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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 15 November 2020

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participates in 23rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit and 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) via videoconference



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participates in the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar participated in the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit and 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) which were held via videoconference yesterday from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The 23rd ASEAN Plus Three Summit was chaired by Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in his capacity as the Chair of ASEAN in 2020 and attended by Leaders of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the

Republic of Korea. At the Meeting, the APT Leaders discussed and exchanged views on future direction of the APT cooperation as well as regional and international issues.

The APT Leaders underscored the importance of the APT cooperation towards the long-term goal of building an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force. The Leaders also emphasized the need to strengthen APT collaboration in advancing the post-pandemic regional recovery, and enhance the role of APT cooperation in effective control and containment of the COVID-19 pandemic. They

also acknowledged the importance of the APT cooperation in maintaining and enhancing peace, security, stability and development in East Asia, and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to address non-traditional security issues such as trafficking in persons, terrorism and violent extremism.

In her statement, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her appreciation on the growing strength of solidarity among the APT countries amid the raging pandemic, fraying economies and shifting geo-strategic dynam-

ics. The State Counsellor also emphasized the importance of revitalizing the healthcare systems to be better prepared to address the ongoing and future public health emergencies, and highlighted the need to continue stronger policy coordination and practical cooperation for economic and financial resilience through implementing the Plan of Action on COVID-19, strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) and restoring essential commodity supply chains and a gradual resumption of normal travel in the APT region. As the success of the APT's efforts to overcome and

recover from the pandemic will largely depend on peace and stability of the region, she stressed the need to continue strengthening cooperation to address the non-traditional security issues articulated in the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022.

The 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) was also chaired by Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in his capacity as the Chair of ASEAN in 2020 and attended by Leaders of ASEAN Member States, Australia, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the

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Prime Ministers of Laos, Bhutan send congratulatory messages to State Counsellor

THE following are congratulatory messages from Prime Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Bhutan sent to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, for victory in the General Election held on 8 November 2020.

Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic sends congratulatory message to the State Counsellor

ON behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I have a great pleasure to convey my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency for the landslide victory of the National League for Democracy Party in the general election held on 8 November 2020.

I am convinced that under Your Excellency's wise leadership and rich experience, the Myanmar Government will have a greater success in the efforts to defeat and control the outbreak of COVID-19 in Myanmar as well as to revive its economy in order to bring about more progress and prosperity to the Myanmar people in the years to come. I am pleased to continue working closely with Your Excellency to further strengthen the friendly relations and good cooperation between Laos and Myanmar for mutual benefits of the peoples of our two nations.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and greater success in your noble tasks.

Dr Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister of Bhutan Congratulates the State Counsellor

ON behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, I convey our heartfelt felicitations to Your Excellency on the success of the National League for Democracy in the general elections held on 8 November 2020. The victory of Your Excellency and your party is a reflection of the dynamic leadership that you have provided to the NLD and of the confidence that the people of your constituency and Myanmar have in Your Excellency.

I wish Your Excellency continued success in discharging the important duties as the Chairperson of the NLD for the benefit of all people of Myanmar.

Your Excellency, our two countries share longstanding history of warm and cordial relations and I look forward to further strengthening these close ties of friendship and cooperation.

* * * * *

Yunnan provincial government donates COVID-19 medical devices to Mandalay regional government



Yunnan Province donates COVID-19 medical supplies to Mandalay Region Government on 14 November 2020. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

YUNNAN Provincial Government of China donated COVID-19 medical devices worth of K800 million to the Mandalay regional government yesterday.

The donation ceremony was attended by Chief Minister of Mandalay regional government Dr Zaw Myint Maung, the Mandalay Regional Hluttaw Speaker, the Regional Chief Justice, ministers from the regional government and Mandalay-based Consulate-General of China Mr Chen Chen.

The donation aims to strengthen the friendship between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China.

During the opening speech, the Chief Minister said the Yunnan Provincial Government has been providing COVID-19 medical devices since the virus outbreak in Myanmar and also supported special experts and laboratory equipment for the public health laboratory in Mandalay Region. He continued the support of the Yunnan Provincial Government is an excellent milestone in the history of friendship between Mandalay Region and the Yunnan Province.

Mandalay-based Consulate-General of China Mr Chen Chen said China will continue to support the fights against the

COVID-19 in Myanmar as a good neighbour.

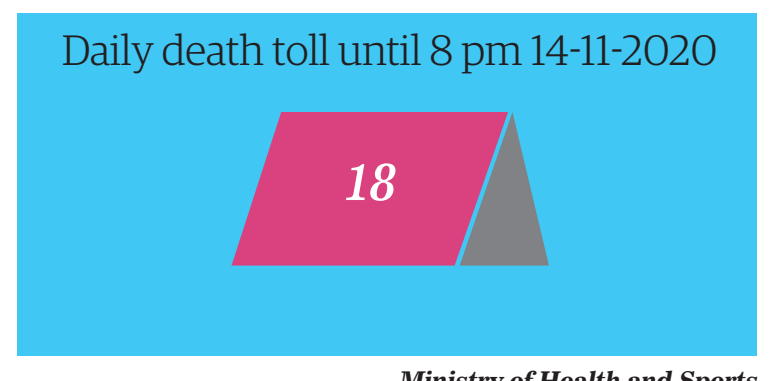
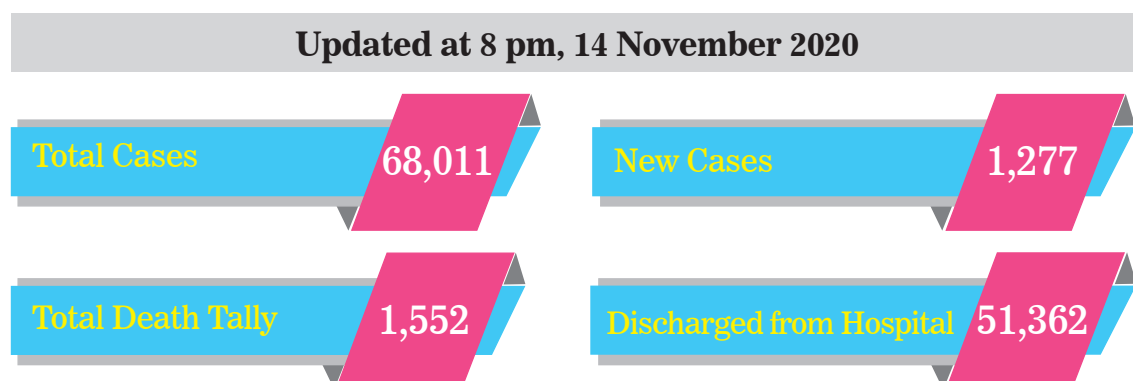
Afterwards, the Consulate-General handed over the donation to the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region and received the certificate of honour.

The donation included N-95, disposable medical surgical masks, medical face shields, medical protective clothing, anti-fog eye masks, disposable medical caps, plastic shoe cover (short), latex gloves (inspection), disposable isolation gowns and non-invasive ventilators.— Min Htet Aung

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

1,277 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 November, total figure rises to 68,011

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 68,011 after 1,277 new cases were reported on 14 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 68,011 confirmed cases, 1,552 died, 51,362 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA



Ministry of Health and Sports

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participates in 23rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit and 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) via videoconference



Union Minister U Thaung Tun joins the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Interface with Representatives of East Asia Business Council on 14 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in the ASEAN- New Zealand Commemorative Summit and Second ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit on 14 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and their representatives. At the Meeting, the EAS Leaders discussed and exchanged views on future direction of EAS cooperation as well as regional and international issues.

In commemorating the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the EAS, the EAS Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the EAS as the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common concern. Recognizing the importance of fair and equitable access to effective drugs and vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leaders also reiterated their commitment to facilitating equitable access to quality, affordable, safe and ef-

fective COVID-19 vaccines.

In her intervention, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi acknowledged the significant contribution of the EAS forum to the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in ASEAN and the broader region through strategic dialogues and practical cooperation in areas of mutual interest and concern. The State Counsellor highlighted the importance of strengthening the positive momentum of free, frank and friendly dialogue among participating countries in order to build greater mutual trust and mutual understanding. She also stressed the need to intensify practical cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action of the East Asia Summit for early, inclusive and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and long term resilience to future crises.

In response to the remarks made by some EAS Leaders on

Rakhine State, the State Counsellor stated that we share those concerns with regard to Rakhine State. She stressed that Myanmar Government will spare no efforts to bring peace, stability and development for all communities in Rakhine especially under these very difficult circumstances like COVID-19. She added that despite all the challenges facing Myanmar, we want to make progress with regard to justice and human rights everywhere in our country. She concluded by saying that Myanmar looks forward to continue working closely with all EAS Participating Countries to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region and throughout the world.

