

NATIONAL

MoI minister gives video speech to copyright webinar on literary works

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses development works for mountain tribes

PAGE-4

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 229, 2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon 1382 ME

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

Tuesday, 1 December 2020

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 268/2020

1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon, 1382 ME  
(30 November 2020)

### Announcement on figures and percentages in multiparty democracy general elections for Hluttaws

- The Union Election Commission simultaneously organized the multiparty general elections on 8 November 2020 across the country. The lists of elected Hluttaw representatives for 315 constituencies in Pyithu Hluttaw, 161 in Amyotha Hluttaw and 641 constituencies in region/state constituencies (including 29 constituencies for ethnic nationals) have been published.
- The commission is also working on releasing a report on the completion of 2020 General Election in line with Hluttaw election laws and bylaws under Section 106 (b) of Hluttaw election bylaw within 45 days after holding the elections for further works in accordance with the provisions of State Constitution.
- Figures and percentages in multiparty democracy general elections for Hluttaws held on 8 November 2020 are published as follows:

(A) Holding elections

(1) Pyithu Hluttaw	
(aa) designated constituencies for elections	330
(bb) actual constituencies for elections	315
(cc) per cent of holding elections	95.45%
(2) Amyotha Hluttaw	
(aa) designated constituencies for elections	168

(bb) actual constituencies for elections	161
(cc) per cent of holding elections	95.83%

(3) Region/State Hluttaws (including ethnic nationals)

(aa) designated constituencies for elections	673
(bb) actual constituencies for elections	641
(cc) per cent of holding elections	95.25%

(B) Voting

(1) Pyithu Hluttaw	
(aa) number of eligible voters	38,271,447
(bb) number of voters	27,512,855
(cc) Voting per cent	71.89%
(2) Amyotha Hluttaw	
(aa) number of eligible voters	38,271,447
(bb) number of voters	27,495,555
(cc) Voting per cent	71.84%

SEE PAGE-2

## 120 Myanmar citizens fly back home from abroad

A total of 120 Myanmar citizens arrived back home by an MAI relief flight organized by Myanmar embassies in Washington and Seoul via Incheon International Airport yesterday evening.

The group of these persons included 61 from the United States, 12 from Mexico, 40 from the Republic of Korea, and 7 from Panama.

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.

A total of 8 relief flights have been arranged in bringing Myanmar citizens from the United States back home through Incheon airport.—MNA



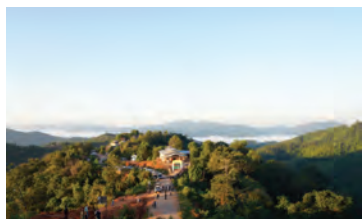
Myanmar returnees queue for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 30 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

MoHT minister explores tourist attractions around Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory

PAGE-4



LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) Project 20 per cent completed

PAGE-6



BUSINESS

Agricultural exports show increase amid COVID-19 crisis

PAGE-7

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Announcement (268/2020)

1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon, 1382 ME  
30 November 2020

Announcement on figures and percentages in multiparty democracy general elections for Hluttaws

