

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 206, 8th Waning of Thadingyut 1382 ME

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

Sunday, 8 November 2020

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attends 65th Anniversary of Kayin State Day



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attends 65th Anniversary of Kayin State Day at the Kayin State Government Office in Hpa-an on 7 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attended the 65th Anniversary of Kayin State Day at the Kayin State Government Office in Hpa-an, Kayin State yesterday.

Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, accompanied by Kayin State Chief Justice U Saw San Lin and Chairperson of Kayin State

Election Sub-commission U Mahn Kyaw Win Maung, presided over the event which was organized in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, Member of

Union Election Commission (Kayin/Mon in-charge) U Saw Daniel Kyi, Kayin State Chief Justice U Saw San Lin, Kayin State cabinet members, Chairperson of Kayin State Election Sub-commission U Mahn Kyaw Win Maung, political parties, commission members, State-level departmental officials and peace delegates

saluted the State flag and paid tributes to General Aung San and the fallen martyrs.

Afterwards, Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin made an opening remark, and Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint read the Message of Greetings on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary celebrations of Kayin State Day

sent by President U Win Myint.

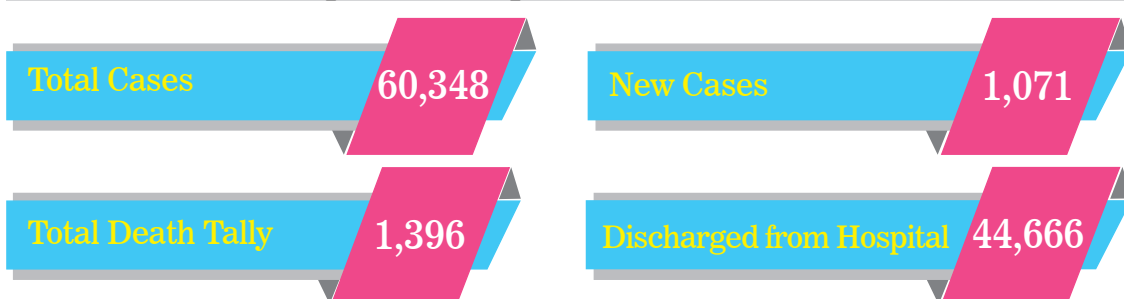
This year's Kayin State Day celebration was not largely held like previous years as it was convened in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports. —Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

1,071 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 November, total figure rises to 60,348

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 60,348 after 1,071 new cases were reported on 7 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 60,348 confirmed cases, 1,396 died, 44,666 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 7 November 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 7-11-2020

20

Ministry of Health and Sports



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Announcement for voters

1. The ward/village-tract election sub-commissions must hand over the sealed ballot boxes containing the advance ballots to the respective polling station heads prior to the opening of the polls on Election Day.
2. When polling stations closed, the poll heads have to count the advance ballots from the ballot boxes firstly in front of the members of polling stations including witnesses, people and representatives of the polling stations and then they have to count the ballots cast in the polls. After counting the ballots, the poll heads have to put the ballots and advance ballots for each Hluttaw Candidate including invalid votes, remaining ballot papers, receipts, and Form (16-1), voters lists of the polling stations, receipts for advance votes and Form (17) in the envelopes according to the stipulations and must send these documents and sealed bags to the relevant township election sub-commissions.
3. It is here announced that the persons who are unrelated with this case must not come along in ballot transportation as these activities will be carried out only by the officials permitted by the Hluttaw Election Law in accordance with the health guidelines for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.

Union Election Commission

Announcement for Voters

1. Relevant election sub-commissions have already received “advance votes” from the voters on the voter list.
2. Therefore, those who have already cast their ballots will not be able to cast their votes again on 8 November 2020.
3. It is important to note that if a person casts his or her ballot more than once, he or she shall be prosecuted under Section 59 of the relevant Electoral Law.

Union Election Commission

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

It is prohibited giving speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distributing or using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election as per Section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law. Whoever is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats or with both.

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.

Macau-Myanmar associations donate COVID-19 medical equipment to Myanmar

Macau-Myanmar Friendship Association, Macau-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Wong Clansmen in Macau donated masks, medical equipment and COVID-19 Test Kits to Myanmar.

The donation ceremony was held in the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing on 3 November.

During the ceremony, Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China U Myo Thant Pe explained the arrangement of the donation

and the plan to transport to Myanmar. Chairperson of the Macau-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Huang Qiong Cheng and Chairperson of the Macau-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce Mr Huang Delai explained the reason for the donation.

After the Myanmar Ambassador had expressed words of thanks for the COVID-19 medical equipment, he returned the certificates of honour to the donors.

The donated medical equipment will be transported to the National-Level Central Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Macau-Myanmar associations donate COVID-19 medical equipment to Myanmar on 3 November 2020. **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

ELECTION
DAY

175 Myanmar seamen from Malaysia fly back home

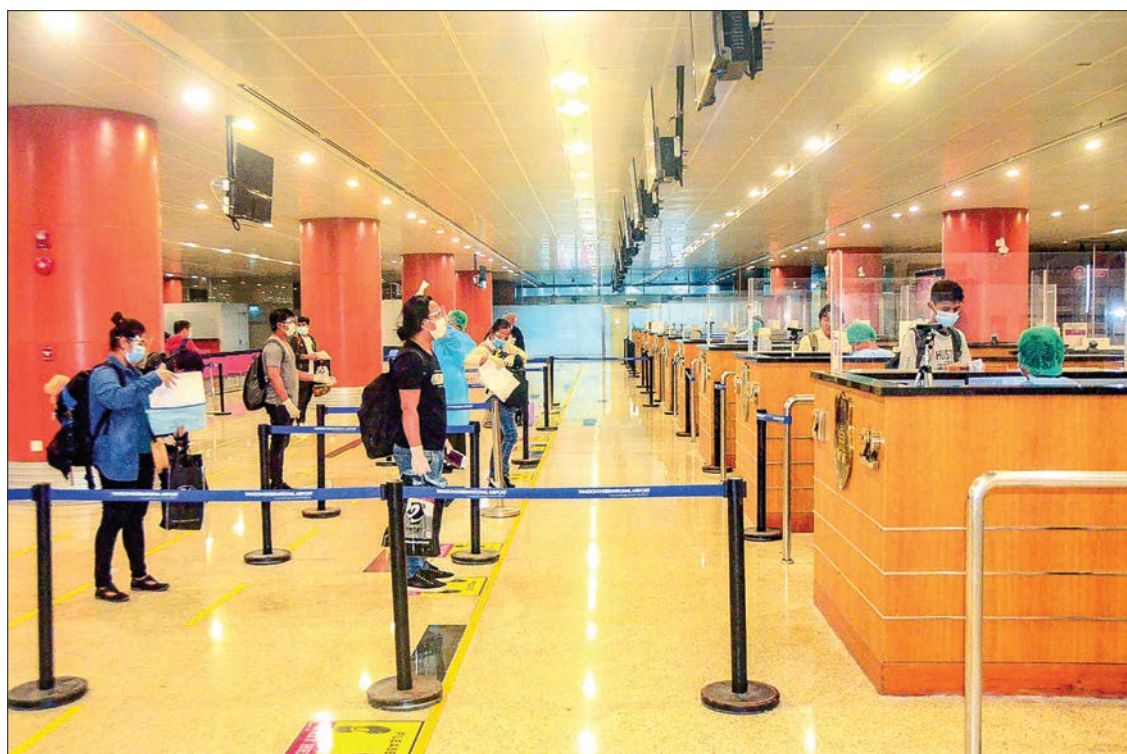
A total of 175 Myanmar seamen stranded in Malaysia because of suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flight yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and Travel Cue Management Sdn Bhd Company jointly arranged Myanmar Airways International (MAI) relief flight to repatriate the Myanmar returnees from Malaysia to the Yangon International Airport.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the

Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 7-day quarantine, followed by 7-day home quarantine.

Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is also closely working with relevant organizations in Malaysia on the repatriation of Myanmar detainees and Myanmar citizens illegally staying in Malaysia after they are scrutinized for citizenship. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar returnees are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 7 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

2nd batch PCR test kit items from JICA for NHL, all Public Health COVID-19 Lab delivered

SURPASSING 50,000 positive cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar, Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) is proactively responding to these challenges for early diagnosis and care for patients. There is no doubt that the continuation of testing requires supplying test kits.

As a part of an emergency response to the resurgence of COVID-19 in Myanmar, JICA provided the 2nd batch of viral nucleic acid extraction kits necessary for real-time PCR test under total value amount to 836 million Kyats for NHL, Yangon and delivered on 6 November 2020. The 1st batch was delivered at the end of October 2020.

“The more confirmed cases of COVID-19 are found, the more testing kits and consumables are required. We believe this support would contribute

to combatting the disease,” Mr Iwai Nobuo, Senior Representative, JICA Myanmar Office, says. In close consultation with MoHS, JICA has been supporting not only in the field of detection of the coronavirus but also in the area of infection prevention and control, through Dr Shinsuke Miyano, JICA Expert for Infectious Disease Control and Laboratory Services.

With the technical assistance of Dr Miyano, JICA and NHL are working hand in hand for testing and data management for the implementation of PCR test and medical equipment such as test kits and reagents as well as personal protective equipment to NHL.

Japan/JICA, as a long-standing partner of Myanmar, will continuously support Myanmar in fighting against COVID-19.—GNLM



JICA Myanmar hands over PCR test kit items to Myanmar at National Health Laboratory (NHL) on 6 November 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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

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Magway hospital to provide better treatment after upgrading to 500-bed hospital

MAGWAY General Hospital will provide better treatment after upgrading the hospital, said an official from Magway General Hospital.

On 26 October, the Medical Services Department (Nay Pyi Taw) granted upgrading of Magway General Hospital to 500-bed from 200-bed hospital.

"The upgrading to a 500-bed hospital is aimed at promoting the treatment of neurology, neuro-medical, kidney, cancer and radiation cases. If the Ministry of Health and Sports appoints more senior physicians, it will be better for the people in Magway Region. Upon completion of upgrading, the patients who have cancer, neurology and neuro-medical cases will not need to go to Mandalay, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw," said Dr Win Win Htay, the Medical Superintendent of Magway hospital.

A five-storey building in Magway hospital compound was constructed through the spending of Union budget and



Picture shows upgrading Magway hospital. PHOTO: ZAYYATU(MAGWAY)

regional government funds.

The construction of the building is completed, and it is currently used as the COVID-19 treatment centre. The construction of three-storey obstetrics and gynaecology ward at the spending of US\$12.8 million from JICA is

almost completed, and the new ward will be handed over to the Medical Services Department at the end of November. "Now, the Magway hospital is running with over 500 medical staff.

Now, the hospital is upgraded into a 500-bed hospital,

and more physicians and staff will be appointed," said Dr Win Win Htay. Although Magway hospital is called 200-bed hospital, it is providing treatment to 500 patients daily. The hospital was opened in 1964. — Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Onion price drops by half this year

The price of onion has dropped by half this year compared to the same period of last year, according to the onion commodity depot from Yetamar Road.

On 6 November 2020, the price of Seikphyu species onion ranged from K800 to 950-1000 per viss in Yangon wholesale market depending upon the size while some onion commodity depots are selling the onion for K800-925-950 per viss, according to the onion depot.

In the same period last year, the price of onion was K1,300-2,000-2,200-2,300 per viss in the onion wholesale market. There-

fore, this year onion price has declined by half compared to that of last year in Yangon market.

Although Bangladesh is highly in need of onion for its domestic consumption, the country is still closing its border areas for fear of the pandemic. Myanmar onions are sent to the border areas via a land route, but they could not reach Bangladesh.

The onions are not usually sent via sea routes because the onions are damaged by long shipping days.

A viss of wholesale onion

dropped to K700-K850-K950 on 17 October from K 800-K12,00-K1,250 on 2 October in Yangon market. The price of a viss of onion has downed to K700-K800-K900 on 23 October. However, the onion price rose a bit to K800-K975-K1,000 per viss on 4 November.

Earlier, around 150,000 visses of onion are daily entering Yangon onion market. Now, only approximately 100,000 visses of onion reach daily these days, according to the onion market.

Last month, I bought the onion for K1,400 per viss from Yangon retail market. These

days, I have to buy the onion for K1,200 per viss, said a housewife from Pazundaung township.

This 2020 summer onion is sold mainly in the domestic market, and the price of onion is standing still.

Local onion traders are expecting onion prices to rise again when they can resume export to Bangladesh as border trade is returning to normalcy. Freshly harvested onions normally arrive in Yangon market in December.—Maung Say Aung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar to export over 200,000 tonnes of sugarcane to China in 2020-2021FY

MYANMAR will export over 200,000 tonnes of sugarcane to China via Lwejel border camps in 2020-2021 financial year, according to Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Product Entrepreneurs Association (MSSPEA).

To export over 200,000 tonnes of sugarcane, a local company will buy sugarcane

from the local fields near Lwejel border region to ship them to China.

Sugarcane will be exported as a raw material when Myanmar could not export sugar to China.

"The local company, named 7 Force, will export sugarcane. The company has also grown the sugarcane.

The company will also buy the sugarcane from the local growers whose farmlands are far away from sugar mills," stated the MSSPEA.

The company will buy the sugarcane for K40,000 per tonne and sell it back to China for K80,000 per tonne.

The export of 200,000 tonnes of sugarcane to China

is equivalent to the export of about 20,000 tonnes of sugar.

This year, there are over 430,000 acres of sugarcane cultivation across the county. The sugar mills expect to produce over 4 million tonnes of sugar in 2020-2021, according to the Agricultural Department. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Announcement on legal actions against election law-breakers

1. An unofficial voting stamp with no 'UEC' words was found from U Aung San, a polling station representative of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), on 4 November 2020, while the advance votes of the elderly aged 60 and above are being collected at the polling station of No 2 Ward, Yeni Town in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District in Bago Region.
2. It is also investigated that Daw Pyone Kyi, who lives in No 10 Ward of Danubyu Township, Maubin District in Ayeyawady Region, voted twice – once in No 10 Ward on 29 October 2020 and another in Nandawgon Village-tract – during the advance voting of the elderly aged 60 and above.
3. U Phyo San Lin (a member of a polling station), who lives in Upper Yehle Village of Pan Tin Village-tract in Ingapu Township, Hinthada Township in Ayeyawady Region, cast advance votes twice – once at the election sub-commission of Pan Tin Village-tract on 2 November 2020 and another at the polling station of Kayin Ku Village-tract.
4. U Aung Myint, who lives in Katkayan Village of Kanyin Wa Village-tract, Maubin Township in Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, also cast advance votes twice the same day – once at the polling station No 1 of Kanyin Wa Village-tract and another at the polling station No 2 of Kanu Village-tract.
5. The suspects U Aung San, Daw Pyone Kyi, U Phyo San Lin and U Aung Myint, were charged with the provisions of Section 59 Hluttaw Election Law at the respective police stations.

Union Election Commission

Ayeyawady Centre (Mandalay) opens for COVID-19 patients

THE Ayeyawady Centre (Mandalay), which has been constructed under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports, was opened yesterday.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung attended the opening event and gave words of encouragement to the doctors, nurses and volunteers at the centre.

Officials from the centre explained the arrangements inside the centre to the chief minister and officials. Construction of the 300-bed COVID Treatment Ayeyawady Centre (Chanmyathazi) began at the end of October. A 100-bed ICU/HDU Centre and Test and Care Centre will also be opened soon.

