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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 30 November 2020

Buddha Pujaniya festival, consecration observed at Eternal Peace Pagoda



Members of Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Pariyatti Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda attend the Buddha Pujaniya festival and Buddha Consecration Ceremony of the Eternal Peace Pagoda on 29 November. PHOTO: MNA

The board of Trustees of Eternal Peace Pagoda organized a Buddha Pujaniya festival and Buddha Consecration Ceremony of the Eternal Peace Pagoda at the pagoda in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw in line with COVID-19

guidelines yesterday.

The event was attended by Members of Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Pariyatti Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura

U Aung Ko, Acting Chair of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Aung Myin Tun, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min, Permanent Secretary U Tun Ohn, Directors-General, members of board of trustees and officials.

Before opening the event, Union Minister U Aung Ko, Act-

ing Chair of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Aung Myin Tun, and Deputy Minister U Kyi Min offered foods, fruits, flowers, lights and water to the Buddha images inside the cave of the Eternal Peace Pagoda.

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BUSINESS

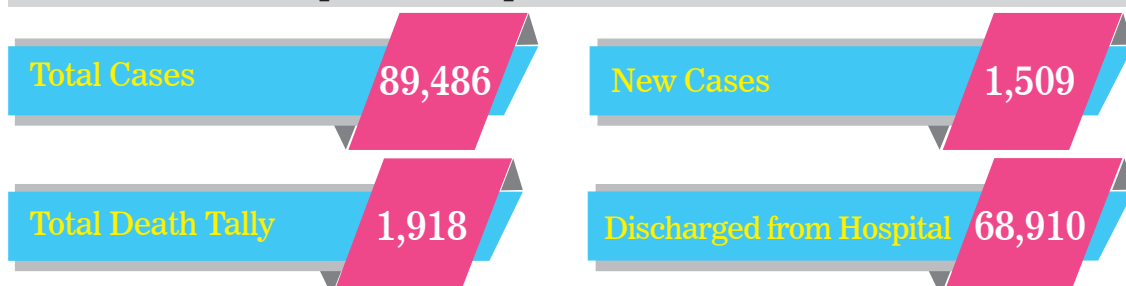
YRIC endorses \$3.5 mln worth 3 proposals, creating over 1,200 jobs

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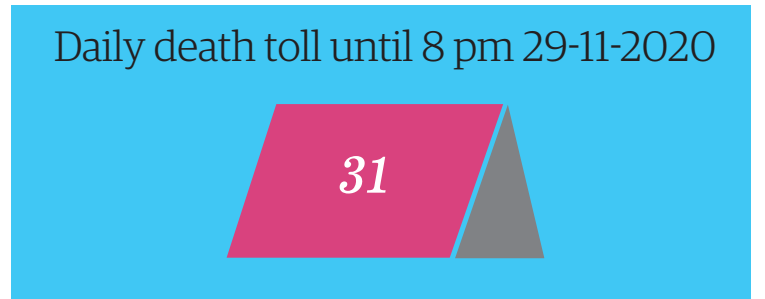
1,509 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 November, total figure rises to 89,486

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 89,486 after 1,509 new cases were reported on 29 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 89,486 confirmed cases, 1,918 died, 68,910 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 29 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 29-11-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

“People are the key”

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 15 December 2020

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 30 November 2020 by the Ministry's announcement dated 27 October 2020.
 - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the aforementioned entry restriction measures until 15 December 2020.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nay Pyi Taw

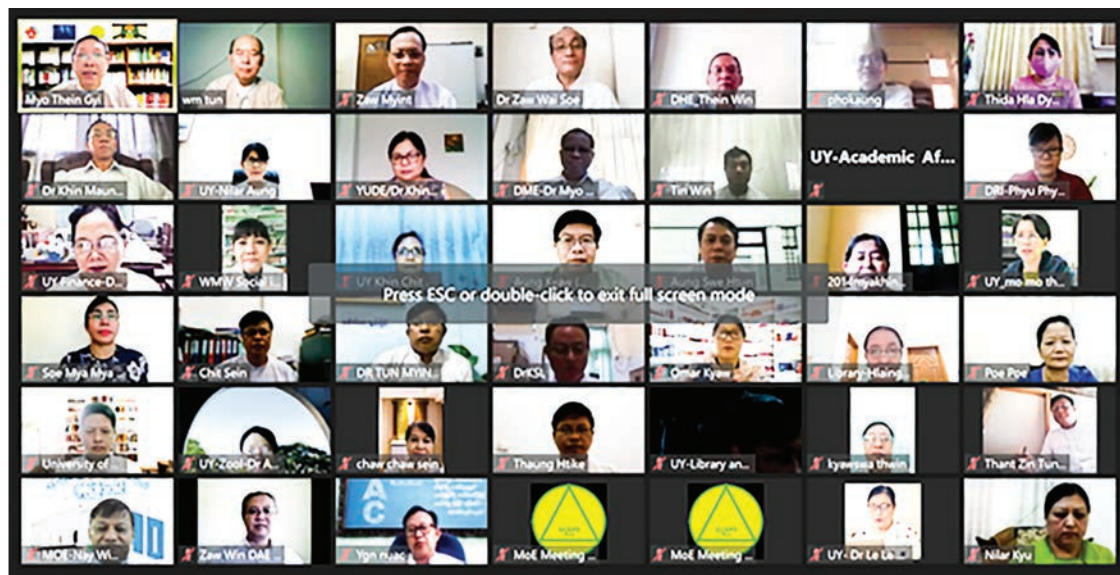
Dated. 29 November 2020

Yangon University to celebrate centennial virtually on 1 December

THE Ministry of Education yesterday afternoon organized a virtual meeting to discuss plans for the centenary celebration of the University of Yangon.

The meeting was attended by the Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, Permanent Secretary, Directors General, the Rector of the University of Yangon, Pro-rectors, professors, Yangon University of Medicine (1) Rector Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Department of Medical Services Deputy Director General Dr Thida Hla, Department of Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Deputy Director-General Dr Tun Myint and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that “Stay-at-Home” order has been issued in Kamayut Town-



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in the virtual meeting on centenary celebration of University of Yangon on 29 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

ship, where the university is located, and they are planning to broadcast the pre-recorded virtual celebration via MRTV and Facebook on 1 December.

The Union Minister said that some people were visiting the University of Yangon and took photos as a memory. He called on the visitors to adhere to

the COVID-19 preventive guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The virtual centenary celebration is scheduled to broadcast

on MRTV and Facebook from 5 pm to 6:30 pm on 1 December. State-run media and relevant Facebook pages will announce the programme.

The decorative lighting of Yangon University will be held until 1 December.

During the meeting, the participants discussed COVID-19 measures to be conducted in the celebration. Body temperature of the visitors will be checked at the main entrance of the university, and if a person is found to have a high temperature, he/she will be immediately sent to an Isolation Unit of the Universities Hospital.

Masks will be given to the visitors free of charge and social distancing measures will be enforced at the university.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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

Don't lose heart, remain vigilant

THE Union Government is making plans for storage, distribution and vaccination. Therefore, people need to make sure they do not get infected. It is not good to get infected just before the vaccination appears. Therefore don't lose heart, remain vigilant. Don't go outside during the Christmas and New Year period. Avoid public gatherings. If you need to go outside, please wear a mask. Use a plastic cover or a face shield over the mask.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 situation amid containment measures, on 21 November 2020)



Buddha Pujaniya festival, consecration observed at Eternal Peace Pagoda

FROM PAGE-1

Members of Sangha consecrated the Buddha images inside the cave of the Eternal Peace Pagoda.

Congregation at the event took Nine Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Pariyatti Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda and listened to the parittas recited by Members of Sangha.

The Union Minister and of-

officials made offertories to the Members of Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Pariyatti Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda.

U Zaw Myint Pe presented the golden ribbon representing the Mingala Gong, which is donated by U Thein Tun Khaing and wife Daw Tin Win Htay, daughter Ma Su Yadana Tun for the pagoda, to the Union Minister who returned him certificate

of honour.

Pictures of Aung Chin Shit Par were drawn on the surface of the Mingala Gong, which weighed 12 visses and five kyattha (around 43.38 pounds) and has a diameter of 30 inches.

The congregation listened to the sermon delivered by Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Ledisan Monastery Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Agga Maha Kamathanacariya Bhaddanta Eindavudha.

Construction of the Eternal Peace Pagoda began on 17 May 2018, and golden umbrella hoisting ceremony and consecration ceremony of the pagoda were successfully held on 11 November 2019.

