

NATIONAL

Union Minister delivers remarks during 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO)

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

MoC minister delivers video message to Myanmar-China Trade and Economic Forum

PAGE-4

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President U Win Myint delivers video message at opening ceremony of 17th China-ASEAN Expo and 17th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

President U Win Myint of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar delivered a video message at the opening ceremony of the 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and 17th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS) held at the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Nanning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Mr Yang Jiechi, Secretary of the Party Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Lu Xinshe, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Mr Luo Zhaohui, China's Ministry of Commerce Assistant Minister Mr Li Chenggang, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Myo Thant Pe, Acting Myanmar Consul-General in Nanning, high-ranking officials and entrepreneurs from ASEAN Member States and China.

At the opening ceremony, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Mr Yang Jiechi delivered opening remarks.

Afterwards, video speeches were delivered by President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith of Lao PDR, President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, President U Win Myint of Myanmar, President Rodri-



go Duterte of the Philippines, Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of Cambodia, Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.) of Thailand, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Viet Nam, President Dr Arif Alvi of Pakistan (special partner country) and ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi at opening ceremony. Full address by President U Win Myint is as follows:

His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

It is my pleasure to deliver statement at the opening ceremony of the 17th China-ASEAN

Expo, albeit by video.

Today, the world is grappling with the COVID-19 health crisis which has brought profound changes to our way of life. However, we are happy to see that the pandemic has not prevented the annual CAEXPO from taking place this year. We would like to congratulate China on the successful hosting of the 17th China-ASEAN Expo despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the global pandemic.

I am confident that the 17th CAEXPO will continue to serve as an important platform for exploring to strengthen the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership particularly through trade, investment, and people to people

linkages.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

The theme of the 17th CAEXPO: Building the Belt and Road, Strengthening Digital Economy Cooperation is most timely and relevant as we have designated 2020 as the "Year of ASEAN-China Digital Economy Cooperation".

Digital economy is an important segment of sustainable development, especially at a time when we are becoming increasingly reliant on digital technology for communication, education, health care, trade, investment, stock exchange, and other forms of business activities in the face

of challenges posed by the global pandemic.

ASEAN Member States and China have established connections through various means, including digitalization. But given the different levels of digital economy development among us, we will need to strengthen cooperation in digital infrastructure. I believe narrowing the development gap in this particular area will improve internet access for all, thereby contributing towards the promotion of a digital economy.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

China remains an important and reliable partner of ASEAN, and our partnership has gradually expanded covering a wide range of areas contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Myanmar welcomes China's proposed initiatives to strengthen the ASEAN-China partnership, including the elevation of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations from Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and the designation of the year 2021 as "ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation".

Myanmar appreciates China's active participation in ASEAN-led mechanisms and its significant contributions towards ASEAN Community Building efforts and the ASEAN integration process.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Int'l research conference marks centenary of Yangon University

PAGE-4

BUSINESS

Global GAP certificates to be issued for avocado plantation

PAGE-7

BUSINESS

Merchants forecast no impacts on local market from 150,000-tonne green gram purchase of India

PAGE-7



LOCAL NEWS

PropertyGuru Myanmar announces winners of property awards

PAGE-10

"People are the key"

MITT ready to handle 10-metre-draught vessels

THE Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa is now ready to handle 10-metre-draught vessels after improving the waterway of Yangon River, according to the Myanmar Port Authority.

"Since July 1, as the waterway of the Yangon River has improved, 9 to 9.5-metre-draught vessels were able to dock at Thilawa port area. On November 15, the 10.5-metre-draught vessels were able to dock, and from December, the 10-metre-draught vessels will be allowed to dock," said U Win Myint Aung, Harbour Master of the Myanmar Port Authority.

The length of the ship from 210 to 220 metres will be allowed to reach the Thilawa terminal area and it is reported that the 272-metre long LNG gas tanker,



Vessels are seen at the Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa. PHOTO: MNA

the heaviest deadweight tonnage in Myanmar's port history, could dock at the port yesterday.

The ports in Yangon allow only 190 to 200 metres long vessels with the weights of 15,000 to

20,000 tonnes. However, vessels over 200-metre long are arriving at MITT in transporting 30,000

tonnes of goods.—Myit Maung Kyaw (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

228 Myanmar citizens fly back from Singapore

MYANMAR Embassy in Singapore organized the 28th relief flight in bringing back 152 citizens

and they arrived back home by the MNA airline yesterday afternoon.

The 12th relief flight organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok landed at Yangon

International Airport with 76 citizens by the MNA airline in the evening.

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

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.—MNA



Myanmar returnees line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 27 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Correction

Please read "...financing aid to world countries..." instead of "...financing aid to Myanmar..." in the third line of the second paragraph of the news story titled "MoPFI discusses COVID-19 vaccine purchase plan with WB" on page-4 of the 27 November Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. The GNLM regrets the error.—Ed

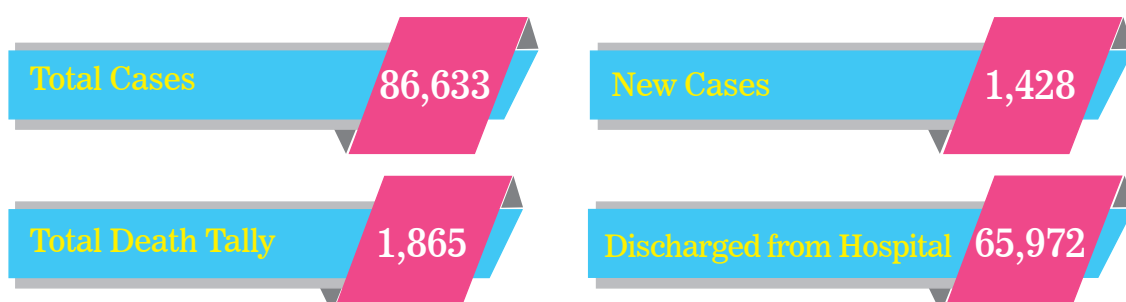
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1,428 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 November, total figure rises to 86,633

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 86,633 after 1,428 new cases were reported on 27 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 86,633 confirmed cases, 1,865 died, 65,972 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 27 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 27-11-2020

19

Ministry of Health and Sports

President U Win Myint delivers video message at opening ceremony of 17th China-ASEAN Expo and 17th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

FROM PAGE-1

I am happy to see that ASEAN-China economic relations continue to thrive. China remains ASEAN's largest trading partner and the third largest external source of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows.

It is encouraging that total merchandise trade between ASEAN and China reached \$507.9 billion dollar in 2019 accounting for 18% of ASEAN's total trade while the FDI flows from China to ASEAN amounted to \$9.1 billion dollar in 2019 accounting for 5.7% of ASEAN's total FDI.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN-Chi-

na Free Trade Area (ACFTA), and I would like to encourage the full implementation of the "ASEAN-China Free Trade Area" and the its Upgrading Protocol to contribute our effort to achieve the twin goals of two-way trade volume of \$1 trillion dollar and investments of \$150 billion dollars by the end of this year.

I believe that the RCEP would also provide a solid foundation for an open, inclusive, and rules-based global trade environment.

While maintaining the positive momentum and taking advantage of our robust economic cooperation, we should work

closely and find practical ways of enhancing our cooperation in synergizing common priorities identified in the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, and the China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

This year also marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between Myanmar and China as we jointly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The visit of President Xi Jinping to Myanmar in January this year has further strengthened our

existing bonds of friendship and expanded mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

During the State visit, we agreed, inter alia, to work together towards building "Myanmar-China Community with a Shared Future" and expanding multi-faceted cooperation including Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) Projects.

We believe that the BRI projects selected in line with our national plan and priorities will contribute to our endeavours for the improvement of much needed infrastructure that will not mere-

ly enhance domestic connectivity but also improve cross-border connectivity.

I firmly believe that implementing BRI projects to the mutual benefit of our two countries and strengthening digital economy cooperation will contribute to the creation of job opportunities and promotion of trade and investments, thereby mitigating the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish the 17th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit every success.