Ayeyawady Foundation will

provide the foods for the health workers, volunteers and patients at the centre.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ayeyawady Foundation also constructed Ayeyawady Centre (Yangon) for COVID-19 infected patients and ICU and HCU centres for emergency patients. —Ye Yint Shine



An aerial view of Ayeyawady Centre (Mandalay). PHOTO: KO MOE

Officials, senior citizens and state's employees in Taunggyi cast advance ballots



A woman casts her advance votes in Taunggyi on 7 November 2020. PHOTO: SAI THAN KYAW (TAUNGGYI)

SECRETARY of the Shan State government U Nay Lin and officials along with senior citizens and voters who will be on duty on the Election Day cast their advance ballots yesterday morning in Taunggyi.

All the advance voters and polling station staff followed the guidelines of the COVID-19 prevention and control measures from the Ministry of Health and Sports with taking body temperature, providing hand sanitizers and distributing gloves and masks.

For the 2020 General Election, on 8 November, officials from Taunggyi township have arranged the advance voting of the senior citizens in Taunggyi and state's employees, who will be on duty on the Election Day on 8 November, since 29 October.

There are 324,913 eligible voters in 245 polling stations of 75 village/ward tracts in Taunggyi Township. — Sai Than Kyaw (Taunggyi)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

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

BIDEN BEATS TRUMP

Biden wins White House, ending Trump presidency

WASHINGTON (United States) — Democrat Joe Biden has won the White House, US media said Saturday, defeating Donald Trump and ending a presidency that convulsed American politics, shocked the world and left the United States more divided than at any time in decades.

CBS, NBC and CNN news networks announced the result just before 11:30 am (1630 GMT) as an insurmountable lead in Pennsylvania took Biden, 77, over the top in the state-by-state count that decides the presidency.

“America, I’m honoured that you have chosen me to lead our great country,” Biden said in a statement.

“The work ahead of us will be hard, but I promise you this: I will be a president for all Americans — whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you have placed in me.”

Trump quickly responded to the announcement by accusing Biden of falsely declaring himself the next president.

“We all know why Joe Biden is rushing to falsely pose as the winner, and why his media allies are trying so hard to help him: they don’t want the truth to be exposed,” Trump said in a statement.

“The simple fact is this election is far from over.”

For Biden, who got more than 74 million votes, a record, the triumph after a tense contest conducted during a global coronavirus pandemic was the crowning achievement of his half century in US politics, including eight years as deputy to the first Black US president Barack Obama.

The result condemned 74-year-old Trump — who made frantic attempts to claim fraud and stop the vote count — to becoming the first one-term president since George H. W. Bush at the start of the 1990s.

The Republican, whose marathon press conferences, tweeting and raucous campaign rallies have made him a perpetual, noisy presence at home and abroad over the last four years, had no immediate reaction.

But ever since the night after Tuesday’s election, when he prematurely claimed victory, Trump has been inhabiting a world increasingly disconnected from the reality of his approaching downfall.

Earlier Saturday, he left the White House for the first time since Election Day to play golf, tweeting: “I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!”

And in an extraordinary White House address to the nation on Thursday — with Biden’s lead in the partial results already consolidating rapidly — he claimed “they are trying to steal the election.”

Despite Trump’s protests, the returns from vote counting offices around the country kept coming all week, with no credible reports of irregularities.

And when US television networks declared that Biden had taken an insurmountable lead in Pennsylvania, that put the Democrat over the magic number of 270 electoral college votes. Trump had no way back.

Centrist in divided era

The biggest ever turnout of



Joe Biden. PHOTO: AFP

voters — some 160 million people, according to preliminary estimates — poured out across the United States, ultimately favouring Biden’s promise of calm to Trump’s rollercoaster.

An old school centrist, Biden has fended off the energetic leftist wing of his party, while choosing Kamala Harris, the first Black woman on a major party presidential ticket, as his running mate.

Although a career politician — a widely derided group today — he is seen by many as a sympathetic character, humanized by having endured the loss of his wife and baby daughter in a car accident in 1972, then another son to cancer four decades later.

Yet despite his fervent promises to restore America’s “soul,” Biden will inherit a shaken, angry country.

Americans are bitterly split after an election campaign in which Trump deliberately stoked divisions over many of

the country’s most sensitive issues, including race, immigration and gun ownership. And despite critics painting Trump as an aberration, he still won the votes of around 70 million people — many of whom may not have liked Trump himself, yet consider Democrats as being out of touch with their traditional values. That gulf in understanding between two Americas will likely continue to rage in Congress, threatening Biden’s ability to govern at a time of economic upheaval and an accelerating coronavirus crisis.

Humiliation

For Trump, the defeat and his exit from the White House at the transition on January 20 will above all be a story of personal humiliation.

He shocked the country and the world when he stormed to victory in 2016 as a political newcomer taking down the seasoned Democrat Hillary Clinton in his first shot at public office.

Then for much of his admin-

istration he appeared invulnerable to the normal laws of politics.

His showbiz style of running the government made him perhaps the most watched — and controversial — individual on the planet. He survived impeachment, tore up diplomatic norms, and was so omnipresent in the media that he lodged himself in the consciousness of ordinary Americans in a way never previously experienced.

A former reality TV star and celebrity real estate developer, he gave the impression of someone who always got his own way.

To crowds at rallies he loved to boast “we’re going to win so much, you’re going to be so sick and tired of winning.” And to people he didn’t like, his go-to insult was “loser”. Yet now he’s a loser himself — as perhaps he already feared on the morning of the election.

“Winning is easy,” he mused as polls opened. “Losing is never easy. Not for me.” — AFP

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES

New Zealand swears in most diverse Cabinet ever

NEW Zealand’s Jacinda Ardern was formally sworn-in for her second term as prime minister on Friday, along with her ministers who make up the country’s most diverse Cabinet ever.

Among those sworn-in on Friday were newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson, the first openly gay person to hold the position, and Nanaia Mahuta, the first Maori woman to become foreign minister.

According to local media, of those in the Cabinet, 40 per cent are women, 25 per cent are Mao-

ri, 15 per cent identify as LGBT and 15 per cent are of Pacific islander background.

“Sitting at this table is Aotearoa New Zealand,” Ardern said at the ceremony, using the Maori name for the nation of roughly 5 million. “They collectively represent a range of different perspectives. They represent huge talent. They represent a broad set of experiences.”

The swearing-in of the Cabinet came on the same day that official results were announced for the country’s general election and referenda on the legal-

ization of recreational cannabis and euthanasia.

Results of the vote, which was held in October, saw the Labour Party gain an extra seat to hold 65 seats in the 120-seat parliament, solidifying its majority government.

In the referenda, New Zealanders voted to legalize assisted dying with 65.1 per cent of voters supporting the act. However, legalization of recreational cannabis was narrowly voted down with only 48.4 per cent of people supporting the proposition.

SOURCE: Kyodo

INDONESIA’S MOST ACTIVE VOLCANO

Hundreds residents evacuated as Indonesia’s Merapi volcano may soon erupt

MORE than 630 residents were evacuated from a village near Mount Merapi in Indonesia’s Central Java province between Friday and Saturday as a volcano alert was raised to the second-highest level, a local official said.

Chief Executive of Magelang District’s disaster management agency, Edy Susanto, said on Saturday that in addition to them, there are also people living in three villages in Dukuh sub-district to be evacuated.

“There are about 2,625 peo-

ple from the three villages who have to be evacuated. We are still monitoring the rest,” Susanto said, adding that basic supplies for seven evacuation posts are available for the next three days.

In Sleman district of Yogyakarta province, 133 vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, pregnant women, and the disabled have been evacuated, said Joko Supriyanto, head of the district’s disaster management agency.

SOURCE: Xinhua

NATIONAL SAFETY REGULATION

Cambodian PM in self-quarantine, unable to attend upcoming 37th ASEAN Summit: statement

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen has been in a self-quarantine and will be unable to participate in the upcoming 37th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and related meetings, said a foreign ministry's press statement on Saturday.

"Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen and Deputy Prime Minister [and Foreign Minister] Prak Sokhonn have expressed deep regret to their counterparts for be-

ing absent in these important events due to their mandatory 14-day self-isolation in accordance with the national safety regulation against COVID-19," the statement said.

