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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 208, 10th Waning of Thadingyut 1382 ME

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Tuesday, 10 November 2020

State Counsellor reports on latest situations of COVID-19

I AM profoundly grateful to all the people who made the elections a success in spite of the COVID disease. I want to begin this report by deeply honouring what you have done. During this election, we took great pains to make sure that the people could vote in safety with secure health arrangements. We think our efforts were worth it. This is because the people participated and voted enthusiastically. We were greatly encouraged by the news that the arrangements made were very systematic and very satisfactory. I should thank the UEC of course in the first instance for making this happen; next are the various departments who have supported the UEC. However, the people deserve to be thanked first; the people are top priority; "People are the key". We cannot achieve anything successfully without the people. That is why it is because of the people that the elections were successful.



I know people want to talk only about the elections. However, as I am now speaking as chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Preven-

tion, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, I will talk only about COVID-19. The UEC will talk about the elections at the appropriate time. We now have two challenges. One is to conduct the

elections successfully, and the other is to overcome the COVID challenge successfully. When we look at these two, we have overcome the first one; to overcome the other one successfully, we

will need your participation and support. We believe that we will be successful with the firm determination and the participation and support of the people. As you all know, during the past

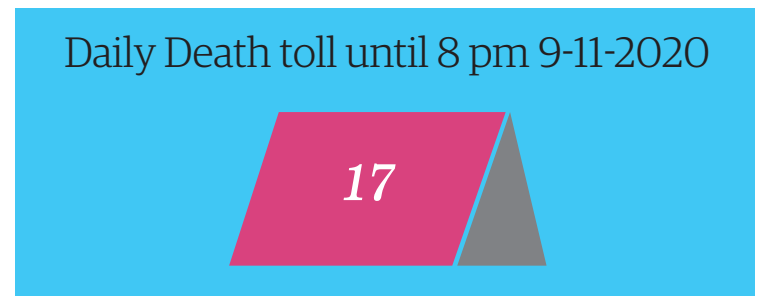
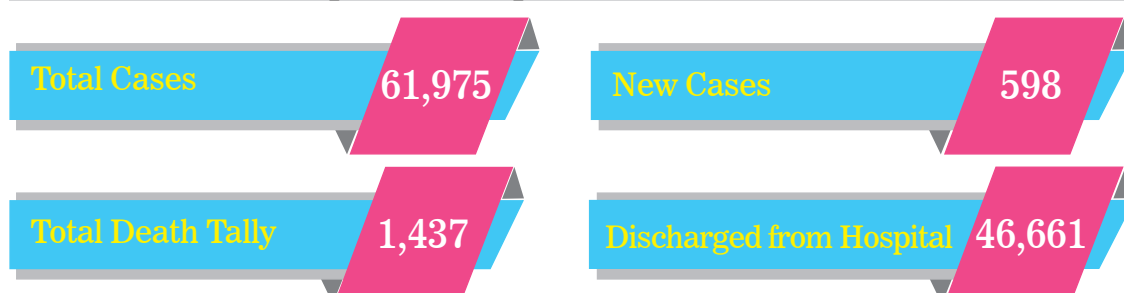
one or two week, the COVID-19 disease infection rate has not increased; it is steady. However, we need to work very hard for the infection rate to go down. For this also, we believe that we should all work hard together. With respect to this matter, we had to impose certain restrictions during the elections because of the COVID-19 disease. If this caused discomfort among the people, I would like to apologize. During the elections, everyone wanted to express themselves freely. They wanted to act this way also before the elections. Also, after the elections, they wanted to listen to the election results in big groups and large gatherings. Then they also wanted to discuss the elections. This is very natural. However, because of the needs of the health situation, we had to request the people not to gather in large groups. We are very grateful to the people because they listened to our request. Of course, there had been some gatherings of people. We had to look at this phenomenon as unavoidable. This came as no big surprise during the period of the elections.

SEE PAGE-3

598 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 November, total figure rises to 61,975

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 61,975 after 598 new cases were reported on 9 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 61,975 confirmed cases, 1,437 died, 46,661 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 9 November 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 206/2020**

9th Waning of Thadingyut, 1382
(9 November 2020)

**Announcement of elected Pyithu
Hluttaw representatives**

Elected Pyithu Hluttaw representatives in the multiparty democracy general elections on 8 November 2020 and their constituencies are announced from the reports of election sub-commissions in the respective regions and states as per Section 49 (b) of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

Sr. Name	NRC Number	Constituency	Party
Bago Region			
(1) Daw Cho Cho	7/ATaNa (N) 071450	Ottwin	National League for Democracy
Yangon Region			
(2) Daw Khin Moh Moh Aung	12/TaTaNa (N) 181400	Latha	National League for Democracy
Ayeyawady Region			
(3) Dr U Tun Lin Maw	14/BaKaLa(N)013369	Kyangin	National League for Democracy

*Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission*

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Union Election Commission
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(9 November 2020)

**Announcement of elected Region/
State Hluttaw representatives**

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Sr. Name	NRC Number	Constituency	Party
Bago Region			
(1) U Kyaw Zeya	7/ATaNa (N) 081664	Ottwin (1)	National League for Democracy
(2) U Htay Lwin	7/PhaMaNa(N) 005218	Ottwin (2)	National League for Democracy
Yangon Region			
(3) Daw Yin Yin Myint	12/LaThaNa(N)016876	Latha (1)	National League for Democracy
(4) Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo	13/TaKaNa(N)143341	Latha (2)	National League for Democracy
Ayeyawady Region			
(5) Daw Ei Thuzar Lwin	14/KaKhaNa(N)000923	Kyangin(1)	National League for Democracy
(6) U Soe Myint	14/ KaKhaNa(N) 069557	Kyangin(2)	National League for Democracy

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Sr. Name	NRC Number	Constituency	Party
Chin State			
(1) U Nay Lin Aung	5/MaMaNa(N) 007321	Mindat	National League for Democracy
Taninthayi Region			
(2) Daw Khin Sandi	6/LaLaNa (N) 088495	Launglon	National League for Democracy
Mandalay Region			
(3) U Thant Zin Tun	9/LaWaNa(N)121470	Dekkhinathiri	National League for Democracy

*Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission*

**176 Myanmar citizens brought
back home from Malaysia**

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International flew 176 citizens back home from Malaysia yesterday afternoon.

The latest group of

Myanmar returnees included 45 former detainees at the camps.

After the 30th relief flight, organized by Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur,

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

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is cooperating with the relevant organizations in Malaysia for the repatriation of citizens after verifying the nationality.—MNA



Myanmar returnees from Malaysia are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 9 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor reports on latest situations of COVID-19

FROM PAGE-1

One more thing is that I want to apologize to the people who could not cast their votes due to COVID-19 restrictions. For example, we could not make arrangements for people under quarantine to vote or for those who were taken to the hospitals just one or two days ahead of the elections. Moreover, I also learnt that the drivers who were stranded in Muse got upset because they could not vote. I am really sorry to hear this. We could not make arrangements for their voting due to travel restrictions

at the moment. However, we could overcome challenges for the elections in line with the healthcare rules.

The government will put emphasis on overcoming the COVID-19 in the coming days as it is required to do so. I have frequently said that it is expected that a vaccine will appear soon. However, we need to be very vigilant during this period. Only then will we be able to overcome this challenge. I believe people would be very interested to know how to overcome economic challenges during the post-COVID-19 peri-

od. We will start to provide relief assistance to the people at grassroots level beginning this week. We had to delay this programme although we were ready to do it due to the election processes in the previous weeks. Therefore, the fourth relief supplies will start this week. In addition, we have plans for sustaining and recovery of the economy in the post-COVID-19 in coordination with the people. I am also optimistic about it. When we looked at the data, it was found that the death rate of confirmed cases is not increasing, even decreasing

to a certain point, at present. Therefore, I want the people to take care of their health so that they have strong immune systems. I am sure the people know already that having fundamental good health could help in overcoming COVID-19. Many countries are experiencing repeated waves of the pandemic. It may be said that the pandemic is still not under control at the global level. Public participation played a crucial role in the containment of disease in our country. Otherwise, we could not achieve any success without the efforts and

involvement of the people. I feel so bad about having to say these things because people want to discuss the elections. Actually, I have to say these things because of my responsibility. The topic of elections will be discussed by the persons concerned. So, I want to conclude today's report as briefly as possible. I wish to pray for the good health and well-being of all our people who have all shown their sense of duty in an awesome way.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

Japanese election observer: Myanmar's 2020 General Election is free and fair

LEADER of Japanese election observer mission, Mr Yohei Sasakawa, remarked that Myanmar's 2020 General Election was free and fair, and its results would be recognized by all.

Mr Yohei Sasakawa, the Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, led an election observer mission for the 8 November general elections from 29 October to 9 November.

In his online press conference with local and foreign media groups, he said that the elections were organized peacefully in a free and fair manner.