Thank you.

Union Minister delivers remarks during 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO)

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun delivered a video message as part of the 17th China-ASEAN Expo Roundtable Meeting on Investment Cooperation now taking place in Nanning, China.

The Union Minister used the opportunity to highlight the range of investment promotion and reform measures currently underway in Myanmar and further affirmed the benefits that quality, responsible investment can bring, stating that when an enterprise invests in Myanmar, it is mutually-beneficial. The investment creates jobs, sustains



Union Minister U Thaung Tun speaks at the 17th China-ASEAN Expo Roundtable Meeting on Investment Cooperation via video message in Nanning, China on 27 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

growth and spreads prosperity.

The China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) since its inauguration in 2004, has provided an

important platform that facilitates open and friendly economic, trade, and people-to-people exchanges while deepening di-

alogue and reciprocal cooperation. This year's China-ASEAN Expo is being held both virtually and in-person to help assist the

fight against COVID-19 while maintaining high-levels of cooperation.—MNA



Development works carried out at elephant camp in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win inspected development project at Nga Laik Sakhanthar elephant camp that is located in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday morning.

The development works at the camp include a forest route, a 'beach' road and a floating pier.

The Union Minister instructed to maintain the forest road as the earth way, safety measures for the visitors of all ages at the pier, accommodation and health-care measures for construction workers, conservation forest road by building small sediment reservoirs, cultivation of local wood plants and bamboos, con-

servation of ecosystem in the forest resort and food security for the elephants.

The Nga Laik Sakhanthar elephant camp is a forest resort near Mile Post (217/0) beside Yangon-Mandalay highway, and it is a popular recreation area.

The total length of new structures—forest road, 'beach' road and float pier—will be 4,817 ft, and the project has been completed 40 per cent.

The Union Minister and party later inspected a forest reserve at Mile Post (219/0) near Yangon-Mandalay highway, and gave instruction on conservation works.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Ohn Win (second right) inspects the development project at Nga Laik Sakhanthar elephant camp in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 27 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

That is why it is very important to be fundamentally in good health

THERE is another thing; very soon, we will be conducting dance competitions from online networks using TV to promote health. The people can get prizes if they are good at dancing. By doing this, we can reduce stress levels. We can also improve our health. I have said this many times regarding COVID-19 disease. People who are basically in good health do not have to suffer too much even if they get infected. That is why it is very important to be fundamentally in good health. We have found out in our country as well as in other countries that people who have diabetes need to be very careful and vigilant about COVID-19. People who have diabetes have to suffer a lot if they get infected with COVID-19 disease. In our country, there are many people who have COVID-19 disease as well as heart disease. This is because of weaknesses in public healthcare.

We are making efforts to correct and improve this situation. However, it is not possible to improve the basic healthcare situation overnight. It takes years. We can even say that it starts with the child in the mother's womb. That is why we need to take care of pregnant women from the time of conception. That is why we are making extra efforts to look after these pregnant women during the childbirth period and beyond.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report to people regarding COVID situation, on 17 November 2020)



MoC minister delivers video message to Myanmar-China Trade and Economic Forum

AN event to mark 70th anniversary of China-Myanmar diplomatic ties and Myanmar-China Trade and Economic Forum 2020 are in progress at the Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Nanning in the People's Republic of China from 27 to 30 November.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint sent a video message to the event.

In his video message, the Union Minister talked about the 70th anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic ties which began in 1950, the increasingly friendly relations, mutual understanding and mutual respect between the two countries.

He expressed thanks to the People's Republic of China for providing assistance in fighting against COVID-19 pandemic.



Union Minister Dr Than Myint deliver video message to Myanmar-China Trade and Economic Forum 2020 on 27 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

The 70th anniversary of China-Myanmar diplomatic ties also coincided with 10th year of the establishment of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and the first year of China-ASEAN digital economy cooperation.

The motto of this year's event is "Co-creation and sharing of golden opportunities re-

lating to economy in the bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and China on trade and economic sectors", and discussions will be made for cooperation on trade, economic and investment, and smoothing China-Myanmar trade routes.

He also called for cooperation from China in providing

technical assistance for checking qualities of Myanmar products and development of electronics trading sectors.

Assistant Minister of Commerce of PRC Mr Li Chenggang, Vice-Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Zhou Hongbo and Ambassador of Myanmar to China U Myo Thant Pe

also made speeches at the event.

Myanmar Commercial Attaché in Nanning presented the topic "Myanmar Investment Environment and Opportunities", and two Chinese companies made presentations on investments and achievements in trading in Myanmar.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Int'l research conference marks centenary of Yangon University

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi attended the International Research Conference to mark the 100th anniversary of Yangon University yesterday afternoon.

The two-day conference is in progress under the title of "Transformation Processes in Myanmar V" in the virtual system in which a total of 92 researchers from 11 international universities and 20 local universities read and discussed 41 research papers, in the presence of directors-general and deputy directors-general from education departments, rectors and professors from the universities in Myanmar and about 200 local and international researchers.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi expressed words of thanks for the participation of the researchers at the conference during his opening speech of the



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in the International Research Conference to mark the 100th anniversary of Yangon University on 27 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

He said the participation of the international scholars is the evidence of Myanmar's growing international cooperation which plays an important role in a university's research, teaching and management, adding that Myanmar

has partnered with international science networks such as the ASEAN University Network and the Erasmus + University Network and cooperation with experts reflects the development of mutual recognition and mutual understanding and trust.

The Union Minister continued the MoU signed in 2003 will enhance the cooperation between Yangon University and the University of Cologne and establish a stronger relationship for many years to come, by holding an international research conference.

The Ministry of Education is supporting in international and local research in accordance with the principles of quality-based promotion, the initial practice of academic freedom in 16 universities, including Yangon University and international cooperation for student exchange and teacher exchange.

Head of the Cultural Section Mr Frank Thierfelder on behalf of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chairman of the Rector's Committee Dr Zaw Wai Soe and Yangon University Rector Dr Phoe Kaung gave welcome speeches.

Professor Dr Frauke Kraas from the University of Cologne of Germany gave a keynote speech and research papers were read and submitted according to the programme.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Maternal, newborn care ward of Magway hospital handed over to DMS

THE recently-completed Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatal Ward of the Magway General Hospital was handed over to the Department of Medical Services of the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo joined the handover ceremony of the three-storey medical facility via videoconference.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister said that the Government of Japan has been providing assistance for Myanmar's health sector, and one of them was upgrading of the Magway General Hospital.

The ministry ordered medical equipment including MRIs (magnetic resonance imaging) machines and CT (computed tomography) scanners that are needed for the hospital, he said.

JICA has been constructing health infrastructures in Myanmar including current-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe participates in the handover ceremony of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatal Ward of the Magway General Hospital via videoconference on 27 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

ly-upgrading Loikaw General Hospital, Lashio General Hospital and Dawei General Hospital, and currently-constructing new wards at the Yangon General Hospital, he added.

He expressed thanks to JICA for providing assistance in Myanmar's battling against COVID-19.

Magway Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo said that Mag-

way General Hospital is crucial for the region and upgrading of the hospital is very beneficial for the region.

The mortality rate of mother and children under 1-year-

old in Magway Region is still higher than other regions and states. The completion of the upgrading of the hospital would be very beneficial for the region.

Counsellor of Japan Embassy in Myanmar Mr Takimi Kazuyuki said the upgrading of Magway General Hospital was completed, and medical equipment needed for the hospital would be provided.

Japan will continue providing assistance not only for COVID-19 control processes but also for other healthcare sectors.

Government of Japan provided 2,281 million Japanese Yen for the upgrading of Magway General Hospital.

The hospital's new three-storey building includes an obstetrics and gynaecology ward, a neonatal unit, an emergency department and a surgical ward.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye joins the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) on 27 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and officials joined the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) via videoconferencing yesterday.