Construction of the buildings relating to the pagoda continued—construction of north-east fence was 85 per cent complete, paving bricks on the road circling the pagoda was 85 per cent complete, construction

of the ditch beside the pagoda's platform was 65 per cent complete, laying marble tiles on the four gates of the pagoda's building was 85 per cent complete, marble flooring on the pagoda's platform was 25 per cent complete, and construction of the office for the pagoda's board of trustees was 40 per cent complete.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Announcement on centenary celebration of University of Yangon

YANGON Region accounts for 75 per cent of all COVID-19 confirmed cases nationwide, and "Stay at Home" order was issued in 44 townships in Yangon Region. Kamayut Township, where the University of Yangon is located, is one of the most infected townships in Yangon.

The centenary celebration of the University of Yangon cannot be held at the Convocation Hall of the University of Yangon. However, it will be held virtually on 1 December. On that day, from 5 pm, the MRTV will broadcast the pre-recorded virtual celebration. MRTV Facebook page, MRTV Live, and the official Facebook page of the University of Yangon will also broadcast the virtual celebration.

In order to avoid crowds during the centenary celebration, we pre-recorded the virtual celebration in order to broadcast via MRTV, and we would like to request you to watch the programme at your homes.

We also would like to request all visitors; including students, teachers, and former students who will come to the university to see the decorations for the centenary celebrations; to adhere to the COVID-19 preventive guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

At the university, six-foot social distancing measure will be enforced, and masks will be given to the visitors free of charge. Body temperature of the visitors will be checked. The visitors must wash their hands at the entrance of the university. If a person is found to have a high temperature, fever or any COVID-19 symptom, he/she will be sent to the Universities Hospital to receive medical examinations. If necessary, the patients will be handed over to relevant Quarantine Centres.

Ministry of Education

Job creation reports drop in October



Women wearing face masks sew clothes at a workplace in Yangon during the first wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE job creation in October slowed further than the rate in September 2020, according to the statistics issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

The domestic and foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the region and state investment committees in October

created over 4,500 jobs, which plunged from 11,990 jobs in September.

In the first month (Oct) of the current financial year

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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.

Matho Robe-Offering Ceremony organized at Mahamuni Pagoda

A ceremony to offer Matho robe-offering ceremony to the Mahamuni Buddha Image was held at pagoda's platform in Mandalay yesterday.

Yedaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Okkatha and members of the pagoda's board of trustees first offered lights, foods, water, and flowers to the Buddha Image in the early morning.

The event was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, departmental officials and well-wishers.

Yedaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Okkahta, the Chief Minister, Hluttaw Speaker, and cabinet members offered Matho robe to the Buddha Image.

The Chief Minister presented cash awards and certificates of honour to the weaving team of Yekyipauk Village, the weaving team of Ohntaw Village, the weaving team of Inle region, and



Mandalay Region Chief Minister and officials offer Matho-robe to the Mahamuni Buddha Image on 29 November 2020. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Koelonetaka tailoring team.

Chair of the pagoda's board of trustees presented cash awards and certificate of honour

to the team making services at the pagoda. The 31st Matho robe offering ceremony was organized in accordance with COVID-19

guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. —Min Htet Aung (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Golden lotus robes are carried by members of the board of trustees at the Shwedagon Pagoda on 29 November 2020. PHOTO: MYINT

Golden lotus robes offered to four Buddhas at Shwedagon Pagoda

An event to observe Samanaphala Sutta Day and to offer golden lotus robes to four Buddhas at the Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the pagoda on the fullmoon of Tazaungmon yesterday.

Golden lotus robes were offered to four Buddhas – Kakusandha, Koṇāgamana, Kassapa and Gautama – and Live Ruby Eyes Buddha Image at the Shwedagon Pagoda in the morning.

Eleven thousand lights were lit at the pagoda in the evening to mark the religious day.

Member of the pagoda's board of trustees organized the events in accordance with the orders and directives of the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. — Myint Maung

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Job creation reports drop in October

FROM PAGE-3

2020-2021, the foreign enterprises created over 1,488 jobs for locals. They added the recruitment of the existing foreign businesses. The domestic enterprises under the Myanmar Investment Commission created 3,058 jobs for local people. They included an increase in employment by the existing enterprises.

MIC and the relevant investment committees gave the go-ahead to seven foreign enterprises from China, Singapore, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam in manufacturing, livestock & fisheries and agricul-

ture sectors in October. They brought in estimated capital of US\$117.68 million, including the expansion of the capital by existing enterprises. Meanwhile, 14 domestic enterprises invested K62.96 billion in manufacturing, real estate, hotels and tourism, agriculture and other service sectors.

In the previous budget year ended 30 September 2020, the domestic and foreign enterprises have created about 200,000 jobs since October 2019. The job creation includes employment of about 5,000 expatriate workers in Myanmar, according to

the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

A total of 118 domestic investments were given the green light during the past FY. Domestic investments by Myanmar citizens, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises, reached K1,710 billion as well, according to a press release issued by the MIC.

MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. The commission ensures to approve responsible companies by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is

working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects, DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin said.

In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 670,000 locals, according to the DICA.

Those enterprises have created over 96,000 jobs in the FY2016-2017, 110,000 jobs in the FY2017-2018, over 53,000 jobs in the 2018 mini-budget period, over 180,000 jobs in the FY2018-2019 and 210,000 jobs in the FY2019-2020 respectively. — GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Fishery exports targeted over \$1 bln in current FY: MFF reports

MYANMAR Fisheries Federation (MFF) targets to earn over US\$1 billion from fisheries exports in the current financial year started from 1 October 2020, said General Secretary U Win Kyaing from MFF.

Myanmar sends fish and fishery products to external market through air and sea routes as well as land borders.

Myanmar exported 670,000 tonnes of fishery products to 45 countries in the past FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, generating an estimated income of \$850 million despite the difficulties triggered by the COVID-19 crisis. The figure reflected an increase of over \$120 million registered in the FY2018-2019, MFF's data indicated.

"We saw a remarkable increase in fishery exports last FY amid the COVID-19 impacts. MFF is endeavouring to fulfil the requirements of the market. Resources are limited for wild-caught fish exports as we look forward to long-term interest. In the farming sector, we balance between demand and supply. We will expand the market in the post-coronavirus era, and the

market will undoubtedly grow. The industry also helps develop the rural community and create jobs for locals.

Additionally, government coordination and guidance play a vital role in the development of the sector. The sector also helped inject the economy of the country amid the COVID-19 impacts. So we like to request the government to prioritize the industry as well," U Win Kyaing told MRTV in the second week of October.

Myanmar exports fishery products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to over 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

The foreign market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) certificates to ensure food safety.

Fishery products must be



(FILES) Workers clean fish carcasses on cleaning lines at a cold storage factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

sourced only from hatcheries that are compliant with GAQP to meet international market standards. The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system.

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

There are 480,000 acres of

fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 130 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar. And 28 of them have been given the green light to export to EU countries.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth \$530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth \$480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth \$500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth \$600 million in the 2016-2017FY,

560,000 tonnes worth \$700 million in the 2017-2018FY, and over 580,000 tonnes in the 2018-2019FY, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

The federation has requested the government to tackle problems facing the export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts. They also want to ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports, according to the MFF.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, the fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). More than 3.5 million people are relying on the industry. Its fishery production, including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish, is far better than the regional countries. If the government can boost processing technology, it will contribute to the country's economy. Thereby it can help earn more income for those stakeholders in the supply chain, Yangon Region Fisheries Department stated. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

External trade falls by \$1.5 bln as of 20 November

Myanmar's external trade between 1 October and 20 November in the current financial year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$3.7 billion, a sharp drop of \$1.5 billion compared with the corresponding period of the 2019-2020FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at \$5.23 billion, stated the ministry's data.

As of 20 November 2020, Myanmar's export was worth \$1.6 billion, which plunged from \$2.69 billion registered a year-ago period. Meanwhile, the country's import was valued \$2.07 billion, showing a decrease of \$470 million compared with the last FY.

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

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods. At the same time, it imports

capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

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

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

YRIC endorses \$3.5 mln worth 3 proposals, creating over 1,200 jobs

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee has endorsed three foreign enterprises from China and Singapore in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US\$3.5 million, in the first two months (Oct-Nov) of the current financial year.

Those enterprises will create over 1,200 jobs. They will execute manufacturing of bags, footwear and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis, YRIC stated.