The Japanese government supplied 113,000 bottles of indelible ink worth about US\$1.7 million to Myanmar for the voters in the elections.

The head of the mission said that there was a widespread of criticism about the election ahead of it; they observed the polling stations in Yangon Re-



Japanese election observer Mr Yohei Sasakawa holds an online press conference with media organizations on 9 November. PHOTO: YE GAUNG NYUNT

gion and found that voters were excited with the elections as they believed their votes could change the situations of their country.

In coordination with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Yohei Sasakawa and his mission visited 10 polling stations in Yangon Region, voting and

counting the ballots.

He also recognized the management of Union Election Commission, and commented the high turnout of voters in the

elections although there might be some reports on the delay of elections due to COVID-19 outbreak.

He added that the UEC could set up more polling stations for easy access of voters, and it has helped in the increasing number of voter turnouts.

He also praised the voters for their compliance with the rules and disciplines at the polling stations.

Before the 8 November elections, Mr Yohei Sasakawa held meetings with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and UEC Chairman U Hla Thein in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 November.

He also said, quoting the UEC, that the by-elections are expected to be held in some areas of Rakhine and Shan states, where the elections could not be held on 8 November.—Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Statement of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on the observation of Multiparty Democracy General Election

Statement No. (13/2020)

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), led by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Commissioners observed the Multiparty Democracy General Election in seven Constituencies for three Hluttaws on 8 November 2020. The observation was conducted in compliance with the international norms applied by the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in other countries while observing their respective elections.
2. The MNHRC observed a total of 20 polling stations in seven Constituencies in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw (Union Territory), Tamway Township, South Okkalapa Township, Htantabin Township, Hline Township, Kamayut Township and Twantay Township all in Yangon Region.
3. The MNHRC will submit the report on the voting, counting the votes and compilation of voting results at the polling stations observed on the general election day to the relevant institutions.

*Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 9 November 2020*

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 209/2020**

9th Waning of Thadingyut, 1382
(9 November 2020)

**Announcement of elected Amyotha Hluttaw
representatives**

Elected Amyotha Hluttaw representatives in the multiparty democracy general elections on 8 November 2020 and their constituencies are announced from the reports of election sub-commissions in the respective regions and states as per Section 49 (b) of Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law.

Sr. Name	NRC Number	Constituency	Party
Kayah State			
(1) U Sai Pan Pha	2/LaKaNa(N) 005067	No.5	National League for Democracy
Chin State			
(2) Dr Ngai Tam Maung	4/MaTaNa (N) 000222	No.6	National League for Democracy
Taninthayi Region			
(3) Daw Ohnmar Khin	6/LaLaNa(N)077051	No.5	National League for Democracy

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Chairman
Union Election Commission*

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Union Election Commission
Announcement 210/2020**

9th Waning of Thadingyut, 1382
(9 November 2020)

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Hluttaw representatives**

Elected Region/State Hluttaw representatives in the multiparty democracy general elections on 8 November 2020 and their constituencies are announced from the reports of election sub-commissions in the respective regions and states as per Section 49 (b) of Region/State Hluttaw Election Law.

Sr. Name	NRC Number	Constituency	Party/ Individual
Kayah State			
(1) U Aung Naing Oo	14/WaKhaMa(N) 000369	Meisei(1)	National League for Democracy
(2) U Ai Phaung Sho	2/MaSaNa(N) 000171	Meisei (2)	National League for Democracy
Chin State			
(3) U Htan Chun Phe	4/MaTaNa (N) 030759	Mindat (1)	National League for Democracy
(4) U Hone Naing	4/MaTaNa (N) 020855	Mindat (2)	National League for Democracy
Taninthayi Region			
(5) U Bo Htwe	6/LaLaNa(N)015952	Launglon(1)	National League for Democracy
(6) U Myint San	6/LaLaNa(N)044378	Launglon(2)	National League for Democracy
Bago Region			
(7) Daw Khin Aye Yi	10/ThaHtaNa(N)095835	Zigon(1)	National League for Democracy
(8) U Min Min Htike (a) Tar Tee	7/ZaKaNa(N)043963	Zigon(2)	National League for Democracy
Mandalay Region			
(9) U Thura Lin	9/KhaAaZa(N)006568	Chanayethazan(1)	National League for Democracy
(10) Dr Soe Than (a) Kyaw Soe Than	9/MaNaTa(N)028559	Chanayethazan(2)	National League for Democracy

*Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission*

**Multiparty Democracy General
Election successfully completed**



Pan Nan Din in Putao district of Kachin State.
PHOTO : NAW YAW BAW



Hsihseng Township in PaO Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State.
PHOTO : KHUN YE HTWE



Reedhorda in Chin State.
PHOTO : LALPEKLAWM



A polling station in Pyay district.
PHOTO : MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)

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

Announcement on legal actions against electoral frauds

(9-11-2020)

1. In the Sin Myay Village, Nga Lone Tin Village Tract, Chaung-U Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region, a polling station official accompanied U Shwe Tun (a member of the Village Tract Election Sub-Commission) and U Than Tun Sein (100-Household head) when they gathered advance votes from voters. The polling station representative inspected the voting ballot stamp and found that it did not have the UEC logo.
2. In polling station No 3 of Quarter No 1, Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Region, voter U Thein Zaw took out a voting ballot stamp from the pocket of his shirt near an entrance of the polling station, an official inspected his voting ballot stamp and found that it did not have the UEC logo.
3. In polling station No 2 of Talinkone Village, Innywagyi Village Tract, Myothit Township, Magway District, Magway Region, on 8-11-2020, U Aung Zaw Win was found to have cast his Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw ballot papers by using a fake ballot stamp that did not have the UEC logo.
4. In the Michaung Tayar Village, Kangyidaunt Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, it was found that Daw Aye Myint voted in her daughter's name in the advance voting process.
5. In polling station No 1, South Quarter, Pasawng Township, Bawlakhe District, Kayah State, Daw Zin Mar Lwin voted in her own name and then she voted again in her sister-in-law's name. It was found that she voted twice.
6. In Thaminbay Village Tract, Natogyi Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, Daw Thi Thi Khaing cast her votes at polling station No 1 in Constituency No 1 and then she voted again at polling station No 1 in Quarter No 3 in Constituency No 2.
7. Daw Myat Su Hlaing, who lives in Kungyangan Village, Kwinkauk Village Tract, Ingapu Township in Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, cast her votes at polling station No 1 in Kwinkauk South Village Tract and then she voted again at polling station No 3 in Kwinkauk North Village Tract. It was found that she voted twice.
8. U Tin Tun Lwin Aung, who lives in Quarter No 5, Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, cast his votes at polling station No 2 at U Thu Kha Primary School in Quarter No 9. He also voted again at polling station No 1 in Quarter No 5. It was found that he voted twice.
9. U Soe Lwin (a) U Soe Oo, who lives in Phaungpyin in Mawlaik District, Sagaing Region cast his advance votes at polling station No 1 in Kyun Shwe Wa Quarter. He also voted again at polling station No 2 in Hae Hlaw Village. He voted twice.
10. In polling station No 1 in Namtee Village (Constituency 2) in Namhkam Township, Muse District, Shan State, Sai Non Han Khay voted in the name of his uncle Sai Eik Than.
11. In Taze Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region, the members of Ywathaya Village Tract Election Sub-commission U Than Soe, U Phoe Pyar (a) U Tun Hla and Sub-commission secretary U Myint issued only two ballot papers to voters U Chit Htay and Daw Hla Htay apiece rather than issuing three ballot papers. Then it was found that the Election Sub-commission officials signed their names on the remaining ballot papers and illegally voted.
12. U Win Min Oo, who lives in Pale Ngwe Yaung Road, Pale Aung Myay Quarter, Kyone Ma Nge, Wakema Township, Myaungmya District in Ayeyawady Region, tore his Pyithu Hluttaw ballot paper at polling station No 1 in Pale Aung Myay Quarter without putting it into the ballot box.
13. So, Nga Lone Tin Village Tract Election Sub-Commission member U Shwe Tun, 100-Household head U Than Tun Sein, U Thein Zaw, U Aung Zaw Win, Daw Aye Myint, Daw Zin Mar Lwin, Daw Thi Thi Khaing, Daw Myat Su Hlaing, U Tin Tun Lwin Aung, U Soe Lwin (a) U Soe Oo, Sai Non Han Khay and Ywathaya Village Tract Election Sub-commission officials U Than Soe, U Phoe Pyar (a) U Tun Hla and U Myint, and U Win Min Oo have been charged under Section 420/468 of the Penal Code and Section 58 and 59 of the Hluttaw Election Law.