The meeting discussed the second edition of ASEAN-UNESCAP Ready for the Dry Years, and a joint report of ASEAN and UNESCAP, as well as playing the video clip of drought in regions.

The opening speech was

delivered by Under Secretary for Office of the Civil Defence Mr Ricardo B. Jalad of the alternate country, the Philippines and other ministers of ASEAN respectively made a speech.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye extended condolences to the Philippine over the heavy casualties during the typhoon and comforted that the country always stands with the Philippine according to the unified

tradition of ASEAN.

He also discussed the challenges of disasters in ASEAN countries, the globally outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of the effective ASEAN rehabilitation framework to remedy the consequence of COVID-19 in the long run, efforts of Myanmar in protecting the vulnerable community while implementing the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, AADMER Work Programme (AWP) (2021-2025),

efforts to support the resilience of education and health sectors amid the disaster, cooperation works in preparations for environmental, technological and biological disasters in addition to other disasters.

The Union Minister also said the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi once said at the 37th ASEAN Summit that the greater internal unity and external stability could respond to the changes effectively and it needs to strengthen the ability

to maintain the ASEAN unity and cooperation in disaster management included in the ASEAN 2025 vision.

The AHA Centre reports were read, and the Ministers coordinated the meeting. The new ADDMER Work Programme (2021-2025) was approved, and the Ministers took the commemorative photo.

The Philippines handed over the 2021 ASEAN chairmanship to Singapore and fixed the date and places to hold the 9th Ministerial Meeting.

The Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and side events were held on 25 and 26 November and attended by Director-General for Disaster Management Dr Ko Ko Naing and other officials.

The 8th Ministerial Meeting was attended by ASEAN Disaster Management Ministers, Senior Officials of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the representatives of ASEAN Secretary-General's Office and AHA Centre.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

ROK Deputy Minister donates hospital equipment, visits friendship bridge construction project in Yangon



Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK Mr Kim Gunn and party visit the friendship bridge project in Yangon on 27 November 2020. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

DEPUTY Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Mr Kim Gunn, together with his delegation members, visited the headquarters of Medical Research Department in Yangon yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein extended her greetings via video-conferencing from Nay Pyi Taw.

The Deputy Minister of ROK explained the donation of hospital equipment and future cooperation between the two

countries.

The Deputy Minister, ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa and Chief Representative of KOICA Myanmar Office Ms Lee Youn Soo handed over three units of hospital waste management equipment worth about

US\$700,000.

They also visited Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at his office and discussed Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge project (Dala), industrial project of the two countries and the Dala New

City project and bilateral cooperation in business and investment sectors.

They arrived at the friendship bridge project and inspected it before returning home in the evening.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Bago Chief Minister inspects city development projects

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, accompanied by departmental officials, inspected development projects in the city yesterday.

Director for the Department of Civil Aviation U Zaw Min presented the programmes for Hanthawaddy Airport project while other heads of departments briefed the matters related to the roads, farmland, perennial crop cultivation, water management and confiscated farmland in relation to the airport project.

The chief minister and party arrived at the construction project of Thamaing Bayan Market in No (7) Ward of Oakthar Myothit and the Bago River Bridge (Myo Oo Kin) project which started in 2018-2019 financial year, and it has fully completed now.

The bridge is connected with the city's bypass road and with the road network to Yangon.—Tin Soe (Bago)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein and party inspect the development projects in the city on 27 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



Thai nationals return home because of the closure of factories and workshops in Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar repatriates 11 Thai nationals

A total of 11 Thai nationals — five men and six women — who had been in Tachilek Town of eastern Shan State were sent back to their homeland through the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2 yesterday.

Their health conditions were checked and their body temperatures were taken before they were sent back.

Thai nationals who have been working in Tachilek before the outbreak of COVID-19 are returning home because of the closure of factories and workshops.

Myanmar authorities led by Assistant Director of Tachilek Immigration Division 6 U Maung Maung Myint and Secretary of Caring and Negotiating Committee for Myanmar Citizens In Mae Sai, Thailand (CNCMC) U Sithu Maung handed over the Thai nationals to the Thai authorities led by in-charge of Thai bridge 2 police officer Pathpon Onnoul, immigration officer Songsok Pakiang and healthcare officer Priawpurin Manopeaw.—Yarse (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Global GAP certificates to be issued for avocado plantation

By Nyein Nyein

CERTIFICATES will be issued for avocado plantation as demand of this fruit from foreign countries becomes high, according to Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO).

Foreign countries have offered to buy high-quality avocados, encouraging Myanmar farmers to receive the certificates of global Good Agricultural Practice (GAP).

The supportive kinds of training are being conducted, and the discussions are being made for the local farmers who wish to apply for the global GAP certificates.

The association will issue the recommendation letters after carrying out the field inspections as to whether the local farmers are growing the



Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO) is issuing recommendation letters to the local avocado growers so that they can apply for global Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certificates. **PHOTO: MAVO FACEBOOK'S PAGE**

avocados with the use of the transplanting method or not. Then, the local growers can apply for global GAP certification, submitting the letters of recommendation.

The local farmers need to submit the certificates recommending that their avocados are grown with the use of the grafting method by taking 23 local species which were chosen

in the competition organized by the MAVO.

The two species named Amara and Penguin/Zee Gwet researched by the MAVO and the other species such as Hass,

Lamb Hass, Fuerte, Zutano, Bacon and Reed, which were legally imported from California.

For further information regarding the issuing of certificates for grafting avocado, farmers may contact 095162855 and 0978880437 of secretary team and 09250805175 of Nam Kham Oo, the coordinator, according to the central executive team of MAVO notification issued on 12 November.

MAVO was established in 2018 and has now around 800 members. It has been exerting efforts to seek the local and foreign markets, researching and sharing the necessary agricultural production technology. Its efforts aim for the interest of all Myanmar avocado growers and exporters as well as its members.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Merchants forecast no impacts on local market from 150,000-tonne green gram purchase of India

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH India will buy 150,000 tonnes of green gram under the quota system this financial year, it will not affect local bean market, said U Min Ko Oo, Secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

"Myanmar exports only 10 to 15 per cent of the locally-produced green gram to India. And, about 85 to 90 per cent of production is sold out to other countries. Myanmar has also exported the green gram to China via Muse route and via sea route.

"The green gram bean market is wide because many countries like ASEAN and Europe countries are buying Myanmar's green gram. Only a few per cent of Myanmar green gram is exported to India. That's why India set up a quota of 150,000 tonnes

of green gram, and this volume will not really affect the local bean market," he explained.

"As I said, Myanmar exports only 10 to 15 per cent of the green gram to India because we get only low priced of bean in India. That's why we export green gram to other countries and groups like China, Europe, ASEAN countries, Malaysia and Indonesia. Our country can produce 350,000 to 400,000 tonnes of green gram annually and the country export only 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes green gram to India. So, it does not really affect our local bean market," said U Min Ko Oo.

India's Department of Commerce announced a quota limit for the next FY on 28 March 2020, allowing the Indian millers to import 150,000 tonnes of green peas. However, India did not issue the import licenses to the millers.

With a quota distribution of 1,464 domestic pulse mills, India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced to their regional DGFT office on 12 November that the import consignments of allocated quota must reach the India ports by 31 March 2021.

The regional DGFT office needs to take necessary action if the quota-licensed companies apply for the green gram import licence. They need to do so without delay if the licence applying companies have already obtained the pulses import license. They need to import the green gram rapidly with amending the same licences. If the importer applies, the port arrivals value (CIF) and port location will be allowed to be amended.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



(FILES) Farmers are harvesting green gram at a farm. **PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING (IPRD)**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Strong, coordinated support for tourism sector needed for recovery

TO put our country's COVID-hit tourism industry on the road to recovery, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has taken further steps by planning to draw region-wise master plans for tourism with physical distancing and health guidelines.

