on the rice varieties, Muse rice depot indicated.

"The price is good. Earlier, we got only 2 Yuan (about K400) profit per bag. Now, the profit increased to 4-6 Yuan per bag", the Vice Chair-

man of Muse Rice Depot added.

China has consumption requirement of about K80,000 bags per day. Only over 30,000 bags can be sent to China due to the transportation difficulties and the tight security measures in China amid the COVID-19 crisis, he maintained.

"If there is smooth transport in Myanmar side and relaxation and reopening of the checkpoint in China, Myanmar is able to fulfil the requirement in China's market. We see the market potential this year, he highlighted.

Myanmar has opened four border trade zones with China; Muse and Chinshwehaw in Shan State, and Kampaiti and Lweje in Kachin State. Majority of the trade is carried out through Muse land border. There are many gates at Muse trade zone, and only Mang Weing are now available for trading.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar exports over 35,000 tonnes of rice in current FY



Myanmar exported over 426,611 metric tons of rice to neighbouring countries in previous financial year. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 and 16 October in the current financial year 2020-2021 reached 35,637 metric tonnes, worth over US\$14 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Maritime trade constitutes 72.6 per cent of rice exports, generating \$9.3 million from 25,877 tonnes of rice, while border trade accounts for just 27.39 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the land border have generated an estimated

income of \$4.9 million from 9,760 tonnes of rice.

Myanmar's rice is shipped to 15 foreign countries in October 2020. MRF expected to ship 2.4 million tonnes of rice, and broken rice in the last FY ended 30 September 2020. The country surpassed the export target, sending over 426,611 metric tonnes to neighbouring countries through border trade and over 2.15 million tonnes of rice and broken to foreign trade partners via maritime trade, totalling over 2.58 million tonnes. A surge in rice

shipping through sea trade was contributed to meeting year's export target, MRF stated.

Myanmar targets to export 4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the current financial year 2020-2021, said U Aung Than Oo, Vice President of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the FY2017-2018, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.3 million tonnes, in the FY2018-2019.—Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Stock trading value on YSX drops for 10 consecutive months

THE volume of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in October has sunk to the lowest level of K673.5 million for ten consecutive months this year, with 85,630 shares, the YSX's monthly report indicated.

In January 2020, 196,836 shares worth K1.25 billion were traded on the exchange while 188,919 shares, with an estimated value of K1.48 billion, were traded on the exchange in February and 228,913 shares valued K1.42 billion were traded in March respectively. It touched the lowest of K902 million with 173,808 shares in April. It rose to K1.2 billion with 200,416 shares being traded in May. The share volumes traded on the exchange surged to 221,682 in June, with estimated value K1.3 billion and then, it fell to K1 billion with 125,137 shares in July. In August, the

exchange witnessed a low of stock trading value at K747.5 million, with 118,850 shares traded. The value slightly rose to K838.67 million with 85,237 shares on the business in September, the exchange's monthly report showed.

At present, shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) and the Ever Flow River Group Public Co. Ltd (EFR) is being traded on the exchange.

In October, the share prices of FMI were closed at K9,900 per unit, MTSH at K3,650, MCB at K8,200, FPB at K22,000, TMH at K2,750 and EFR at K3,550 respectively.

The stock markets worldwide have reported their larg-

est declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Similarly, the local equities market is also scared by the COVID-19 crash, a market observer points out.

At the present time, people are putting money in savings, rather than making investment amid the COVID-19 crisis, he added.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market in March 2020. Foreigners have held 55,021 shares in the equity market as of 3 November.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Myanmar's securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading even for one day is symbolic of the efforts of all market participants,

Mr Koichiro Miyahara, President and Chief Execu-

tive Officer of Tokyo Stock Exchange, gave a remark to YSX EXPO 2020 online event on 12 September.

Furthermore, YSX is carrying out necessary actions to establish the new Pre-Listing Board, in addition to the existing market (Main Board), with a view to increasing the number of listed companies, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry and Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar delivered the remark to YSX EXPO 2020 online event on 12 September.