Union Election Commission

Election sub-commissions, Hluttaw candidates sign election results



Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State. PHOTO: CHO CHO (IPRD)



Kangyidaunt Township in Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: NAN HTIKE (IPRD)



Myawady Township in Kayin State. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)



Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin State. PHOTO: IPRD



Hpa-an Township in Kayin State: PHOTO: SAW MYO THEIN (IPRD)

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

YPS card centres offer buy-1-get-1-free promotion event on 9-22 Nov

By Nyein Nyein

THE YPS card centres are offering a special promotion event (Buy 1 Get 1 Free) between 9 and 22 October for YBS passengers.

The promotion event is available at YPS card centres located at Sule, Mahabandoola Park, Myanmar Plaza, Yuzana Plaza, Hledan, YUPT and Bandoola Bus Terminal.

At present, YPS payment cards can be used for 35 bus lines. Plans are underway to install the card payment system on more YBS bus lines.

Those passengers, who lose YPS card, can close the service at the centres not to lose a top-up in the cards. However, they need to present the code number of their cards and receipt of the card. The registration system of the card is ongoing.

The passengers have to touch the machine while get-



A passenger uses YPS card to pay bus fare in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ting on and off the bus. It cost K200 per trip. The busfares will vary depending on the trip later on.

The YPS cards can be pur-

chased at the service centres in Thamine, Tamway and Sule, g&g convenience stores and City Hall, Eight Miles, Myanmar Plaza and Parami Nyaung-

bin bus stops, Starmar Transport Intelligent Company said.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar C.P. Livestock donates 1 mln surgical masks to MoHS



Myanmar CP Livestock donates surgical masks to the Ministry of Health and Sports on 28 October 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MYANMAR C.P. Livestock Company Limited has donated 1 million surgical masks to the Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports to support frontline medical professionals in

the effort to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Uthai Tantipimolphan, Vice-Chairman, Myanmar C.P. Livestock Co., Ltd. presented 1 million medical-grade masks

from C.P. Surgical Mask Factory in Thailand to Professor Zaw Than Htun, Director-General, the Department of Medical Research, Ministry of Health and Sports during a ceremony held

at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Yangon.

"As Myanmar experiences the outbreak of the COVID-19, we would like to extend our support to the Myanmar government and Myanmar people, especially the frontline workers by contributing 1 million medical-grade surgical masks to Myanmar. The surgical masks were produced from our factory "C.P. Social Impact Company Limited" in Thailand.

The 1-million masks donated will be disseminated via 3 main organizations, which are the Ministry of Health and Sports, The Office of Chief Minister, Yangon Region Government, and Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development – UEHRD.

Prior to the donation of the surgical masks, Charoen Pokphand Group has provided financial support, eggs, chickens, lunch boxes, and processed food to the Myanmar government. —GNLM

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External trade falls by \$876 mln in Oct

MYANMAR external trade between 1 and 30 October in the current financial year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$2.006 billion, a sharp drop of \$876 million compared with the corresponding period of the FY2019-2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at \$2.882 billion, according to the data released by the ministry.

In October 2020, Myanmar's export was worth \$845.38 million, which plunged from \$1.45 billion registered a year-ago period. Meanwhile, the country's import was valued \$1.16 billion, showing a decrease of \$271.6 million compared with

the last FY.

The decrease in Myanmar's foreign trade was attributed to the drop in exports and imports in the first months of the current FY amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Myanmar's foreign trade has shown a 10-per cent increase, year over year, under the incumbent government. Myanmar has already surpassed the total trade value target of \$34 billion for the last FY, said an official from the ministry.

Last FY2019-2020, Myanmar's external trade reflected an increase of \$1.5 billion compared with the FY2018-2019 as it increased from over \$35 billion to \$36.6 billion.

Under the National Planning Law for the financial year 2020-2021, Myanmar intends to reach an export target at US\$16 billion and import at \$18 billion.

—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Mobile market resumes in 4 districts today

By Nyein Nyein

MOBILE market trucks are back to its businesses on 10 November in four districts, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) stated.

The mobile market plan temporarily halted on 8 November for the General Election and 9 November. It will resume on 10 November in four districts; located at Maha Myaing Housing in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and on Waziya Street 4 and 5 of Ward 8 in North Okkalapa Township in the eastern district; on 34 and 36 Street of Kyauktada Township and in front of BEHS 4 of Baho Street and BEHS 3 of Sangyaung Street in Sangyaung Township in the western district, in front of ward administrator's office

on Maugon Lankyal Ward, at the corner of Aungmingala Hninsi and Sabae streets, at the intersection of Myittanyunt Yazathingyan and Marlar Nwe streets in Tamway Township in the southern district, and Pyiyeitmon Housing, at the corner of Nanattaw and Hledan streets and Ward 6 of Kamayut Township in the northern district.

In a bid to reduce the crowd at markets, bring fresh food to the consumers and contain the possible spread of the coronavirus in the region, the mobile market was introduced to run in three townships on 26 October, arranged by Yangon City Development Committee and the affiliated association of UMFCCI. People can purchase food at a fair price in their wards. The trucks will offer the packaged CP chicken, pork, beef, mutton,

fresh and saltwater fish, egg and vegetable at a fair price.

The mobile market plan will proceed to other townships in four districts. The UMFCCI will update the daily sales plans through their Facebook Page and City FM programme.

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Ernst and Young given green light for Htantabin Industrial Park Project's Swiss Challenge

By Nyein Nyein

ERNST and Young has been chosen to operate the Swiss Challenge tendering process for Htantabin Industrial Park project, Yangon Region government stated.

The consultant firms were invited to take charge of the tendering process as per notification dated 30 July.

Following the announcement inviting RFPs, Ernst and Young Myanmar, Deloitte Touche Myanmar Vigour Advisory Limited, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) Myanmar Co. Ltd, and Roland Berger Co. Ltd submitted their requests for proposal.

A consultant selection team was formed to carry out Htantabin Industrial Park Project's Swiss Challenge. U Ye Min Oo, Regional Minister for Planning and Finance, was appointed as the chairman with ten members as per Yangon Region government's meeting 36/2020 decision paragraph 103 on 27 August.

Consultant selection team held discussions on 21 and 28 October to evaluate the consultant companies for Swiss challenge. Ernst and Young Company was selected for Swiss Challenge on 6 November, Yangon Region government notified.

Industrial Park project, covering a total of 2,216.40 acres of Lamutan, inner and outer Yaykyaw village-tracts in Htantabin Township, was submitted to Yangon Region Hluttaw on 1 July 2019. Following the approval at the regional parliament, the project was forwarded to the Union Government and the respective ministries.

Yangon Htantabin Technology Park Co., Ltd, a Hong Kong SAR-China (Taipei) consortium, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Htantabin Industrial Park project, with a capital of over US\$500 million, at Yangon Investment Forum 2019.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar goods trade deficit with Singapore estimated at \$10.7 bln in 4 years

MYANMAR trade deficit in goods with Singapore was estimated at US\$10.72 billion in the past four years, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry indicated.

The value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with Singapore topped \$15.46 billion between the FY2016-2017 and the FY2019-2020 (as of August).

The CSO reported that imports surpassed exports in trade with Singapore in the past four years, with exports reaching over \$2.37 billion and imports valued at over \$13.09 billion.

Singapore is Myanmar's second-largest trading partner in the region, after Thailand. It accounted for 10.56 pc of total trade in FY2016-2017 with an estimated trade value of \$3.4 billion, 11.59 pc in FY2017-2018 with a trade value of \$4.15 billion, 9.98 pc in the FY2018-2019 with \$3.5 billion and 12.76 pc in the FY2019-2020 (Oct-August) with

\$3.64 billion respectively.

Myanmar exports agricultural products such as broken rice, pulses, sesame seeds, onion, footwear, textiles and clothing, minerals, and other products to Singapore. At the same time, it imports plastic, fuel oil, edible oil, transport equipment, chemical elements and compounds, wheat flour, pharmaceutical products, dairy product and consumer products.

Next, Singapore is the top source of foreign direct investments into Myanmar in the incumbent government period, bringing in the capital of \$10.9 billion by 124 Singapore-listed enterprises, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Singapore companies put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

After elections, next victory must be to defeat COVID-19

WITH the success of the 2020 General Elections, our country overcame one of the two challenges we are facing today.

By voting, the people put candidates into office to work on their behalf. Even those who voted for other candidates deserve a government that works for them.

The post-election period brings calls for us to work together for containing, prevention and treatment on the coronavirus infection and to address other challenges such as economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 period.

Still, we are facing challenges such as economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 period and need to address them. COVID-19 will be with us for some time until a reliable vaccine is developed.

Starting from the coming weeks, we need to revitalize our efforts for winning another challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is worth noting that the fourth humanitarian assistance programme for the needy people will come this week after the Union Government suspended it last week due to the general elections.

Due to COVID-19, there are fewer employment opportunities, creating more hardships and increasing the need for people to migrate

elsewhere for job opportunities, which in turn may lead to increased cases of human trafficking.