On behalf of the State Counsellor, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun participated in the ASEAN Plus

Three (APT) Leaders' Interface with Representatives of East Asia Business Council (EABC) held via videoconference. Likewise, the State Counsellor was represented by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin at the 8th ASEAN-US Summit, ASEAN- New Zealand Commemorative Summit and Second ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit which were held via videoconference. During the ASEAN Summits with its Dialogue Partners, the Leaders discussed and exchanged views on future cooperation as well as regional and international issues.

During the 8th ASEAN-US Summit, the United States announced Billion Future Scholars' Framework aimed at bringing more ASEAN students to the United States. New Zealand also announced its commitment to contribute 1 million to COVID-19

ASEAN Response Fund, 12 million to support pandemic response, 24 million for sustainable livelihood in the region, 10 million for climate resilient smart agriculture and 5 million for water management to Mekong River Commission at the ASEAN- New Zealand Commemorative Summit. During the Second ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit, Australia also expressed its commitment to provide 500 million dollars to support access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for the Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region.

Together with the State Counsellor, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin were present at the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit and 15th East Asia Summit (EAS).—MNA



Myanmar returnees line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 14 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

165 Myanmar citizens from Malaysia brought back home

A total of 165 Myanmar citizens stranded in Malaysia because of suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flight yesterday.

The relief flight of Myanmar Airways International arranged by Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur landed at Yangon International Airport at 5 pm bringing back the returnees home.

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 at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, under the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

Until now, Myanmar has managed to repatriate a total of 31 batches of its citizens from Malaysia. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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

Mandalay Chief Minister inspects construction works at Ayeyawady COVID-19 treatment centre

THE Ayeyawady COVID-19 treatment centre (Mandalay) is expanded to 375-bed centre, which was constructed in accordance with the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports, and now it offers treatment to the patients.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung inspected the construction works at the COVID-19 centre together with Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin and other officials. Chairman of Ayayawady Foundation U Zaw Zaw, Prof Dr Khin Maung Lwin, Rector of University of Medicine (Mandalay), Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Win Tun, in-charge of Ayeyawady Centre (Mandalay) reported on the status of construction.

The centre constructed in Mandalay Thiri Sports Stadium was expanded from a 300-bed to 375-bed centre including ICU/HDU.

The centre is fully provided with modern medical equipment for the patients while the



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung inspects the healthcare facilities inside Ayeyawady COVID-19 Centre in Mandalay. **PHOTO: KO MOE**

ICU/HDU with Haemodialysis Machine, modern medical equipment, including labs. The Ministry of Health and Sports manages the healthcare services, and treatment for the patients

and the foundation provides meals for the healthcare workers, volunteers and patients. There will be also a Test and Care centre to conduct health checks. The foundation con-

structed a 1000-bed COVID-19 treatment centre in Yangon and 375-bed centre in Mandalay. —Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Six YBS drivers tested COVID-19 positive

By Nyein Nyein

Six Yangon Bus Service (YBS) drivers have tested COVID-19 positive, but they are all healthy, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

Four are the drivers of YBS No 37 under the supervision of Yangon Bus Public Company Limited (YBPC). At the same time, one is the driver of YBS No 36, and the remaining one is

from YBS No 7 under Yangon Urban Public Transport Company (YUPT).

"The companies from the two bus lines reported that their YBS drivers are found COVID-19 positive. We don't know how they got the infection. Four YBS drivers from YBPC were tested positive. Two drivers of YBS 37 have been discharged from the hospital, and the other two are still undergoing medical treatment at COVID-19

treatment centres. Other five persons having had contact with the positive patients are staying home quarantined in line with the guidance of the related officials. They are all in good health. The remaining two YBS drivers from YUPT company are also in good form," he explained.

The number of commuters onboard the buses had dropped after authorities had declared stay home announcement in 44

townships in Yangon except for Cocogyun township when the COVID-19 second wave started.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, over 4,500 YBS buses were running on 135 routes with approximately 1.8 million passengers. Now, YBS operates more than 2,600 buses with 105 bus lines, providing service for over 400,000 passengers in Yangon Region, according to YRTA.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Potato cold-storage to be built in Naungtayar

A potato cold-storage, which can store 2,000 tonnes of potato, will be built in Naungtayar township in Shan State, according to Township Potato Growers and Producers Association.

The cold-storage will be constructed in PaO Self-Administered Zone by Naungtayar Potato Group Co.Ltd. The construction of the cold storage will be done with spending of K2 billion. The warehouse is aimed to ensure systematic cold-storage, which is nec-

essary to develop the potato production sector, according to the association.

The local potato growers will build the warehouse as a public-owned building with their collective fund and also with the fund from the entrepreneurs to be able to control the potato market in their hands and to store the potato seeds.

Naungtayar is one of the largest potato growing regions in Myanmar. Upon completion of the warehouse construction

project, there will be certain significant advantages like the emergence of a regular potato market for the local growers and storage of the potato seeds.

The potato is grown mainly in monsoon and winter in Shan State. The production costs and the benefits will depend upon the potato species. The production of Pwintbyu potato species will cost K1.2 million per acre, and the profit will be K728,000 per acre. The production of the China

species will cost K1.5 million per acre while the payoff will be K920,000 per acre. The Netherlands species will cost K1.4 million per acre whereas the profit will be K 800,000 per acre.

There are over 90,000 acres of potato plantations across Myanmar. About 600,000 tonnes are produced yearly. Local potato consumption is estimated at 350,000 tonnes. —Aye Chan Moe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Election Commission

Announcement 259/2020

14th Waning of Thadingyut, 1382 ME
(14 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.

Name	NRC	Constituency	Party
Kachin State			
U Ral Den Tan	1/MaKaNa(N)036870	Nagmog	USDP

Sd/
Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Election Commission

Announcement 260/2020

14th Waning of Thadingyut, 1382 ME
(14 November 2020)

Announcement of Region/State Hluttaw representatives

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Shan State

3.	Dr Aung Naing Win	12/KaMaYa(N)042083	Bamar Ethnic	NLD
4.	U Zok Daung	13/LaYaNa(N)097248	Kachin Ethnic	Individual
5.	Daw Khin San Myint (a) Yan Chi Mee	13/NaSaNa(N)037751	Lisu Ethnic	NLD
6.	U Yaw Thut	13/LaYaNa(N)021482	Lahu Ethnic	Lahu National Development Party
7.	U Hlaing (a) U Tun Hlaing (a) Dr Tun Hlaing	13/NyaYaNa(N)004451	Inntha Ethnic	NLD
8.	U Yar Kok	13/TaKhaLa(N)000526	Akha Ethnic	NLD
9.	U Tin Nu	13/PaLaNa(N)088036	Kayan (a) Padaung Ethnic	Kayan National Party

Sd/
Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Sr.	Name	NRC	Constituency	Party/ Individual
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Kachin State

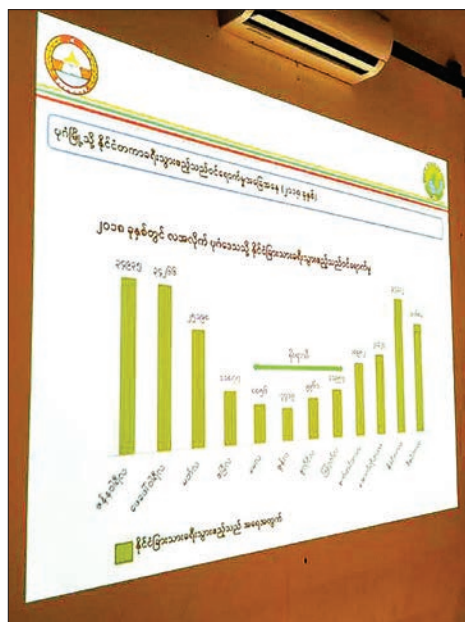
1.	U Chan Tan Khin	1/NaMaNa(N)003763	Nagmog 1	USDP
2.	U Ma Laung Aung Ram	1/PaTaAh(N)039985	Nagmog 2	NLD

Bagan- NyaungU Destination Management Organization holds coordination meeting

BAGAN-NyaungU Destination Management Organization (DMO) held a coordination meeting yesterday morning in Bagan.

NyaungU District Administrator U Kyaw Kyaw Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Bagan- NyaungU Destination Management Organization, delivered the opening speech and Director for the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Mandalay Region U Zaw Myo Latt presented the objectives, duties and responsibilities, tourism facts and further processes.