The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars.

To boost the trading, the YSX had doubled its stock trade matching time from two to four per day last year. The exchange launched seven times matching per day on 26 March 2020.

Since 2017, it has held promotional events to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively. The stock exchange has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

A total of 2.4 million shares worth K13.39 billion were traded on the YSX in 2019, a significant increase compared to the previous year, according to the annual report released by the exchange.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FOR BREAKING A STRICT NEW LAW

Turkey fines Facebook, others over new social media law

TURKEY on Wednesday fined Facebook, Twitter and three other social media companies for failing to appoint a country representative under a controversial law which came into force last month.

The legislation, passed in July, requires platforms with more than one million users to appoint representatives in Turkey that could implement court orders to remove contentious content or face heavy fines.

Turkey has ordered Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Periscope, YouTube and TikTok to pay 10 million lira (\$1.2 million, 1.0 million euro) fines for failing to comply, Deputy Transport and Infrastructure Minister Omer Fatih Sayan tweeted.

If the networks fail to open

local offices by the start of December, they will be fined an additional 30 million lira.

Failure to comply by early January would result in an advertising ban.

Should the social media companies still ignore Turkish law three months after the advertising ban, they will see bandwidth reductions of 50 per cent and then by as much as 90 per cent in the fifth and final stage.

Digital rights expert Yaman Akdeniz said any bandwidth reduction would start in April and reach 90 per cent by May, making the platforms effectively inaccessible.

Akdeniz tweeted on Tuesday that only the private Russian social media firm VK had appointed a Turkish representative to

date.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is one of the most popular leaders on social media with nearly 17 million followers and a very active presence.

But under his government, Turks have faced increasing prosecution over their social media posts, especially those accused of insulting the president.

Erdogan does not hide his disdain for social media, which he threatened to “wipe out” in 2014.

The new law was adopted after Erdogan’s anger over online insults of Finance Minister Berat Albayrak and his wife Esra, the president’s daughter, following their fourth child’s birth in June.

SOURCE: AFP



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan makes a speech after cabinet meeting at Presidential Complex in Ankara, on Nov. 3, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONG-RUNNING DISPUTE

Ethiopia PM orders riposte after ‘attack’ on army camp in restive Tigray

ETHIOPIA on Wednesday declared a state of emergency in the northern region of Tigray after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said he had ordered a military response to a deadly attack on a federal army camp by the local ruling party.

A statement from Abiy’s of-

fice said the government made the declaration “recognizing that illegal and violent activities” in Tigray, a restive region locked in a long-running dispute with Addis Ababa, were threatening national sovereignty, constitutional order and peace and security.

It followed an announce-

ment by Abiy on social media that the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) “has attacked a military camp” in the region and “tried to loot” military assets.

The attack resulted in “many martyrs, injuries and property damage”, Abiy said

later in a five-minute address on state television, without specifying where the base was.

“Our defence forces... have been ordered to carry out their mission to save the country. The final point of the red line has been crossed. Force is being used as the last measure to save

the people and the country,” he said in the earlier post on Facebook and Twitter.

It was not immediately clear what form the federal military response might take, or what the state of emergency declaration will entail.

SOURCE: AFP

'ACT OF TERROR'

Militants shot students ‘one by one’ in Afghan university attack: survivor

STUDENTS were gunned down “one by one” as they leapt from the windows of Kabul Universi-

ty classrooms when militants stormed the campus earlier this week, a survivor told AFP

Wednesday.

At least 22 people, mostly students, were killed and an-

other 27 wounded when three gunmen stormed the university on Monday, spraying classrooms with bullets in an assault claimed by the jihadist Islamic State group.

Mohammad Qasim Kohistani, 22, a student of public policy at Kabul University, one of Afghanistan’s main educational institutions, described how the seven-hour attack unfolded.