FROM PAGE-1

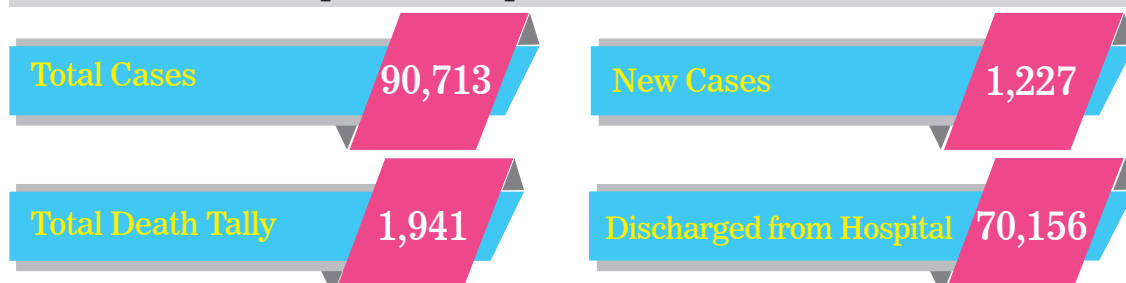
(3) Region/State Hluttaws (including ethnic nationals)		(bb) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates for political parties	752
(aa) number of eligible voters	42,866,741	(cc) number of individual Hluttaw candidates	27
(bb) number of voters	30,459,113	(dd) per cent of Hluttaw candidates for political parties	96.53%
(cc) Voting per cent	71.06%	(ee) per cent of individual Hluttaw candidates	3.47%
(C) Confirmed votes		(3) Region / State Hluttaw (including ethnic nationals)	
(1) Pyithu Hluttaw		(aa) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates	3,295
(aa) number of voters	27,512,855	(bb) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates for political parties	3,130
(bb) number of confirmed votes	26,669,636	(cc) number of individual Hluttaw candidates	165
(cc) per cent of confirmed votes	96.94%	(dd) per cent of Hluttaw candidates for political parties	94.99%
(2) Amyotha Hluttaw		(ee) per cent of individual Hluttaw candidates	5.01%
(aa) number of voters	27,495,555	(F) Winning Hluttaw candidates (political party)	
(bb) number of confirmed votes	26,730,158	(1) Pyithu Hluttaw	
(cc) per cent of confirmed votes	97.22%	(aa) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates for political parties	1,497
(3) Region/State Hluttaws (including ethnic nationals)		(bb) number of winning Hluttaw candidates for political parties	315
(aa) number of voters	30,459,113	(cc) Winning per cent	21.04%
(bb) number of confirmed votes	29,704,157	(2) Amyotha Hluttaw	
(cc) per cent of confirmed votes	97.52%	(aa) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates for political parties	752
(D) Cancelled/Lost ballots		(bb) number of winning Hluttaw candidates for political parties	161
(1) Pyithu Hluttaw		(cc) Winning per cent	21.41%
(aa) number of voters	27,512,855	(3) Region / State Hluttaw (including ethnic nationals)	
(bb) number of confirmed votes	26,669,636	(aa) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates for political parties	3,130
(cc) number of cancelled/lost votes	843,219	(bb) number of winning Hluttaw candidates for political parties	637
(dd) per cent of cancelled/lost votes	3.06%	(cc) Winning per cent	20.35%
(2) Amyotha Hluttaw		(G) Winning Hluttaw candidates (Individual)	
(aa) number of voters	27,495,555	(1) Pyithu Hluttaw	
(bb) number of confirmed votes	26,730,158	(aa) number of contesting individual Hluttaw candidates	68
(cc) number of cancelled/lost votes	765,397	(bb) number of winning individual Hluttaw candidates	--
(dd) per cent of cancelled/lost votes	2.78%	(cc) Winning per cent	0.0%
(3) Region/State Hluttaws (including ethnic nationals)		(2) Amyotha Hluttaw	
(aa) number of voters	30,459,113	(aa) number of contesting individual Hluttaw candidates	27
(bb) number of confirmed votes	29,704,157	(bb) number of winning individual Hluttaw candidates	--
(cc) number of cancelled/lost votes	754,956	(cc) Winning per cent	0.0%
(dd) per cent of cancelled/lost votes	2.48%	(3) Region / State Hluttaw (including ethnic nationals)	
(E) Contesting Hluttaw candidates		(aa) number of contesting individual Hluttaw candidates	165
(1) Pyithu Hluttaw		(bb) number of winning individual Hluttaw candidates	4
(aa) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates	1,565	(cc) Winning per cent	2.42%
(bb) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates for political parties	1,497		
(cc) number of individual Hluttaw candidates	68		
(dd) per cent of Hluttaw candidates for political parties	95.65%		
(ee) per cent of individual Hluttaw candidates	4.35%		
(2) Amyotha Hluttaw			
(aa) number of contesting Hluttaw candidates	779		

Sd/Hla Thein  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

1,227 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 November, total figure rises to 90,713

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 90,713 after 1,227 new cases were reported on 30 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 90,713 confirmed cases, 1,941 died, 70,156 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 30 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 30-11-2020

23

Ministry of Health and Sports



## Benefits from working together

If we want the whole country to develop, we need to combine all our human, financial and material resources and work strenuously together. Only then shall we benefit. It will be of no benefit if the Bamars, the Karens, the Shans, the Kachins and the Chins are divided, each going their own way. We will enjoy benefits only if we work together. And you will find that out only if you try it out.