Between 1 October and 30 September of the previous financial year 2019-2020, Yangon Region stood at the first place with 137 foreign enterprises (with a capital of \$308.768 million), followed by Bago Region with 18 foreign projects (\$72.645 million) at the second place and Ayeyawady, with nine at the third place (\$19.614 million).

Additionally, foreign direct investments also flow into Taninthayi Region from two projects worth \$1.397 million, Magway Region from two

worth \$0.991 million, Mon State from two worth \$1.664 million, Mandalay Region from one business valued \$4.6 million, Sagaing Region from one worth \$3 million, Kachin State from one worth \$1 million, Shan State from one worth \$4.13 million and Nay Pyi Taw Council from one valued \$5.862 million.

In the last FY, the respective investment committees of Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine and Chin states did not endorse any foreign enterprises at all, the DICA stated.

The region and state investment committees endorsed a total of 175 foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of \$423.671 million in the last FY.

The endorsed enterprises are to be engaged in the manufacturing, hotels and tourism, power, agricultural and other services sector.

Of them, the majority of the investment goes into the manufacturing sector, followed by other services sector and

hotels and tourism sector.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

To aim at making the verification of investment projects simple, Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MOHSEN FAKHRIZADEH

Iran mulls response as it prepares to bury killed nuclear scientist



Israel has placed its embassies around the world on a heightened security alert in the wake of the assassination on Friday of Iran's top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, near Tehran. Russian police stand guard in front of the Israeli Embassy in Moscow, Sept. 18, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

IRAN was weighing its response Sunday to the killing of its top nuclear scientist, which it blames on arch-foe Israel, as his body was taken to Shiite shrines ahead of being buried. Two days after Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh died following a firefight between his guards and unidentified gunmen outside Tehran, parliament called in a statement for international inspectors to be barred from nuclear facilities.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council usually handles decisions related to the country's nuclear programme. President Hassan Rouhani has stressed the country will seek its revenge in "due time" and not be rushed into a "trap". Israel says Fakhri-zadeh was the head of an Iranian

military nuclear programme, the existence of which the Islamic republic has consistently denied.

His body arrived in the north-eastern holy city of Mashhad late Saturday and was taken to the shrine of Imam Reza for prayers and a ceremonial circling of the tomb, state news agency IRNA reported. The they were taken Sunday to Fatima Masumeh's shrine in Qom, south of Tehran, and later to that of the Islamic republic's founder Imam Khomeini, according to Iranian media. Fakhri-zadeh's funeral will be held Monday in the presence of senior military commanders and his family, the defence ministry said on its website, without specifying where.

SOURCE: AFP

THE NIMITZ CARRIER STRIKE GROUP

US navy denies carrier group moved into Gulf after any 'threats'

A US aircraft carrier group has moved back into the Gulf region, but a navy spokeswoman said Saturday its return was not triggered by any "threats" after the killing in Iran of a top nuclear scientist.

Tensions in the region are extraordinarily high after the assassination Friday of Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, an act still unclaimed but which Iran has blamed on close US ally Israel.

But naval commander Re-

becca Rebarich, a spokeswoman for the US 5th Fleet, told AFP the return Wednesday of the carrier group led by the nuclear-powered USS Nimitz was unconnected to any "specific threats." "There were no specific threats that triggered the return of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group," she said in a statement. "The return of Nimitz is centered on maintaining CENTCOM's ability to remain postured and prepared to help preserve regional stability and security," Rebarich said, referring to the US Central Command.

The Pentagon said earlier that the carrier group would be providing combat support and air cover as the military withdraws thousands of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan by mid-January, under orders from President Donald Trump.

SOURCE: AFP



This US Navy handout photo shows the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz and the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea steaming through the Strait of Hormuz on September 18, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Award-winning photojournalist wounded covering Paris protest

News outlets including Agence-France Presse joined media rights campaigners Sunday in denouncing the injury of an award-winning Syrian photojournalist during a Paris protest against police brutality.

Ameer Alhalbi, a freelance photographer who has

worked for Polka Magazine and AFP, was covering Saturday's demonstrations opposing police violence and the French government's plans to restrict sharing images of officers.

In AFP photos Alhalbi's face appears bruised with much of his head covered in

bandages.

Christophe Deloire, secretary general of Reporters Without Borders, tweeted that the 24-year-old had been wounded at Place de la Bastille by "a police baton" and condemned the "intolerable" violence.

SOURCE: AFP

THE SHINY, TRIANGULAR PILLAR

Mysterious monolith in Utah desert reportedly disappears

AMYSTERIOUS metal monolith found in the remote desert of the western United States, sparking a national guessing game over how it got there, has apparently disappeared, officials said.

The Bureau of Land Management in Utah said Saturday it had received "credible reports" that the object had been removed "by an unknown party" on Friday evening.

The bureau "did not remove the structure which is considered private property," it said in a statement.

"We do not investigate crimes involving private property which are handled by the local sheriff's office."

The shiny, triangular pillar

which protruded some 12 feet from the red rocks of southern Utah, was spotted on Nov. 18 by baffled local officials counting big-horn sheep from the air.

After landing their helicopter to investigate, Utah Department of Public Safety crew members found "a metal monolith installed in the ground" but "no obvious indication of who might have put the monolith there."

2020 "reset button"

News of the discovery quickly went viral, with many noting the object's similarity with strange alien monoliths that trigger huge leaps in human progress in Stanley Kubrick's classic sci-fi film "2001: A Space Odyssey."

SOURCE: AFP



The mysterious metal monolith discovered in Utah after public safety officers spotted the object while conducting a routine wildlife mission on Nov 18, 2020. **PHOTO: UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

ANGRY OBJECTIONS

French court orders government to loosen rules on religious ceremonies



People attend a service at the Saint-Sulpice church in Paris as Masses resume following the government's ease of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions with only 30 people allowed per church. PHOTO: AFP

FRANCE'S highest administrative court on Sunday ordered the government to loosen coronavirus rules allowing no more than 30 people at religious services, in the face of angry objections from church leaders.

The Council of State said it was giving Prime Minister Jean Castex three days to change the rules, as the limit of 30 set to combat the coronavirus was not sufficient to allow the faithful to attend services when they

wanted. Catholic associations had filed a complaint with the body on Friday describing the government measures as "unnecessary, disproportionate and discriminatory".

Their lawyers had argued that the latest coronavirus rules in France - which on Saturday saw non-essential businesses allowed to open - meant that in the run-up to Christmas a superstore could host hundreds of people but a cathedral could

admit only a handful of believers.

France's Council of Bishops (CEF) applauded the ruling, saying "common sense has been recognised" while expressing the hope that "resorting to justice should be the exception in the dialogue with the authorities in our country".

Its representatives were due to meet Prime Minister Jean Castex later Sunday to discuss the next steps.

SOURCE: AFP

WINTER SEASON IS WELL UNDERWAY

Swiss to keep skiing through pandemic, even as EU eyes ban

As EU countries debate a bloc-wide ban on ski holidays to curb coronavirus infections, downhill enthusiasts may be tempted to head to non-member Switzerland, where the winter season is well underway.

Germany and Italy were on Thursday pushing for Europe to ban ski holidays as the number of worldwide infections reached a new peak of more than 60 million.

Paris has said the French are welcome to visit the country's resorts, as long as they don't ski, while Austria has warned that an EU-wide ban would be "disastrous" for the country's tourism-reliant economy.

In Switzerland meanwhile, which has been hard-hit by the second wave of Covid-19 infections, the authorities, ski and tourism sectors have stood united behind the decision to keep the winter season going, after the spring season was cut short by the first wave.

"In Switzerland, we can go skiing, with protection plans in place," Swiss Health Minister Alain Berset told reporters Thursday.

He added, though, that the government would re-examine the situation before the Christmas holidays, because even though decisions on what parts of the economy should shut down are generally left to

the Swiss cantons, or states, the federal government can step in if it deems the situation unsafe.

- Skiing at Christmas -

For now, Bern is opting to trust people to respect the protection measures put in place by chairlift operators and ski schools, including facemask requirements everywhere except on the slopes.

"In Switzerland, the government, the authorities and the tourism industry are all convinced that the Swiss way is for now the right one, and that the winter season can go ahead safely," Veronique Kanel, spokeswoman for the national tourism office, told AFP.

SOURCE: AFP

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Facts & Figures: Tough fight continues against COVID-19

It's not so restful a Sunday as the world's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic remains tough.