Afterwards, Tour Guides Association, Bagan-NyaungU Hoteliers Association, Restaurant Business Association, Bagan Plastic Campaign and officials from civil society organizations discussed the most convincing performances to the region and



Bagan-NyaungU Destination Management Organization holds coordination meeting on 14 November 2020. PHOTO: PHAY LANE (BAGAN)



DMO's current activities.

Bagan- NyaungU Destination Management Organization is formed with 21 objectives: to develop and raise the standard and quality of tourism in Bagan

Archeological Zone, to coordinate with respective organizations which support the development of the cultural heritage, environmental conservation, human resources, to develop

new itineraries in respective destinations and so on.

The meeting was also attended by respective officials from the NyaungU District Administration Department, the

Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and Town's Elders. —Phay Lane (Bagan)

(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

<p>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 261/2020 14th Waning of Thadingyut, 1382 ME (14 November 2020)</p> <p>Announcement of elected Pyithu Hluttaw representatives</p> <p>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.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>NRC</th> <th>Constituency</th> <th>Party</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kachin State</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U Sin Sone</td> <td>1/PaTaAh(N)008985</td> <td>Khaunglanphu</td> <td>USDP</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Sd/ Hla Thein Chairman Union Election Commission</p>	Name	NRC	Constituency	Party	Kachin State				U Sin Sone	1/PaTaAh(N)008985	Khaunglanphu	USDP
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<p>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 262/2020 14th Waning of Thadingyut, 1382 ME (14 November 2020)</p> <p>Announcement of elected Amyotha Hluttaw representatives</p> <p>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.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>NRC</th> <th>Constituency</th> <th>Party</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kachin State</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U Rakwi Pung</td> <td>1/MaKaNa(N)014878</td> <td>No.1</td> <td>USDP</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Sd/ Hla Thein Chairman Union Election Commission</p>	Name	NRC	Constituency	Party	Kachin State				U Rakwi Pung	1/MaKaNa(N)014878	No.1	USDP
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Border trade using ITC hits K1.9 bln this FY

Myanmar's total border trade using Individual Trading Cards (ITC) hit K1.9 billion this financial year 2020-2021, according to the figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1st to 31 October this FY, the ministry issued three individual trading cards, and the export using ICT cards through border crossings earned the exporters over K613 million while the import exceeded K1.3 billion.

During this period, Myawady land border recorded the highest ITC's trade with K1.2 billion, followed by Mawtaung border trade zone with K603 million, according to the official figures of the Ministry of Commerce.

Individual trades topped K737 million in the period from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013; exceeded K6.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY; reached K9.37 billion in the 2014-2015FY; stood at over K 6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY; rose above K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY; touched K45.9 billion in the

2017-2018FY; K22.5 billion during the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September); K59 billion in the 2018-2019FY and K43 billion in the 2019-2020FY.

The trade department has issued 1,778 cards, registering its trade value of over K214 billion so far since the 2012-2013FY intending to boost trade.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufactured goods and others to foreign trade partner countries. In contrast, capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country.

People in business can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has permitted the trade of up to K15 million per day over five days.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Vehicles seen at Myawaddy border trade zone. PHOTO: FILE PHOTO

UEC's announcement on updated list of winning parties until 8 pm on 14 November

Sr	Winning Party	Pyithu Hluttaw	Amyotha Hluttaw	Region/State Hluttaw	Region/State (Ethnic National) Hluttaw
1.	National League for Democracy Party	258	138	501	20
2.	Union Solidarity and Development Party	26	7	38	-
3.	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party	13	2	27	-
4.	Arakan National Party	4	4	7	-
5.	Mon Unity Party	2	3	6	1
6.	Pa-O National Organization Party	3	1	7	-
7.	Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party	3	2	7	-
8.	Kayah State Democratic Party	2	3	3	-
9.	Arakan Front Party	1	-	2	-
10.	Kachin State People's Party	1	-	3	-
11.	Wa National Party	1	-	2	-
12.	New Democracy Party (Kachin)	-	1	1	-
13.	Shan Nationalities Democratic Party	-	-	1	-
14.	Kayin People's Party	-	-	1	-
15.	Chin National League for Democracy Party	-	-	1	-
16.	Lahu National Development Party	-	-	1	1
17.	Zomi Congress for Democracy Party	1	-	1	-
18.	Kayan National Party	-	-	-	1
19.	Lisu National Development Party	-	-	1	-
20.	Individuals	-	-	2	2
	Total	315	161	612	25

Total winning seats of political parties

Sr	Winning Party	Winning seats
1.	National League for Democracy Party	917
2.	Union Solidarity and Development Party	71
3.	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party	42
4.	Arakan National Party	15
5.	Mon Unity Party	12
6.	Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party	12
7.	Pa-O National Organization Party	11
8.	Kayah State Democratic Party	8
9.	Kachin State People's Party	4
10.	Arakan Front Party	3

Sr	Winning Party	Winning seats
11.	Wa National Party	3
12.	New Democracy Party (Kachin)	2
13.	Zomi Congress for Democracy Party	2
14.	Lahu National Development Party	2
15.	Shan Nationalities Democratic Party	1
16.	Kayin People's Party	1
17.	Chin National League for Democracy Party	1
18.	Kayan National Party	1
19.	Lisu National Development Party	1
20.	Individuals	4
	Total	1,113

Total number of elected Hluttaw representatives

Sr	Party Names	Pyithu Hluttaw	Amyotha Hluttaw	Region/State Hluttaw		Total	Remark
				Region/State Hluttaw	Ethnic National		
1.	National League for Democracy Party	258	138	501	20	917	
2.	Union Solidarity and Development Party	26	7	38	-	71	
3.	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party	13	2	27	-	42	
4.	Arakan National Party	4	4	7	-	15	
5.	Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party	3	2	7	-	12	
6.	Mon Unity Party	2	3	6	1	12	
7.	Pa-O National Organization Party	3	1	7	-	11	
8.	Kayah State Democratic Party	2	3	3	-	8	
9.	Kachin State People's Party	1	-	3	-	4	
10.	Arakan Front Party	1	-	2	-	3	
11.	Wa National Party	1	-	2	-	3	
12.	Lahu National Development Party	-	-	1	1	2	
13.	Zomi Congress for Democracy Party	1	-	1	-	2	
14.	New Democracy Party (Kachin)	-	1	1	-	2	
15.	Kayan National Party	-	-	-	1	1	
16.	Kayin People's Party	-	-	1	-	1	
17.	Shan Nationalities Democratic Party	-	-	1	-	1	
18.	Chin National League for Democracy Party	-	-	1	-	1	
19.	Lisu National Development Party	-	-	1	-	1	
20.	Individuals	-	-	2	2	4	
	Total	315	161	612	25	1,113	

New government, same challenges

The much-anticipated 2020 General Elections has come and gone with the ruling party reportedly securing even more votes than the last one, but the "new" government has a slew of challenges to tackle that are further complicated by COVID-19.

One of the government's highest priorities is national electrification. Recent government data shows that over 50% of the nation is electrified and this in itself is a considerable accomplishment, having come a long way from 31% in 2013. However, there are still about 23 million people who do not have access to electricity.

Myanmar gets about 74% of its electricity from hydropower and just 20% of fossil fuel. With four major rivers in the country's geography, this makes reaching the government's goal of 100% nationwide electrification by 2030 not impossible but formidable.

That time is fast approaching, and the ruling party acknowledges it with their recent announcement stating they have sent letters to 39 ethnic parties in the country vowing that a federal union would emerge in the future, and that it would make a greater priority of ethnic people's wishes in the future.

involving peace and conflict issues.

The fourth session of the 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference was held just three months ago, and they came to a decision to move the peace process to after the elections when a new government has been formed.

That time is fast approaching, and the ruling party acknowledges it with their recent announcement stating they have sent letters to 39 ethnic parties in the country vowing that a federal union would emerge in the future, and that it would make a greater priority of ethnic people's wishes in the future.

Myanmar's elections have concluded peacefully despite criticisms of lack of transparency and the surge in COVID-19 but as we celebrate our next step on the democratic process, we must remember to exercise mindfulness with a dash of vigilance.

While COVID-19 has significantly impacted Myanmar's economy, the nation has actually seen more domestic investment during the 2019-20 financial year than the previous year. This can be cited from a recent announcement from DICA stating that K1.9 trillion (\$1.5 billion) in 130 domestic investments were approved in this budget year; an increase of about K200 million (\$154,000) from the previous year.