(Extract from a speech delivered by General Aung San on 11 February 1947 in Panglong at a dinner with Sawbwas)



Shwe-Kyet-Yet and Shwe-Kyet-Kya Pagoda. PHOTO BY: THANT ZAW OO

## MoI minister gives video speech to copyright webinar on literary works

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivered his video speech to the 'Overview of Copyright and Related Rights in Myanmar Webinar' on 29 November evening.

In his speech, the Union Minister emphasized the importance of awareness programme for literary copyrights and broader aspect of the related rights for the writers whose artistic creations are used in movies, e-books and so on.

He also remarked that although writers and artists are fully devoted to their artistic works, they have a lesser interest in copyright issues, court cases, legal problems, monetary affairs, and they even hesitate to learn about these matters, causing considerable losses for them.

The Union Minister pointed out more complicated issues in digital and online media than those of mainstream media platforms in legal and ownership



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint (L) participates in the 'Overview of Copyright and Related Rights in Myanmar Webinar' on 29 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

issues which are also concerned with foreign firms.

He continued to say about the works of the committee on formation of the Collective Management Organization of literary copyright, the assistance of Information and Public Rela-

tions Department to the committee which has been tasked with three fundamental duties of formation, raising copyright awareness and problem-solving during their interim period.

Writer Sayar Chit Oo Nyo, the chairman of formation com-

mittee, extended greeting at the webinar, followed by screening a video clip for raising copyright awareness.

Writer Sayar U Than Maung (Sittway), the member of the committee, discussed the brief notes on 'Literature and Art

Copyright Law (2019), followed by the panel discussion of committee members.

The panellists replied to the questions of online participants at the webinar.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



JAMES BOND'S CHOICE

Ω  
OMEGA

OMEGA Boutique:  
Sule Square, Sule Shangri-La Hotel  
Yangon • Tel: + 95 9691187001

AVAILABLE AT:  
Swiss Time Square  
No.99, KaBarAye Pagoda Road  
Yangon • Tel: +95 1540189



## Now we have made preparations with great care at the hospital Please do not be too worried



What I wish to remind you again is this - if you notice any symptoms of the disease, please go to the hospital at once. We have heard the news that some people did not go to the hospital because they were afraid. We learnt that when the news of fatalities came out, in many cases, it was because the patients failed to get themselves admitted early at the hospital. I understand that the patients were very afraid to get themselves admitted early at the hospital. In the early period, the reason for people being afraid was because not enough preparations were made; things were not that perfect. I heard that when news came out that the situation at the hospital was not quite satisfactory, people were afraid to go to the hospital. Now we have made preparations with great care at the hospital. Please do not be too worried.

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

## Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses development works for mountain tribes

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held a meeting with local leaders of ethnic people at Botma village-tract in the remote areas of the eastern part of Pyinmana Township yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister explained assistance to less-developed areas, the government's focus on equality for all national people in the establishment of a genuine Democratic Federal Union, and laying a democratic foundation of the government.

He also discussed the role of people's representatives in solving difficulties of ethnic people, the government's plans to fulfil the needs of people in upcoming

years.

The Union Minister also talked about peace agreements among the government, Tatmadaw, Hluttaw, political parties and ethnic armed organizations, plans for peace-making processes in the post-2020, plans for infrastructural development, water supply, education, health, employment, protecting citizen rights, social welfare, collaborative works among state agencies and the importance of healthcare guidelines for COVID-19.

Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Than Soe Aung from Pyinmana Township briefed on the assistance programmes for local people.



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents solar power lamps, hand sanitizers and masks to a local man in Pyinmana Township on 30 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ethnic local people from seven villages reported on the needs of mobile telephone communications, solar power supply, repairing roads and damages caused by natural disasters, water supply, health and education facilities.