Globally, 62,295,586 confirmed cases have been reported according to data published by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

In the United States, caseload has reached 13,246,649. On Friday, the country reported an all-

time high single-day COVID-19 case count of nearly 200,000.

That means around one in 25 Americans have been infected with COVID-19. By now, the three largest caseloads of COVID-19 come from the United States, India and Brazil, while the virus has claimed most lives in the United States, Brazil and India. Check out the following facts and figures for more.

SOURCE: XINHUA



COVID-19 infodemic requires accountability, real-time information to solve

THE people in the world have been buoyed up by news that several COVID-19 vaccines are showing promising results in early trials.

The worldwide availability of the vaccine can not become in a short time as the world's countries are trying to get it as early as possible.

It could take a significant amount of time to immunize everyone in our country. And, it is important to realize that the start of vaccination is not the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

It means that we will go a long way towards getting rip off masks and throwing out the hand sanitizer. Even if everyone is vaccinated in the country, we must heed the advice of our public health authorities as diseases can make a troubling resurgence because of vaccine resistance movements and mutation even if the vaccine is available.

When it comes to the COVID-19 vaccination and fight against the pandemic, we need to establish digital platforms which are required for vaccination and related programmes, and containment measures.

The digital platforms will be one more way to speed the vaccination and the containment programmes.

To make the vaccination process smooth and in the fight to thwart COVID-19, we need to ensure that right information and reach the people from all sectors through the online platforms or social media. Because, misinformation about COVID-19 is a serious threat to public health.

To release timely information about COVID-19 containment and vaccination process, we should take advantage of

social media, especially Facebook, which is current the most popular social networking site among Myanmar youths. Why? And the number of Facebook users has increased dramatically from over 20.3 million in October, 2018 to over 27.5 million in October in 2020.

Ninety per cent of people with Internet access use Facebook in Myanmar, which means over 20 million people use it daily. More than just a platform for sharing, Facebook can create success stories and fame.

It is undeniable that social media plays an important role in the modern world, and its pages are popular platforms for sharing information.

But, there are advantages and disadvantages, or challenges, in using social media. The challenges include reporting of pessimistic news, false news, fake news, and unofficial and fake social media pages.

Anyone found spreading fake information and rumors on social media about coronavirus in the country will be punished according to the online law.

No one should be above the law regarding the vaccination programmes and our fight against the COVID-19.



Commemoration of Centennial: Bringing the University Back into Excellence (Part 3)

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein (PhD),
University of Yangon

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ARTICLE ON 28 NOV

The year 2020 is a remarkable year for University of Yangon (UY) as it is celebrating the centennial milestone for its establishment in 1920. To commemorate this event, the Department of International Relations (IR) is pleased to share information on how it has been contributing in upgrading the development of University. With the reopening of University in 2013, it has signed MoU with more than fifty universities from Australia, Japan, China, Korea, UK, and Germany etc. Under these MoU, Department of IR is collaborating with inter-



Students from UY and ANU joint presentation after sharing their political, history and culture.



The reopening of University after Myanmar's political transition paved way for the students to network with many partner universities both in the region and in the world.

national universities and institutions such as Kyoto University for research collaboration, Central European University for Research Fellow, Passau University and Chuo University for faculty and student exchange Chung Ang University for International Development Studies Diploma Programme, Yunnan University for joint research publication and Australia National University for exchange programme and research collaboration.

Our Department has been trying to fulfill the vision and mission of the University by making efforts to produce excellent human resources and future leaders for our country. In this regard, our Department's activities include, and are not limited to, inviting foreign specialists for curriculum development, providing seminars and special talks to the classes, sending qualified students abroad to participate in

the international conferences, workshops and seminars, and launching short-term exchange programmes.

Student mobilization as part of internationalization is important in this age of globalization. In this regard, the University has been successful in arranging both outbound and inbound students. From 2016 till present, more than 50 students from IR Department joined overseas training programmes. Among the outbound students, a remarkable achievement of our Department is that two political science students from IR Department won Myanmar President Scholar Awards in 2016 and in 2017 respectively. Under this scholarship scheme, Ma Ye Yint achieved BA degree in International Security Studies in International Security Studies from ANU in 2018 and Naw Gladys Maung Maung achieved BA degree in Political Science from Oregon State University in 2019. In addition, more than

ten students from the Department received SHARE scholarship programme, a programme designed for intra ASEAN and ASEAN-EU mobility. Scholarship winners get an exceptional opportunity to study in ASEAN and EU universities for a semester under this programme.

The reopening of University after Myanmar's political transition paved way for the students to network with many partner universities both in the region and in the world. After becoming a member of Asia University Alliance (AUA), teachers and students from the University were able to participate in the various AUA activities, workshops and seminars.

Among them, six students from IR Department joined the AUA student activities programmes including "Appreciating Diverse Communities through Arts", "Youth Forum" and "Youth Innovation" etc. By participating in these activities and by getting out of their own comfort zone, students gain more confidence, international experiences and social networks.

With the changes taking place in Myanmar, several overseas students show interest to study in our University. From 2015-2020, our department has received nineteen overseas students from several countries

including Germany, Australia, Japan, Korea, Cambodia and China. Among these overseas students, there were some notable students. Ms. Ji Sun, Lee from Hanyang University, Korea achieved Master of International Relations degree from our University in 2018. Ms Ying Yao, a PhD student, enrolled at the University under a joint PhD programme (Tsinghua University, University of Yangon, the Johns Hopkins University) from 2016-2018.

In addition, under the student exchange programme, our Department hosted three

student networks by sharing history, culture, economy, and political development of their countries of origin as well as exchange ideas and facilitate discussions with our students, fostering different perspectives. They also enjoyed study tour visit with our students and participating the university sports competition.

In order to strengthen people-to-people connectivity and to understand Myanmar politics, history, language and culture, the Department of IR also has welcomed students and study tours from ANU, Nagoya

enhancement. With this strong desire, the Department invited and hosted foreign specialists with generous support from ministry, embassies and foundations. The American Embassy in Myanmar provided two Fulbright scholars, who were from University of Southern California, Los Angeles (2014-2015 academic year) and from Texas Tech University, Political Science (2015-2016 academic year). Between 2016 and 2019, the Department invited young teaching fellows from the Central European University, who supported in conducting the classes in research methodology, geopolitics, public policy and public administration classes. It is a great opportunity for the young generations of our University to learn from foreign specialists and expand their knowledge; an opportunity that we did not receive in our University lifetime in the past decades.

The University is going to launch the 100-year event on 1st December 2020. In this regard, the article would like to draw attention to all the alumni and young generations of the University to be a part in this very rare and once in a life time special occasion of the University Centenary.

TO BE CONTINUED

The reopening of the University in 2013 with outstanding students aims to bring the University back into its excellence.

undergraduate students who won New Colombo Plan scholarships from 2016 to 2019, five students from Passau University, Germany from 2015-2019, four Japanese students from Chuo and Nagoya universities, Japan from 2017-2019. The benefits of having inbound students are that they can establish inter

University and Semester at Sea in 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively.

The reopening of the University in 2013 with outstanding students aims to bring the University back into its excellence. At this point, it needs to provide a high level of education, training and capacity

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

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

“Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World”

“ပို့ဆောင်မှုနှင့် COVID-19 အလွန်ကမ္ဘာတည်ဆောက်ပုံ မာန်စွမ်းသူများ လက်လှမ်းမီပါဝင်ပြီး ရေရှည်တည်တံ့ရေးရှိ ကြိုးစားရန်”

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Centennial of Yangon University to be celebrated virtually

CENTENARY of the University of Yangon will be celebrated virtually at the Studio 1 of the Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road in Yangon on 1 December.

The centenary celebrations will be broadcast on MRTV channel starting 5pm on 1 December.

MRTV Facebook Page, University of Yangon Myanmar Facebook Page will also live-stream the programmes of the 100th anniversary of the Yangon University on 9pm.

MNTV, Channel 9, DVB, Mizzima and YTV channels and MOI Webportal Myanmar Facebook Page, Myanmar Digital News Facebook, and Padamyar FM Broadcasting Page will also broadcast the programmes. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 29 November 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of South Andaman sea and Equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (36)hrs. It is forecast continuously move West-Northwestwards and reach near Tamil Nadu coast (India). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 30 November 2020: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon states and generally fair 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)mph. 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 Coasts.