Another topic the new government should increase attention to is the peace process. As the ruling party has won more seats than ethnic political parties, they will have to be careful and comprehensive in appointing candidates with the required skills and tact to positions

WORLD DIABETES DAY 14 NOVEMBER 2020

Diabetes increasing COVID risks, showing need to strengthen health systems

As the number of people with diabetes surges, many are at "increased risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19", the UN chief said in his message for World Diabetes Day, on Saturday.

“Many efforts have been made to prevent and treat diabetes”, but the disease continues to rise rapidly in low and middle income countries, those “least well-equipped with the diagnostics, medicines, and knowledge to provide life-saving treatment”, said Secretary-General António Guterres.

attack, stroke and lower limb amputation, and the COVID-19 pandemic has brought additional pain to those requiring regular care and treatment who struggle to access therapies for their condition.

Hope ahead

A healthy diet, physical activity and not smoking can prevent or delay Type 2 diabetes, formerly called non-insulin-dependent or adult-onset diabetes, the UN said.

Moreover, the disease can be treated and its consequences avoided or delayed with medication, regular screening and treatment for complications.

Next year, WHO is launching the Global Diabetes Compact, “a new initiative that will bring structure and coherence to our complementary efforts to

reduce the burden of diabetes”, informed Mr Guterres.

“Let us work together to make sure that, through this ambitious and much-needed collaboration, we will soon be talking about the decline in diabetes as a public health problem”.

Hailing nurses

The theme for World Diabetes Day 2020 is “The Nurse and Diabetes”, which aims to raise awareness around the crucial role of these health care professionals in supporting people living with diabetes.

Nurses, who currently account for over half of the global health workforce, also help people living with a wide range of health concerns.

People living with diabetes face a number of challenges,



Nearly one in five COVID-19 deaths in the African region is linked to diabetes, according to the World Health Organization. PHOTO: AFP

and education is vital to equip nurses with the skills to support them.

“As we strive to overcome

the pandemic, let us do our utmost to ensure Universal Health Coverage, strengthen health systems and advance

good health and resilience for all”, the UN chief said.

SOURCE: UN News

COVAX FACILITY TO ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Trust in vaccines vital to halting pandemic: WHO

If the complete data show that "one or more of these vaccines has very, very substantial efficacy, that is really good news for putting another tool in the toolbox" for fighting the pandemic: Kate O'Brien

As the world celebrates advances in vaccines against the novel coronavirus, a top WHO expert warned in an interview with AFP that public distrust risked rendering even the most effective treatments useless against the pandemic.

“A vaccine that sits in a freezer or in a refrigerator or on a shelf and doesn't get used is doing nothing to help shorten this pandemic,” said Kate O'Brien, director of the World Health Organization's immunization department.

US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech announced on Monday that their prospective vaccine had proven 90 per cent effective in preventing COVID-19 infections in ongoing final phase trials involving more than 40,000 people.

O'Brien hailed the interim results as “extremely important,” and voiced hope that preliminary data from a handful of other candidate vaccines in similarly advanced trials would come through soon. If the complete data show



A researcher at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics (IBGM) of the University of Valladolid works on searching a vaccine against COVID-19 at a laboratory in Valladolid, Spain, on November 10, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

that “one or more of these vaccines has very, very substantial efficacy, that is really good news for putting another tool in the toolbox” for fighting the pandemic, she said.

But with the pandemic continuing to surge after already claiming some 1.3 million lives, she voiced deep concern at growing signs of vaccine hesitancy,

with misinformation and mistrust colouring people's acceptance of scientific advances. “We are not going to be successful as a world in controlling the pandemic with

the use of vaccines as one of the tools unless people are willing to get vaccinated,” O'Brien said.

More needed to be done to boost public “confidence in the fact that the vaccines that WHO is involved in evaluating, we will not be compromising on safety or efficacy,” she said.

‘Climbing Everest’

O'Brien acknowledged that there were a number of outstanding questions about the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine candidate and its peers, including how long protection against the virus would last.

And while the vaccine candidates are being tested for how effectively and safely they protect people from developing the disease, it remains unclear whether they actually avert asymptomatic infection and transmission of the virus. A big question, she said, is “does it change your likelihood of transmitting to anybody else?”

Despite the remaining questions, the WHO is betting on one or more vaccines winning approval

soon, followed by a rapid scale-up of production and distribution.

Anticipating the huge demand for any approved vaccine, the UN health agency has helped create the so-called Covax facility to ensure equitable distribution.

But even with gargantuan efforts, it will take a while before there are enough doses for everyone, and the WHO has set out guidelines for how to prioritize the distribution. “The goal here is that every country should be able to immunize 20 percent of their population by the end of 2021,” O'Brien said. That, she said, would go a long way to providing protection to health care workers and the most vulnerable populations, as well as those essential to keeping societies running, like teachers.

After that, how quickly everyone else could access a vaccine would largely depend on which country they live in, and whether their government had made deals to access vaccines that obtain approval.

Source: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 14 November 2020)

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

SPECIAL FEATURE: According to the observations at (18:30) MST today, the typhoon “Vamco” over the South China sea is centered at about (75) nautical miles East of Da Nang (Vietnam) and moving Westwards It is forecast to cross Vietnam coast on (15.11.2020).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15 November 2020: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions and Kayah State and 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 (3-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of light rain or thundershowers in Eastern Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2020: Generally fair weather.



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
သတင်းစာများကို ကြိုဆိုသည့်အတွက်
ဝယ်ယူပတ်ဝန်းကျင်

- မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် အမှတ် ၅၈၊ ကိုယ်ပိုင်ကိုင်ပိုင်ခွင့်လမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့
- ကြေးမုံခင်စာပေ အမှတ် ၇၇၊ ၅၂ လမ်းမိုင်ပုလဲလမ်းမတော်၊ ပုဇွန်တောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့
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- The Global New Light of Myanmar အမှတ် ၁၃၃၊ ယိုးဒယားလမ်း (ကင်းဆဲလမ်း)၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၀၀၈ ၅၅၄၂ / ၀၉ ၉၅၄ ၄၂၄ ၀၁၄

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CLAIM

Turkmen leader opens new hospital, insists country virus-free

Turkmenistan's strongman leader Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov insisted his reclusive country had no coronavirus cases on Saturday, state media reported Saturday, even as he opened a new hospital for infectious diseases. Berdymukhamedov hailed the country's "big achievement" in avoiding the coronavirus in comments reported by the state newspaper Neutral Turkmenistan.

"As a result of the preventive measures taken, no cases of coronavirus infection have been registered in the country to date," Berdymukhamedov said.

Hardline Turkmenistan and North Korea are among less than a dozen countries yet to declare a single coronavirus case. The other countries are Pacific island nations. The Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu all declared their first cases in recent weeks but have avoided community transmission.

Berdymukhamedov's virus-free claim is his first since a visit in July by a World Health Organization delegation prompted the government to implement a national lockdown.

The new hospital opened by Berdymukhamedov has a

200-bed capacity and can treat "viral hepatitis, infectious diseases of the upper respiratory tract... and diseases transmitted by airborne droplets," Neutral Turkmenistan reported. The hospital's equipment includes mechanical ventilators manufactured by the Swedish medical technology company group Getinge, according to the report. Turkmenistan's government has closed the country's borders to foreigners until next year while prohibiting places of worship, all restaurants and most shops from working until December 1.

SOURCE: AFP



Turkmenistan's strongman leader Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov insisted his reclusive country had no coronavirus cases on Saturday, state media reported Saturday, even as he opened a new hospital for infectious diseases.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS BRIEFS

Dutch government bans New Year's fireworks due to pandemic

In an attempt to curb the spread of the virus the Dutch government has banned the use of fireworks this New Year's Eve. This will also ease the pressure on hospitals and care staff, as last year 1,300 accidents and hospitalizations were reported, of which 400 in intensive care.

Not adhering to the rules could cost you a minimum fine of €100 and an entry into your criminal record.

Financial compensation of €40 million will be made available to the fireworks industry. Fireworks in stock are allowed to be kept until next year.

SOURCE: AFP

DESPITE INFECTIONS

French Polynesia rejects second lockdown



French Polynesia, an overseas collectivity of France, comprises more than 100 islands in the South Pacific, stretching for more than 2,000km. PHOTO: AFP

DESPITE a pace of spread that remains among the highest in the world, French Polynesia does not wish to confine itself, the High

Commissioner and the President of this overseas collectivity announced Friday in a joint speech. "We must avoid a collapse

of the economy at all cost, which would create irreversible job losses and a major social crisis," said High Commissioner Dominique

Sorain, who represents the state in French Polynesia.