“We were waiting for our teacher to come... suddenly, we heard loud sounds coming from the first floor,” Kohistani, who was in a classroom on the second floor, told AFP.

“We knew something was wrong, we started jumping from the windows.”

Kohistani took refuge under a window ledge with his friends, a bloody scene unravelling above him as the attackers went room to room searching out victims.

“After a gunman took over

our class he started shooting fleeing students from the window,” he said.

“The (other two) gunmen were shooting students one by one from a close range,” he added.

Hundreds of students fled, some by scrambling over perimeter walls and onto the streets, others by barricading themselves inside rooms until they were rescued by Afghan special forces.

Best friend killed

Among those killed was Kohistani’s best friend, Ahmad Ali, who stopped to help another friend, Roqia.

“He didn’t jump from the window because Roqia had fainted,” he explained.

“He wanted to save her but the gunman shot both of them in the head and killed them.”

SOURCE: AFP



A journalist walks inside a damaged classroom of the National Legal Training centre, a day after gunmen stormed Kabul University in Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday. Stunned students demonstrated outside Kabul University on Tuesday after at least 22 people were killed in a brutal, on-campus attack claimed by the Islamic State group. **PHOTO: AFP**

MARKETS

Tokyo's Nikkei opens more than 2% up as US votes

TOKYO'S key Nikkei 225 index opened more than two percent higher on Wednesday, tracking rises on US markets a day earlier, as polls began closing in the US presidential vote.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was up 2.01 per cent or 468.27 points at 23,763.75 in early trade, while the broader Topix index gained 1.50 per cent or 24.08 points to 1,632.03.

The robust open of the Tokyo bourse came as early polls closed in the US election, where former vice president Joe Biden is challenging President Donald Trump.

US shares surged overnight, with the Dow ending 2.1 per cent higher, the Nasdaq adding 1.9 percent and the S&P up 1.8 per cent.

"Tokyo shares are expected to show a technical rebound on the back of gains on Wall Street



The Tokyo market may react heavily to election-related headlines that heavily influence algorithm trading. PHOTO: AFP

overnight," Okasan Online Securities said in a note.

"Japanese shares are likely to enjoy a further push as hopes surge for further stimulus in the United States after the presidential election."

The Tokyo market may react heavily to election-related headlines that

heavily influence algorithm trading, the brokerage added.

"The Japanese market will have no choice other than to react to the blow-by-blow accounting of ballot tallies in the US presidential election."

The Tokyo market often serves as a bellwether

of sorts for global markets following major events, such as presidential elections and referendums like the Brexit vote. Tokyo Stock Exchange operates while US and European markets close and is the first major market to open after New York finishes.

SOURCE: AFP

THE DOWNSIDE RISKS

BOJ chief airs concern about resurgence of COVID-19 in Europe, U.S.

BANK of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda on Wednesday expressed concern about a resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe and the United States, saying the bank will remain vigilant against downside

risks to the global economy. Speaking at an online meeting with corporate managers in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, Kuroda said the BOJ will keep tabs on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on

the economy and financial markets and take additional easing steps if necessary.

"There is concern that COVID-19 has been spreading again in Europe and the United States recently," Kuroda said, referring to the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

In a policy-setting meeting last week, the BOJ maintained its ultraeasy monetary policy to support the pandemic-hit economy, cutting its growth and inflation forecasts for the current fiscal year through March.

The world's third-largest economy is now expected to shrink 5.5 percent in

fiscal 2020, instead of the 4.7 per cent contraction estimated earlier.

"There are high uncertainties over the outlook for economic activity and prices, and risks are skewed to the downside," Kuroda told business leaders in Aichi, where Toyota Motor Corp. is headquartered. While the magnitude of the virus outbreak on domestic and overseas economies is "highly unclear," attention should be paid as to whether growth expectations among firms and households will decline, leading to "cautious spending attitudes," the governor said.