GERMANY

Drive-ins, scattered huts: German Xmas markets find ways around virus

CHESTNUTS roasting, mulled wine steaming and music blaring from wooden chalets lined with artificial snow -- the Landshut Christmas market in southern Germany has all the usual trimmings.

But this year, visitors must enjoy the sights and smells of the traditional Christmas market from inside their cars due to precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Every night after dark, several dozen vehicles roll into the Christmas market drive-in, their occupants cosy and socially distanced inside.

Once through the gates, they must wait for an employee wearing a mask and a Christmas hat to knock on their window and offer them a menu of savoury treats to choose from, such as crepes, sausages and roasted chestnuts.

Orders placed, they can then drive on to the next hut offering



A Christmas market in one of Berlin's main squares is among those going ahead with changes to normal practices to comply with Covid-19 precautions. **PHOTO: AFP**

sweets such as candy floss or gingerbread hearts.

"We take our inspiration from fast-food chains," smiles Patrick Schmidt, 31, market or-

ganiser and owner of the Zollhaus Landshut restaurant.

"We wanted to recreate a bit of the Christmas atmosphere, even if it's more complicated

this year."

The market is a way of helping his business get through "a difficult time", he said.

SOURCE: AFP

CUSP OF COLLAPSE

'Catastrophic': Balkan healthcare overwhelmed by virus surge

NOT enough beds and not enough doctors: a skyrocketing coronavirus caseload is pushing hospitals in the Balkans to the cusp of collapse, in chaotic scenes reminding some medics of the region's 1990s wars.

After nearly a year of keeping outbreaks more or less under control, the nightmare scenar-

io that the Balkans feared from the start of the pandemic is now starting to unfold.

In hard-hit Bosnia, one doctor described the distress of having to juggle the care of multiple patients whose lives were hanging by a thread.

"The situation reminds me of the war, and I'm afraid it could

get even worse during the winter," the doctor, who requested anonymity, told AFP.

"We can do the work of three (people), but not of five".

The Western Balkans, one of Europe's poorest corners, has for weeks been battling an explosive coronavirus spike, its death toll doubling in the last month

alone to reach nearly 10,000.

The crisis is exposing gaps in healthcare systems that have long suffered from low funding and a brain drain crisis, with an exodus of promising young doctors and nurses leaving to seek better wages and training abroad.

SOURCE: AFP

AS OF MONDAY

Virus surge leads to curfew in San Francisco

A surge in coronavirus cases will put San Francisco under a curfew beginning on Monday and trigger other restrictions related to the virus, the city announced.

The curfew requires non-essential businesses to close and prohibits members of different households from gathering between 10 pm and 5 am until December 21, Mayor London Breed said Saturday.

San Mateo county outside San Francisco will also be subject to the same rules after the state of California classified both under its most restrictive tier of locations based on the spread of the virus.

In addition to the curfew, certain indoor businesses will be



Demonstrators raise their fists during a 'Sit Out the Curfew' protest in Oakland, a city on the east side of San Francisco Bay in California on June 3. **PHOTO: PHILIP PACHECO/AFP/FILE**

required to either close or reduce capacity beginning on Sunday at noon, Breed said.

"I don't know how to be more clear -- this is the most danger-

ous time we've faced during this pandemic," Breed said on Twitter. "Do not travel or gather with others. We have to get this under control now and we can't afford to

let things continue at this rate."

On Friday, a temporary ban on gatherings of people from different households, with religious services and protests exempt, was announced for California's largest city, Los Angeles.

That order affecting the United States' second-largest city will take effect Monday and last at least three weeks, until December 20, Los Angeles county's public health department said.

California imposed a nighttime curfew across much of the state a week ago, but San Francisco was not affected because it was not at the time classified among the state's most restrictive tier of locations.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS
IN BRIEF

RARE MASS EVENT

Shanghai marathon defies coronavirus with 9,000 runners

AROUND 9,000 runners -- some wearing face masks -- took part in the Shanghai International Marathon Sunday, Chinese media said, a rare mass event in a year when coronavirus laid waste to most such sport.

Prior to the race officials touted it as an opportunity to show how China -- where the virus emerged late last year before unleashing a pandemic -- is moving ahead despite the continuing global health crisis.

SOURCE: AFP

US online sales surge to near-record on 'Black Friday'

US online sales surged on the traditional "Black Friday" to set the country's second-highest one-day mark ever as virus-wary Americans shunned in-person shopping, the Adobe software company reported Saturday.

American consumers, staying home amid the coronavirus pandemic, spent \$9 billion online on Friday, a 21.6 percent increase over the same day in 2019, Adobe said.

It said Friday's sales were surpassed only by those of last year's Cyber Monday, the Monday after Black Friday, when the focus is on online sales.

Notably, some 40 percent of sales were conducted over smartphones, and many consumers supported small businesses. Their sales jumped by 545 percent Friday compared to the average day in October.

Adobe said 38 percent of consumers said they planned to support smaller local businesses ahead of the year-end holidays.

This Monday, with the usual surge of Cyber Monday spending amplified by the Covid effect, analysts are predicting an all-time record.

Sales are expected to total from \$10.8 billion to \$12.7 billion, up by 15 to 35 percent.

SOURCE: AFP

DRONES AND RADAR DETECTION

Britain and France sign fresh deal to reduce migrant crossings

INCREASED patrols and technology will be deployed along France's beaches under a new agreement between Paris and London aimed at stopping illegal migration across the Channel.

A growing number of migrants have tried to reach Britain across the perilous and busy shipping lane in recent months, with four deaths recorded in 2019 and seven so far this year.

The deal will see French patrols doubled from December 1, with drones and radar used to detect those attempting to cross,

Britain's Home Secretary Priti Patel said Saturday.

Welcoming the deal, Patel said it would help the two countries with their "shared mission to make channel crossings completely unviable".

The issue has been a source of tension, with Britain accusing France of not doing enough to stop the crossings.

In September, French authorities said they had intercepted more than 1,300 people trying to reach Britain, including a handful who had attempted to

swim the 30-odd kilometres (18 miles) across the Channel.

Around 6,200 attempted the crossing between January 1 and the end of August, with inflatable boats, paddleboards, kayaks or even lifejackets to keep them afloat.

Northern France has long been a magnet for people seeking to smuggle themselves to Britain in small boats or in one of the thousands of trucks and cars that cross over daily on ferries and trains.

SOURCE: AFP



Three migrants who were attempting to cross The English Channel from France to Britain are seen as they drift in an inflatable canoe off the French coast at Calais on August 4, 2018, before being rescued by lifeguards. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

MEDICINE

Canada blocks certain drug exports in response to US plan

CANADA announced Saturday a ban on exporting certain medicines that are or may soon be in short supply, a measure in response to a US plan to import drugs from its northern neighbor.

The plan promoted by outgoing US President Donald Trump aimed at allowing pharmacists and wholesalers to import certain prescription drugs in bulk from Canada takes effect on Monday.

The US plan is intended to lower prices for Americans, but comes at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has increased demand for some medicines.

Canada's ban took effect on Friday, its health ministry



With Canada a relatively small market sourcing some 68 percent of its drugs from abroad, it was important to avoid supply disruptions. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP

said, and is intended "to protect Canada's drug supply from bulk importations that could worsen drug shortages in Canada."

"Certain drugs intended for the Canadian market are prohibited from being distributed for consumption outside of Canada

if that sale would cause or worsen a drug shortage," the ministry said. With Canada a relatively small market sourcing some 68 percent of its drugs from abroad, it was important to avoid supply disruptions, it said.

Medicines tend to be cheaper in Canada than in the United States, though Canadian prices remain higher than in a number of other developed countries.

President-elect Joe Biden, who takes office on January 20, has spoken of allowing patients to import prescription drugs from other countries as part of his plans to lower prices.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONWIDE PROTESTS

'Silent majority' of Poles favour strict abortion law

WHILE mass protests against a court verdict backing a near-total ban on abortion have taken on an increasingly political flavour in Poland, the devout Catholic country is far from turning pro-choice.

Surveys show that Poles have grown comfortable with existing abortion legislation -- among Europe's most restrictive -- adopted in 1993 as part of a church-state compromise after the collapse of communism.

Abortion is only permitted in cases of rape or incest, when the life of the mother is at risk or if there is a severe foetal anomaly. That last provision was struck down by the constitutional court last month, triggering a wave of



A court decision to ban terminations in cases of foetal anomaly has fomented protest -- here, a woman's anti ruling PiS party banner shows the red lightning bolt symbol of the women's strike movement. PHOTO: AFP

protests nationwide. "We're seeing a surprising mobilisation of the younger

generation in particular in these protests.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Montenegro, Serbia expel each other's ambassadors

Montenegro and Serbia on Saturday expelled each other's ambassadors, both countries' foreign ministries said, in a move likely further to strain already tense relations between two former Yugoslav republics.