The authorities formulated the Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) to revitalize our tourism industry which has been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recovery road map envisaged that our tourism industry will return to normal by 2023-2024. The quick recovery depends on tackling the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, an effective vaccine is expected to be a significant boon for tourism, which has been badly affected by border closures, travel restrictions, and social distancing measures related to Covid-19.

The region-wise master plans must ensure safe, responsible behaviour and discovering new natural destinations is a shared responsibility between visitors, residents, business owners, employees and local governments.

While the country waits for a reliable vaccine, the stakeholders of the tourism industry and authorities in regions and states are to draft the Regional Tourism Master Plan (RTMP) in line with the Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) to encourage the return of visitors once lockdown measures are eased.

The region-wise master plans must ensure safe, responsible behaviour and discovering new natural destinations is a shared responsibility between visitors, residents, business owners, employees and local governments. This is especially important in areas with high visitation, where the economic livelihoods of residents and businesses depend heavily on tourism.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated our tourism industry, shuttered restaurants and hotels, and sent hundreds of thousands of hospitality-sector employees to the unemployment line. Now, strong and coordinated action is needed to save millions of livelihoods.

With the resurgence of the coronavirus infection, the second wave has been a cudgel to the back of the knees of the people relying on the hotel and tourism sector for their livelihoods.

Now, no local visitors to travel destinations, restaurants, hotels and guests houses has become a second blow to the hospitality-sector which was hard hit by the global pandemic since its outbreak.

To contain the coronavirus infection in our country, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism adopted the Myanmar Tourism Rescue Plan with three stages: Survival, Reopening and Re-launching.

Under the plan, taxes are relaxed, license fees are reduced, rental fees are postponed and loans are provided for hotels and tourism businesses.

The recovery must involve transforming the sector, re-inventing tourism destinations and businesses, re-building the tourism ecosystem, and innovating and investing in sustainable tourism.



Commemoration of Centennial: Bringing the University Back into Excellence (Part 2)

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein (PhD), University of Yangon

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ARTICLE ON 26 NOV

Managing infrastructure for the revitalization of UY has presented both opportunities and challenges. It is an opportunity for the UY to draw government attention and be given priority for upgrades ahead of many other universities. These priorities for the physical infrastructure include the construction of a student hub, university hub, library extension, canteens and buildings. Before setting these priorities, rebuilding of Rangoon University Student Union (RUSU) which was blown up in 1962 by the Revolutionary Council Government had come to forefront in the transition of the National League for Democracy (NLD) led administration in 2016. The key actors that are involved in University management especially for the physical infrastructure is the University Alumni, the Regional government and the student unions. The Alumni are almost all formed by the older generations who thoroughly know the history of UY and have particular perspectives on managing it. Their main interest and support are for the infrastructure development such as rebuilding the RUSU, university canteen, library and others. They were delighted to see the University reopening and enthusiastic to support physical infrastructure development, given the poor state of the facilities. As the University will celebrate its centennial milestone in 2020, their enthusiastic participation can be seen in Alumni meetings which are held once every month at the Science Research Centre, UY. The strength of the University Alumni is funding. With this funding, they would like to rebuild the RUSU which was blown up by the Revolutionary Council government led by General Ne Win in 1962 and restore it to its former glory, before its destruction. As the RUSU has a history of engagement with political movements, not only student unions from the UY but also from other



Inya Hall and Thiri Hall were constructed on the campus of Yangon University in 1928 and Shwebo Hall and Dagon Hall in 1933-1934. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

universities, special attention has been paid to its rebuilding.

After the landslide victory of the National League for Democracy in 2015, the government was formed in 2016 and paid special attention to the revitalization of University. However, there were different perspective among the stake holders to reconstruct RUSU. Some raised their voice on the government not to rebuild the student union building at the original site and suggested that a monument should, instead, be erected in the place to mark it as a historical place for anti-dictator student movements. Some student leaders wanted the building to be reconstructed at its original site while new student generation prefers a modern building. At this point, the dreams of all stakeholders is stuck as different actors have come up with different ideas. Since the rebuilding of RUSU became a debatable issue, the priority for the physical infrastructure turned to developing a student hub instead of rebuilding the RUSU.

In order to tackle these issues, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a State Counsellor formed the Organization for the Revitalization and Upgrading for University of Yangon with Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Minister for Education, as a Chair on 11th November 2016. The tasks of the organization are to implement a lively campus, to

To accommodate the demand for more accommodation for girls, the Shwe Bo and Dagon boys' hostels have been changed into girls' hostel.

renovate the old buildings without damaging the heritage, to connect with international universities, to raise funding for the University and etc. Software and hardware committees were formed with fifteen members each to support the organization with the aim to carry out revitalization of the University effectively. One of the outcomes

of the software committee is to draft Master Plan for University of Yangon (2018-2030). The Plan was drafted by the software committee in collaboration with experts from the Central European University. The Master Plan contains two self-standing but fully integrated components – the programme of institutional

transformation (Software Master Plan) and physical revitalization of campus and infrastructure (Hardware Master Plan). Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) provided expertise, research and resources towards the design of the Software Master Plan; the Hardware Master Plan was designed by Kilburn Nightingale Architects (London,

hardware committee are held to reach a consensus over the architect designs and the place for new buildings. Different views have been explored over issues such as the proposed location of some new buildings that would result in demolishing some old colonial residential buildings.

Besides these challenges in managing the physical infrastructure, different views are held on the building of future student accommodation. The University has student hostels and these hostels are separated by gender. When the University reopened in 2013, girls' enrolment was higher than boys. This make challenges for the university administration in accommodating girls. To accommodate the demand for more accommodation for girls, the Shwe Bo and Dagon boys' hostels have been changed into girls' hostel. This has been brought to the Alumni's attention and they have questioned the University administration on why this tradition has been changed. These different views on university infrastructure development has led to hinderance in managing the University in the reform process. In the process of upgrading the University, stakeholders' understanding on the existing needs of University and their collaborative support is needed in order to achieve results.

2020 will be the centennial milestone of the University of Yangon as it is poised to re-establish itself as Myanmar's Flagship University by restructuring into a faculty system. The reforms will include enhancing university management, developing effective QA Frameworks, preparing to establish Centre for Research and Innovation and assessing teaching, learning and curriculum. In this context, it is time for all the stakeholders to cooperate in order to transform the University of Yangon as the one of the excellent academic institution in this memorial century.

TO BE CONTINUED

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“ Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!”

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 27th November, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 28th November, 2020: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Rakhine State and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (3-5) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Shan, Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region and generally fair in Mandalay Region.

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

Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Aung Khin

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

Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORSHay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
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Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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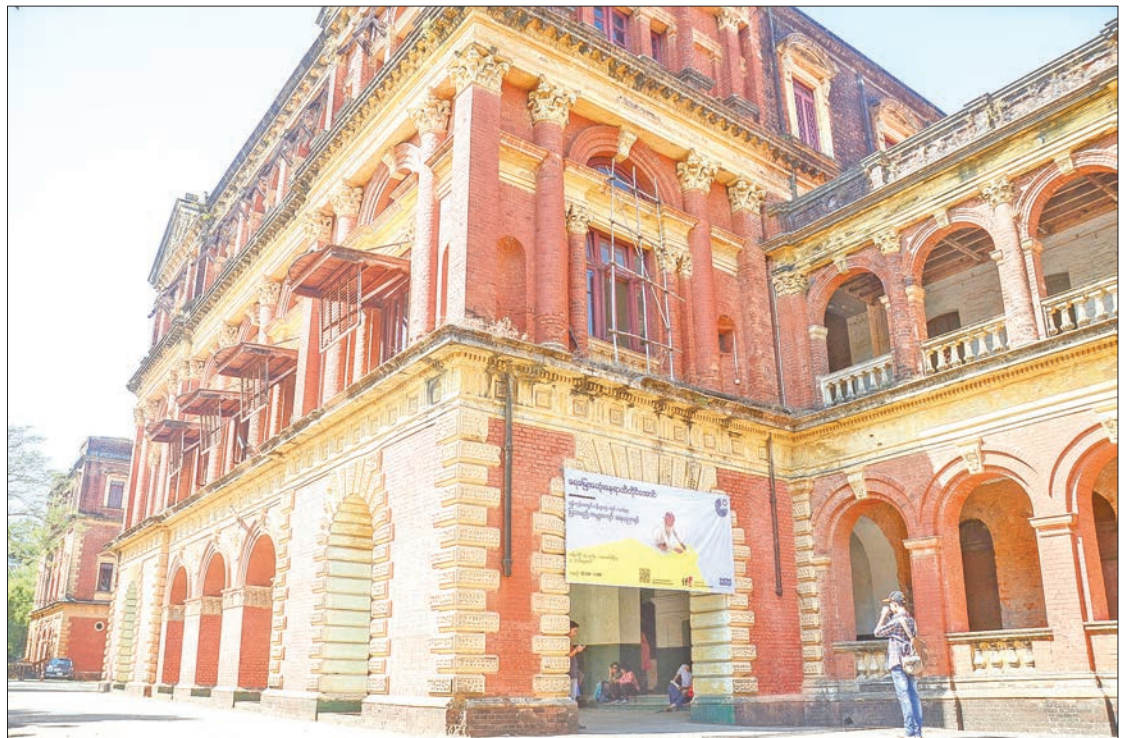
PropertyGuru Myanmar announces winners of property awards