We need to put the manufacturing sector on growth trajectory to create job opportunities and to encourage economic recovery. Meanwhile, we need to prepare to carry out an effective economic relief plan together with the people to achieve our country's economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 period.

With the ongoing surge in coronavirus cases during the second wave of the fast-spreading virus, confirmed cases reached 62,000, with over 1,420 deaths in total yesterday.

COVID-19 is a marathon, not a sprint, and ultimately represents the larger issue of hospital preparedness and how we integrate critical aspects, such as supply chains and monitoring those who are infected.

Now is the time to motivate health workers and volunteers who have become fatigued while on the frontlines fighting the pandemic, and to continue to maintain the health guidelines in efforts to help our frontline heroes by decreasing the number of positive cases.

We would like to call upon the people to help the country achieve victory over the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery by maintaining their discipline and cooperation with the Union government.



By voting, the people put candidates into office to work on their behalf. Even those who voted for other candidates deserve a government that works for them.

UNIVERSITY OF YANGON CENTENARY 1920-2020

History of History Department of Yangon University

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

Part IV

History was very popular and favourite with students. In those days all gazetted posts of the Government were filled by competitive examinations held by Public Service Commission (P.S.C) Even if you passed your degrees concerned to get job you had to pass P.S.C. Examinations. There were 3 subjects 1. English 2. Burmese and 3. General Knowledge (which is current affairs both domestic and foreign) plus viva voce. Only those who passed P.S.C Exams were appointed in order of their merits in Examinations. General Knowledge or Current Affairs is nothing but Modern History and Political Science. Candidates attended tuition classes for P.S.C. Exams run by History, Political Science (PS) and English University Teachers.

History classes at the University run into nearly 20 in the L.A. and ten in the B.A. In addition, there were two different classes 1. History taught in English and 2. History taught in Burmese. But Hons and M.A. classes were in English.

In time of the writer 1955-1960 there were ten students in History (Hons) class namely. 1. Ko Htun Aung Chain 2. Ko Tin Hla 3. Ko Khin Maung Nyunt 4. Ma Ohn Kyi 5. Khin Khin Sein 6. Maggie K 7. Khin Khin Ma 8. Pearl San Lin 8. Daw Aye Kyi 9. Maung Maung Lay all became tutor or lecturing tutor after passing B.A. (Hons) at least 2nd class Frist Division. Lecturing fees was kyats 100 in addition to tutor's salary.



Covocation building of Yangon University. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

The writer was lecturing tutor in English section. He was also hall tutor of Sagaing Hostel 2nd floor lodging and messing free for his hall duties. He was quite ok with his salaries and duties. After passing M.A. he was promoted Assistant Lecturer and warden of Sagaing Hall.

In 1955 October with Myanmar Government State Scholarship he was sent to London School of Economics and Political Science (L.S.E.) London University to study for Ph.D. in International Relations (I.R.)

A big farewell party and send off by students and staff of Department and Sagaing Hall were unforgettable events. At the Lewis Street Jetty down town Yangon the writer and two lady assistant lecturers Daw Sein Sein Anthropology Department and Daw Khin Ma Lay Geography Department were ferried to S.S. cargo Salween

boat of British Henderson Line. Long sea voyage exciting also tedious and boring sea sickness funny experiences and wonderful journey through Suez

that year. But the writer found that magazine in 1985 when his student Maung Myint Soe Aung bought from night bazaar bookshop in Mandalay.

New generation of qualified history teachers must be trained by the Government and Cooperation of Foreign Universities especially universities of regional and sub-regional associations such as ASEAN.

canal the Mediterranean Sea St of Gibraltar English Channel liverpool port to London. The writer wrote an article 'On S.S. Salween' and sent it to Rangoon University Annual Magazine of

For nearly 5 years in London, 1956-1960 June the writer was in London. He learnt about history department from his friends. But his London days and his visits to European countries

were described in his two travelogue books in Burmese (I, Mr Burma) and (My hitch-hiking in Europe.....) with photo-snap shots he took. The first book had fourth editions and the second runs into third editions.

On arrival back to Yangon in 1962 June, the writer rejoined his Alma Mater Yangon University and mother Department. Many changes had taken place. Departments of Modern History and Political Science and that of Far Eastern History were moved to and grouped under Social Science Faculty together with Economics, Statistics, Anthropology and Sociology. International Relations (I.R.) was already introduced for 2 years diploma course under the joint academics body of History, Political Science, Far Eastern History, Economics, Law and English Departments. The writer was appointed Lecturer in Political Science and International Relations. In academic year 1963-1964 B.A. and B.A. (Hons) courses in International Relations were introduced.

Part V

1963 saw abrupt changes of Government General Ne Win staged a coup and set up Revolutionary Council before forming one party system and Burmese way to Socialism Government. Everything was nationalized.

Education underwent abrupt changes. English colonial education was condemned slavish education and English Language to be replaced by national language Burmese. English ceased to be the medium of instruction. Subjects that could not be taught in Burmese were dropped from curricula. So International Relations (I.R.) ceased

to exist.

The writer under the vicissitudes of his career was appointed Department Head of History and Political Science Moulmein University. Then he was transferred to Institute of Education and Worker's College. From Moulmein University Head of the Department he was appointed Director-General of Fine and Performing Department, Ministry of Culture.

A jump promotion surpassing Professor and Rector. Next he was also appointed Director-General of Historical Research Department under the same Ministry with only one salary although he held dual charges. Later when Professor of History Mandalay University Dr Than Htun was about to retire he was sent to take Dr Than Htun's place. Many changes took place. English as a medium of instructions was reintroduced. All subjects were taught in English. So later I.R returned to University Education. So the Rector had to take dual charge of History Department and International Relations Department in Mandalay University. But only one salary. So he became founder of International Relations (I.R.) Department Mandalay University. In those days to get admission into I.R. classes students must have high English speaking, writing and proficiency. In addition, they have to undergo psychological test which examine their physical appearances and cultural qualities. In Yangon University after U Ba Nyunt retired, U Tin Ohn succeeded. Followed by U Htun Aung Chain and Daw Ohn Kyi. Then U Tin Ohn became Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SEE PAGE-10

Coronavirus infections top 50 million worldwide

MORE THAN 50 million novel coronavirus infections have been detected worldwide, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1615 GMT on Sunday.

A total of more than 50,010,400 cases, including 1,251,980 deaths, have been recorded globally since the pandemic erupted in China in December last year.

Europe, with 12.6 million

confirmed cases for more than 305,700 deaths, has once again become the epicentre of the pandemic.

Last week, out of the more than 3.9 million new cases recorded in the world, more than half (2.1 million) were in the 52 countries of the European continent.

In the last seven days, the European countries that reg-

istered the largest number of new infections were France with 381,000 new cases, Italy (223,000), the United Kingdom (160,000), Poland (159,000) and Spain (143,000).

The United States, which experienced a slight respite over the summer, has seen the number of daily infections top 100,000 cases for the last few days.

The country is approaching

10 million confirmed cases for more than 237,000 deaths, or a fifth of all the infections detected in the world.

And the number of positive cases is continuing to climb, with an increase of 36 per cent in new infections detected in a week (738,000) compared to the preceding one (542,000).

After Europe, the worst-hit regions are Latin America and

the Caribbean with 11.6 millions infections and 411,700 deaths and Asia with 11 million cases and nearly 177,000 deaths.

Next is the United States and Canada with 10.1 million cases and 247,000 deaths, the Middle East (2.7 million cases and 64,500 deaths, Africa (1.9 million cases and 44,800 deaths) and Oceania with nearly 30,000 infections and 941 deaths.

The tallies, using data collected by AFP from national authorities and information from the World Health Organization (WHO), probably reflect only a fraction of the actual number of infections.

Many countries are testing only symptomatic or the most serious cases.

SOURCE: AFP

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 39/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 7 November.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 7 November. The full text of the press release will be reported in the 11 November issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 9 November, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 10 November, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy 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 slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 November, 2020: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 November, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 November, 2020: Partly Cloudy.

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History of History Department of Yangon University

FROM PAGE-9

In Mandalay University, Political Science and International Relations and English were reintroduced. The writer then Professor of History and Political Science was also in charge of International Relations. In 1987 the writer was appointed Director-General of Archaeology Department Yangon. He was sent abroad for seminars and conferences on Archaeology. At home he held first International Research paper reading on Myanmar Archaeology at Bagan. Sophia University of Japan sponsored it and research papers

were published.

On retirement, the writer was appointed Head of Committee for the writing of the authentic history of Burma by the new military Government headed by Bogyoke Saw Maung and later Bogyoke Hmu Gyi Than Shwe. At the same time, he was appointed member of Myanmar Historical Commission.

Saya U Tin Ohn requested writer to give lecture on Modern History, International Relations and Diplomacy to his staffs and outgoing ambassadors. Later when Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) was formed the writer

became a member of it till today.