The first local economic sector is tourism, much affected by a lockdown introduced in March, then lifted before the borders reopened in July. The tourists had timidly returned by then, but the virus then spread. The incidence rate is 868 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants on the most populous islands, Tahiti and Moorea.

In another blow to the local economy, metropolitan residents can no longer travel to Polynesia for tourist reasons due to national confinement. The airlines which serve Polynesia have already reduced their flights.

While authorities rejected the lockdown, they maintained the curfew up until at least 14 December. Other measures are to be added to the restrictions already in force; sports competitions and flea markets are now banned.

SOURCE: AFP

Canada PM calls for redoubling of efforts in Covid-19 fight as cases spike

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called on Canadians Friday to redouble efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19, citing a record number of new cases and projections the count could soon double.

There were nearly 5,000 new cases reported across Canada on Thursday, including 83 deaths, and those figures could double by early December without strong measures to curb outbreaks, according to public health projections.

"We have to reverse these trends, now," Trudeau told a news conference.

"We all want this to be over, but it's not going to be over for many more months," he said. "How bad it gets in the coming months depends on all of us."

The prime minister urged his compatriots to continue to take precautions including social distancing and wearing masks, and to not let up as pandemic fatigue sets in.

SOURCE: AFP

THE PILOT TEST

Robot requesting customers to wear masks tested in Osaka

A robot capable of requesting customers to wear masks and maintain social distance to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus is being tested in an Osaka shop.

The robot's developer, the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International in Kyoto, envisions that it will be used to replace staff in stores

and reduce contact between people amid the pandemic.

The trial, which began Wednesday at a merchandise store for Japanese professional soccer club Cerezo Osaka in the western Japan city's Suminoe Ward, is scheduled to run through Nov. 30 but may be extended.

With the layout of the store

inputted beforehand, the robot, equipped with a camera and sensors, is able to observe customer movements and measure distances using lasers as it patrols.

The robot identifies customers who are not wearing masks and calls on them to do so after institute staff confirm through the camera that it has not made an error.

The robot, which can direct customers to products in the store, also warns people who are not socially distancing when lining up to pay.

The pilot test is currently being held between 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

SOURCE: Kyodo

THE 90-MINUTE TALKS

Asian leaders pledge cooperation in fighting pandemic

Leaders of ASEAN, Japan, China and South Korea on Saturday vowed to work together to fight the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed more than 1.3 million lives and dealt a heavy blow to the global economy.

“The spread of COVID-19 is a human security crisis,” Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said during a virtual summit conference. “Universal health coverage is key in defeating this disease, and we hope to work with countries in the region to achieve this.” The coronavirus has constricted international travel and trade as countries have scrambled to contain outbreaks. The International Monetary Fund predicts the global economy will shrink 4.4 per cent in 2020 from

a year before, with a gradual recovery expected as restrictions are dialed back.

Japan will continue efforts to support the 10-members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in battling the pandemic, including by funding the establishment of a center for infectious diseases and providing more than \$200 million in medical supplies and equipment, Suga said.

The conference was also attended by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Moon Jae In, with Li calling for preparations for the “second wave” of infections heading into winter and Moon stressing the need for the fair distribution of vaccines in their opening remarks. During the

90-minute talks, the leaders of several countries other than Japan or China touched on the importance of stability in the South and East China seas, according to a Japanese government official.

The comments appeared to be a reference to China’s growing assertiveness in surrounding waters, with several ASEAN members, including the Philippines and Vietnam, embroiled in territorial disputes with Beijing.

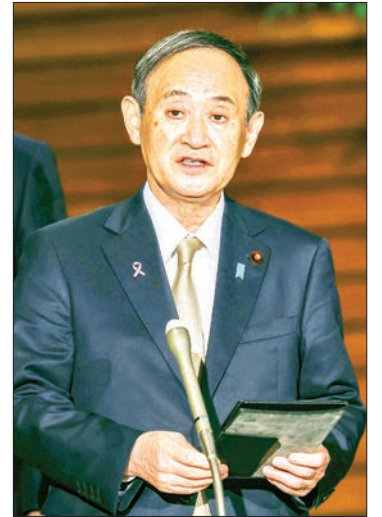
The official said in a press briefing that Suga welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a sprawling free trade agreement between 15 Asia-Pacific countries. The deal is set to be signed on Sunday.

The prime minister pledged

to help ASEAN tackle climate change by providing “realistic and sustainable” options to reduce carbon emissions while meeting the region’s energy needs. Suga also promoted Japanese food as safe and called for import restrictions imposed in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster to be lifted, and called for the complete dismantlement of North Korea’s ballistic missiles, the official said.

The virtual conference was part of a series of annual meetings – usually held in person – involving ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo on Nov. 14, 2020, after attending a summit meeting via teleconference with China, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations amid the coronavirus pandemic.

PHOTO: KYODO

NO LOCKDOWN IN SIGHT

New York closes bars to head off virus resurgence



People eat in a covered outdoor area at a restaurant in Manhattan on November 13, 2020 in New York City.

PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/AFP/FILE

New York raced to cut off a second wave of coronavirus infections and a top WHO expert warned growing public distrust risked rendering even the most effective treatments useless against the pandemic. Bars and clubs in the Big Apple, the epicentre of the US’s spring outbreak, were ordered to close at 10 pm on Friday and the state governor warned schools could move to online only teaching as early as Monday.

Infections are surging throughout America and Europe, with governments forced to take more drastic action despite fears about the devastation inflicted on their economies.

The disease has claimed almost 1.3 million lives worldwide and infected close to 53 million

since it first emerged in China in December. Even with a vaccine expected to receive approval soon, the head of the WHO’s immunisation department warned that misinformation and mistrust colouring people’s acceptance of scientific advances could hamper its effectiveness.

“We are not going to be successful as a world in controlling the pandemic with the use of vaccines as one of the tools unless people are willing to get vaccinated,” Kate O’Brien told AFP.

Lebanon entered a new two-week lockdown on Saturday after reported infections crossed the 100,000 mark, with hospitals in the crises-wracked country almost at capacity.

SOURCE: AFP

ONLINE STREAMING

UK film industry in rude health despite virus horror

FAR from being wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic, Britain’s film and television industry is enjoying a blockbuster run thanks in large part to a surge in online streaming.

Attracting global production teams to spectacular landscapes, gothic castles and state-of-the-art studios in the UK, the nation’s film industry has enjoyed big growth in recent years – also thanks to tax breaks.

From blockbuster movie franchises “James Bond” and “Star Wars” to hit US series “Games of Thrones”, Britain has a long history of filming international hits despite enduring some lean times.

“The UK screen industries are a huge success story and a big contributor to the cultural economy of Europe,” said Gary Davey, chief executive of Sky Studios.

“We have a wealth of talent right across the UK, both on-screen and off-screen. I don’t see that changing anytime soon,” Davey told AFP.

US-owned broadcasting group Sky is meanwhile pressing ahead with new multi-billion-dollar facilities in Hertfordshire,

north of London – already home to long-standing Elstree studios, or “Britain’s Hollywood”.

Even if the real Hollywood continues to dominate, the British film sector is by no means a small player, employing about 140,000 people and generating billions of pounds to the economy annually.

Bollywood is also a big fan.

‘Preferred location’

“The UK is historically a preferred shooting location for a lot of Indian films,” said Vikram Malhotra, CEO of Abundantia Entertainment.

“The UK is a very shooting-friendly location. Not only is there support and facilitation available for production but also you get support in key areas like trained crew, equipment, actors and post-production.”

Malhotra meanwhile praised the UK’s response amid the pandemic.

“The UK government and its departments have moved quickly and supported us, especially where production is concerned, which has made the UK relatively even more attractive now,” he told AFP.

SOURCE: AFP



US entertainment giant Disney has teamed up with Britain’s iconic Pinewood studios to expand studios made famous by James Bond films.

PHOTO: ADRIAN DENNIS AFP/FILE

SPOILED PARTY

Pandemic casts shadow over India's festival of light



An Indian potter makes earthen lamps for the upcoming Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, in New Delhi, India, Nov. 8, 2020. Hindus across India decorate their homes with earthen lamps and light candles to celebrate Diwali. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JAVED DAR**

FEAR of the coronavirus, mixed with chronic pollution, has spoiled the party for hundreds of millions of Indians celebrating the biggest Hindu holiday of the year on Saturday. Diwali is meant to be the festival of light, but the pandemic has clouded the future for many in the country of 1.3 billion. The smog-shrouded capital New Delhi has banned firecrackers because of sky-high pollution levels and, while people still thronged markets, traders said Covid-19 had scared them off spending.