SOURCE: KYODO



People wearing face masks carry shopping bags as they walk near Herald Square in New York City, the US on June 25. PHOTO: AFP

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Maldives anticipates golden year for tourism in 2022

MINISTER of Tourism of the Maldives Abdulla Mausoom has said 2022 will be a golden year for tourism in the country, local media reported on Wednesday.

Mausoom was quoted by state-owned PSM News as saying that special activities were being planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Maldives'

opening up to tourism in 2022. Mausoom said discussions were underway to formulate special programs across the country that would boost the reve-

nue of tourism sector.

Maldives' tourism sector formally began in 1972 and is the country's main GDP contributor.

SOURCE: XINHUA

SAUDI EASES CONTROVERSIAL RESTRICTIONS

Saudi Arabia to ease restrictions on foreign workers

SAUDI Arabia said Wednesday it will ease key restrictions on millions of foreign workers, as part of plans to reform its long-criticized labour policy.

Human rights groups have repeatedly called on the kingdom to abolish its "kafala" sponsorship system, described by critics as a modern form of slavery that binds workers to their Saudi employers.

The ministry of human resources and social development said that from March 14, expatriates will no longer need their employers' permission to change jobs, travel or leave Saudi Arabia -- home to some 10 million foreigners.

"This initiative will

improve and increase the efficiency of the work environment," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

"The exit and re-entry visa reforms allow expatriate workers to travel... without the employer's approval after submitting a request, (and) the employer will be notified electronically of their departure," it said.

Sattam Alharbi, a deputy minister at the ministry, said the reforms will abolish "runaway" reports against foreign workers who do not report for duty, which effectively renders them criminals at risk of being jailed and deported.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (178N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (178N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1036W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1036W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-11-2020 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

HOPE FOR END TO DEADLOCK

Thai PM forwards public referendums bill to parliament



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha during a special cabinet meeting to discuss measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus at the Government House in Bangkok, April 3, 2020. **PHOTO: HANDOUT/ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT/AFP/FILE**

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Wednesday forwarded legislation on public referendums to the parliament, government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri confirmed.

The government-proposed legislation on public referendums is yet to be deliberated and turned into law by the House of Representatives and Senate in due course.

If approved by most leg-

islators in the house and senate, public referendums may be conducted for most people nationwide to make a decisive judgment on significant issues being handled by the legislative or executive branches, such as constitutional amendment bids and major resolutions passed by the cabinet of ministers, according to the government spokesman.

SOURCE: XINHUA

GOVT RULES OUT NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN

Pakistan not to close businesses despite COVID-19 resurgence

PAKISTAN'S Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday ruled out the possibility of imposing restrictions again on business activities in response to a spike in novel coronavirus cases in the country.

Speaking on television following a Cabinet meeting, Khan said, "We have decided that we would not close our businesses and our industry."

He made the remarks amid speculation that the government was considering re-imposing

restrictions to help contain the spread of the virus.

Pakistan's leading English-language newspaper Dawn had reported Tuesday that authorities were eyeing such a move.

The disease has spread rapidly over the past few weeks after the first wave was successfully controlled in August. The country on Monday reported 1,167 new cases, the highest daily figure since the last week of July.

Faisal Sultan, the prime

minister's special assistant on health, said at a press conference last week that the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic had begun in the country.

Pakistan imposed restrictions on businesses in March after the initial outbreak and later relaxed them in stages to support an already struggling economy. Restaurants and eateries reopened from Aug. 12, while schools resumed classes from mid-September.

SOURCE: KYODO

MALAYSIA AIRLINES FLIGHT 17

MH17 crash suspect 'saw no sign of missile'

A Russian suspect in the crash of flight MH17 saw no sign of the missile allegedly used to shoot down the plane, he said in a video played on Tuesday (Nov 3) at his trial.

Oleg Pulatov is one of four men being tried in absentia by a Dutch court over the loss of the Malaysia Airlines jet, which was travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it was downed over eastern Ukraine on Jul 17, 2014.