During and after U Htun Aung Chain's Professorship changes took place. English as medium of instructions was reintroduced. All subjects except Burmese are taught in English. International Relations Departments were opened at Yangon and Mandalay Universities. The subject Archaeology was introduced by the joint effort of U Htun Aung Chain and the writer. Later, Department of Teaching Archaeology was opened which elaborated its Silver Jubilee in current year 2019.

History became a very popular subject and favourite of poli-

iticians. History Post Graduate Diploma (one year) classes were opened at Yangon and Mandalay Universities. Any graduate Arts, Science, Applied or Technical Science, Medical Doctor, Dentists, Engineering, Politicians, Political Party, Parliamentary even Monks and Nuns attend History Post Graduate Diploma Classes. Four main courses are given 1. Cultural History 2. Political History. 3. Economics History 4. Social History of Myanmar with emphasis on current affairs home and abroad. Professors and teaching staffs are sent out to participate in International Seminars Conferences and Workshops.

Today History Department is in need of new generation of highly qualified staff. Current staffs are in middle age who would retire in few years. New generation of qualified history teachers must be trained by the Government and Cooperation of Foreign Universities especially universities of regional and sub-regional associations such as ASEAN BIMSTED, SAACR, GMS etc. Prof and head of History Department Dr Mo MoThant is doing her best to train new generation.

Hailing the role of History Department in the Centenary Anniversary of Yangon University December 2020

JAPAN-US RELATIONS

Suga hopes to work with Biden to strengthen Japan-U.S. alliance



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Nov. 9, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said Monday he hopes to work with U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to further strengthen their coun-

tries' security alliance, again congratulating the Democratic challenger on his victory at the polls last week.

Speaking to reporters at his office, Suga said he looked forward to cooperating with the United States to "secure the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region," adding he will consider the best timing for phone talks with Biden and a visit to the United States.

Many Japanese officials believe an in-person meeting between the leaders should wait until after the president-elect takes office on Jan. 20, in part out of deference to incumbent President Donald Trump. Suga's comments followed his

tweet on Sunday offering "warm congratulations" to Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris.

The Japanese government's top spokesman, Katsunobu Kato, said this amounted to Tokyo's official recognition that Biden had won the presidential election last Tuesday based on U.S. media projections, despite Trump's pursuit of lawsuits against alleged fraudulent voting. Around 55,000 American troops are stationed in Japan under a postwar security treaty, allowing them to respond to contingencies in the region in exchange for help in defending against armed attack. —Kyodo News ■

PAKISTAN MEDIA MOGUL

Pakistan media mogul granted bail after months in prison

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan) — Pakistan's top court on Monday granted bail to the owner of one of the country's largest media groups, after a months-long detention condemned by rights groups as suppression of the press.

Mir Shakeel-ur-Rehman's Jang Group, which includes some of Pakistan's biggest newspapers and the Geo television network, has frequently been critical of Prime Minister Imran Khan's government as well as the country's powerful military.

He was arrested in March over alleged corruption in a land transaction dating back to 1986, an accusation denied

by his representatives who in turn alleged that Pakistan's corruption watchdog targeted him because Rehman's media group looked into the agency's workings. "The court has granted bail to Mir Shakeel-ur-Rehman, he is going to be released after spending more than 200 days in detention", Rana Jawad, Geo TV's director of news, told AFP. Last week, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) called on Pakistan's supreme court to order Rehman's release, saying he was being held on a "spurious charge". RSF added Rehman's group was targeted because its journalists "dare to tackle stories that are supposed to be off-limits". — AFP ■

US-TALIBAN RELATIONS

Taliban say they expect Biden to abide by Afghan pullout deal

KABUL (Afghanistan) — The Taliban said Sunday they expect the next US president, Joe Biden to abide by the deal signed with his predecessor Donald Trump's administration that paved the way for withdrawing American forces from Afghanistan.

In February, Trump's administration signed a deal with the Taliban to fully disengage from Afghanistan in exchange for several security guarantees and a commitment from the insurgents to stop trans-national jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State from operating in the country.

However, Biden's victory in

the US election has raised hopes among ordinary citizens that he might slow what some see as a too-hasty withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan.

The Taliban said they expected Biden's government to stick to the deal signed on February 29.

"We signed the agreement with the American government not a person," Mohammad Naeem, a spokesman for the Taliban, told AFP.

"We hope that the process that has started will not be weakened, but rather strengthened."

The US-Taliban deal agreed to withdraw all American forces from Afghanistan by May 2021.

The withdrawal of troops has been a cornerstone of Trump's plans to end America's longest war.

Since the signing of the deal, the US military has shut several bases and pulled out thousands of troops as agreed.

That deal, however, excluded the Afghan government from negotiations, and also saw almost 6,000 Taliban prisoners released — much to the displeasure of authorities.

Days after the release of prisoners, peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government to end the war were launched in the Qatari capital Doha. —AFP ■



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi briefs to media representatives in Islamabad on March 1, 2020, after his return from the signing ceremony of the US-Taliban agreement in the Qatari capital Doha. PHOTO: AFP

FINANCIAL SUPPORT WANED THIS YEAR

UN agency for Palestinians says lacks funds to pay full salaries

JERUSALEM — The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, hammered by US cuts, said Monday it lacks the funds to pay full November salaries but is confident President-elect Joe Biden's administration will restore support.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) "never recovered" from the total funding cut imposed by President Donald Trump in 2018, agency spokeswoman Tamara Alrifai told AFP.

Before Trump ended US support, Washington had been providing UNRWA \$300 million a year, roughly a third of its core annual budget.

Alrifai said 2019 shortfalls were filled by additional sup-

port from several Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. Both the European Union and individual European states, notably Germany, also helped close the gap, she said.

This year, "financial support waned," Alrifai added, noting that the coronavirus pandemic "didn't help", as key donors faced increased domestic financial pressures.

"It was with great regret that I informed our staff today that we don't have sufficient funding at this stage to honour their salaries this month," agency head Philippe Lazzarini said in a statement.

If it cannot raise \$70 million by the end of the month, UNRWA will not be able to pay full sal-

aries in November or December, the statement added.

The funding shortfall affects 28,000 staffers, spread across Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Only those whose work is covered by special emergency budgets could be spared, Alrifai said. Israel had been critical of UNRWA before Trump's election, arguing its presence was no longer necessary decades after the conflict following Israel's creation in 1948 that created some 750,000 Palestinian refugees.

The Jewish state has also criticised rules under which Palestinians can hand down refugee status to their children. —AFP ■



Palestinian employees at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) wearing protective masks and gloves, prepare food aid rations to be henceforth delivered to refugee family homes rather than distributed at a UN center, in Gaza City, on March 31, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN CAUSED BY COVID-19

S.Africa president warns virus resurge would 'choke' economy



This video grab taken on May 18, 2020 from the website of the World Health Organization shows South African President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering a speech via video link at the opening of the World Health Assembly virtual meeting from the WHO headquarters in Geneva, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the novel coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa) — South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday warned of the risk of a second wave of coronavirus infections that would "choke the green shoots of economic recovery" if citizens dropped their guard.

Africa's most industrialized economy, already in recession before the pandemic, was battered by months of strict restrictions to stem the spread of Covid-19.

The country is now at the lowest level of a five-tier lockdown. Almost all businesses have reopened and daily life has shifted into a new normal, in which face masks are still mandatory and large gatherings discouraged.

"It is all the more critical at this time, more so with the festive season approaching, that we do not become architects of our own undoing," Ramaphosa wrote in a weekly letter to the nation.

"A resurgence at any scale will not just dramatically reverse our health gains. It will choke the

green shoots of economic recovery that have emerged, and take us back from spring to winter."

Ramaphosa's warning came amid a string of second lockdowns in Europe prompted by a resurgence in coronavirus cases as winter descends on the northern hemisphere. The president called for "greatest vigilance" to "keep the virus at bay" and warned citizens not to forget to take precautions during the upcoming southern summer break. "When we fail to wear a mask at a social gathering, when we attend crowded events... we are also putting our economic recovery in jeopardy," he wrote.

South Africa reined in the continent's worst coronavirus outbreak, peaking at an average of 12,000 cases detected daily in July.

The increase has since dropped and remained relatively stable in recent months. To date the country has recorded just over 737,200 cases and 19,800 deaths for a population of more than 59 million. —AFP ■

OPEC+ DEAL ON OIL OUTPUT CUTS

Saudi minister says 'tweak' of OPEC+ cuts deal possible

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates) — Saudi Arabia's energy minister said Monday that the OPEC+ deal on oil output cuts could be tweaked if there is consensus within the expanded group of crude-producing nations.