With 8.7 million cases, India has the world's second-highest

coronavirus infection count behind the United States. About 130,000 people have died from Covid-19 in India since February and Delhi is going through a new surge with nearly 8,000 new cases a day. Experts have blamed the rise on Diwali crowds, and—although traditional revelry was muted—there was no sign that people were staying at home.

Engineer Rahul Randhawa, 27, said the throngs were “the total opposite” of what he expected to see when he returned from the United States. “There are major jams on the street... and there are huge crowds in

markets,” he said.

However, the crowds are being selective. Cinemas are open but remain empty. Restaurants say they are struggling to get people to come in.

Lights off

Mahinder Kumar, who sells flowers outside the Jhandewala temple, one of the oldest in Delhi, said that normally there are huge queues for Diwali. “This year it's nothing - almost empty.”

“Our business has been affected badly. We have hardly sold any flowers this year.”

Source: AFP

SATURATED HEALTH SYSTEM

Greece shuts down all schools as hospitals are overwhelmed

GREECE announced on Saturday the closure of its primary schools, kindergartens and daycare centres amid a surge in coronavirus cases that has saturated the national health system.

“The Greek government decided the suspension of the functioning of schools until November 30,” said a statement from Health Minister Vassilis Kikilias. “Closing elementary schools was the last thing we wanted to do. This is a measure of how serious the situation is,” he added. Secondary schools have already closed and all lessons have taken place remotely since Monday.

Most European countries have kept schools open during the second waves of cases that has hit the continent since September; unlike in March and April when they were shuttered during the first lockdowns.

The World Health Organization recommends that schools only be shut as a last resort.

Since late October, the daily number of deaths in Greece has quadrupled with 50 deaths reported some days, while the number of infections has doubled to around 3,000 cases daily.

Out of the 1,143 total intensive care unit beds nationwide on Friday 830 were occupied.

“The coming weeks will be extremely critical”, Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Thursday in the Greek Parliament where he was briefing MPs for the second lockdown since March.

This lockdown started November 7 and is to last until November 30, although experts suggest it might last longer.

Since Friday night a curfew from 9 pm to 5am has been imposed all over Greece.

Source: AFP



A teacher takes the temperature of Greece's PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis as he arrives at a primary school on the first day of class of the new academic year in Athens, on September 14, 2020. **PHOTO: THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/POOL/AFP**

THIRD PHASE OF THE PILOT PROCESS

China-developed COVID-19 vaccine to enter late-stage trial in Uzbekistan

THE Uzbek government has recently told media that the country will carry out a phase-3 trial of a China-developed vaccine for COVID-19, which makes the vaccine

China's fifth candidate to enter late-stage human tests overseas. The ministry has announced that 5,000 Uzbek volunteers aged between 18 and 59 will attend the

third phase of the pilot process, which will continue for a year. Developed by China's Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical, the trial vaccine has been transported to

Uzbekistan along with several Chinese specialists who will work on the monitoring of participants and training of Uzbek doctors. Source: Xinhua

"CINEMA: NO MATTER WHAT"

Thessaloniki Int'l Film Festival goes online amid COVID-19 pandemic

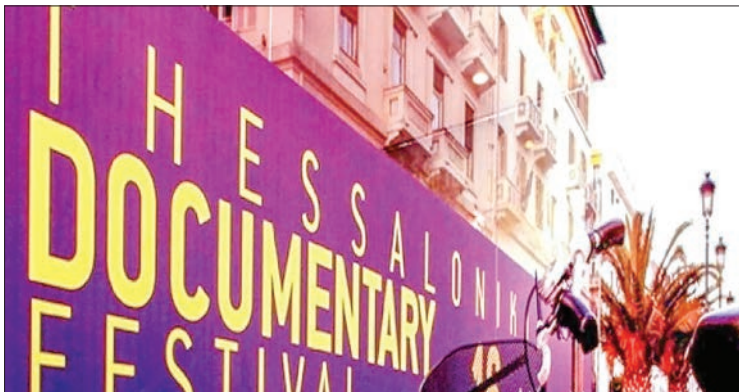


PHOTO: FILMFESTIVAL.GR/AFP

WITH the motto “Cinema: no matter what,” the Thessaloniki International Film Festival (TIFF) went online amid the coronavirus pandemic, celebrating its 61st anniversary and bringing together movie lovers from Greece and abroad. TIFF, which kicked off on November 5, had to adapt to the new circumstances with a smaller programme due to COVID-19. Though they were prepared to present a hybrid festival with physical screenings and some events taking place online, the general lockdown imposed by the Greek government last week led them to go completely virtual. “Even though the festival is a big success and viewers are happy, the online

festival cannot substitute the experience of attending a physical event and watching films with an audience on a big screen,” Yorgos Krassakopoulos, head of Programming Thessaloniki International Film Festival, told Xinhua. Running until November 15, the festival hosts 177 films from across the world, with 15 avant-premieres. It includes 18 Greek full-feature films, as well as 21 Greek shorts and some Chinese movies. “We are looking into strengthening our bonds with the Chinese industry and we are always open to collaborations and discovering new and interesting voices from the country,” Krassakopoulos added. Source: Xinhua

RUBBER EXPORT

Thailand expected to produce 4.9 mln tonnes of natural rubber this year

THAILAND is expected to produce some 4.9 million tonnes of natural rubber throughout this year, said Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT) Governor Nakorn Tangavirapat on Saturday.

Of the total natural rubber production projected, some 4.18 million tonnes are bound for export to world markets including China and Britain, Nakorn said.

An estimated 11.2 billion U.S. dollars in value of rubber export is expected throughout this year, he said.

Meanwhile, the RAOT governor said the rubber prices at domestic markets may rise up to 80 baht (about 2.65 U.S. dollars) per kilogramme by the end of this year due in part to China's increased manufacturing of automobile tires, rising external demands for latex gloves in the face of the global pandemic and the reduced volumes of rubber production in Indonesia and Vietnam.

The natural rubber is currently selling for an average of 66.76 baht (about 2.21 U.S. dollars) a kilogramme at domestic markets.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Workers sort out raw rubber sheets at a factory in Rayong Province. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

TRADE STATISTICS

EU int'l trade partially recovers in September

THE European Union (EU)'s international trade in goods partially recovered in September compared with August, but remained under the pre-pandemic levels, according to Eurostat.

The first estimate for extra-EU exports of goods in September 2020 was 171 billion euros (202 billion U.S. dollars), down by 3.8 per cent compared with September 2019. The imports from the rest of the world stood at 146.5 billion euros, down by 8.9 per cent compared with last year, it said in a news release Friday.

In August 2020, the year-on-year declines of exports and imports were 14 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively.

According to the EU's statistical office, China was the main partner for the EU in the first nine months.

SOURCE: Xinhua

OPTIMISM

Vaccine hopes keep stocks ahead despite spiking infections

MOST stock markets in the US and Europe ended the week on an upbeat note Friday as coronavirus vaccine hopes outweighed worries over spiking infections in Europe and the United States, dealers said.

Asian bourses, however, took a hit as traders feared that another wave of Covid-19 lockdown measures will throw a shaky economic recovery off course.

In New York, the Dow index ended up 1.4 per cent while the S&P 500 finished at a record high after making its own 1.4 per cent gain. Most European markets also closed slightly higher.

London bucked the trend with the FTSE 100 index down by 0.4 per cent on the back of a stronger pound, which hits share prices of multinational companies that earn their vast sums in US dollars.

PREPARING TO LEAVE THE WH

As Trump rails against election outcome, Wall Street shrugs



Traders work after the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). PHOTO: JOHANNES EISELE / AFP

US President Donald Trump is mounting an unprecedented, and thus far unsuccessful, challenge to last week's presidential election, but that hasn't shaken Wall Street's forward momentum.

Some analysts say the president's multi-state legal challenge to Democratic candidate Joe Biden's victory in the November 3 election is about boosting Trump's image as he prepares to leave the White House, and unlikely to affect stock indices that have little tolerance for uncertainty.

"My guess is, Trump is building his brand for the next round

of whatever publicity he's going to try to garner for himself. It doesn't appear to be a serious effort to derail the election results," Maris Ogg of Tower Bridge Advisors said.

US stocks have thus far celebrated the outcome of the election, with the S&P 500 ending the latest trading week at a record high, however that's not due to a preference for Biden but rather relief that the election ended swiftly. Trump has, meanwhile, refused to admit defeat, instead making unfounded allegations of fraud and refusing to allow his government to cooperate with the

incoming Biden administration.