VIRTUAL edition of the real estate awards programme for 2020 was celebrated on Thursday and winners of the property awards were announced by Property Guru Myanmar which celebrated the event in partnership with Shwe Property.

Capital Development Ltd. won three Developer awards, including Best Developer, while SCW Development Group Ltd, winner of Best Breakthrough Developer, won the coveted Best Condo Development (Myanmar) and Best Luxury Condo Development titles for its Sky-suites project.

Anawmar Art Group won the new award of Best Heritage Renovated Property for its masterful redevelopment and restoration of the Secretariat Yangon, the former headquarters of the British colonial government in Myanmar. Secretariat Yangon, one of Myanmar's most important historical sites.

Pathein Industrial City by Ayeyawaddy Development Public Co., Ltd. won Best Township Development while New East Dagon Industrial Estate by Dagon International Lim-



(FILES) A man is taking photo of a building at the Secretariat Yangon in January 2017.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ited won Best Industrial Development. Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Company Limited won Best Housing Development (Myanmar) and Best Housing Development, both for the Gyogone Housing Redevelopment.

Yoma Central by Meeyahta Development Limited, scored

two coveted Development titles: Best Mixed-Use Development and Best Retail Development. A clear winner in the Design category, Woodland X Bar by Factory to Home Company won Best Entertainment Interior Design, in addition to its win for Best Entertainment Development.

Win Win Tint, Group CEO

of City Holdings Limited, becomes the first woman to receive the Myanmar Real Estate Personality of the Year title.

This year's highly awaited celebration of the Myanmar real estate industry saw 25 trophies presented to 12 of the country's outstanding development companies. — GNLM

Nyaunglaybin-Toungoo railway section upgrade in progress, to be finalized in 2022

Cranes and labourers are seen working at Nyaunglaybin-Toungoo railway project. **PHOTO: KHIN KO (KYAUKDAGA)**

Phase-1 of Nyaunglaybin-Toungoo railway section upgrade project on Yangon-Mandalay track is in progress as it was

started on 5 January 2018, and expected to be finalized on 4 November 2022.

Tokyo Construction Com-

pany, Japan are conducting the upgrading of the 72-mile railroad section. The project will also include upgrading of

JISSON railroad, installation of the signal and railway secretory system, four new bridges and 105 bridges. Also, the construction and upgrading of the railway platform in Tawgi, Peinzalote, Tahtaygone, Kyaukdaga, Paenwegone, Nyaungpinphyu, Phyu, Zaya Wady, Nyaungchaydauk, Kwaypwe and Toungoo are part of the project," said U Win Myint, the Public Relation Manager of Nyaunglaybin-Toungoo railroad section upgrading project.

Upon completion of the upgrading project, the travel time between Yangon and Mandalay will be eight hours, and this will contribute to reducing the travelling time as well as speeding up the flow of trade.

— Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

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

THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Americans celebrate Thanksgiving under pall of pandemic

MILLIONS of Americans defied Covid-19 guidelines Thursday to spend a subdued Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends, while questions emerged over the level of protection that one potential vaccine offers.

About a million people were screened at US airports each day over the last week, as many appeared bent on enjoying one of the country's biggest annual celebrations.

The exodus came despite warnings that mass travel threatens to significantly worsen the

pandemic in the country hit hardest, with a six-month high of more than 2,400 deaths registered in the US in just the past 24 hours.

President-elect Joe Biden offered a message of hope, however, in a Thanksgiving video address that rallied Americans to pull together to defeat the outbreak.

"I know better days are coming, I know how bright our future is. I know the 21st Century is going to be an American century," he said.

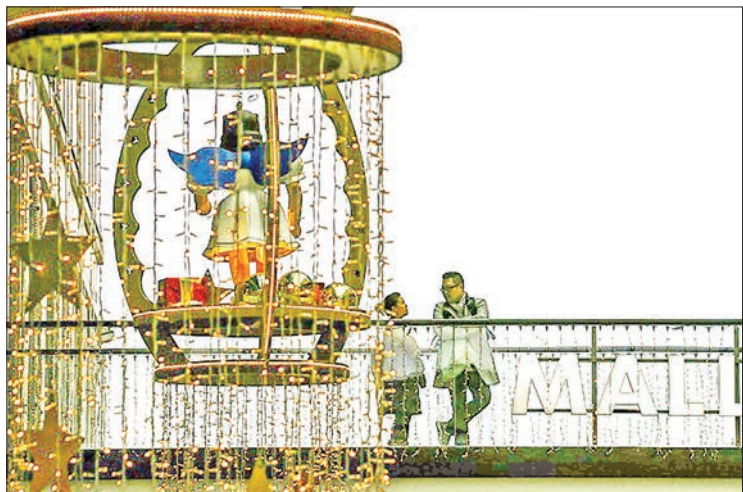
SOURCE: AFP



Macy's Thanksgiving day parade in 2013. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

HIT HARD BY 2ND WAVE

Germany hits million virus cases as vaccine doubt emerges



Customers stand on a balcony next to Christmas decorations in a shopping mall in Berlin. Germany plans to ease virus curbs for Christmas. PHOTO: AFP

GERMANY, once a beacon of hope in Europe's coronavirus nightmare, logged its one millionth case on Friday, as questions emerged over just how much protection is offered by one of the leading vaccine candidates.

Like much of the continent, Germany is battling a resurgence of a pandemic that shows little sign of retreating before the release of several leading inoculations.

But the developers of one of the jabs, British pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca, said Thursday that further research was

needed after mixed results were produced in a late-stage trial.

The complication came as millions of Americans gathered for Thanksgiving in defiance of Covid-19 guidelines, despite the US registering a six-month high of more than 2,400 deaths.

Germany had largely contained the spread of the virus in the spring but has been hit hard by a second wave of infections.

Its Robert Koch Institute for disease control recorded more than 22,000 new daily cases on Friday, pushing the country's total beyond the one million mark.

The number of Covid-19 patients in intensive care nationwide has soared from just over 360 in early October to more than 3,500 last week.

Europe's biggest economy has shuttered restaurants, bars, sporting facilities and cultural venues, though schools and shops remain open.

But the rules will be temporarily eased over Christmas and New Year to accommodate the celebrations, allowing meetings of up to 10 adults from December 23 to New Year's Day.

SOURCE: AFP

"I'M TELLING YOU, I WON'T TAKE IT"

Brazil's Bolsonaro says won't take virus vaccine

BRAZIL president Jair Bolsonaro has said he will not take a vaccine against the coronavirus even after it receives approval from his own government.