In August, ministers of OPEC nations and other major producers stuck to an agreement to lower oil production, underlining that only strict compliance

could restore stability to prices sent plummeting by the coronavirus pandemic. While prices shot up Monday on coronavirus vaccine hopes following successful trials by Pfizer and BioNTech, crude consumption is far from pre-confinement levels -- which were already relatively low.

"With the consensus of everybody, we could navigate with this agreement and tweak this agreement, subject to what

we may see in the future," Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud told an Abu Dhabi conference.

He was addressing the virtual meeting shortly before the Pfizer announcement.

Under the terms of an agreement struck in April, OPEC and the so-called OPEC+ pledged to cut output by 9.7 million barrels per day (bpd) from May 1 until the end of June.

The cuts were then to be

gradually eased from July, to 7.7 million bpd until December.

Prince Abdulaziz, whose country analysts say fears a rollback on US sanctions against arch-rival Iran, congratulated American President-elect Joe Biden on his successful campaign.

As far as implications for oil prices are concerned, "we will handle whatever may happen within OPEC+", he said.

US President Donald Trump was popular among Gulf governments, especially for his unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and subsequent re-imposition of tough sanctions on the Islamic republic.

The tycoon courted Saudi Arabia even after the brutal killing of US-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate. —AFP ■

CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Pfizer says Covid-19 vaccine 90% effective in Phase 3 trial

PARIS (France) — A vaccine jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19 infections in ongoing Phase 3 trials, the companies announced Monday.

The statement was released as soaring coronavirus cases across the world have forced many millions of people back into lockdown, causing further damage to ravaged economies.

European stock markets and oil prices jumped on the announcement.

And US President Donald Trump, who lost last week's election in part over his administration's response to the pandemic, hailed the announcement as "such great news".

According to preliminary findings, protection in patients was achieved seven days after the second of two doses, and 28 days after the first.

The companies said they expect to supply up to 50 million vaccine doses globally in 2020, and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021.



(FILES) In this file photo the Pfizer company logo is seen in front of Pfizer's headquarters on 27 April 2016 in New York. PHOTO: AFP

"The first set of results from our Phase 3 Covid-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine's ability to prevent Covid-19," Pfizer chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

"We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis," he said.

"We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most."

Seeking emergency use authorisation

Across much of the globe, Covid-19 infections rates are hitting record highs, with hospital intensive care units filling up and death tolls mounting.

US biotech firm Moderna,

several state-run Chinese labs, and a European project led by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca are also thought to be closing in on potentially viable vaccines.

Two Russian Covid-19 vaccines have been registered for use even before clinical trials were completed, but have not been widely accepted outside of Russia.

The Phase 3 clinical trial -- the final stage -- of the new vaccine, BNT162b2, began in late July and has enrolled 43,538 participants to date, 90 per cent of whom have received a second dose of the vaccine candidate as of November 8.

Pfizer said it is gathering two months of safety data following the final dose -- a requirement of the US Food and Drug Administration -- to qualify for Emergency Use Authorization, which it expects by the third week in November.

"We look forward to sharing additional efficacy and safety data

generated from thousands of participants in the coming weeks," Bourla said.

'Watershed moment'

While the Pfizer-BioNTech trial has yet to be peer-reviewed by experts, scientists reacted positively -- if cautiously to the results.

Michael Head, Senior Research Fellow in Global Health, University of Southampton, called it an "excellent result for a first generation vaccine".

Peter Horby, Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases and Global Health in the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, said Pfizer's announcement "feels to me like a watershed moment" in the pandemic.

But others pointed out that there would likely be significant logistical problems in getting the vaccine to everyone, especially given it must be kept super-cooled and currently requires two doses to bestow immunity. —AFP ■

COVID-19 REMAINS STUBBORN

World may be tired, but virus 'not tired of us': WHO chief

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The World Health Organization's chief called Monday on everyone to keep fighting Covid-19, warning that while we may be sick of battling the pandemic, the virus is "not tired of us".

Speaking to WHO's main annual assembly, which resumed Monday after being cut short in May, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also hailed the election of Joe Biden as the next US president, voicing hope it could signal tighter global cooperation to end the pandemic. It was vital, he said, for people to follow the science and resist the urge to turn a blind eye to the virus.

"We might be tired of COVID-19. But it is not tired of us," he said.

Tedros, speaking from quarantine after coming in contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19, warned that the virus preys on weakness.

"It preys on those in weaker health, but it preys on other weaknesses too: inequality, division, denial, wishful thinking and wilful ignorance, he said.

"We cannot negotiate with it, nor close our eyes and hope it goes away."

"It pays no heed to political rhetoric or conspiracy theories," he said.

"Our only hope is science, solutions and solidarity."

His comment came after Covid-19 has killed more than 1.25 million people and infected over 50 million worldwide since it first surfaced in China late last year. Tedros warned that the pandemic had laid bare the need for the world to recapture a "sense of common purpose", which in recent years has been eroded by the "creeping tides of misguided nationalism and isolationism".

"In that spirit, we congratulate President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and we look forward to working with their administration very closely."

Biden has signalled that his administration will reverse Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States -- traditionally WHO's top donor -- from the UN health agency. —AFP ■

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Coronavirus: Latest global developments

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

Russia surge

Russia registers a record number of new infections with cases in Moscow surpassing a previous high set in May.

Despite new infections nearly doubling the country's first-wave record, the Kremlin has so far ruled out putting back into place sweeping restrictions lifted earlier this year.

Hungary lockdown

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban announces a partial lockdown for his country from Wednesday.

South Africa

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa calls for vigilance to avoid lockdown measures that could stifle the country's economic recovery. After months of restrictions almost all businesses have reopened though masks are still mandatory and large gatherings discouraged.

France economy blues

France's central bank says it expects economic activity to



Pedestrians wearing face masks walk in Moscow's International Business Centre (Moskva City) in Moscow on 9 November 2020, amid the ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

decline between 9 and 10 per cent this year, a bigger drop than previously forecast due to a new lockdown.

More than 50 million cases

The virus has claimed at least 1,255,803 lives worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally on Monday at 1100 GMT based on official sources.

More than 50,376,020 cases have been registered across the globe. The United States is the worst-affected country with

237,584 deaths from 9,972,333 cases.

After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 162,397 deaths, India with 126,611, Mexico with 95,027 and the United Kingdom with 49,044 deaths.

India firecracker ban

India's environmental court orders a ban on firecrackers in cities with poor air quality during the country's biggest festival, Diwali, citing a link between pollution and a coronavirus surge. —AFP ■

GLOBAL STOCKS HIT RECORD HIGH

Stock markets rally after Biden win

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Stock markets rallied Monday as Joe Biden's election win reduced uncertainty and provided hope that the US would finally agree on a stimulus package to prop up the ailing economy.

Approaching the half-way stage, Europe's main stock markets were up between around 1.5 and 2.0 per cent following similar advances in Asia.

Dollar gains were held in check by expectations of a big spending bill and US rates being kept at record lows for the foreseeable future.

The Chinese yuan reached its highest level since June 2018 on easing concerns about relations between Beijing and Washington.

Oil prices rallied more than two per cent on hopes that new economic help will boost demand, though the imposition of fresh virus lockdowns in several countries in Europe is keeping a lid

on gains.

While Democrat Biden has secured enough votes for victory, Republican rival Donald Trump has refused to accept defeat, with legal challenges and recounts looming.

Oanda analyst Craig Erlam said Trump's actions are seen by markets "as achieving nothing more than delaying the inevitable".

Stocks already began surging last week as it became apparent that Biden was on course for victory and that Republicans would likely hold the Senate, allowing them to rein in any big regulatory or tax policies.

On Monday in Asia, Tokyo's main stocks index soared more than two per cent to end at a 29-year high.

Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore and Seoul all gained more than one per cent, while Bangkok rose over two per cent.



Pedestrians are seen reflected in a quotation board displaying stock prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on November 6, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Focus on stimulus

Traders are now looking to Capitol Hill, hoping for a fresh rescue package for the US economy after lawmakers failed to hammer out anything ahead of the vote despite months of haggling.

"More fiscal support is likely forthcoming," said Invesco strat-

egist Brian Levitt.

"While it may not be the outsize fiscal package that the Democrats had envisioned, it will likely be large enough to provide an additional boost to the economic recovery."

Observers said better-than-expected US jobs data last week could complicate moves

to push a bigger spending bill through Congress, with Republicans already suggesting they would rather pass a more targeted package.

The economy added 638,000 jobs last month, far more than analysts estimated, and the unemployment rate fell one percentage point.—AFP ■

SOFTBANK'S NET PROFIT IN THE SIX MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER

SoftBank Group logs record 1.88 tril. yen net profit in April-Sept.



SoftBank Group Corp. Chairman and CEO Masayoshi Son meets the press in Tokyo on Nov. 9, 2020, releasing a 4.5-fold net profit jump to a record 1.88 trillion yen in the April-September period from a year earlier. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — SoftBank Group Corp. said Monday its net profit surged more than four-fold to a record 1.88 trillion yen (\$18 billion) in the April-September period from a year earlier thanks to large-scale asset sales aimed at improving

its financial position.