Even as Wall Street writes off Trump's legal challenges, concerns linger that his intransigence could erode governance and spook investors.

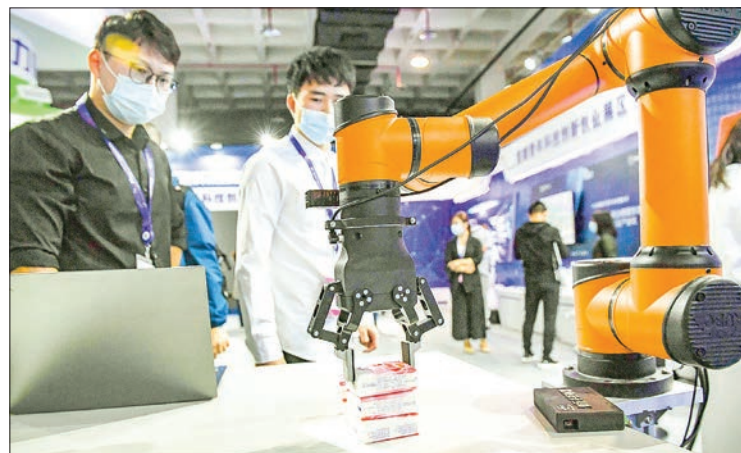
"These moves could not only impede a smooth transition of power but endanger national security as well," Boris Schlossberg of BK Asset Management said.

"As the standoff turns to legal maneuverings, the markets could quickly take on a risk-off posture as the United States fails to have a peaceful transition of power for the first time in history."

SOURCE: AFP

STEADY GROWTH

China's Jiangsu sees booming digital economy



Visitors check out a smart robot during a high-tech exhibition in Beijing. Beijing's digital economy accounted for more than half the city's GDP last year, the highest ratio in China. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

THE volume of the digital economy in east China's Jiangsu Province hit 4 trillion yuan (US\$600 billion) in 2019, accounting for over 40 per cent of the province's GDP, according to local authorities.

Jiangsu's digital industry has maintained steady

growth this year. In the first three quarters, its electronic information manufacturing sector's operating income rose over 6 per cent year-on-year to 1.9 trillion yuan, said Chi Yu, deputy director of the provincial department of industry and information technology.

The software and information services sector achieved an operating revenue of 774 billion yuan, an annual increase of around 6 per cent and ranking high in the country, Chi noted. Jiangsu has in recent years been speeding up the construction of its information infrastructure.

By the end of September, telecom enterprises in the province had invested 10.8 billion yuan in the construction of 5G networks, and built and opened 63,000 5G base stations, bringing the province's total to 68,000. Jiangsu will improve its favorable policy environment for the high-quality development of the digital economy, said Qi Biao, deputy director of the provincial development and reform commission.

SOURCE: Xinhua

DISINFORMATION SPREADING ONLINE

Top US Democrat says Facebook ‘part of the problem’

THE top Democrat in the US Congress on Friday joined in criticism against Facebook for allowing disinformation to spread over the social media platform, saying it was “part of the problem.”

Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the House of Representatives, made the comments in response to a question about efforts being made by tech giants against disinformation spreading online

during the presidential election won by Democrat Joe Biden.

“I’m not a big fan of Facebook,” Pelosi told journalists.

“I don’t know what they have been doing but I know they’ve been part of the problem, all along.”

Since US news media projected Biden the winner over Republican incumbent Donald Trump on Saturday, the outgo-

ing president and his supporters have been spreading claims of massive electoral fraud without evidence.

Facebook and Twitter have slapped warning messages on many recent posts by Trump and others.

Facebook and Google have also decided to maintain their bans on political advertising in the United States pending certi-



US Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. PHOTO: AFP

fication of the results.

However, social media companies have been accused by a wide range of voices of not doing enough and allowing false information and hate speech to spread

for too long.

Many from the right wing allege censorship when it comes to the warning messages and other actions taken by tech companies.

SOURCE: AFP

LIBYAN PEACE PROCESS

UN former envoy ‘very optimistic’ for peace in Libya

THE UN’s former envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame, says he has higher hopes than ever of seeing an end to a decade of violence in the North African country.

“I’m very optimistic,” the Lebanese diplomat said. “What we’ve seen in the past two months is an accumulation of positive factors.”

Salame spoke in an interview with AFP a day after rival military delegations concluded their latest UN-led meetings inside Libya to fill in the details of a landmark October ceasefire deal.

Meanwhile political talks, also led by the world body, were underway in Tunisia aimed at appointing an interim government to organise elections and govern a country battered by conflict, economic crisis and the coronavirus pandemic.

On Friday evening the UN announced that delegates in Tunisia had agreed that national



Libyan pro-Haftar forces hold positions south of Benghazi. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

polls should be held on December 24 next year.

Libya, which sits atop Africa’s largest proven crude oil reserves, plunged into violence after a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

Today it is dominated by two competing administrations and

an array of militias, including many foreign fighters, as well as being an arena for global rivalries.

Salame resigned in March citing health reasons and stress, but was the architect of the UN’s current Libya peace efforts and has stayed closely involved.

SOURCE: AFP

ARRIVAL AT THE PENTAGON

New Pentagon chief assures US military ‘remains strong’

The new head of the Pentagon said Friday that the US military has not been weakened in the wake of President Donald Trump’s reelection defeat and his abrupt replacement of top defence officials.

“I want to assure the American public and our allies and partners that the Department of Defence remains strong and continues its vital work of protecting our homeland, our people and our interests around the world,” Acting Secretary of Defence Christopher Miller said.

Miller was named to the position on November 9 after Trump fired Mark Esper, his fourth defence secretary in four years.

With no experience managing a massive workforce like the Pentagon, Miller, a former special forces officer and a White House counter-terrorism specialist, will likely be replaced soon after President-elect Joe Biden takes office on January

20.

But his arrival at the Pentagon, together with several other Trump loyalists with little or no Department of Defense experience, raised concerns that the US military establishment could pass several weeks under weak leadership.

Miller though has reached out by telephone to fellow defence chiefs in France, Britain, and Germany, and plans to speak later Friday with NATO head Jens Stoltenberg, to reassure Washington’s most important allies.

He has also spoken to Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate majority leader, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat. Miller made the comment as he welcomed visiting Lithuanian Minister of Defence Raimundas Karoblis. “This is my first official function and I cannot imagine a more important visitor,” he said.

SOURCE: AFP

MOST WANTED

Al-Qaeda’s number two secretly killed in Iran: NYT

Al-Qaeda’s second-in-command, indicted in the US for the 1998 bombings of its embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, was secretly killed in Iran in August, The New York Times reported Friday.

Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, who was on the FBI’s list of most wanted terrorists, was shot and killed in Tehran by two Israeli operatives on a motorcycle at the behest of the United States,

intelligence officials confirmed to the Times.

The attack, which took place on August 7 on the anniversary of the Africa bombings, has not been publicly acknowledged by the US, Iran, Israel or Al-Qaeda.

The senior Qaeda leader, who went by the nom de guerre Abu Muhammad al-Masri, was killed along with his daughter, Miriam, the widow of Osama bin Laden’s son Hamza bin Laden,

the Times said.

US federal authorities had offered a \$10 million reward for any information leading to his capture. Abdullah was the “most experienced and capable operational planner not in US or allied custody,” according to a highly classified document provided by the US National Counterterrorism Centre in 2008, according to the Times.

SOURCE: AFP



Abu Muhammad al-Masri was indicted by the US for the 1998 bombings of its embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ACTIVITY BOUNCES BACK

UK logs record rebound from virus-driven recession

Britain's economy enjoyed a record third-quarter rebound from its deepest ever recession, data showed Thursday, but experts predict another slump after fresh coronavirus restrictions were introduced to curb the pandemic.

Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 15.5 per cent in the July-September period, after an initial coronavirus lockdown was eased, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

Activity bounced back after shrinking by almost a fifth in the second quarter on the back of the first lockdown.

But the economy is still grappling with the virus fallout, according to the data, which was published one day after Britain's Covid-19 death toll passed the grim milestone of 50,000 – the highest in Europe.

Growth slowed in September with a month-on-month expansion of just 1.1 per cent, after the end of the government's restau-

rant discount scheme for the devastated hospitality sector.

Output was also hit after more localized measures to control the virus were imposed in parts of northern and central England, as well as in Scotland and Wales.

-Fourth-quarter gloom

England-wide restrictions, which began last week, are set to spark another slump in the current fourth quarter or three months to December, analysts warn.