The Union Minister and party coordinated the discussions of local people.

They also presented 63 household solar power lamps, hand sanitizers and masks for the village representatives in Bot-

ma village-tract, and K900,000, toys and snacks for women, children and rural development work at four villages of Botma village-tracts and five villages in Alechaung village-tract.—MNA  
*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## MoHT minister explores tourist attractions around Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory



Union Minister U Ohn Maung makes field studies around Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on 30 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, together with his Deputy Minister U Tin Lat, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Member U Min Thu and officials, made field studies around Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday to develop tourist attractions for local and foreign visitors in the post-COVID-19. The Union Minister and party reached the viewpoint for 'cloud sea' and its nearby Waitharli village of Kayan ethnic people to study culture and livelihoods of residents.

At the Pyadachaung Village of PaO ethnic people, the Union Minister and party discussed the development of community-based

tourism and other appropriate attractions in 11 villages out of 14 ethnic villages.

After visiting Myathida village of PaO, Kayan and Shan ethnic people, the Union Minister and officials proceeded to the nearby 7-level waterfall to develop public recreation places and the trekking and adventure tourism, discussed ways for community-based tourism in relation to the cultures of local ethnic people in Pyadachaung village and Myathida village, promotion of popular community-based tourism in PaO areas and conducting tourism training courses.—MNA  
*(Translated by Aung Khin)*



## MSWRR organizes virtual meeting on helping volunteers in COVID-19 response

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday afternoon organized a virtual meeting to support volunteers involved in the COVID-19 response efforts.

The virtual meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the Secretary of the National Volunteers Steering Unit, his Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, the Directors-General, Directors, officials from the Myanmar Medical Association and members of Youth Affairs Committee.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that his ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports and the MMA, is providing assistance, training and certificates of honour to volunteers. He pointed out that more volunteers are needed in COVID-19 response



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye chairs virtual meeting on supporting volunteers involved in the COVID-19 response efforts on 30 November. PHOTO:MNA

efforts because the outbreak still occurs in some States and Regions, especially in Yangon Region.

In Yangon Region, fever clinics are located within reach of the patients, so the residents in the region can rely on those

fever clinics, according to the Union Minister, who said that more volunteers are welcomed to work in the fever clinics.

Dr Mar Mar Kyi, who is in charge of fever clinics in Yangon Region, explained the role of volunteers and their collaborative efforts in the clinics. The volunteers working in the fever clinics also discussed the challenges they encountered in the clinics.

Members of Youth Affairs Committee from Yangon, Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Mon State also discussed the challenges and the needs in their COVID-19 response efforts.

The Union Minister said that his ministry would make further discussions and negotiations with regional governments and relevant ministries in order to fulfil the needs of the volunteers in COVID-19 response efforts. —MNA

*(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

## Deputy Secretary-General of AEC selected via videoconferencing

AN interview panel for appointment of Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was held via videoconferencing yesterday morning, and Myanmar's Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo served as an interview panellist.

A total of 21 applicants from six ASEAN countries, including three from Myanmar, applied for the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the AEC.

U Aung Myo Myint, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN, participated in the shortlisting process. A total

of five applicants from Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Myanmar were allowed to have interviews.

On the morning of the day the interview was conducted, the applicant from Myanmar informed the ASEAN Secretariat that he/she had withdrawn the application for the post. So, only the remaining four applicants had interviews.

After the interview session, Deputy Secretary-General of the AEC was elected through a voting process. In the first round of the voting process, the applicant from Singapore received 45.5 per

cent of total votes, and the applicant from Thailand received 36.4 per cent. But they are less than 50 per cent, so the second round of the voting process was conducted. In the second round, Mr Satvinder Singh, an applicant from Singapore, won 63.6 per cent of total votes and was elected for the post.

The post of Deputy Secretary-General of the AEC is elected every three years.