It added that Deputy Prime Minister Aun Pornmoniroth, who is also the minister of economy and finance, will represent Cambodia on behalf of Hun Sen at the summit and related meetings, which will be held via video conference from Nov. 12 to 15.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Children wash their hands at a China-donated portable handwashing facility at the Trapeang Thlan Village community pre-school in Prek Pnov district, Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Oct. 21, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

EDUCATION

Greek decision to close secondary schools panned by teachers

TEACHERS hit out Friday at Greece's closure of secondary schools from next week, as the country enters a second nationwide lockdown aiming to curb the aggressive spread of coronavirus.

In his announcement of a new lockdown on Thursday, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said secondary school students would have to do distance-learning once again.

But he promised that kindergartens and primary schools would remain open -- for now.

Theodoros Tsouchlos, president of the secondary

school teachers' union, said he feared the schools would eventually have to remain closed much longer.

"Distance-learning cannot replace the physical presence of students in the classroom," he told AFP. "We warned the education ministry to prepare for this situation.

"We had requested small classes of 15 students, more hirings of teachers and cleaners at schools" to avoid their closure.

Tsouchlos said many high school students had already fallen behind in their studies during the first wave of the pandemic.

SOURCE: AFP



Teachers hit out Friday at Greece's closure of secondary schools from next week, as the country enters a second nationwide lockdown aiming to curb the aggressive spread of coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY

Greece hails Moody's upgrade as 'vote of confidence'

GREECE on Saturday hailed Moody's upgrade of the country's credit rating as a "strong vote of confidence" even as the country enters a second lockdown in response to rising coronavirus infections.

The rating agency lifted Greece's long-term debt rating by a notch on Friday from B1 to Ba3 with a stable outlook, although the vital tourism industry is suffering through the virus outbreak.

"Moody's upgrade of Greece's rating, which came in

the midst of a global recession, is a strong vote of confidence in the growth prospects of the Greek economy post-Covid", Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis tweeted Saturday.

The boost follows an upgrade of Greece's debt rating by the Fitch agency in January.

Moody's pointed to the country's growth outlook for next year as well as progress in tax compliance, strengthening institutions and fighting corruption.

"Favourable growth pros-

pects, combined with a return to a prudent fiscal stance, will lead to a gradual reversal in the public debt trend," Moody's wrote in its report.

The Greek economy is expected to contract by 9.0 per cent this year before booking 5.0 per cent growth in 2021 and 3.5 percent in 2022, the European Commission said in its Autumn Economic Forecast on Thursday -- the same day Mitsotakis announced the return to lockdown.

SOURCE: AFP

VIRUS MUTATION

Six countries reported coronavirus on mink farms, WHO says

DENMARK and the United States are among six countries that have reported new coronavirus cases linked to mink farms, the World Health Organization said.

Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden are the other nations to have discovered SARS-CoV-2 in minks, WHO said in a statement.

Denmark has imposed strict measures on the north of the country after warning that a mutation of the virus had jumped from minks to humans and infected 12 people.

Copenhagen has warned the mutation could threaten the effectiveness of any future vaccine and has ordered the slaughter of all the estimated 15-17 million minks in the country.

Britain on Saturday banned entry to all non-resident foreigners coming from Denmark after the mutation linked to mink farms was found in humans.

Scientists say virus mutations are common and often harmless, and this one doesn't cause a more severe illness in humans.

But Danish health author-

ities have expressed concern this strain, known as "Cluster 5", is not inhibited by antibodies to the same degree as the normal virus, which they fear could threaten the efficacy of vaccines that are being developed across the globe.

"Initial observations suggest that the clinical presentation, severity and transmission among those infected are similar to that of other circulating SARS-CoV-2 viruses," the WHO statement said on Friday.

SOURCE: AFP

The elections are a transit point for reflection

THE elections are now upon us, and this time around, they have changed from a phenomenon that most had not experienced in their life to something that now has a more serious air among the public.

That is not to say the people have never been serious, but the fanciful hope of clearing all issues of the nation once a democratic government is established has now faded, and people see that change is a long and hard process.

Many are commenting that the ruling party losing followers and voters are signs of its inability to carry out its duties. While there is no denying that the incumbent government has not made as much progress in certain sectors as people have anticipated, this migration of former supporters is a sign that people are becoming more confident in pursuing their agenda as opposed to following the masses.

The people are now learning that it is okay and actually essential to a democracy that there are different voices and opinions to keep things in perspective. But what they need to be aware of moving forward is that this doesn't mean they have to view other parties as to the enemy. They are opponents and competitors, but they are also allies working towards the same goal of healing our nation.

It has been mentioned incessantly that it will take a lot of time to resolve issues caused by armed conflicts that have been around for more than 60 years in our country and just a little over a decade of civilian administration has barely gotten a head start at addressing these issues.

The election may be over, and a new government may be formed, but the issues will remain the same, and it will still require all of us – the general public, politicians, civil servants, military personnel, armed ethnic groups and everyone else to move ahead while building trust and understanding and reconciliation.

ethnic groups and everyone else to move ahead while building trust and understanding and a common footing for solidarity and reconciliation.



THE BEST TIME TO LOOK AT COUNTRY'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY IS DURING AN EMERGENCY

World can save lives and 'end this pandemic, together' - WHO chief

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues evolving, the world must "take all opportunities to learn and improve the response as we go", the UN health agency chief said.



Health workers demonstrate proper handwashing to a child at a community health centre in Central Java, Indonesia. © UNICEF/Fauzan Ijazah. PHOTO: UNICEF/FAUZAN IJAZAH

“Many countries heard our call back in January when we rang our highest alarm by calling a public health emergency of international concern”, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) told a regular press briefing in Geneva.

Since then, he explained that they have been working closely with the UN agency, following parameters set out in its strategic response plan, outlined on 4 February.

“They’ve conducted reviews, shared data and experience and honed their response to their national and sub-national levels.”

tional experience and unique situation on the ground”, Tedros continued, adding that they have also been strengthening their responses by using Intra-Action Reviews, which harness “a whole-of-society, multi-sectoral approach” at national and sub-national levels.

“Intra-Action Reviews not only help countries improve their COVID-19 response but also contribute towards their long-term health security”, the WHO chief upheld. “To date, 21 countries have completed them, and others are in pipeline”.

‘Never too late’

The best time to look at country’s emergency response capacity is during an emergency, “when you can clearly see what works, what doesn’t and what you need to improve”, he said.

And wherever a country is, he maintained that they can “turn it around with a whole-of-govern-

ment and whole-of-society response”.

“There’s hope, and now is the time to double down on efforts to tackle this virus” Tedros stressed. “We can save lives and livelihoods and end this pandemic, together”.

Health ministers speak

Having conducted reviews in real-time, the Ministers of Health from Thailand, South Africa and Indonesia, shared their experiences with the WHO chief.

Anutin Charnvirakul explained how Thailand drew on lessons learned from SARS back in 2003 and responded to COVID with a strong public health response led by identifying, isolating, treating cases and tracing and quarantining contacts of those infected.

“We commit to improving our response to COVID-19 by working closely with relevant stakeholders”, he stated.

Meanwhile, Zweli Mkhize

gave an overview of the pandemic in South Africa, and how the country utilized the Intra-Action Review, the lessons it had learned and its path forward, which includes new committees at both national and provincial levels to ensure that recommendations being “incorporated into strategic plans” are implemented.

“COVID-19 is still with us and we must remain vigilant and continue to fight together”, he warned.

And Terawan Agus Putranto, Indonesia’s health minister, said their successful response to the pandemic had been built around “coordination, risk communication and community empowerment.”

He also acknowledged that the country needs to improve on its enforcement of “lockdown restrictions and empowering the community, as agents for change”.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

3 WS: WEAR A MASK, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE, AND WASH YOUR HANDS

MASS MEDIA CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO FIGHT COVID-19 AND SUPPORT HEALTH WORKERS

The follow-up “Let’s beat COVID-19 together” campaign will run for six weeks on TV and radio, and on social media (Facebook).