"There seems little doubt that a renewed national lockdown will cause the economy to contract again in the fourth quarter," said EY economist Howard Archer, who is forecasting a 4.0-per cent drop.

The impact is however far less severe because the new measures "are less restrictive than those introduced in March", he noted. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) think tank has forecast



Britain's economy enjoyed a vigorous rebound in the third quarter as lockdowns were eased, but a surge in virus infections and renewed restrictions are dark clouds on the economic horizon. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

a 2.2-per cent contraction.

"Growth in the fourth quarter will be much slower than in the third quarter and is likely to turn negative, due to weaker growth in October and a second

lockdown from November," said NIESR economist Kumar Whyte.

"Our expectations for the fourth quarter and beyond will depend on the stringency and duration of ongoing lockdowns."

Britain plunged into a historic downturn after imposing a nationwide lockdown on March 23 that lasted until mid-June.

SOURCE: AFP

TEA FOR TEN?

New online tool lets you calculate Covid-19 risk



Outdoor diners in New York City. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

If you were to find yourself in a group of ten people in the US capital Washington today, the risk that one person has Covid-19 would be 18 per cent. The equivalent figure in Paris is 32 per cent. That's according to a dashboard developed by a team of US scientists that allows people to assess the risk of attending gatherings where they live using real-time infection data.

The tool, developed by a team at the Georgia Institute of Technology, provides district level Covid-19 transmission rates for the United States and select European countries.

The team behind it pub-

lished a paper about their work in the journal Nature Human Behaviour this week, where they wrote it "provides data-driven information to help individuals and policy makers make prudent decisions (for example, increasing mask-wearing compliance and avoiding larger gatherings)."

It estimates the probability that at least one Covid-19 positive person will be present at a given event in a given district or county, after the user inputs the size of the gathering using a slide tool.

Of course, the actual risk of transmission depends on the type of gathering – outdoor versus indoor and whether masks

are used – but Joshua Weitz, who co-developed the dashboard, said they had side-stepped this issue. "Precisely because of these factors, we have focused deliberately on the question: what is the risk that one (or more) individuals has Covid-19 in events of different sizes?"

Epidemiologists believe that for every confirmed case in the United States, there are about 10 times more that haven't been detected. The tool therefore factors this in, but also allows the user to turn the dial down to a ratio of 5:1, since testing rates are increasing in some areas and this may give a more accurate answer in those places. Weitz said the model assumed that a person remained positive for 10 days, and he and colleagues plan to add more countries in future.

It comes as US cases are hitting new peaks, with 144,000 new cases recorded Wednesday and hospitals under pressure.

New York state has announced that any establishment with a liquor license, including bars and restaurants, would have to close at 10:00 pm beginning Friday. The rule will also apply to gyms.

SOURCE: AFP

MASSIVE LOSSES

US airlines to end year with 90,000 fewer workers

HIT with a collapse of demand, US airlines will end the year with the lowest number of workers since at least 1987, 90,000 fewer than when Covid-19 hit, an industry federation said Thursday.

Airlines for America said the number of full-time equivalent positions will drop to 370,000 at the end of December from 460,000 in March, a drop of nearly 20 per cent. As coronavirus cases explode, approaching the worst days of the pandemic, authorities have stepped up restrictions.

The number of passengers carried in the United States in recent weeks has remained 65

per cent lower than the same period last year, the organization said.

Airlines initially cut staff through early retirement and voluntary furloughs.

The companies pledged to hold off on any layoffs until September 30, in exchange for aid of \$25 billion.

But after Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on a news stimulus package that would extend the support, United Airlines and American Airlines laid off 32,000 workers in October.

SOURCE: AFP



A near total shutdown in air travel will mean US airlines will have the lowest worker count since at least 1987. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ONE Inside The Martrix III: John Lineker beats Kevin Belingon via TKO



Brazilian fighter John Lineker (left) lands a punch on the Filipino fighter Kevin Belingon in their Bantamweight Fight at ONE Inside The Matrix III event, at Singapore Indoor Stadium on 13 November. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

BRAZILIAN fighter John Lineker defeated Filipino fighter Kevin Belingon by technical knockout (TKO) in their main clash: Bantamweight Title at ONE Championship event named Inside The Matrix III, at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 13 November. Both fighters started the

game with low kicks by taking proper distance and range.

In the first round, Filipino fighter Kevin Belingon relied on the strong attack with a mostly low and sidekick to the Brazilian fighter, John Lineker.

Next, John Lineker came in action again with powerful punches, while Kevin Belingon

used his spinning back kicks to stop Lineker's attack.

In their second round, John Lineker switched his gaming tactic with a combination of punches and kicks. Finally, Lineker jumped in for the finish, landing four looping left hooks before the referee declared the TKO at the 1:16 minutes mark in the Round two.

In the Catch Weight Fight (64 KG), Geje Eustaquio (alias) "Gravity" defeated Song Min Jong (alias) "Running Man" via unanimous decision.

In the Welterweight Fight, Murad Ramazanov defeated Hiroyuki Tetsuka via unanimous decision.

Next in the Middleweight event, Fan Rong or "King Kong Warrior" defeated Yuri Simoes by unanimous decision.

In the Strawweight Fight, Hiroba Minowa beat Lito Adiwang via split decision. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Djokovic eyes record as Nadal seeks first ATP Finals crown

LONDON—Novak Djokovic is bidding to win the ATP Finals for a record-equalling sixth time as Rafael Nadal chases the biggest title missing from his glittering resume at London's O2 Arena.

The top eight available players in the men's rankings -- with Roger Federer absent

-- will compete at the end-of-season tournament, which starts on Sunday behind closed doors despite a coronavirus lockdown in England.

The two round-robin groups have been named Tokyo 1970 and London 2020 on the 50th anniversary of the first staging of the event.

World number one Djokovic is in Group Tokyo alongside Daniil Medvedev, 2018 winner Alexander Zverev and Argentine debutant Diego Schwartzman.

Second-seed Nadal will compete against defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas, Dominic Thiem, and Andrey Rublev, who is appearing for the first time, in Group London.

The four best-placed players from the round-robin stage will progress to the semi-finals of the event, taking place in London for the final year before a move to Turin.

Six-time champion Federer, recovering from knee surgery, is the most notable absentee after a global tennis season truncated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Five-time champion Djokovic, who recently equalled Pete Sampras's record of six year-end number one finishes, has lost just three matches this season, with one of those his default at the US Open.—AFP



Rafael Nadal won the French Open to join Roger Federer on 20 Grand Slams. **PHOTO: AFP**

Evergreen Langer oldest to make the Masters cut age 63

Augusta (United States)—Two-time Masters champion Bernhard Langer of Germany became the oldest player to make the cut in tournament history Friday at Augusta National.

The 63-year-old winner of green jackets in 1985 and 1993 finished 36 holes on three-under par 141 after completing a four-under par 68 first round and a second-round 73.

The projected cut is a Masters record low 143, with 48 golfers yet to finish their darkness-halted second rounds.

"To be the oldest to make the cut, it's certainly an achievement," Langer said. "Hopefully I get to play a few more years and enjoy this place. "It's certainly not easy to do it."

Langer and 62-year-old Larry Mize became the first two over-60 players to shoot below par in the same major round when the 1987 Masters champion opened with a 70.

Langer says playing the course doesn't make him feel younger.—AFP



Bernhard Langer of Germany turned the oldest participant to make the reduce in match historical past. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ramos set to break European caps record for Spain

MADRID—Sergio Ramos will break the record for most international caps made by a European player if he appears for Spain against Switzerland in the UEFA Nations League on Saturday.

Real Madrid defender Ramos is set to make his 177th appearance for Spain in Basel, which would pull him clear of goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, who has played 176 times for Italy.

Aged 34, Ramos could also break the world record, currently held by Egypt's Ahmed Hassan who earned 184 caps.

It is possible Ramos will achieve that milestone at the delayed Euro 2020, which is now set to go ahead in June and July next year.

"Unfortunately for me as a coach he has to have a ceiling," said Spain coach Luis Enrique after Wednesday's 1-1 friendly draw with the Netherlands, when Ramos came on as a substitute.

"His numbers are only within reach of the gifted. He is a very special player, at a unique level."

Luis Enrique has been criticised in Spain for bringing Ramos on in the 85th minute in Amsterdam, with some suggesting such appearances reduce the value of his record.

"The first thing is to take care of the player who has played more times for Spain than anyone else because of the calendar he has and because he plays every game for his club," said Luis Enrique.—AFP