The 346.7 per cent jump, a turnaround from a 49.8 per cent fall a year earlier, came after it posted huge losses from poor investments in We Co., operator of U.S. shared workspace provider

WeWork, in the fiscal year that ended in March.

In the six months to September, the Japanese investment conglomerate said sales totalled 2.63 trillion yen, up 3.6 per cent, with its investment returns standing at 2.03 trillion yen.

Its investment funds, including the nearly \$100 billion Vision Fund, logged a profit of 1.34 trillion yen, thanks to a sharp recovery in stock markets around the world since the coronavirus-driven sell-off earlier in the year, the company said.

SoftBank Group Chairman and CEO Masayoshi Son said at a press conference that the company will further boost its investment in tech firms that are developing artificial intelligence technologies.

"We will be an investment company toward the AI revolution," Son said, adding, "Who wins the AI race takes the future in the next 10 years."

As for the expected transition of the U.S. administration to Democrat Joe Biden following the presidential election last week, Son said SoftBank Group will continue to invest in U.S.

tech firms as well as those in China.

"Regardless of who is the U.S. president, we will focus our investment on companies in any region that develop AI technology," Son said. He met then-U.S. President-elect Donald Trump in December 2016 at Trump Tower in New York and told him he would invest \$50 billion in the United States and create 50,000 new jobs.

In the first half of fiscal 2020, SoftBank Group compiled a 5.6 trillion yen war chest as of the end of September, exceeding its previous plan to sell up to 4.5 trillion yen worth of assets including a large part of its stake in T-Mobile U.S. Inc. and a 5 per cent stake in its Japanese subsidiary wireless carrier SoftBank Corp.

In addition, the parent company announced in September its plan to sell its entire stake in British chip designer Arm Ltd. to U.S. semiconductor maker Nvidia Corp. for up to \$40 billion, expecting to complete the sale by around March 2022.

SoftBank Group acquired Arm in 2016 for \$31 billion.—Kyodo News ■

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP TRADE DEAL

Asian leaders plan to strike RCEP trade deal Sun. without India

TOKYO — Leaders of 15 Asia-Pacific countries plan to strike a regional free trade agreement on Sunday without India, creating an economic bloc representing around a third of the world's gross domestic product and population, sources familiar with the matter said Monday.

The members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership are hoping to sign the deal at a meeting of their leaders, putting an end to negotiations that began in 2013, the sources said. It will be Japan's first signing of a free trade framework that includes China, its biggest trading partner, and South Korea. It is likely to benefit Japanese companies with manufacturing bases in the countries covered by the bloc.—Kyodo News ■

BREXIT

UK, EU resume crunch Brexit talks in London

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Britain and the European Union resumed crucial negotiations in London on Monday over a post-Brexit free trade deal, with time running short and both sides saying major obstacles remain.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier arrived in the British capital late Sunday before another week of talks with his UK counterpart David Frost, as they scramble to find an agreement within weeks.

Britain formally left the bloc in January but remains bound by most of its rules and regulations until the end of the year under the terms of its divorce.

Parliaments on both sides of the Channel need time to ratify any deal struck, leaving scant time for London and Brussels to find a compromise on key outstanding issues.

These include agreeing rules for competition between British and European companies and fishing rights and access.

Observers have said they will be cutting it very fine if agreement is not reached by mid-November.

In a weekend phone call, Prime Minister Boris Johnson

and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen agreed big differences still need to be bridged after two weeks of “intense” meetings ended last Wednesday.

Von der Leyen vowed both negotiating teams would “continue working hard” while Johnson said they would “redouble efforts to reach a deal”.

However, neither side has indicated yet that they are willing to make the compromises needed for a breakthrough.

‘Sensible approach’

Britons voted to end decades of economic and political integration in 2016 but Brexit has implementing that outcome has proved immensely difficult since.

After finally agreeing initial divorce terms last year, the two sides began fraught negotiations over a future free trade deal.

They had predicted a draft would need to be finalized by mid-October in order to be ratified by the EU and UK parliaments before the end of the year.

But the coronavirus pandemic strained the already ambitious timetable, while the most divisive issues have stalled the



EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, wearing an EU flag-themed facemask due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, leaves a hotel in London on 27 October 2020 to attend the latest round of Brexit trade talks with the UK. PHOTO: AFP

talks for months.

Without a deal, Britain would leave the EU single market and customs union at midnight on December 31 and significant barriers to cross-Channel trade and business would immediately be imposed.

London and Brussels still

insist they would prefer to avoid the economic disruption that this would entail.

Environment Secretary George Eustice offered a glimmer of hope that the UK could be ready to show more flexibility over EU access to British waters for fishing crews.

“We’ve always been open to doing a sensible approach looking particularly at agreements that might span a couple, three years for instance,” he told Sky News.

Britain has been reported to be holding out for annual talks over fisheries access. —AFP ■

AUSTRIA AND RACIAL ISLAM

Austria police raid dozens of ‘Islamist-linked’ targets



In this handout picture released by the Austrian interior ministry, Austrian policemen stand guard a street near a mosque in Vienna on November 6, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

VIENNA (Austria) — Austrian police on Monday raided more than 60 addresses allegedly linked to radical Islamists and seized millions of euros in cash, with orders for 30 suspects to be questioned.

The operation came a week after a convicted Islamic State group supporter killed four people in a shooting rampage in the heart of Vienna, but prosecutors

said the raids were not linked to the attack. Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said the police action was aimed at “cutting off the roots of political Islam”.

“We are acting against these criminal, extremist and inhuman organisations with all our strength,” he said in a statement. The Styria region prosecutors’ office said it was “carrying out investigations against more than

70 suspects and against several associations which are suspected of belonging to and supporting the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas organizations”.

“In the case of 30 of the suspects, orders have been given for them to immediately be presented for questioning,” it added.

It said “the operation has no connection to the terror attack in Vienna of November 2” but was rather the result of “intensive and comprehensive investigations carried out for more than a year”.

‘Hostile ideology’

Among the alleged offences are forming a terrorist association, financing of terrorism and money laundering.

The raids took place in the Styria, Carinthia, Lower Austria and Vienna regions.

More than 930 police officers took part in the operation, code-named “Luxor”, and millions of euros in cash were seized, Austria’s top security chief Franz Ruf told a press conference. —AFP ■

SHOOTING AT MILITARY BASE IN RUSSIA

Russian soldier suspected of killing 3 at base detained

MOSCOW (Russia) — A Russian soldier suspected of killing three of his colleagues using an axe and a gun at a military base has been detained after a huge manhunt, officials said.

The suspect “has been detained by law enforcement agencies,” the military said in a statement carried by the state news agency TASS.

He was now being interrogated, it added.

The 20-year-old soldier identified as private Anton Makarov was detained following a massive manhunt.

More than 100 members of the national guard as well as drones had taken part in the search operation, a spokesman said. Investigators said Makarov attacked an officer at the Baltimore military airfield near the city of Voronezh at 5:30 am (0130 GMT).

Voronezh is located more than 500 kilometres (310 miles)

south of Moscow.

“In order to get hold of a service weapon Makarov killed an officer with an axe,” the Investigative Committee, which probes serious crimes, said in a statement. He then started shooting his fellow servicemen, killing two and wounding one, the statement said.

An unidentified source told the Interfax news agency that the shooting started when an altercation broke out between the soldier and an officer during an inspection. The soldier “grabbed a handgun” from the officer’s holster and fired, Interfax reported. Russia’s Western Military District however denied that a conflict had taken place. Shootings at military bases in Russia are not uncommon and rights groups have sounded the alarm over brutal hazing rituals that were routine in the 1990s but have improved in recent years. —AFP ■

GOVERNMENT AIMS TO SECURE CORONAVIRUS VACCINES FOR ALL

JAPAN to prioritize elderly in administering coronavirus vaccines



An elderly man holds money in Tokyo's Ueno area on September 28, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

TOKYO — Japan will prioritize administering coronavirus vaccines to the elderly over those with chronic diseases when they become available, as the former face a higher risk of contracting a severe form of the COVID-19 respiratory illness, the health ministry said Monday.

The government plans to distribute coupons for free vaccinations in order of priority when a vaccine is ready, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The policy was decided Monday at a ministry panel meeting involving

experts.

According to the ministry, senior citizens are up to several dozen times more likely to develop serious complications from the novel coronavirus compared to healthy adults, while those suffering from heart or chronic lung illness, cerebrovascular disease or kidney failure face risks several times higher.

The government aims to secure coronavirus vaccines for all people in the first half of 2021.

The ministry will decide which chronic diseases should be covered by the planned preferential

treatment and whether to set priority orders depending on age after consultations with experts.