Investigators say a Soviet-era BUK missile fired by pro-Russian rebels was used to hit the airliner, which crashed

with the loss of all 298 people on board, including 196 Dutch nationals.

"No I haven't seen a BUK missile and I can also say for sure there was certainly no BUK seen," Pulatov, the only suspect to be represented by defence lawyers, said in a video message.

"No BUK or any commands related to a BUK were mentioned" during meetings he had with other rebels on the day of the crash, he said.

The first he heard about the crash was when his soldiers "told me about the latest news, that a plane got crashed near

Donetsk", he said in the message played to the court near Schiphol airport, where the doomed plane took off.

"My people from there told me that they were intercepting a lot of calls where they heard that there were literally bodies and corpses of people falling from the sky," he added.

The four suspects - Russian nationals Pulatov, Igor Girkin and Sergei Dubinsky, and Ukrainian citizen Leonid Kharchenko - are all accused of being key figures among the separatist rebels battling Kiev.

SOURCE: AFP

CRACKDOWN ON THOSE TRYING TO ESCAPE

South Korean military captures North Korean crossing border

A North Korean man was captured by South Korea's military on Wednesday after crossing the inter-Korean border, Seoul said.

The man was identified by Seoul only as a North Korean male, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

Investigations will be conducted "in cooperation with related agencies for details", it added, including whether the man sought to defect to the South.

No unusual activity of the North's military has been detected, it said.

Last year, a North Korean soldier made a river crossing of the Demilitarized Zone that

divides the peninsula.

More than 30,000 North Koreans have escaped to the South since the two were separated by war more than 65 years ago, according to Seoul government data, many of them driven by prolonged economic hardship.

But the vast majority have gone first to the North's neighbour and ally China before making their way to the South, usually via a third country.

Only a few have dared to cross the DMZ, which is riddled with landmines and has a heavy military presence on both sides.

SOURCE: AFP



South Korean (bottom) and North Korean (top) guard posts are seen on either side of the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea in Paju on August 24, 2015. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US ELECTION RESULTS

Biden, Trump both predict victory as president alleges theft

PRESIDENT Donald Trump early Wednesday said he expected a “big win” and accused Democrats of trying to steal the election after rival Joe Biden also predicted victory.

“We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election,” Trump wrote on Twitter moments after Biden told supporters he expected to win.

“We will never let them do it. Votes cannot be cast after the Polls are closed,” said Trump, who promised to speak more later.

Twitter, which has vowed to act against false information, quickly flagged Trump’s tweet accusing theft.

The president has long charged, with no evidence, that mail-in ballots are a way to cheat in the election.

Mail-in ballots, sent due to health concerns during the Covid-19 health crisis, are expected to favour Biden and in some states were being counted later.



Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden and US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

Trump appeared to be responding to Biden, who moments earlier told his supporters to be patient.

“We believe we are on track to win this election,” Biden said

to honks of approval in his home state of Delaware.

“It ain’t over till every vote is counted,” he said. “It’s not my place or Donald Trump’s place to say who won this election.”

Biden said he was confident at winning Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — all states carried by Trump in 2016.

SOURCE: AFP

PLUNGED INTO CHAOS

Trump declares win, vows court action in knife-edge election

THE US election was plunged into chaos early Wednesday as President Donald Trump prematurely declared victory and sought Supreme Court inter-

vention to stop vote-counting – even as his Democratic rival Joe Biden voiced confidence in his own chances.

In a divisive election cast

under the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed more than 230,000 lives in the United States, Trump appeared to have avoided a Democratic wave predicted by some polls but he still needs key states to secure another four-year term.

Shattering norms in the world’s most powerful democracy, Trump alleged “major fraud” as he held an upbeat rally inside the White House’s ceremonial East Room.

“We did win this election,” Trump told cheering supporters, few of them wearing masks to protect from Covid-19. “This is a fraud on the American public.”

The Republican tycoon said he would go to the Supreme Court because “we want all voting to stop.”