Podgorica declared Serbian ambassador Vladimir Bozovic persona non grata for "interfering in Montenegro's internal affairs", a foreign ministry statement said citing remarks he had made about history.

Serbia then said Montenegrin envoy Tarzan Milosevic had been given 72 hours to leave.

Montenegro proclaimed independence from Serbia in 2006, but tensions around national identity are still haunting the tiny Balkans nation.

Bozovic on Friday labelled a 1918 assembly -- which decided Montenegro should lost independence and join Serbia and become part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes -- a "liberation".

It was a "free expression of people's will to unite with fraternal Serbia", he told a meeting of an association representing Montenegrin Serbs.

"Bozovic in the most direct way belittled the state which gave him a diplomatic hospitality," the foreign ministry in Podgorica said.

In 2018, Montenegrin lawmakers adopted a resolution symbolically annulling the decisions of the 1918 assembly.

SOURCE: AFP

Trump loses another election court challenge

The US state of Pennsylvania's supreme court dismissed another legal challenge to the election by supporters of President Donald Trump on Saturday, further reducing his already near-impossible odds of overturning the results.

A Republican lawsuit had sought to invalidate mail-in ballots in the battleground state that President-elect Joe Biden won by about 81,000 votes -- or to throw out all votes and allow the state's legislature to decide the winner.

The court dismissed both claims in a unanimous decision, calling the second one an "extraordinary proposition that the court disenfranchise all 6.9 million Pennsylvanians who voted in the general election." The lawsuit argued that a Pennsylvania law from 2019 allowing universal mail-in voting was unconstitutional.

The judges said that their November 21 challenge to the law was filed too late, coming more than a year after it was enacted and with the election results "becoming seemingly apparent."

SOURCE: AFP

FARMERS' PROTEST

Indian PM says new farm laws gave farmers more opportunities

AMID raging farmer protests, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said new farm laws have provided opportunities for farmers in the country.

Modi spoke of the advantages of the new laws in his monthly radio address, saying that the agricultural reforms in the past few days have also now opened new doors of possibilities for farmers.

His comments came at a time when thousands of farmers are protesting in and around the Indian capital city, demanding revocation of three farm laws passed by the federal government in September.

"After a lot of deliberation, the parliament of India gave a legal form to the agricultural reforms. These reforms have not only served to unshackle our farmers but also give them



The plight of farmers is a serious political challenge in India, with about 70 p.c of rural households relying totally on agriculture. PHOTO: AFP

new rights and opportunities," Modi said.

The three farm bills -- the Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Fa-

cilitation) Bill, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Essential Commodities

(Amendment) Bill, 2020 -- were passed by parliament. The president of India has also given his assent to the bills.

SOURCE: Xinhua

RATCHA WALLOP ROYAL GUARDS

Thai protesters rally at military unit in Bangkok

STUDENT-LED protesters staged a rally in front of a military unit in Bangkok on Sunday to voice their concerns about a possible military coup and royal interference in the military.

A large number of protesters marched to the 11th Infantry Regiment of Ratcha Wallop Royal Guards in northeastern Bangkok amid tight security.

The demonstrators said they were protesting to "unarm feudalism," accusing King Maha Vajiralongkorn of taking control of military units, including the 11th Infantry.

They also claim to have obtained information that the military might stage a coup to seize



Inflatable yellow ducks have been adopted as a symbol by Thai anti-government protesters. PHOTO: AFP

power again if the government cannot get growing pro-democracy protests under control.

The rally was initially slat-

ed to be held at the 1st Infantry Regiment in the northern part of the capital, but protesters made a last-minute change, relocating

it to the 11th Infantry.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has been residing in an army house in the 1st Infantry, even after stepping down as army chief in 2014. The opposition maintains that Prayut has violated the law by continuing to reside in the army camp with the state footing the bill.

The country's Constitutional Court has taken up the issue, and a ruling is expected on Dec. 2. In 2019, the parliament passed an executive decree allowing the transfer of some forces and funds from the 1st and 11th infantry to the king's Royal Security Command.

SOURCE: Kyodo

MAMMOTH JOURNEY

'Do you believe': Pakistan elephant set for flight after Cher campaign

FOLLOWING years of public outcry and campaigning by American pop star Cher, the "world's loneliest elephant" was poised Sunday to embark on a mammoth journey from Pakistan to a sanctuary in Cambodia. The famed singer and Oscar-winning actress has spent recent days at the Islamabad zoo to provide moral support to Kaavan -- an overweight, 35-year-old bull elephant -- whose pitiful treatment at the dilapidated facility sparked an uproar from animal rights groups and a spirited social media campaign by Cher. Kaavan's case and

the woeful conditions at the zoo resulted in a judge this year ordering all the animals to be moved.

"Thanks to Cher and also to local Pakistani activists, Kaavan's fate made headlines around the globe and this contributed to the facilitation of his transfer," said Martin Bauer, a spokesman for Four Paws International -- an animal welfare group that has spearheaded the relocation effort.

Cher "has quite a big platform so we have really appreciated what she has done for Kaavan since 2016." Source: AFP



Kavaan, 'the world's loneliest elephant' is heading to a sanctuary in Cambodia following a social media campaign by US pop star Cher. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

WARMEST IN HISTORY

Sydney records hottest November night as heatwave sweeps city

SYDNEY recorded its hottest November night as Australia's largest city suffered through a weekend heatwave that saw daytime temperatures peak above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit). The overnight temperature did not drop below 25.3 degrees Celsius Saturday into Sunday in central Sydney, according to the meteorology bureau, making it the hottest November night since records began. The temperature had already hit a scorching 30 degrees Celsius by 4:30 am Sunday, before reaching above 40 degrees for the second consecutive day. SOURCE: AFP

THE DIVERSITY OF NATURE

Rare 9-legged octopus found off coast in northeastern Japan

A rare nine-legged octopus was discovered off the coast of northeastern Japan earlier this month, with those curious about the unusual creature now able to see it on display at the town's local nature center. The octopus, which has an extra leg emerging midway from one of its eight other legs, was found in Shizugawa Bay in the town of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture on Nov. 13. "(This octopus) is a phenomenon demonstrating the diversity of nature. I hope it becomes an opportunity for people to learn about the abundant mysteries of the ocean," said Takuzo Abe, a researcher at Minamisanriku Nature Center, where the octopus is currently on display. SOURCE: Kyodo

JUST A MONTH AWAY

Sticking points as post-Brexit talks enter final phase

NEGOTIATIONS between Britain and Europe on their post-Brexit trade relationship are at a critical moment, with a deal needed within days if it is to be ratified this year.

Here is a look at the three main sticking points blocking an agreement and raising fears of a “no deal” divorce and economic disruption at the end of a transition period on December 31.

Fishing

European fishermen have long had access to Britain’s rich fishing waters -- in some cases for centuries -- and negotiators initially promised a quick deal to appease European fleets.

But inflexibility on both sides of the Channel made it impossible to reconcile two starting positions: the status quo of full access to UK waters for the European side, and total control of access for London.

The activity represents only a tiny part

of both the economies, since Europeans each year catch only fish worth 635 million euros (\$738 million) from UK waters and Britain 110 million euros from EU waters.

But the subject is politically explosive for a handful of member states -- France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland -- and hugely symbolic for pro-Brexit Britons.

The EU’s negotiator, Michel Barnier, reportedly told envoys on Friday that the UK was asking for European access to be slashed by 80 percent, while the EU was willing to scale back activity by 15 to 18 percent.

Competition

Britain wants a trade deal that would bring zero tariffs and zero quotas to cross-Channel business and, while Europeans are keen, they fear that this could allow the UK to become an off-shore rival that makes its fortune with a deregulated economy that com-



European fishermen have long had access to Britain’s rich fishing waters, but inflexibility on both sides of the Channel made it impossible to reconcile two starting positions: full access for the European side, and total access control for London. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

petes unfairly with EU businesses.

For example, would UK exporters be allowed more pollution when producers on the continent would have to meet strict environmental standards at a time when the fight against climate change is a big deal in Brussels.

On the environment, as well as on labour law and tax, Brussels wants London to commit to not back pedal on existing

standards, something called a “non-regression” clause, and that these standards should evolve over time.