THE People’s Health Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports, launched a mass media campaign today to promote safe behavior during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar. The follow-up “Let’s beat COVID-19 together” campaign will run for six weeks on TV and radio, and on social media (Facebook). The campaign will feature stories of COVID-19 survivors and their family members.

can change our behaviour; we can keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. Slowing down the growth of COVID-19 cases also helps to keep our health workers from getting overwhelmed. This important mass media campaign is meant to spread information on how you can prevent getting infected and infecting others: Follow stay-at-home orders and when you can’t, practice the 3Ws: Wear your mask, Wash your hands and Watch your distance.”

The new campaign is the second COVID-19 campaign the People’s Health Foundation has launched this year. It will feature several TV spots. In one of the spots actor Zin Myo shows the three Ws of proper protective behaviour: wear a mask, watch your distance, and wash your hands. Spots featuring testimonials of COVID-19 survivors and their family members have also been produced, calling upon the public to engage in safe behaviour. In addition, two radio spots will be



A road in Yangon is being disinfected in efforts to prevent the COVID-19 infection. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

aired, and a six-week social media campaign has been developed. The Facebook posts all feature the hashtag #LetsBeatCovidTogether.

Dr Than Sein, President of the People’s Health Foundation explained why this choice has been made. “There have been many

those who fight COVID-19 in the frontline. “COVID-19 does not discriminate,” said Dr Than Sein. “Our frontline health workers face increased risks, and they might get overwhelmed if we don’t manage to control the number of cases. If we want to support our health workers, the best thing we can do is practice safe behavior. Through our campaign we support the good work of the Ministry of Health and Sports, to manage this crisis and hopefully it will help to relieve pressure from the public health system, until a vaccine becomes available.”

Let’s Beat Covid Together is funded through a grant and technical assistance through Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of global health organization Vital Strategies. Young Guns Media, a Yangon-based media agency, has developed and will execute the campaign.

SOURCE: PEOPLE’S HEALTH FOUNDATION – MYANMAR



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 7th November, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 08th November, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Ayeyawady Region, Kayin and Mon states, isolated in Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of decrease of night temperatures in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 08th November, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 08th November, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 08th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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AMONGST MANY OTHERS

France to skip Euro gym champs in Turkey over Covid, political tensions



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attends a Victory Day ceremony in Ankara on 30 August. **PHOTO: TURKISH PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/AFP**

FRANCE will skip the European gymnastics championships scheduled to be held in December in Turkey because of the Covid-19 pandemic and “current geopolitical tensions” between the two countries, the French federation said Friday.

“Insofar as we are unable to fully guarantee the safety of the French team, it seemed to us more responsible to pull out” of the December 9-20 Euros in the southern Turkish city of Mersin, French gymnastics federation president James Blateau said.

France head coach Kevinn

Rabaud added: “Current diplomatic tensions mean that our team’s safety cannot be guaranteed. “In these conditions, it is unthinkable to take the least risk as regards a team travelling, albeit for a major competition for which we were perfectly ready.”

Turkey and France have been at loggerheads on the conflicts in Syria and Libya as well as a scramble for natural gas in the Mediterranean and more recently on French President Emmanuel Macron’s vow to uphold secular values, including the right to mock Islam and other re-

ligions, as part of a battle against extremism.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has recently called for a boycott of French products, accusing Macron of islamophobia and advising the French leader to get “mental checks”.

The championships in Turkey have already been hit by the withdrawals of several teams, notably Russia, Switzerland, Britain, Germany, Netherlands and Spain, because of the coronavirus outbreak.

SOURCE: AFP

MIDDLE EAST’S WORST HIT COUNTRY

Iran daily virus infections exceed 9,000

IRAN on Saturday announced a new record of more than 9,000 new cases of Covid-19 infections in the Middle East’s worst hit country, as the government imposed new restrictions.

The latest official figure of 9,450 positive novel coronavirus cases in a 24-hour period comes after a consistent daily count of more than 8,000 in the past six days.

Iran’s virus caseload now stands at 673,250, the health ministry announced.

The virus has also claimed another 423 lives in the Islamic republic, raising the total number of victims to 37,832.

The number of infections and deaths have kept rising and hit several new highs since September, prompting officials

to announce new restrictions.

On Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani outlined a new list of measures during a meeting with the Covid-19 taskforce meeting.

Speaking in a televised speech Rouhani said under the new measures non-essential businesses such as malls, small retailers, cinemas and gyms would close from 6 pm for a month starting Tuesday.

This would apply to the capital Tehran, province capitals and “cities with high populations”, he added.

The rising toll has brought a number of health experts and officials to call for a lockdown in the capital as a minimum measure.

SOURCE: AFP



Pilgrims wearing masks walk through the courtyard of the shrine of Imam Ali on February 25, 2020 in the holy Iraqi central city of Najaf, where the first case of coronavirus COVID-19 has been documented in Iraq. **PHOTO: HAIDAR HAMDANI / AFP**

INFECTIONS HIT RECORD

‘Exhausted’ Swiss doctors reel as second virus wave hits

NO more room. Patients with severe Covid-19 infections fill all the 10 enclosed beds in the intensive care unit at this small Swiss hospital, but more keep coming.

“This morning, I was asked to take one more patient... so I had to transfer the most stable patient I had to another hospital to make room,” Herve Zender, the chief physician at the La-Chaux-de-Fonds’s ICU, told AFP. The sudden reorganization at the hospital in western Switzerland has in recent days become routine.

“This is something we are doing basically every day at the

moment,” he said.

“The unit is constantly full. We have no back-up.”

For weeks now, the novel coronavirus has been mercilessly lashing Switzerland, and in particular its French-speaking region, where hospitals are rapidly becoming overwhelmed.

Switzerland emerged relatively unscathed from the first wave of Covid-19 infections in the spring, but as a second wave engulfs Europe, health workers here agree the situation in the wealthy Alpine nation this time is far more worrying.

SOURCE: AFP

MASS TESTING BEGINS

First city-wide coronavirus testing kicks off in Liverpool



Liverpool on Friday began England’s first city-wide trial of coronavirus testing in an attempt to prevent hospitals becoming overwhelmed during the country’s second wave of the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIVERPOOL on Friday began England’s first city-wide trial of coronavirus testing in an attempt to prevent hospitals becoming overwhelmed during the coun-

try’s second wave of the pandemic, even if asymptomatic, under the pilot, which will initially run for two weeks.

Liverpool last month became the first region to enter the most severe tier of regional lockdown as it battled a spike in cases, followed by the nearby city of Manchester.

A month-long nationwide lockdown came into force on Thursday as cases began to spiral in all parts of England.

Britain is already grappling with the worst toll in Europe with over 48,000 dead after testing positive for the disease.

Liverpool mayor Joe Anderson said the pilot could save lives and “get the city out of tier three restrictions”. **SOURCE: AFP**

FOX NEWS

Is Rupert Murdoch dumping Trump?

FOX News and the New York Post, magnate Rupert Murdoch's main media outlets, have started distancing themselves from Donald Trump as the US election vote counting drama drags on – a first since the president came to power and a potential turning point.

On Thursday night in Phoenix, Arizona, supporters of Trump bluntly shouted "Fox News Sucks" in reference to the news outfit considered fiercely loyal to the president for the past five years.

Fox News infuriated Trump and his people on election night by calling Arizona for Democrat Joe Biden.

Jared Kushner, Trump's

advisor and son in law, called Murdoch in vain to try to get that call retracted. Other media held off from calling the battleground state for Biden as the tallying of ballots continued.

Since that night, Fox News has stepped very carefully around allegations of massive vote fraud coming from the Trump campaign and the man himself.

"We just haven't seen it. It hasn't been presented to us," Fox News anchor Brett Baier said on the air Friday.