The interview panel comprised Deputy Ministers and senior officials from ASEAN countries.—MNA *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*



Selection of Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community held online on 30 November. PHOTO:MNA

# WE'VE MOVED



## Cathay United Bank

IS NOW LOCATED AT

**#21-07 TO 10, 21<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, JUNCTION CITY TOWER**

NO. 3/A, CORNER OF BOGYOKE AUNG SAN ROAD AND 27<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON, MYANMAR

**TEL: 01-9253386**

[NT60438@MM.CATHAYBK.COM](mailto:NT60438@MM.CATHAYBK.COM)

[NT60930@MM.CATHAYBK.COM](mailto:NT60930@MM.CATHAYBK.COM)

SEE YOU THERE!



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**CHIEF EDITOR**Aungthu 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

**TRANSLATORS**Hay 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,  
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com

www.gnlm.com.mm

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

www.facebook.com/thegnlm

**Write for us**We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm) with your name and title.

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.

# Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) Project 20 per cent completed

THE Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala), which crosses the Yangon River and will link Lanmadaw Township to Dala Township in Yangon Region, is under construction, and about 20 per cent of all the construction works have been completed, according to the bridge construction project committee's office.

Department of Bridge Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Kaung Cho said, "Construction works are underway to build a high-quality bridge in line with Korea's quality control in construction. Moreover, we are making efforts to ensure the safety of the workers involved in the construction project. We look forward to the completion of the bridge by October 2022."

The first section of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) Project in Dala Township has been carried out by Myat Noe Thu Construction Company. The second section of the project in Lanmadaw Township has been carried out by Shwe Taung Construction



Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) is seen under construction. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG KYAW

Company. Chinese technological company CCEC is carrying out the third section of the project, which involves the construction of the two towers in the middle of the river and a cable suspension bridge, according to the Department of Bridge.

The total length of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) is 6,144 feet. The bridge will have a four-lane road, with each measuring 4m in width.

The total expenditure for the bridge is US\$157.833 million. The project has been funded by South

Korea's EDCS loan at an interest rate of 0.01 per cent. The main contractor of the project is South Korea's GS Engineering Group, according to the Department of Bridge. —Myint Maung Kyaw (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

## Museums to limit visitors when reopening allowed

By Nyein Nyein

IF museums were allowed to reopen, they would open their doors to the limited number of museum visitors, according to the Department of Archaeology & National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The department focuses on exploration, preservation and restoration of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Ad-

ditionally, they open the museum for the public in the regions and states.

Nevertheless, the museums are temporarily closed due to the global coronavirus pandemic.

They have prepared for necessary measures if allowed to reopen. The number of visitors will be limited depending on the size of the museum. Furthermore, to avoid the crowd, the museum-goers must submit

online registration first and set the arrangement for date and time to visit the museum. They must register through <https://museumsmyanmar.com> when reopening.

The online registration system has been done for the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), National Museum (Yangon), Bagan Archaeological Museum and Mandalay Palace. The online platform will proceed for other museums as well.

Moreover, the online registration system will be practised for those who want to pay homage to Bagan temples during the set time.

The visitors can avoid the unnecessary crowd and queuing to buy the tickets with the help of online registration. The museums will also comply with health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Traffic fatality rate highest in Yangon Region during Jan-Oct

The fatality rate related to road accidents is reported the highest in Yangon Region between January and October 2020, according to the Road Transport Administration Department.

The traffic-related death tolls were registered at 496 in Yangon Region, with 1,902 injured. Nay Pyi Taw witnessed 138 deaths and 230 wounded. In the past ten months, 156 were killed, and 434 were wounded in Kachin State, while 31 deaths were reported in Kayah State with 85 suffering road accidents causal-

ities (injuries). The traffic fatality rate stood at 124 (427 injured) in Kayah State, 36 (142 wounded) in Chin State, 379 (1,631 wounded) in Sagaing Region, 148 (673 wounded) in Taninthayi Region, 470 (2,495 injured) in Bago Region, 255 (1,670 wounded) in Magway Region, 467 (1,681 wounded) in Mandalay Region, 206 (1,097 wounded) in Mon State, 102 (226 injured) in Rakhine State, 401 (1,122 wounded) in Shan State and 250 (1,670 wounded) in Ayeyawady Region. Highway traffic accidents are reported 76 deaths

and 390 injured. The total number of road accident fatality is 3,735 and 15,875 were injured.