Governance

In seven months of negotiations, London and Brussels have still not been able to agree on the “governance” of the future agreement, i.e. the conditions for its implementation, its monitoring and the mechanisms

to be put in place in the event of a dispute.

This became of paramount importance to Europeans after the government of Boris Johnson introduced a bill in the UK parliament that would reverse certain parts of the already concluded Withdrawal Agreement, which governs Britain’s departure from the European Union on January 31 this year.— AFP

LANDMARK TRADE DEAL

RCEP signals benefits of free trade, regional integration to be expanded -- AIIB vice president

THE landmark Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) shows signs of hope that the benefits of free trade will be expanded, and further regional integration creates additional opportunities, particularly for the less advanced economies in Asia, Joachim von Amsberg, vice president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), has said. “We see the RCEP as a very important next step to broaden the group of countries that facilitate, simplify and reduce the cost of trade between them,” Amsberg told Xinhua Saturday on the sidelines of the ongoing 17th China-ASEAN Expo, held on Nov. 27-30 in Nanning, capital city of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. SOURCE: Xinhua

ONLINE BUSINESS

JETRO launches website to promote Japanese liquor shochu worldwide

A government-backed organization that promotes trade has set up a website aimed at raising international recognition of shochu, a distilled Japanese spirit, to help local makers export more of their products amid the coronavirus pandemic. The website, named “Discover shochu” and launched in late October, explains different types of the traditional liquor, made from such ingredients as rice, sweet potatoes and barley, and the spirits’ characteristics in English. The Japan External Trade Organization plans to introduce producers of shochu and awamori, a similar spirit from Okinawa Prefecture, to foreign buyers via online, as the pandemic has restricted the movement of people globally. SOURCE: Kyodo



The Government of The Republic of The Union of Myanmar
Mon State Government
Mon State Development Affair
Third Greater Mekong Subregion Corridor Towns
Development Project



Invitation for Bids

Contract No. & Title: MM-SW-10.2, Solid Waste Equipment: Supply and Delivery of Compactor

Deadline for Submission of Bids: 21-Dec-20 13:00 hrs local time

Date & Time of Bid Opening: 21-Dec-20 13:15 hrs local time

1. The Mon State Development Affair (MSDA), Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has received funds from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Third Greater Mekong Subregion Corridor Towns Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to eligible payments under the contract named above.
2. The Mon State Development Affair (MSDA) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Solid Waste Equipment: Supply and Delivery of Compactor.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by interested bidders from 1-Dec-20 to 18-Dec-20 on the submission of a written application to the email addresses below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 10,000 MMK to the below bank account. Upon receipt of proof of said payment, the documents will be sent by email. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery by email.
Bank Account Details & Email & Contact No.
Bank Name: Myanma Economic Bank-1, Mawlamyine
Account Name: Mon State Development Affair
Account No.: DC 020152
Email: billm@fcgms3pisc.com, kmh@fcgms3pisc.com
Tel: +95-9-2003745, +95-9-256723414
4. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of ADB’s Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before the said deadline for submission of bids together with original PO Cheque of 5,440,000 MMK as a bid security. Bids will be opened on the said date and time and at below address in the presence of bidders’ representatives who choose to attend.
6. The address referred to above is:
Mon State Development Affair Office
Kyaik Khami Road, Maung Ngan Quarter
Mawlamyine, Myanmar

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (085N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (085N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-11-2020 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

Buildings with title of Myaing in PyinOoLwin

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

PYIN OOLWIN, famous as Maymyo in the past, is a district level town in Mandalay Region, at 3,538 feet above sea level. PyinOoLwin is known as Maymyo, PyinOoLwin, Taunghlaykha and Hill Station, as a significant tourist destination in Myanmar.

PyinOoLwin, 42 miles from Mandalay, 167 miles from Lashio and 83 miles from Mogok, takes a position on Mandalay-Lashio railroad and highway. It shares border with Nawngkhio Township in the east and north, Patheingyi and Madaya townships in the west and Kyaukse Township in the south.

The National Kandawgyi Garden, the National Landmarks Park, Maha Arnthoo Kantha Pagoda and Buddha image, Peikchinmyaung Cave, Dattawgyaing, Anisakhan, Wetwun and BE falls are famous among travellers. Likewise, PyinOoLwin Township teeming with hilly areas and forests is home to the Defence Services Academy, the Defence Services Technological Academy, the Central Firefighting

Training School, the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) and the Police Officer Training Depot.

According to the statistics issued in March 2018, 48 government- and private-owned hotels have been operated in PyinOoLwin to accommodate guests at 1,131 rooms. In addition, seven motels, one inn and 100 lodges are also operated for providing accommodation to guests.

Background of PyinOoLwin

The stone inscription posted at Aungmye Bontha Maha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Maha Thawbitayama Monastery in PyinOoLwin mentioned PyinOoLwin was established in the reign of King Bagan in Konbaung era in 1850. The stone inscription was carved 66 years after establishment of PyinOoLwin.

The record of the Ministry of Home Affairs which quoted that an order issued in the reign of King Badon on 12 October 1787 mentioned “an order issued in the reign of King Badon expressed the title PyinOo attached to the names of Ohndaw,



Building of Yuzana Myaing

Hngetkyitheik, Hsingaunggyi and Wetwun villages”. These villages are located near PyinOoLwin. The seasoned people said three PyinOo, Pyingyi and Pyinsar villages would be prosperous simultaneously.

Major May from 5th Bengal Battalion arrived in PyinOoLwin in 1896 and named it as Maymyo. The Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs renamed the city as PyinOoLwin on 18 November 1989 and held the celebration to mark the centennial anniversary of PyinOoLwin from 30 April to 6 May 1996.

PyinOoLwin was a village with title of PyinOo in 1787. Some people assumed that a serviceman of the king arrived in PyinOo Village from Amarapura and

called it PyinOoLwin due to beautifying scenes. So, the town was named PyinOo from 1787 to 1850 and PyinOoLwin from 1850 to 1896, Maymyo from 1896 to 1989 and PyinOoLwin from 1989 to date.

Currently, PyinOoLwin Township formed with one town, 21 wards and 116 villages from 37 village-tracts is located on 763.74 square miles of land and the town on 39.53 square miles.

The statistics issued till the end of September 2018 mentioned population of the township reached 180,107, with 76.07 per cent of Bamar ethnic (137,016) residing together with various ethnics. Local people are engaged in cultivation of various flowery plants, sunflower, dambson, strawberry and coffee plants and produce wine, sweater and clothes.

Indians and Gurkhas resided in PyinOoLwin in British colonial era. British administrative officers built houses in PyinOoLwin for stay in summer. These remain as colonial era ancient buildings, symbols in PyinOoLwin including the buildings with title of Myaing.

British drew a town plan for PyinOoLwin similar to that of cities in England in 1896. The streets where oat, cherry, pine and sweet chestnut plants thrived were named of British. A 65-acre lake was dredged and named Harcourt Butler Lake. Large houses in British architectural works in 19th century were built in the compound fenced with trees. In 1915, the botanical garden was established.

According to the research of Associate Professor Dr Than Htay Oo of Mandalay Technological University, there remain 85 per cent of the buildings constructed in the colonial era till today but other buildings were damaged. A total of 109 historical buildings in six kinds including colonial era buildings, religious edifices, railway station, education, health



Building of Cherry Myaing



Botanical Garden in PyinOoLwin

and other offices, bank, recreation centres and buildings existed in PyinOoLwin till 2015.

Symbols in PyinOoLwin

The Percell Tower in downtown PyinOoLwin is an eminent symbol. The clock installed at the tower was manufactured in 1934 to mark the 25th silver jubilee reign of King George V of Britain. Thanks to efforts of Mr Percell and advocate Mr M Azin from Mandalay, Myanmar possessed the clock and it was posted in PyinOoLwin. The clock tower was named Percell Tower in PyinOoLwin in honour of Mr Percell.

The clock tower was built in 1935 and commissioned into service in September 1936. Mr Percell donated K11,000 out of K17,000 and the municipal committee cost the remaining amount. As some parts of the clock were stolen from the tower in 1945, the ring sound of the clock tower temporarily stopped. U Thein of PyinOoLwin strived to regain the stolen parts and refitted them at the clock. So, the Percell Tower gives ring sound till today.