"I'm telling you, I won't take it (the vaccine)," he said in a video posted to social media on Thursday. "It is my right."

Brazil has recorded over 170,000 coronavirus deaths, according to an AFP tally, behind only the United States.

Bolsonaro faces criticism for his handling of the pandemic, which has included playing down the virus, opposing lock-

down measures and relentlessly promoting the drug hydroxychloroquine despite studies showing it is ineffective against Covid-19.

He caught Covid-19 himself at the beginning of July, and more than half of his cabinet have tested positive for the virus in recent months.

Once any treatment is approved by Brazil's health regulatory authorities, his government will "immediately organize" its purchase and distribution to those who want it, he said in the video.

SOURCE: AFP

Battered by virus and oil slump, biofuels fall out of favour

HIT by the coronavirus pandemic and a sharp drop in oil prices, biofuel demand has declined for the first time in two decades and may struggle to recover, according to experts.

"The collapse of oil prices has had a very negative impact on biofuels," rendering them uncompetitive, Olivier Lemesle, director of studies at Xerfi, told AFP.

The production of biofuels for transport in 2020 is expected to decline 11.6 per cent on 2019 levels, the first fall in 20 years, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) annual report, published in early November.

Of all renewable energy sources, biofuel usage has de-

creased the most due to the coronavirus outbreak, the group said.

While the cost of the equivalent of a barrel of biodiesel has remained at around \$70 throughout

the pandemic, the price of crude oil plunged at the beginning of the year when drastic coronavirus lockdown measures cut demand.

SOURCE: AFP



Demand for biofuels has taken a bigger hit during the coronavirus pandemic than fossil fuels. PHOTO: AFP

"VERY SHOCKED"

French government under pressure over police beating of music producer

PRESSURE on the French government and police leadership intensified Friday after the police beating of a black music producer in Paris sparked outrage across the spectrum, from top politicians to football stars.

Images published by the Loopsider website show how music producer Michel Zecler was repeatedly beaten by police for several minutes and subjected to racial abuse as he tried to enter his music studio Saturday evening. The incident was condemned by football World Cup winners Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann.

A presidential official said on Friday that President Emmanuel Macron, too, was "very shocked" by the images.

The incident raised questions over the future of Paris police chief Didier Lallement, already in the spotlight after the forced removal of a migrant camp in Paris earlier in the week which has been widely condemned.

It also put the government on the backfoot as it tries to push



A protest in Paris last week against a security bill that would restrict filming the police, a step civic groups consider a shield for brutality. **PHOTO: AFP**

through controversial new security legislation that would restrict the right of the media to publish the faces of police agents.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, who is in charge of the police forces, told French tele-

vision that the officers "had soiled the uniform of the republic" and that he would press for their dismissal. Police sources said four officers had been suspended.

The four, all men, have been summoned for questioning at

France's National Police Inspectorate General (IGPN) which has launched an investigation into use of violence and making a false statement, a source close to the investigation said.

SOURCE: AFP

FACE-TO-FACE TRADE TALKS

Barnier says to return to London for Brexit talks

THE EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said he will return to London on Friday to pursue face-to-face trade talks, but warned that big differences remain.

Explaining that he was no longer self-isolating after a Covid-19 case on his team, Barnier confirmed he was returning to meet his British counterpart David Frost.

The UK leaves Europe's trade and customs area in five weeks, but talks on a follow-on agreement are still stalled over fishing rights and fair trade rules.

In a tweet, Barnier warned that the "same significant diver-

gences persist".

London has been resisting signing up to the EU's vision of a post-Brexit "level playing field", with trade penalties if either side diverges from agreed standards.

If a deal cannot be signed and ratified by December 31, cross-Channel trade will face a tariff barrier and businesses on both sides — but especially Britain — will suffer.

The talks have already pushed on much longer than expected and time is running out for ratification of any agreed deal by the European Parliament by the end of the year.

SOURCE: AFP



EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier. **PHOTO: ARIS OIKONOMOU/ AFP**

WHAT CONSTITUTES A TERRORIST ACT

Belgium tries Iranian diplomat over bomb plot

AN Iranian diplomat goes on trial in Belgium on Friday accused of plotting to bomb an opposition rally outside Paris, in a case that has stoked tensions with Tehran.

In June 2018 Belgian authorities thwarted what they said was an attempt to smuggle explosives to France to attack a meeting of one of Iran's exiled opposition movements.

Later that year, the French government accused Iran's intelligence service of being behind the operation, a charge the Islamic republic has furiously denied.

Assadollah Assadi, a 48-year-old Iranian diplomat formerly based in Vienna, faces life in prison if convicted.

The National Council of Resistance in

Iran (NCR), which includes the People's Mojahedin of Iran or (MEK), organized a rally in Villepinte outside Paris on June 30, 2018.

Several well-known international figures — including former US and British officials and Franco-Colombian former senator Ingrid Betancourt — and NCR leader Maryam Rajavi were to attend. **SOURCE: AFP**

NEWS
IN BRIEF

A CORRUPTION CASE

6 former U.S. oil executives sentenced in Venezuela

VENEZUELA'S Supreme Court on Thursday convicted six Americans of corruption and sentenced them to prison, local media reported.

The six Americans, who were executives of U.S.-based refining company Citgo, were arrested in Venezuela on charges of corruption on Nov. 21, 2017.

Five of them were sentenced to eight years and 10 months in prison while one of them received a 13-year sentence.

Citgo is owned by Venezuelan state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA).

SOURCE: Xinhua

POLICING BIG TECH COMPANIES

UK to impose tougher rules on Google, Facebook

BRITAIN announced Friday it will set up a watchdog to regulate tech giants such as Facebook and Google and improve their transparency on using people's data and personalised advertising. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport said in a statement that the new regulator, the Digital Markets Unit, will "govern the behaviour of platforms that currently dominate the market, such as Google and Facebook". The aim is "to ensure consumers and small businesses aren't disadvantaged", it said. The unit is being created after the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said in July that existing laws were not effective and a new regulatory regime was needed to control internet giants that earn from digital advertising. The CMA has backed the new rules while it has not taken direct action against Facebook and Google. "Our new, pro-competition regime for digital markets will ensure consumers have choice, and mean smaller firms aren't pushed out," said Business Secretary Alok Sharma. **SOURCE: Xinhua**

A GRADUAL RECOVERY

Japan automakers' global output rises 2.7% in October

TOTAL global output by eight major Japanese automakers rose 2.7 per cent from a year earlier to 2.44 million vehicles in October, continuing a gradual recovery from fallouts of the coronavirus pandemic, manufacturers' data showed Friday.

The production increased for the second straight month following a 1.7 per cent growth in September. Toyota Motor Corp. said its global production rose 9.0 per cent to 845,107 units, the highest output for the month, following an 11.7 per cent increase in the previous month and lifted by recovering sales in Japan and China. Domestic output rose 12.0 per cent to 309,582 units, supported by the popularity of its revamped Harrier sport utility vehicle. Overseas production grew 7.4 per cent to 535,525 units. Toyota's global sales in October climbed 8.3 per cent to 847,713 units, also a record for the month, backed by solid sales of its luxury Lexus models in China, the world's largest auto market, and a rise in auto demand in the United States.

SOURCE: Kyodo



The Tokyo Motor Show opened to the public at Tokyo Big Sight on Oct. 28, 2017, showcasing the latest vehicles and technologies as well as those of the future. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

BREAKING DOWN THE BUDGET RULE

Germany smashes debt rule with 180 bln euros in borrowing



Chancellor Angela Merkel announced tough new measures for November that closed restaurants, bars, as well as the tourism, leisure and cultural industries. German Chancellor Angela Merkel leaves at the end of the second and last day of an EU summit in Brussels, Belgium, October 16. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

GERMANY, traditionally hostile to government borrowing, will take on 180 billion euros in new debt in 2021 as it grapples with the economic fallout from the coronavirus crisis, according to a draft budget agreed Friday.