So people are asking if Fox News, which helped bring Trump to power in 2016, is in the process of dumping him as Biden closes in on the magic number of 270



A large screen shows Fox News anchor Sean Hannity at a Trump rally in Waterford, Michigan on October 30, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

electoral votes that would win him the White House.

DePauw University communications professor Jeffrey

McCall said Fox News has always had a twin identity – on one hand, star anchors who are more editorialists than journalists and

on the other a newsroom that is much more measured.

SOURCE: AFP

ASSISTING VISUALLY-IMPAIRED PEOPLE

IBM, others run pilot test of AI suitcase for guiding blind

A group of five companies including the Japanese unit of IBM Corp. are currently developing an artificial intelligence suitcase to assist visually-impaired people in travelling independently, with a pilot test of a prototype conducted at an airport in Japan earlier this month.

The small navigation robot,

which is able to plan an optimal route to a destination based on the user's location and map data, uses multiple sensors to assess its surroundings and AI functionality to avoid bumping into obstacles, according to the companies.

At the pilot experiment held on Nov. 2, the AI suitcase was

able to successfully navigate itself to an All Nippon Airways departure counter after receiving a command from Chieko Asakawa, a visually impaired fellow IBM overseeing the product's development.

As soon as she gave the command via her smartphone, motors connected to the suit-

case came to life, with the AI system providing voice guidance as it automatically stopped for doors and swerved to avoid people.

The suitcase, which is small enough to be brought onboard flights as carry-on luggage, is also able to indicate the direction of travel through haptic

feedback via its handle. Its conversational AI can additionally provide information about stores in the vicinity and help the user shop. "AI guides me as it replaces the sight I have lost. It is a dream to be able to go out freely by myself," said Asakawa, whose research inspired the project.

SOURCE: Kyodo

CHAROEN POKPHAND GROUP

Tesco gets nod for sale of Thailand supermarket business

THAILAND'S competition regulator has given the nod for British retail giant Tesco to sell its supermarket businesses to the Charoen Pokphand Group, despite monopoly concerns.

The \$10.6 billion sale to Thailand's biggest conglomerate was first flagged in March and also covers Tesco's operations in Malaysia. "The majority of commissioners agreed that the merger of those businesses (could create) market dominance... but it's not a monopoly," Thailand's Office of Trade Competition Commission said in a statement on Friday. The regulator said CP Group is not allowed to pursue other retail merger deals during the next three years.



British retail giant Tesco is looking to sell its supermarket business in Thailand. PHOTO:AFP/FILE

Thai Retailers and Wholesalers Association president Somchai Pornrattanachoen, who was on the regulator's vetting committee, last month pub-

licly expressed concerns that the deal would grant CP Group a monopoly, according to local media.

SOURCE: AFP

Eco-friendly, healthy plant-based meat in spotlight in Japan

Environmentally friendly and healthy plant-based meat products are attracting attention in Japan as new production methods harnessing artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies enable consumers to enjoy tastes similar to conventional meat.

Plant-based meat is made from ingredients such as soybeans, wheat and peas. As livestock breeding requires huge amounts of water and land, shifting to meat alternatives is expected to help conserve the environment. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has also raised awareness of meat alternatives as cluster infections among workers at U.S. meat processing plants have triggered supply shortages of beef and pork. "The epidemic

is further accelerating the evolution of food," said an official of a Japanese consulting firm.

Major Japanese hamburger chain Freshness Burger under Colowide Co. has ridden the wave of momentum, introducing the Good Burger, featuring a patty made of soybean rather than ground animal meat, in August for 480 yen (\$4.60).

"It became popular among health-conscious female customers and its sales were nearly double our expectations," said Rina Sakasai, a manager in charge of new product development at Freshness Burger.

The fast-food chain initially sold the burger in the Tokyo metropolitan area and began selling it across Japan from October.

SOURCE: Kyodo

ADDRESSING THE PANDEMIC

Biden vows virus action on 'day one' as Europe reels from second wave

THE United States reported record new coronavirus cases for the third day in a row, as Joe Biden vowed to act against the pandemic on "day one" if he wins the presidential election in the world's worst-hit nation.

Global infections have surged past 49 million and Europe has become the new pandemic epicentre in recent weeks, with more than 300,000 deaths – nearly a quarter of the global total. More than 127,000 new infections were reported in the US on Friday, the third straight day of record cases, as votes from the bitterly fought presidential election were still being counted.

No winner has been declared but Biden promised late Friday that he would not waste any time in addressing the pandemic if he is victorious. "I want everyone, everyone to know on day one we're going to put our plan to control this virus into action," the Democrat said. The infection figures came as President Donald Trump, who survived a bout of Covid-19 in October and



Joe Biden picks up a mask at the end of a presidential debate. PHOTO: AFP

has been widely criticized over his handling of the crisis, trailed his Democratic challenger in the ongoing vote count. US cases are fast approaching 10 million, with more than 236,000 deaths, and the pandemic has hammered the world's biggest economy, leaving millions jobless.

Trump has been a vocal opponent of lockdown measures, citing their impact on the economy, and has repeatedly clashed with his own government's experts over coronavirus policy.

Unlike Biden, Trump held massive campaign rallies ahead of the November 3 vote, and had

insisted that the US was "rounding the turn" on the virus despite the surges. Several senior members of his administration have contracted the virus in recent weeks, with Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows the latest to test positive, US media said late Friday. SOURCE: AFP

JEAN CASTEX

French PM says 'radical Islamism' the 'enemy' after Nice attack

FRENCH Prime Minister Jean Castex on Saturday lamented the killings of three people killed by a knife attacker in Mediterranean city Nice and named "radical Islamism" as an "enemy" for the country.

"We know the enemy, it has not only been identified, but has a name, it's radical Islamism," Castex told a memorial service in Nice, recalling that the city had already paid a "heavy toll" when 86 people were killed in a 2016 truck ramming attack against a crowd on France's July 14 national day.

Radical Islamism is "a political ideology which distorts the Muslim religion by twisting its scriptures," he added.

"Every time it's France that's in the sights, is the target of terrorism," Castex said.

In response to the Nice attack, believed to have been carried out by a recently-arrived Tunisian migrant, French President Emmanuel Macron has begun pushing for tighter security at the external borders of Europe's Schengen free-travel zone.

With the continent also stunned after a gunman killed four in the Austrian capital Vienna on Monday, France has already doubled the number of guards on borders with its EU neighbours, to 4,800, and raised its terror alert level to the highest setting.

SOURCE: AFP

FOLLOWING THE 2016 PEACE AGREEMENT

Colombia's Duque holds talks with ex-FARC leaders

COLOMBIA'S President Ivan Duque held talks with former FARC guerrilla leaders Friday, pledging to speed up the integration of ex-combatants following the 2016 peace agreement, a top advisor said. Duque's commitment came during an unprecedented meeting between the hardline president and leaders of the former leftist guerrilla movement in Bogota. Duque, famously critical of aspects of the peace deal he says is too lenient on FARC, pledged to work "to move the reintegration process forward," said Emilio Archila, a top government advisor on

post-conflict who attended the meeting. The meeting at the presidential palace followed a 10-day march on Bogota by ex-combatants to demand the government keeps its commitments under the 2016 peace deal that led to the disarmament of 13,000 fighters and turned FARC into a political party.

The ex-guerrillas say they need greater protection as their lives are increasingly at risk from other guerrilla groups and drug trafficking organizations.

The reason for the march was to draw attention to the murders of 237 of their former comrades since 2016. SOURCE: AFP



Former guerrilla leaders and current members of the Common Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC) political party pose outside the presidential palace in Bogota, Colombia, before meeting with President Ivan Duque, in November 2020. PHOTO: AFP



Volunteer fighters stand in a village south-east of Stepanakert during the ongoing fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces. PHOTO: AFP

ARMENIA

Heavy fighting near key town in Karabakh

ARMENIA reported Saturday that "fierce combat" with Azerbaijani forces took place overnight near the town of Shusha, a key stronghold in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

After weeks of heavy fighting over the mountainous province, Azerbaijan appears to be closing in on the strategic town, 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Karabakh's main city Stepanakert.