Voting had already ended by the time Trump took the podium after 2 am (0700 GMT) but Trump appeared to be calling for the court to stop counting.

Trump has railed for months against mail-in ballots, charging without evidence that they could be fraudulent, as some 100 million Americans voted ahead of Election Day amid the health crisis.

The Biden campaign soon hit back, calling the president’s bid to stop vote counting “outrageous” and “unprecedented,” and saying its legal teams were ready to fight him in the courts if need be.

“The counting will not stop. It will continue until every duly cast vote is counted,” it vowed. SOURCE: AFP



A close election could result in litigation over voting and ballot-counting procedures in battleground states. PHOTO: AFP

MONITORING THE PLATFORM IN REAL TIME

Social media firms on alert for Election Day misinformation

SOCIAL media firms remained on high alert Tuesday against Election Day misinformation and manipulation efforts as polling places began closing in the US and focus turned to tallying ballots.

Aiming to avoid the prob-

lems that occurred in the 2016 campaign, Facebook, Twitter and Google-owned YouTube were implementing policies aimed at heading off the spread of false information designed to sway the outcome of the election.

Facebook said it had acti-

vated a command centre which was monitoring the platform in real time.

“Our Election Operations Center will continue monitoring a range of issues in real time – including reports of voter suppression content,” said a Facebook

statement posted on Twitter.

Facebook said its election center was also tracking other issues such as the actions by supporters of President Donald Trump to surround campaign buses for Democrat Joe Biden.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

MARCH FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Portland protesters burn flags on tense US election night

Demonstrators burned US flags and marched through Portland armed with protest songs and assault rifles as a confusing election night unfolded to high tension but without violence in the northwestern city.

The liberal enclave in the state of Oregon had braced for possible armed clashes after months of divisive rallies involving left-wing activists, right-wing militias and federal officers deployed by the Trump administration.

As President Donald Trump claimed he won the US election early Wednesday, despite key states still counting ballots, activists gathered outside the Portland federal courthouse – the epicentre of the summer’s fraught anti-racism protests. – SOURCE: AFP

FOREIGN MINISTER TESTED POSITIVE

Hungarian minister tests positive for virus on Southeast Asia tour

Hungary’s foreign minister tested positive for coronavirus in Thailand, the kingdom’s health minister said Wednesday, a day after he jetted in from a meeting with Cambodian premier Hun Sen.

The confirmed case left the Cambodian strongman facing the prospect of a period in quarantine, as well as a test for the contagion. Peter Szijjarto flew into Phnom Penh Tuesday for a one-day official visit to sign agreements on civil aviation, agriculture and water management, as well as reopening an embassy after a 25-year hiatus.

On Tuesday night, he arrived in Bangkok and was swiftly taken to hospital after testing positive for the virus on arrival. The test “showed he has COVID-19, but he didn’t have any symptoms”, Thailand’s health minister Anutin Charnvirakul told reporters, after he visited Szijjarto at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute on Wednesday. – SOURCE: AFP

Naing Zayar Tun to serve goalie coach of Yangon United

FORMER Myanmar national team and Yangon United goalkeeper Naing Zayar Tun will serve as a goalie coach of Yangon United U-19 team as he has retired from playing, according to the statement with the Myanmar National League.

The 34-year-old keeper played for Myanmar national football team in 2012.

He also played as a key player in Yangon United, the most successful team in the Myanmar National League, for three consecutive championships.

Next, he also played as a keeper for Nay Pyi Taw FC, ManawMyay FC, Zwegapin United and Sagaing United respectively.

Keeper Naing Zayar Tun has expressed his feeling about moving to Yangon United as a coach.

“I will return to Yangon United as a goalkeeping coach of the U-19 team. My current

club Sagaing asked me to play for the next two years, but I could not refuse when Yangon United made me an offer.

Another reason is that at this age, it is time for a change, and I have always intended to go down this path when I retire.