After 17 hours of discussion, the parliamentary finance committee

approved a total of 179.8 billion euros (\$214.4 billion) of new debt for next year, according to a final document seen by AFP.

The agreement further shatters Germany's constitutionally enshrined debt brake rule, with public spending now nearly 500 billion euros, as the government continues

to support the economy through the health crisis.

Borrowing in Europe's largest economy will be nearly 84 billion euros more than the finance ministry forecast in September, before the arrival of a damaging second wave of Covid-19.

Chancellor Angela Merkel announced tough

new measures for November that closed restaurants, bars, as well as the tourism, leisure and cultural industries.

Earlier this week, Merkel announced the extension of these measures through January unless coronavirus case numbers come down dramatically.

On Friday, Germany passed the milestone of one million cases since the start of the pandemic.

The government has promised 10 billion euros in support of sectors specifically hit by the November measures, dubbed "lockdown light" in the media.

Berlin said it would extend for a month emergency aid to support business most affected by the restrictions.

The impact of the pandemic has forced Merkel's government to temporarily abandon its years-long dogma of a running a balanced budget.

SOURCE: AFP

"DELIBERATE STRATEGY"

China imposes anti-dumping measures on Australian wine

CHINA on Friday said it would impose anti-dumping tariffs on Australian wine, the latest salvo in an increasingly terse standoff between the two that has worsened since Canberra called for an inquiry into the origins of Covid-19. Beijing has on several occasions used the threat of diminished access to its vast domestic

market as a stick to beat Australia and has suspended imports of some products including beef and timber.

In the latest blow, China's commerce ministry announced wine importers will be forced to pay deposits of 107-212 per cent of the value of their goods at customs, saying the move was in response to "substantive

harm caused to the relevant domestic wine industry". But Australia's trade minister Simon Birmingham on Friday blasted the punitive measure as "grossly unfair, unwarranted, unjustified", and called the dumping accusation "erroneous in fact and in substance". At a news conference, Birmingham said there was a "perception"

that China was engaging in a "deliberate strategy, piling on pressure in a number of different sectors".

Canberra would continue to raise with the World Trade Organization "our concerns about the number and cumulative effect of China's trade sanctions against Australia", he said. SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (012N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (012N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (268W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (268W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AFRICAN KITE V. FBV21322

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AFRICAN KITE VOY. NO. (FBV21322) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

'HARD WINTERS'



Pedestrians walk past a sign about how the public areas of the transport network are disinfected regularly as a hygiene precaution during the novel coronavirus pandemic on Oxford Street in London. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tens of millions set for strictest curbs when England lockdown ends

MORE than 23 million people will be under the tightest restrictions once England's nationwide coronavirus lockdown ends next week, but London will escape the toughest rules, the government said on Thursday.

England will return to a regional tiered system when the national stay-at-home order ends on December 2, and 23.3 million residents in the worst-hit areas are set to enter the "very high" alert level.

They include the major cities of Birmingham, Bristol,

Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield, with people there facing at least two weeks in the top tier.

The toughest restrictions -- which were in place before the shutdown, but only for 8.6 million people -- will compound difficulties for already struggling businesses, with hospitality and leisure facilities to remain closed.

However, more than half of the country including the capital will enter into tier two, which permits restaurants and many leisure facilities to reopen.

For the first time since March, limited public attendance at performances and sporting events will also be allowed.

People from different households may not mix indoors in either tiers.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who emerged from two weeks of Covid self-isolation on Thursday after coming into contact with an infected MP, warned of a "hard winter" ahead but urged compliance before vaccines come on stream.

SOURCE: AFP

BREAKNECK PACE OF DEVELOPMENT

After year-long sprint, Covid-19 vaccines finally at hand

LESS than a year after an unknown coronavirus that has claimed 1.4 million lives began spreading across the globe, a number of highly promising Covid-19 vaccines are on the cusp of release.

Health authorities could give a green light for emergency use within weeks, which would mark the most rapid vaccine development for a pandemic in history -- but many questions remain.

When will a jab be available?

After months without a visible breakthrough, everything sped up in November, when several pharmaceutical companies made encouraging preliminary announcements about the efficacy of their vaccines.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), charged with overseeing drug approval in the European Union, told AFP that it could approve the first Covid-19 vaccines by the end of the year,

or early in 2021. France, Spain and Italy have all sketched out distribution plans on that basis.

Across the Atlantic, vaccination campaigns could start in the United States as early as mid-December, assuming the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves an accelerated timetable for rollout.

Chinese authorities have al-

ready begun jabbing high-risk patients, and in Russia two vaccines were validated for use even before the final phase of clinical trials had begun.

Researching, testing, approving, manufacturing and distributing a new vaccine usually takes a decade or longer.

SOURCE: AFP



If health authorities give a green light for emergency use, which could come within weeks, it will be the most rapid vaccine development for a pandemic in history. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UNDERGOING PHASE 3 TRIALS

Pakistanis join final trials for China-made vaccine

THOUSANDS of volunteers are flocking to research hospitals across Pakistan to join final-stage clinical trials of a Chinese-made vaccine for the coronavirus.

It is the first time Pakistan has participated in such a trial, which comes amid a string of positive vaccine announcements by Western pharmaceutical com-

panies this month.

The vaccine is being developed by CanSinoBio and the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology China.

"I have volunteered myself for a noble cause that will help humanity," said a volunteer at Islamabad's Shifa hospital, where hundreds of participants are being paid about \$50 for their

trouble.

Others should "step forward and take part in this noble cause which will save lives," he added.

For years, China has focused much of its attention in Pakistan on mammoth development projects, bankrolling the construction of roads, power plants and a strategic port.

SOURCE: AFP

REDUCTIONS-IN-FORCE

Disney to lay off 32,000 workers in 2021

Disney said Thursday it will cut 32,000 jobs in 2021, primarily from its US theme parks division, an increase from layoffs announced in September.

The company, which previously said it would cut 28,000 jobs, has struggled with the pandemic and social restrictions.

According to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the cuts -- which Variety reported are part of September's announcement -- would be made in the first half of next year.

"Due to the current climate, including COVID-19 impacts, and changing environment in which we are operating, the Company has generated efficiencies in its staffing, including limiting hiring to critical business roles, furloughs and reductions-in-force," Disney said in a filing explaining the job losses.

The majority of the terminations would be in "Parks, Experiences and Products" it

added.

Additionally, around 37,000 employees were placed on furlough from October 3, Variety reported.

Disney employs around 203,000 people globally, with around 20 per cent part-time workers, according to CNBC.

Drawing millions of tourists each year, Disneyland in Anaheim near Los Angeles is the world's second-most visited theme park, after the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

But unlike the Disney theme parks in Florida, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Paris, the Anaheim resort has so far been unable to reopen due to the state's coronavirus restrictions.

The move comes on the heels of Disney's \$4.7 billion loss in the most recent quarter, which reflected the hit to its theme park business and the derailment or postponement of major movie releases.

SOURCE: AFP



Disney, which had previously said it would cut 28,000 jobs without specifying when, has struggled with the pandemic and social distancing measures. **PHOTO: AFP**

EFFORTS FOR THE CONQUERING OF PANDEMIC

N. Korea bans entry into Pyongyang to prevent coronavirus spread

NORTH Korea has prohibited the entry into the capital Pyongyang as part of measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus while locking down cities, including one along the border with China, South Korean lawmakers said Friday. The moves were apparently prompted following instructions by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who has stepped up efforts to keep the virus out of the country.

North Korea has cut off traffic to and from China and Russia since earlier this year in the wake of the virus's outbreak, dealing a crushing blow to the nation's trade with the two



People wearing protective face masks walk amid concerns over the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in front of Pyongyang Station in Pyongyang, North Korea, April 27, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

neighbours and, in turn, to the broader economy. Pyongyang claims the virus has not made inroads into the country, but it has become more nervous about the pandemic amid

mounting expectations that the risk of infection will increase during the winter season, North Korean watchers said. On Friday, South Korea's intelligence agency

reported to the nation's lawmakers about the current situation in the North.