The hilltop town of Shusha is located on a main road that links the unrecognized republic's capital

with the territory of Armenia, which backs the separatists fighting for Karabakh's independence.

Armenian defence ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanyan reported "especially intensive and fierce combat" overnight outside Shusha, adding that numerous attacks from Azerbaijan were thwarted. Armenia also said that throughout the night there was regular shelling on Shusha, home to an iconic Armenian cathedral that was damaged in attacks last month. SOURCE: AFP

NOT HEALED YET

US sees surprise dip in unemployment rate to 6.9% in October

THE US unemployment rate unexpectedly dropped to 6.9 per cent in October, a decline of a full point ahead of the presidential election, though the economy is far from healed and rising coronavirus cases could undo the progress.

The decrease came as the economy regained 638,000 jobs last month, according to a Labour Department report released Friday, far more than analysts had been expecting as hard-hit sectors continued hiring despite Congress's failure to pass another spending package to aid the recovery.

The downturn caused by the coronavirus

pandemic was considered one of the main issues facing voters when they went to polls this week to choose whether to give President Donald Trump a second term or replace him with challenger Joe Biden, who leads in key states as vote counting continues.

But Rubeela Farooqi of High Frequency Economics warned October's momentum may not last long.

"The risk is high of a deceleration in job gains from rising virus transmissions that will result in business closures and job losses," she said in an analysis.

SOURCE: AFP



The state of the US economy was surely on voters' minds when they went to the polls in the presidential election. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Lao exports to Vietnam increase despite COVID-19 pandemic

THE export value of Laos to Vietnam has increased in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, the export value from Laos to Vietnam in the first nine months was 757.4 million U.S. dollars, which increased to almost 758 million U.S. dollars, according to the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

While the import value decreased from 458 million U.S. dollars, compared to the nine months of 2019, to 410 million U.S.

dollars in the nine months of 2020.

Meanwhile, both sides will increase efforts to promote bilateral trade in 2020 with the forecast of an increase of between 10 and 15 per cent, local daily Vientiane Times reported on Friday. The main items exported to Vietnam are drinking water, minerals, and wood products, and agricultural products such as rubber, coffee, maize, cassava, rice, and cattle.

SOURCE: Xinhua

EXPORTS ROSE 11.4 PERCENT ON-YEAR

China exports remain strong in October, import growth slows

China's exports posted strong growth again last month, extending an upward trend on the back of a consumption rebound among its major trading partners, official data showed Saturday.

Inbound shipments, however, cooled after a surge in September -- with analysts expecting that a drop in import prices weighed on headline numbers.

Although the coronavirus pandemic has battered countries worldwide, foreign trade in the world's second-largest economy fared better than expected, buoyed by healthcare shipments.

Exports rose 11.4 per cent on-year in October, Customs data showed,



Although the coronavirus pandemic has battered countries around the world, China's foreign trade has fared better than expected. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

better than the 8.9 per cent growth predicted by a Bloomberg poll of economists. This marks the fastest pace since March last year, supporting China's economic recovery after lockdowns this year to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Imports, meanwhile,

grew 4.7 per cent, short of the 8.8 per cent on-year rise expected.

The Customs administration said Saturday that China's exports of mechanical and electrical products rose in the first 10 months, as did outbound shipments of textiles including face

masks, which rose around 35 per cent from a year ago.

Tommy Xie, head of Greater China research at OCBC Bank, told AFP a key driver for October's exports was shipments to the US, noting this could be due to "frontloading... partially because of concerns over a further escalation of tensions, and also ahead of the US elections".

US-China ties have grown increasingly strained in recent years, under President Donald Trump. Although imports were below expectations, Xie noted that shipments remained robust for iron ore and integrated circuits amid tensions with Australia — a key exporter of the commodity.

SOURCE: AFP

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Indonesia remains upbeat despite plunging into recession

Indonesia's economy has finally plunged into a recession after experiencing minus growths in two consecutive quarters this year.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati has recently said if the country's economic growth underwent contractions in two successive quarters, its economy would enter a recession.

Head of the Central Agency of Statistics Su-

hariyanto announced on Thursday that Indonesia's economy contracted by 3.49 per cent in the third quarter 2020. Thus, Indonesia officially entered its recession like other countries did as they experienced negative economic growths within two consecutive quarters during the COVID-19 pandemic, Suhariyanto told journalists. The realization of the economic growth in the third quarter was worse

than President Joko Widodo's estimation at minus 3 per cent and Indrawati's prediction at minus 2.9 per cent. The agency has earlier announced that the Indonesian economy contracted by 5.32 per cent in the second quarter this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has been battering the country's economic activities.

Although experiencing negative growth, the Indo-

nesian economy increased by 5.05 per cent quarterly (quarter-to-quarter) in the third quarter 2020, showing a signal of a significant recovery, he said. "Compared to the economic growth in the second quarter, that in the third quarter is better. Indonesia's economic growth in the second quarter experienced a deeper contraction," Suhariyanto noted.

SOURCE: Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (053N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (053N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

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For **Xylem Europe GmbH,**

C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**

Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road and

Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated **8th November 2020**

lmm@kcyangon.com

Glass bridge.



A Glass bridge and resort to be built near Gokteik Viaduct

By Zin Lin Myint
TRANSLATED BY
EI PHYU PHYU
AUNG
PHOTO: SUPPLIED



A train crossing the Gokteik Viaduct.

THE beauty of nature exists in every state and region of Myanmar. Besides, Myanmar also possess historical heritage which adds more value to the beauty of the respective places. Money investment, international standard techniques, imagination also shape the places more fascinating.

Now, a resort with Myanmar's first glass bridge is going to be built near the Gokteik Bridge to attract international tourists.

The permit to build the resort near the Gokteik Bridge, located in Nawng-hkio township of northern Shan State, has been granted. Shan State government said the plans are being made to systematically develop the tourism in Shan State in post-COVID-19 period.

The resort project will be implemented by an American company, and the construction will start in 2020. Despite the negative effect to construction business around the world due



Panorama view of Gokteik Viaduct.

to the COVID-19 crisis, the company will try to start the project and intends to complete in 2022.

There will be the bungalow, modern playground, recreation park, tents, plants, souvenir shops and restaurants in addition to the glass bridge.

With nature's beauty in Shan State, the project like this modern, internationally famous and exciting glass bridge will also provide more tourist arrival to the State.

Also, the Gokteik Viaduct, a world well-known icon surrounding Bant Bwe Kyin waterfall, Shan mountain ranges, fields and beauty of nature, will offer travellers a new environment and new experience. A new image of development in the northern Shan State will

emerge since the project aims to prosper the State's development without affecting the natural environment.