While health care workers are also deemed to be high priority, the urgency of their need to receive vaccinations will be determined at a later date.

Those wishing for a vaccine will be inoculated for free at health care facilities by submitting special coupons to be distributed by local municipalities. They will also receive a certificate upon vaccination, according to the ministry.—Kyodo News ■

OBITUARY

Dr Ohmar Moe Myint (63) Years

Beloved Daughter of the late (U Sein Lin) and the late (Daw Hla Sein), beloved wife of U Moe Myint (MPRL E&P Group of Companies), beloved sister of the late (U Thayne Soe), Daw Swanti, U Soe Aung, Daw Li Li Han, and Dr Kyaw Thein, beloved mother of U Sithu Moe Myint and U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint, residing at 82 University Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon, has passed away peacefully at Kan Thar Yar Hospital at 12:25 pm on Monday, 9 November 2020. The funeral procession and ceremony will be held at Yeway Cemetery at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 10 November 2020.

Bereaved Family

DEATH OF A TELEVISION PERSONALITY

Iconic quiz-show host Alex Trebek dies at 80

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Alex Trebek, whose decades as host of the quiz show “Jeopardy!” made him one of the most popular fixtures on American television, died on Sunday at age 80.

Trebek had waged a very public fight against pancreatic cancer for nearly two years, but continued taping his program until recently.

His death was announced on Twitter by the “Jeopardy!” account, which said Trebek “passed away peacefully at home early this morning, surrounded by family and friends,” adding: “Thank you, Alex.”

CNN media analyst Brian Stelter called Trebek



(FILES) In this file photo Alex Trebek arrives at the 38th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards show in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 19 June 2011. PHOTO: AFP

“the greatest game show host of his generation... You always watched, and you came away smarter.”

Even Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted his condolences for the family of the Canadian-born Trebek.

“We have lost an icon,” he said. “Almost every night for more than three decades, Alex Trebek entertained and educated millions around the world, instilling in so many of us a love for trivia.” —AFP ■

TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Japanese romcom wins sole prize awarded at 2020 Tokyo film fest

TOKYO — The 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival came to a close Monday, with a screwball romantic comedy by Japanese director Akiko Ohku winning the sole award to be bestowed this year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“Hold Me Back,” which won the Audience Award after having its world premiere at this year’s festival, tells the tale of a single 31-year-old woman dependent on an imaginary counsellor in her brain named “A” falling in love with a younger man.

The film, based on

a novel by Risa Wataya, winner of Japan’s prestigious Akutagawa Prize, is a humorous exploration of the inner struggles of working women in modern-day Tokyo. In her acceptance speech during the festival’s closing ceremony, Ohku said she felt honored to receive the Audience Award for the second time. Her film adaptation of “Tremble All You Want,” another of Wataya’s novels, won the Audience Award at the festival in 2017. Touching on how much the world has changed in the three years since then, she said, “I am

so grateful to all the audience members who bought tickets and actually came to see this film despite there still being anxiety about the coronavirus.”

Actress Non, formerly known as Rena Nonen, who gave a dynamic performance as the female lead Mitsuko and is known as the heroine in Japanese broadcaster NHK’s hit drama series “Amachan,” was also present to receive the award with Ohku.

“I know there is an Audience Award every year at this festival, but this year it is the only award, so I would like to thank the

audience for choosing this film,” she said.

A total of 138 works, selected from 1,356 titles from 107 countries and regions, were shown in Tokyo during the festival’s 10-day run. But unlike previous years, there was no International Competition due to difficulties in having overseas jury members and guests attend.

Organizers instead launched a brand new Tokyo Premiere 2020 section showcasing 32 films from around the globe, from which audiences were asked to select a film.

—Kyodo News ■



Director Akiko Ohku (L) and actress Non on 9 November 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

MFF president honours donors to Ayeyawady Centre



Myanmar Football Federation president and Ayeyawady Foundation chairperson U Zaw Zaw. **PHOTO: U ZAWZAW'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

MYANMAR Football Federation President and Chairperson of the Ayeyawady Foundation U Zaw Zaw recently expressed his heartfelt thanks and words of honour for donors who intended to contribute cash and necessary utensils to Ayeyawady COVID-19 Care Centre in Yangon.

U Zaw Zaw said, "I would like to honour and thank all the valued donors for their kind contributions and to more than 700 healthcare workers and volunteers for taking their lives at risk to be part of this deed.

Recently, we have been witnessing unexpected invaluable losses of human lives in this

wonderful world that we live in due to this terrible pandemic.

We are working together in unison not only to rid of this terrible pandemic but also to preserve the value of the lives of many, to live up fully to the extent of their lives, to be able to meet each other in persons, to let the youths enjoy learning new things, to get businesses back to normalcy and to get back the precious time we have.

To regain the valuable lives of our existence, we must strive together in unity with compassion.

Till date, we have received K 1.4 billion in cash and K 1.1 billion worth of medicines and

consumer goods.

We will publish the statements of donations to make sure nothing has been wasted and the funds and the donations are being used effectively and systematically in a transparent and accountable manner.

Ayeyawady Foundation has already donated K 3.5 billion in the COVID first wave and K 5.5 billion in the second wave amounting to a total of K 9 billion and have also received K 2.5 billion from our valued donors and benefactors.

"May all these good deeds be blessed to you all," the MFF president wished.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Real Madrid recovery halted by three Valencia penalties and own-goal

MADRID (Spain)—Real Madrid were thrashed 4-1 at struggling Valencia on Sunday as Carlos Soler scored a hat-trick of penalties to raise further doubts over La Liga's reigning champions.

Madrid took the lead through Karim Benzema but presented Valencia with four gifts at Mestalla, including three spot-kicks and an own-goal scored by Raphael Varane, to fall to another surprise defeat.

"There is no justification, no excuses," said Zinedine Zidane. "It's a bad game and a bad day."

This is the first time Madrid have conceded four goals since letting in five against Barcelona in October 2018 and puts the

brakes on their recovery that had followed a rocky start to the season.

After back-to-back losses to Cadiz and Shakhtar Donetsk last month, Zinedine Zidane's side appeared to have turned a corner with wins over Barca, Huesca and Inter Milan.

Yet this result puts the pressure back on ahead of the international break, with Madrid now fourth in the table, four points behind early leaders Real Sociedad. A disappointing night also got worse when Benzema was forced off late on with what looked like a groin injury.

"Everything happened to us," Zidane said.

Valencia, meanwhile, started the day in 17th after enduring a nightmare start to the campaign, on the back of a transfer window which saw them sell five key players and fail to replace any of them. A stirring victory though pushes Javi Gracia's team up to ninth and may prove a turning point in their season.

There was certainly an element of fortune in Valencia's goals, all of them unusual and some of them bizarre.

But Soler did brilliantly to beat Thibaut Courtois three times, particularly having missed his first attempt, which was retaken after the Belgian came off his line.—AFP



Valencia's Spanish midfielder Carlos Soler (L) scores a penalty past Real Madrid's Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois during the Spanish League football match between Valencia and Real Madrid at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia on 8 November 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mexico's Ortiz holds off Johnson for first US PGA Tour title in Houston

WASHINGTON (United States)—Mexico's Carlos Ortiz captured his first US PGA Tour title Sunday, firing five birdies in a five-under par 67 for a two-shot Houston Open victory over top-ranked Dustin Johnson and Hideki Matsuyama.

Ortiz padded his margin with the final flourish of a birdie on 18 at Memorial Park Golf Course, a municipal layout in the Texas city hosting a PGA event for the first time since 1963.

"It was awesome finishing with this birdie putt on 18," said Ortiz, who rolled in a 22-footer at the last for a 13-under par total of 267. The Guadalajara native played college golf at North Texas University in Dallas, and maintains a home in Texas.

"This is like my second home," he said. "There was a bunch of people cheering for me, Latinos and Texans. I'm thankful for all of them." The tournament was the first to allow fans since the PGA Tour resumed in June after a three-month coronavirus hiatus. A total of 2,000 spectators were allowed each day, with face mask requirements and social distancing precautions in place.

The victory gives Ortiz a spot in next year's Masters, although not in the final major of the pandemic-reshuffled season that starts on Thursday at Augusta National.

The week provided an en-



Mexican golfer Carlos Ortiz watches his tee shot from the 11th hole, during the second round of the World Golf Championship, at Chapultepec's Golf Club in Mexico City, on February 21, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

couraging tuneup for the Masters for Johnson, Japan's Matsuyama and others, including four-time major winner Brooks Koepka.

World number one Johnson, winner of the Northern Trust and the Tour Championship who had a runner-up finish at the PGA Championship and a share of sixth at the US Open, missed two planned October starts after testing positive for coronavirus.

He had six birdies and a bogey in his closing 65 for an 11-under total of 269.—AFP