I love Yangon United. I started my playing career with this team. With Yangon United, I have a lot of memories and success. It was as if I were returning home. I always wanted to go back. Even if not as a player, I wanted to return with a managerial position. I'm really pleased, as all my dreams do come true.

Yangon fans have always supported me throughout my player life. They even encouraged me when I was playing for another team. Thank you very much for that. I will do my best for Yangon United”, Naing Zayar Tun added. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



File photo shows Naing Zayar Tun, former keeper of Yangon United (front) who will serve as a goalie coach for the YUFC. PHOTO:MNL

‘Good news, bad news’: Hummels to miss Brugge trip but hopes to face Bayern

BERLIN — Former Germany defender Mats Hummels on Tuesday ruled himself out of Borussia Dortmund's Champions League match at Brugge with a hamstring problem, but hopes to face former club Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga this weekend.

Hummels suffered the injury while making a tackle after scoring both goals in last weekend's 2-0 win at Arminia Bielefeld which lifted Dortmund to second in the league table.

He will miss Wednesday's Champions League trip to Belgium, but should be fit to host Bundesliga leaders Bayern on Saturday.

“Bad news: unfortunately it won't be ready for the game against Brugge,” Hummels posted on Twitter.

“Good news: I am too slow to have torn the muscle fibres” the 2014 World Cup winner added with a self-deprecating joke.

“And I want to be back on Saturday.”

Dortmund coach Lucien Favre revealed in Tuesday's press conference that star striker Erling Braut Haaland could soon return to training after a knee injury.

Haaland, 20, missed the win at Bielefeld and Favre did not give a time scale when the Norway striker can play again. —AFP

Miserable Marseille match unwanted Champions League record



Andre Villas-Boas's Marseille were well beaten by Porto and have now lost 12 consecutive matches in the Champions League. PHOTO: CARLOS COSTA AFP

PORTO (Portugal) — Marseille matched the longest losing streak in UEFA Champions League history with their 3-0 defeat away to Porto in Portugal on Tuesday.

The French club, who won the inaugural edition of the Champions League in 1993, have now lost 12 consecutive matches in the competition to equal the mark set by Belgian side Anderlecht between 2003 and 2005.

Moussa Marega gave Porto an early lead behind closed doors at the Estadio do Dragao before Dimitri Payet blazed a penalty over for Marseille.

He was made to pay as Sergio Oliveira scored from the spot to make it 2-0 for Porto before the half-hour mark and the Colombian Luis Diaz sealed the win for the home side with a fabulous third in the second half.

Marseille, who are coached by the former Porto boss Andre Villas-Boas, are still without a point after three games in Group C, having also lost away to Olympiakos (1-0) and at home to Manchester City (3-0).

They lost their last three matches in the 2011/12 competition, although they did make it to the quarter-finals in that campaign.—AFP

‘Disappointed’ Tsitsipas knocked out of Paris Masters

PARIS — Second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was dumped out of the Paris Masters on Tuesday after losing to in-form Frenchman Ugo Humbert in a marathon second-round tie.

Humbert, who is on a seven-match winning streak after winning the Antwerp title last month, missed four match

points but battled to a 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/3) victory.

He was visibly struggling in the final-set tie-break after over three hours on court, but Tsitsipas said he was also not at full fitness.

“I'm just disappointed with the way I played,” said the world number six, who

lost to world number one Novak Djokovic in an epic French Open semi-final last month.

“During the second set my Roland Garros injury came back, and it wasn't as bad as at the French Open, but it kind of had me on the edge of things, and I wasn't sure if that's good

for me to be out there.

“But that's not an excuse, for sure. I still fought and gave my best out there, despite this thing that I had on court.”

The 22-year-old Humbert will face former US Open champion Marin Cilic for a place in the quarter-finals. Tsitsipas will next defend his

ATP Tour Finals title in London at the season-ending tournament which gets underway on November 15.

Humbert appeared poised to secure the win in the second-set breaker, but saw three match points come and go before Tsitsipas forced a decider.—AFP