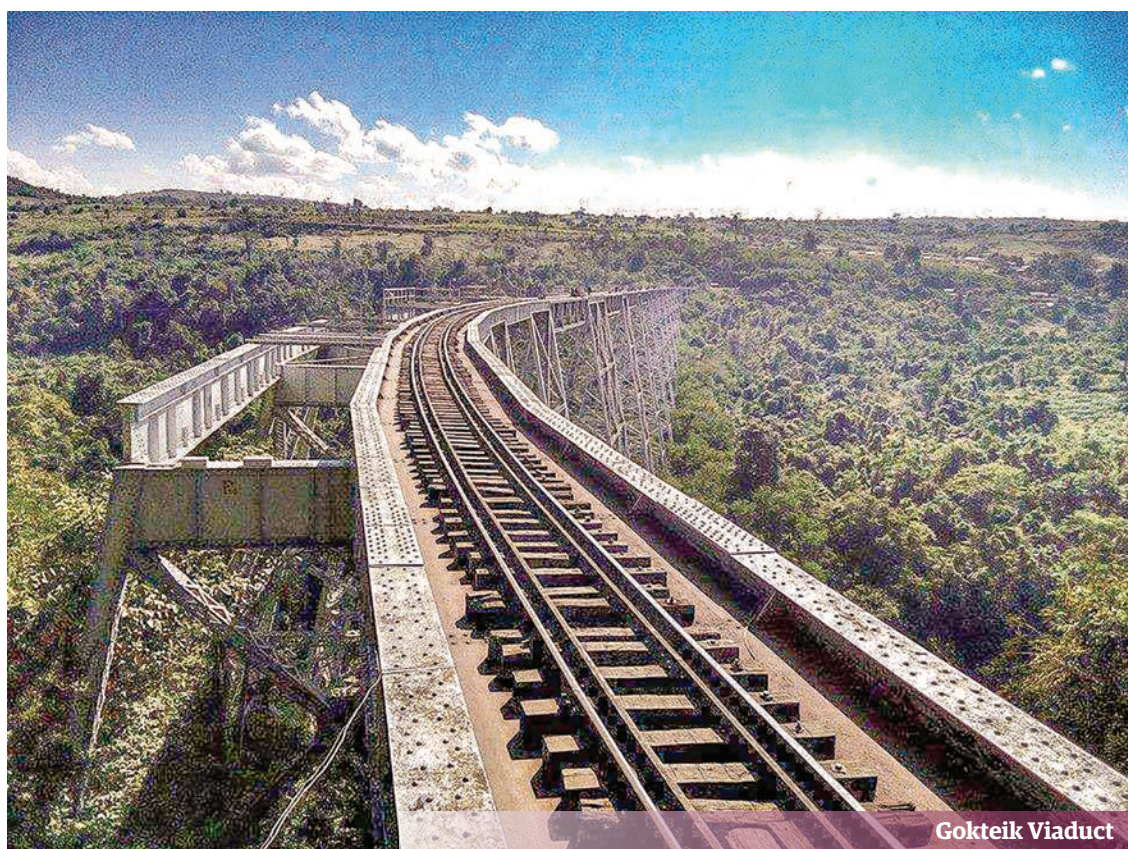
The project will be able to provide over 300 new job opportunities to young local people as well as the opportunity to make money from a local business. Developing tourism without causing negative impacts on the natural environment also provides area development.

Among the interesting sites of Shan State, a specially constructed Goteik Viaduct is one of the world's wonders in Myanmar. The railway bridge was built about 7 miles from Nawngkhio train station on Mandalay-Lashio road in 1989. The construction took one year, and the bridge was used in 1903. This 689-metre

long viaduct was uniquely constructed over a 300-foot high gorge. The name Gokteik was given as the bridge was built on the top of Goktwin and it is also said that the name derived from Ngoteik from Shan language.

The Gokteik Bridge has only one round trip railway. For its over 300 feet height, the bridge is known as the second-highest bridge in the world.

When the resort project with a glass bridge is completed near this renowned bridge, both international and local tourists will be attracted to this new travel destination of the Shan State, and that will provide local development, job opportunities and foreign currency.



Gokteik Viaduct

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020, 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower (A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

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

SUMMIT PARKVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Tennis: 'Simply incredible' as Djokovic equals Sampras' year-end world number one record

PARIS—Novak Djokovic on Friday (Nov 6) emulated childhood hero Pete Sampras by claiming the year-end world number one ranking for the sixth time.

Djokovic, 33, was confirmed in the position after Rafael Nadal, the only man who could deny him top spot, opted not to play in the Sofia event next week.

Djokovic was also a season-ending world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. "Pete was somebody I looked up to when I was growing up, so to match his record is a dream come true," said Djokovic.

The Serb star, a winner

of 17 Grand Slam titles, had already moved past Sampras' tally of 286 weeks in the top spot in September.

Djokovic can go past all-time record-holder Roger Federer's mark of 310 weeks on March 8 next year.

"To finish the year as No.1 is one of the most impressive achievements in our sport, one which requires sustained excellence across the season," said ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi.

"To see Novak achieve this for the sixth time and match Pete's record is simply incredible, and he continues to cement his place in the history books."—AFP ■

Burns seizes PGA Houston Open lead, Day lurking

WASHINGTON—Sam Burns, a 24-year-old American seeking his first US PGA title, fired a bogey-free five-under par 65 to grab a two-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the Houston Open.

Burns hit 15 of 18 greens in regulation on his way to standing on seven-under 133 after 36 holes at Memorial Park, where 2,000 spectators a day watch under strict Covid-19 safety protocols.

"It takes a lot of discipline around here," Burns said. "You get out of position, you just try to get it back to where you can get it up and down."

Australia's Jason Day, the 2015 PGA Championship winner, and Mexico's Carlos Ortiz shared second on 135.

South African Dawie van der Walt, Canada's Corey Connors and Americans Brandt Snedeker, Patton Kizzire and Aaron Wise were another stroke adrift.

World number 179 Burns birdied three of the first four holes, then added birdies at the par-5 eighth from 11 feet and 12 feet at the par-5 16th on his way to matching the course record.

"Fortunately early we got some good looks and was able to convert," Burns said. "So solid. Looking forward to the weekend."

Burns shared seventh at the Safeway Open in September, where he had his only prior PGA end-of-day lead after round two and learned to be patient.

"Slowing down a little bit, really talking through the shot with Travis (Perkins, his caddie) and making sure we have a clear picture of what we're trying to do," Burns said. "That was really helpful to learn." Day, who turns 33 on the opening day of next week's Masters, finds himself playing a patience game as he chases a 13th career PGA title. —AFP ■

MNL fans meet two Myanmar star goalkeepers online



Myanmar national team and Yangon United goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet. PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTET'S FACEBOOK PAGE

THE Myanmar National League recently invited Myanmar football fans to meet two Myanmar star goalkeepers Thiha Si Thu and Kyaw Zin Htet via live streaming of the MNL Facebook page, and football fans got a chance to meet with their favourite keepers yesterday online.

During their online meeting, football fans raised their questions by giving comments on the live streaming of the MNL social media page and two Myanmar star keepers replied to each of their fan's comments.

The keepers shared their experiences and other life-related knowledge. Keeper Thiha Sithu said that he is currently serving as a COVID-19 volunteer amidst the pandemic period and keeper Kyaw Zin Htet has said that he is composing song lyrics for his future music album in their fan meeting. Thiha Sithu is a star goalkeeper of Shan United FC and Myanmar National Football Team. The veteran keeper also possessed the Myanmar National League clean sheet record by not conceding a single goal for 14

matches in 2017 and has won the winner of 2014 Myanmar National League Best Player award.

The 33-year-old keeper joined Myanmar National Football Team in 2010, and he was recognized as a star footballer in the team with his brilliant saves.

Next, Kyaw Zin Htet is also one of the best keepers of Myanmar National Football Team, and he is currently playing for Yangon United. He made his first appearance for the Myanmar national football team in 2007. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Man City, Liverpool's fallibilities promise wide open title race



Liverpool conceded seven goals in one game for the first time since 1963 to Aston Villa last month. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

LONDON—For the past three years Manchester City and Liverpool have dominated the Premier League to an extent never seen before in English football.

But after three seasons in which the title winner has averaged 99 points, neither side

carries the same fear factor in an unpredictable campaign that offers a series of challengers hope of winning the league.

Defending champions Liverpool still head to City on Sunday in second place, trailing surprise leaders Southampton

only by goal difference. But Jurgen Klopp's men have already dropped more points in seven games than they did in their opening 27 in romping to the title last season. Of more lasting damage to their title credentials, the Reds have also lost the towering presence of defender Virgil van Dijk for what looks set to be the lion's share of the season. Even when the giant Dutchman was still present, Liverpool suffered a historic 7-2 humiliation to Aston Villa a month ago that leaves them with still the worst defensive record in the league.

"So many things are different this year," said Klopp on Friday in a season where a packed schedule and empty stadiums appears to be levelling the playing field.—AFP ■