The lawmakers quoted the agency as saying North Korea shut down Hyesan on the border with China on Nov. 1, and the western city of Nampo, which has the country's biggest port, on Nov. 6, while banning the entry into Pyongyang from other cities last Friday. The South Korea-based Daily NK, a media outlet that specializes in news related to the North, has reported that border guards in Hyesan engaged in smuggling with Chinese contacts, citing sources.

SOURCE: Kyodo

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RETAIL EMPIRE IS FACING COLLAPSE

UK's Arcadia mulls 'contingency' plans due to virus impact

British retail giant Arcadia, owner of a string of coronavirus-ravaged high-street clothing chains, said on Friday that it was mulling its options after a report claimed it was facing collapse.

Sky News said 15,000 jobs were at risk at the group, which owns Topshop, Topman, Dorothy Perkins, Burton, Miss Selfridge, Evans and Wallis, and it could appoint administrators Deloitte "within days" following unsuccessful talks with lenders about an emergency loan.

That would bring the curtain down on the high-street career of Arcadia



The group owns Topshop and other high street clothing chains. PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN / AFP

boss Philip Green, the broadcaster said, without quoting sources.

Arcadia said only that it has been adversely affected by enforced clo-

sures during COVID-19 lockdowns. SOURCE: AFP

A SHARP RISE IN THE CASES

Turkey to take additional measures to curb COVID-19 pandemic

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday that Turkey is obliged to take new measures to curb the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases and fatalities.

Speaking to reporters after Friday prayers in Istanbul, Erdogan noted that Turkey's Coronavirus Scientific Advisory Board has been carrying out all kinds of preparations

and works to restrain the pandemic. "We are now obliged and will take measures in line with the steps taken by our health ministry," Erdogan said. Last week, the gov-

ernment reimposed partial lockdowns on weekends, closed restaurants and cafes, and introduced new working hours for the businesses.

SOURCE: Xinhua

3,000 TO 4,000 JABS A DAY

Former Berlin airport gets new life as vaccination centre

A large "Welcome" sign still hangs outside Berlin's Tegel airport, which closed for good in November.

But thousands of people are soon expected to start walking through its doors again every day, once its Terminal C building has been refitted as a vaccination centre against the novel coronavirus from mid-December.

Germany is hoping to ramp up its immunization drive in the first quarter of 2021 and is already laying the groundwork for hubs across the country.

The country's most populous state North

Rhine-Westphalia has planned 53 vaccination centres, while southern state Bavaria is working on 96. While Health Minister Jens Spahn insists that vaccination will not be compulsory, Chancellor Angela Merkel told parliament on Thursday that vaccines represented "a light at the end of the tunnel" for Germany.

The country has seen case numbers stabilize since leisure and sporting facilities and indoors dining were closed in early November, but new infections remains high.

SOURCE: AFP



Berlin's Tegel airport closed for good in November. PHOTO: UNSPLASH/AFP



Zlatan Ibrahimovic is in talks with Sweden head coach Janne Andersson about a potential return to the national team, the Swedish Football Association said Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ibrahimovic in talks about restarting international career: Swedish FA

STOCKHOLM—Zlatan Ibrahimovic is in talks with Sweden head coach Janne Andersson about a potential return to the national team, the Swedish Football Association said Thursday.

The news comes only a day after the 39-year-old, who retired from international football after the 2016 World Cup, hinted that he was open to once again don his country's jersey.

The Swedish FA said that Janne Andersson travelled on Wednesday evening to meet with Ibrahimovic to discuss the possibility following the striker's apparent interest and impressive recent form for AC Milan.

He leads the Serie A scoring charts with 10 goals this season, more than half Milan's total tally of 19.

"When Zlatan opened the door to play for the national team it felt natural and important to meet and discuss it as soon as possible," Andersson said in a statement.

"The meeting was good and fruitful, and we agreed on continuing the dialogue."

Ibrahimovic expressed his desire for a return to the international stage on Wednesday after winning Sweden's Footballer of the Year award for the 12th time.

"If you ask me I'll be honest: yes, I miss the national team," he told Swedish daily Aftonbladet. "It's no secret."

"The one who does not miss it, he has already finished his career. And I have not finished my career."—AFP

MFF to form women futsal team for upcoming SEA Games

FOOTBALL authorities made a special discussion during the Technical Committee Meeting (3/2020) which was held via online yesterday to form a Myanmar National Women Futsal Team which will compete in the Viet Nam SEA Games next year.

MFF officials: U Tin Aung, U Bunny Tin Aung, U Tin Myint Aung, MFF General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein and former national team players attended the video-conference.

There was a minute of silence before the meeting to mourn the death of Argentine striker Diego Maradona.

During the virtual meeting, football authorities stressed on forming a debut women's futsal team to compete in the international tournaments especially in the upcoming SEA Games and better preparations for the international



Myanmar Football Federation General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein discusses formation of a Myanmar Women Futsal Team for 2021 SEA Games. **PHOTO: MFF**

championships and qualifiers to be held in 2021.

Officials also made suggestions on the training programme of the national team coaches, the appointment of a foreign assistant coach and goalkeeping coach for the national team and

the immediate start of training programmes in the near future.

Mutual reviews on the three nominees for the new Technical Director; Former team members and committee members also exchanged views before concluding the meeting.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Mourinho and Lampard brace for Premier League summit meeting

LONDON—Jose Mourinho takes his table-topping Tottenham side to former club Chelsea this weekend determined to prove he is back where he belongs at the top of the Premier League.

Four straight wins have taken Spurs to 20 points after nine games, ahead of Liverpool on goal difference, but Frank Lampard's Chelsea are just two points behind them.

Champions Liverpool travel

to Brighton, while goal-shy Manchester City host Burnley in the unaccustomed position of 13th in the table and Arsenal seek a win to lift them out of their slump.

AFP Sport looks at some of the main talking points ahead of the weekend action in the Premier League.

Spurs boss Mourinho has a point to prove against Lampard, with whom he won two Premier League titles at Stamford Bridge.

Mourinho and the former

Chelsea midfielder-turned-manager have met four times in different dugouts.

Lampard gave Mourinho a bloody nose when his Derby side dumped Manchester United, then managed by the Mourinho, out of the League Cup on penalties in 2018.

After returning to Chelsea as manager, Lampard twice outwitted his former boss, by now in charge at Tottenham, in the Premier League last season.—AFP

Argentina bids final farewell to favourite son Maradona

BUENOS AIRES—Huge crowds bade a grief-filled adieu Thursday to Argentina's favourite son Diego Maradona before he was buried on the outskirts of the capital after a farewell that at times descended into chaos.

As darkness fell, the football legend was laid to rest after a ceremony attended by family and close friends in the leafy surrounds of the Bella Vista cemetery outside Buenos Aires.

One of the greatest



Photo released by Telam showing fans crowding next to the hearse carrying the late Argentine football legend Diego Armando Maradona while leaving Casa Rosada presidential palace to the cemetery, in Buenos Aires, yesterday. **PHOTO: RAUL FERRARI/TELAM/AFP**

footballers of all time, the World Cup winner died on Wednesday aged 60, sparking mourning around the world.

"I thought Diego was immortal, I thought he would never die on us. I feel a terrible sadness for a person who made us so, so happy," said 63-year-old bus driver Antonio Avila outside the cemetery.

The peaceful farewell at the cemetery contrasted sharply with the sometimes raucous scenes of his send-off in Buenos

Aires that seemed somehow in keeping with the player's tumultuous life.

There, riot police fired tear gas and rubber bullets in clashes with stone-throwing fans that briefly threatened to mar a day of mourning for a beloved hero.

Tens of thousands of people had queued from early morning to file past the star's coffin, draped in the Argentine flag and the player's No.10 jersey, at the presidential palace.—AFP