After occupying Myanmar, British built the grand buildings in Yangon and PyinOoLwin for opening offices and residences of commissioners and governors. So, these buildings were named governor houses. The governor house in Yangon was built in the present Presidential House compound on Ahlon Road in Ahlon Township. The governor house in PyinOoLwin was constructed on Mandalay-Lashio Highway in PyinOoLwin. Deputy Governor Sir AH Barnes firstly resided at PyinOoLwin Governor House built in 1903 and completed in 1905. Sir Dorman Smith lastly resided there and left there in April 1942. Then, the house was destroyed by fire. In 2005, the PyinOoLwin governor house was rebuilt

in original design and opened as a hotel in 2007.

After occupying upper Myanmar, British set a plan to build a memorial church for the British soldiers who fell in Mandalay in the Royal Mandalay City and cancelled such plan and then built All Saints Church on the opposite site of the governor house in PyinOoLwin. The design of the church was created by architect Mr Seton Morris. Assistant Governor Sir Harvey Adamson laid cornerstones for the building on 3 September 1912.

Coaches, symbol of PyinOoLwin today, were main transport facilities in PyinOoLwin in the colonial era. Indians steered the coaches. At that time, spoke-wheeled carts were used by British officers. Now, such kind of carts are displayed in front of Woodland Café and Hotel PyinOoLwin.

Buildings with title of Myaing in PyinOoLwin

The buildings constructed in PyinOoLwin in colonial era were titled with Myaing plus flower names such as Cherry Myaing and Yuzana Myaing. Now, some of Myaing buildings are owned by the State and some by private sector.

Among them, the building Nan Myaing known as Craddock Court in colonial era was built on 15 acres of land, congenial to the residence of governor house. Nan Myaing with 32 rooms was owned by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. It was operated as hotel as of 1982 but it is not opened as hotel.

Thiri Myaing (Candacraig) building was constructed in 1914 by Bombay Burma Trading Corporation with 50,000 rupees of cost. Thiri Myaing building was located on more than seven acres of compound together with swimming pool, park and servant quarter where

single staff members of Bombay Burman resided. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism opened it as a hotel.

Gandamar Myaing (Croxtton) was built by Bombay Burman Corporation in 1903 for the summer houses of families. Now, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism owns it.

Cherry Myaing (Lincluden) was built before the Second World War. It was used as residence for Myanmar Prime Ministers on their arrival in PyinOoLwin in British colonial era. After regaining the independence, it was famous as the Presidential House. Now, the building is being used as the avenue of PyinOoLwin station. Yuzana Myaing (Knowle), the castle shaped red two-storey structure, is not far from Cherry Myaing. In the past, it was used as Tatmadaw guest house.



Percell Tower

The building of PyinOoLwin District Forest Department was constructed in 1906 and it was named Jacobstowe. Htinshu Mying under control of the Forest Department was built with a tip roof on the separate building.

Thitsa Myaing (Tapsy Villa) at the junction of Thitsa and circular roads is similar to the castles in Britain. It was owned by BT Brothers and now owned by a local.

In addition, Thazin Myaing, Hninzi Myaing (Penlee), Yadana Myaing (Treasury Officer's QR), Meza Myaing (Craig-ho), Myaing Hayma (Pine Lodge) and Myaing Gyi (Sherwood) can be seen in PyinOoLwin. Another significant building on Theinga Street was constructed by Colonel Manor in 1906 and it was named Manor House. In the past, the house was owned by a Hsipaw Saopha and now a local.

Preservation of buildings in colonial era including Myaing buildings is a prestige of PyinOoLwin. Local people of PyinOoLwin should be praised for their efforts of preservation. Maintenance of ancient buildings across the country including that of PyinOoLwin is polishing the historical images of Myanmar as well as safeguarding the historical heritages of the country.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

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MFF to extend Velizar Popov's contract till Viet Nam SEA Games



Myanmar U-23 head coach Velizar Popov. PHOTO: MYANMAR FOOTBALL FEDERATION

MYANMAR Football Federation will extend the contract of the Myanmar U-23 head coach Velizar Popov till the 2021 South East Asian (SEA) Games of Viet Nam, according to the football authorities.

The MFF Secretary Gen-

eral U Ko Ko Thein said that the agreement of his contract extension was reached till the end of 2021 SEA Games.

"We reached an agreement last week to renew his contract with Mr Popov. He agreed to extend the contract with the U23

Myanmar until the end of the 2021 SEA Games in Viet Nam. We are also planning to sign a contract with Mr Popov soon," U Ko Ko Thein said.

Velizar Popov is an experienced head coach and a UEFA Pro licence holder and currently he has been handling the Myanmar U23 men's national football team since 2019.

He assisted team Myanmar to win bronze medal in 2019 SEA Games in the Philippines.

Myanmar U23 men's football team have secured the men's football bronze medal in the Philippines SEA Games in 2019 after beating Cambodia team 5-4 via penalty shootouts following a 2-2 draw at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in the third place match.

In the AFC Qualifiers, Popov also guided team Myanmar to secure biggest win ever in the history of the U-23 National Team against Timor Leste by 7-0.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Delayed Tokyo Olympics to cost additional \$1.9bn: report



International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach (left) was in Japan recently for talks with Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike about the delayed Olympic Games. PHOTO: AFP

TOKYO—The coronavirus-delayed Tokyo Olympics could cost \$1.9 billion more than its original budget of \$13 billion, a 15 percent increase, a report said Sunday.

The Olympics organisers will formally decide the increased budget for the Games as early as mid-December after communicating with the Japanese government and the host city Tokyo, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported, citing unnamed Olympic sources.

The 2020 Games were pushed back a year as Covid-19 spread around the globe, and are now scheduled to open on July 23, 2021. But the delay has thrown up a plethora of new costs, from rebooking venues and transport to retaining the huge organising committee staff.

With many countries experiencing second or even third waves of infection, there have been doubts about whether the

event can be staged, but organisers and Olympic officials insist it can be done safely.

The extra 200 billion yen (\$1.9 billion) on the pre-coronavirus estimate of 1.35 trillion yen (\$13 billion) comes despite organisers last month slashing \$280 million by cutting everything from staffing to pyrotechnics, but the new figure does not include costs of the coronavirus-related measures, the report said.—AFP

Hazard injured again for Real in Alaves defeat

MADRID—Eden Hazard suffered another injury setback on Saturday as he was substituted in the first half of Real Madrid's defeat by Alaves in La Liga, with what coach Zinedine Zidane later described as just a "knock".

The Belgium international, whose first season in Spain was ravaged by injury, was replaced by Rodrygo in the 28th minute, shortly after appealing for a penalty.

Hazard appeared to be caught on his left knee by an Alaves defender as he chased down the rebound after his shot was saved, and was pictured grimacing moments later.

"Eden, I think and I hope it was just a simple knock. That's what he told us. That it's just a knock, that it's not muscular," Zidane said after the 2-1 loss.

The 29-year-old was limited to just 22 appearances in 2019-20 after joining Real from Chelsea for 100 million euros (\$119.6 million), scoring just one goal.

He missed the start of this season due to injury and then tested positive for coronavirus on November 7.

He scored a penalty for his first Champions League goal in a Real shirt in the club's 2-0 win at Inter Milan in midweek.—AFP



Roy Jones Jr. (L) and Mike Tyson celebrate their split draw on November 28, 2020, in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: JOE SCARNICI/GETTY IMAGES FOR TRILLER/AFP

Boxing: Tyson comeback fight at 54 ends with draw against Jones

LOS ANGELES—Mike Tyson's return to boxing at age 54 ended in a draw with 51-year-old Roy Jones Jr. on Saturday (Nov 28) in an eight-round exhibition battle of former heavyweight champions.

Fifteen years after retiring with a 2005 loss to journeyman Kevin McBride, Tyson made his comeback at Staples Center in Los Angeles without spectators in a pay-per-view matchup that mixed curiosity and nostalgia.

California State Athletic Commission officials required two-minute rounds instead of the usual three-minute rounds, mandated larger than normal 12-ounce gloves, said nei-

ther fighter could seek a knockout and declared there could be no official winner in safety moves for the over-50 fighters.

"Sometimes that two minutes felt like three minutes," Tyson said. "I'm glad I got this under my belt and I'm looking forward to doing it again."

An "unofficial" panel of former World Boxing Council champions at ringside scored the bout a draw, an outcome that Tyson applauded despite appearing to dominate.

"I'm good with that," Tyson said, admitting he thought he had won the fight. "Yeah, but I'm good with a draw. The crowd was happy with that."—AFP