A total of 1,075 road accidents were claimed across the country in January-October period, with 227 in Nay Pyi Taw, 335 in Kachin State, 52 in Kayah State, 289 in Kayah State, 95 in Chin State, 1,058 in Sagaing Region, 446 in Taninthayi Region, 1,618 in Bago Region, 970 in Magway Region, 1,236 in Mandalay Region, 707 in Mon State, 181 in Rakhine State, 1,580 in Yangon Region, 827 in Shan State, 982 in

Ayeyawady and 354 in highway and its related roads.

This year, the death toll and injuries declined compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Last year, 4,387 were killed, and 20,884 were injured in 13,487 road accidents, RTAD's traffic data showed. Over speeding is the leading cause of accidents on the country's roads and expressways. Other causes include reckless driving, unsafe vehicles and severe weather condition.—Pwint Thitsar (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Ayeyawady and 354 in highway and its related roads.

This year, the death toll and injuries declined compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Last year, 4,387 were killed, and 20,884 were injured in 13,487 road accidents, RTAD's traffic data showed. Over speeding is the leading cause of accidents on the country's roads and expressways. Other causes include reckless driving, unsafe vehicles and severe weather condition.—Pwint Thitsar

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



## Agricultural exports show increase amid COVID-19 crisis

THE agricultural exports showed a remarkable increase of \$68.5 million over the past month in the current financial year despite a drastic drop in overall export values amid the infection surge of COVID-19.

Myanmar's exports of agricultural products soared to US\$519.48 million between 1 October and 20 November this budget year 2020-2021 from \$450.95 million in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's agricultural exports rose regardless of the impact of the coronavirus on foreign demand.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for 22 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to foreign markets.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to Chi-



Exporters evaluate pulses and beans that are the second in the line of agricultural exports after rice. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

na, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently

exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, the involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture

Department.

More than 100,000 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated under the contract farming system this year, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with

challenges such as high input costs and variable weather conditions.

Myanma Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry has notified the farmers of agricultural loans for the current financial year.

In a bid to mitigate the impacts stricken by the COVID-19, the bank also provided an additional loan of K50,000 per acre under the COVID-19 Special Relief Loan Scheme between June and September 2020. Moreover, it cut the loan interest rate from eight to five per cent during the COVID-19 crisis.

MADB yearly grants agricultural loans to the small-scale farmers. The paddy farmers can take out loans of K150,000 per acre, while the growers of other crops including sugarcane, can get K100,000 per acre. They have to put the original of Farmland Permit Form (7) up for collateral to secure the loan under the personal guarantee system.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## MRF urges traders to sign contract, comply with regulations

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) has asked the traders to enter into a firm contract and strictly adhere to trade regulations.

On 27 November, the officials of MRF and Rice Depot (Muse) discussed on rice export through Muse land border. At the coordination meeting, they highlighted current border trade situations. These matters will come forward to the governments of the two countries, selling to the authorized companies with rice import quota licence and needs for the firm contract.

Legal trade channel through the border to China is crucial in Myanmar's rice industry. Therefore, the federation and rice depot (Muse) also agreed to extend their coordination.

At present, Muse depot sees regular trading, MRF stated.

Myanmar companies which have difficulties in entering into

a firm contract and complying with regulations can contact the federation or Muse depot, MRF released a notification recently.

About 50 trucks carrying 640 rice bags are daily entering the Muse trade zone for now. Then, the rice bags are continued to be sent to China, said U Min Thein, vice president of Muse rice depot.

China has consumption requirement of about K80,000 bags per day. Only over 30,000 bags can be sent to China due to the transportation difficulties and the tight security measures in China amid the COVID-19 crisis, he maintained.

Myanmar has opened four border trade zones with China; Muse and Lweje in Shan State, and Kampaiti and Lweje in Kachin State. Majority of the trade is carried out through Muse land border. There are many checkpoints at Muse trade zone, and only Mang Weing are now available for trading.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Domestic gold prices keep sliding tracking global cues

By Nyein Nyein

FOLLOWING a weak trend in the global market, the gold price is likely to extend its drop in the domestic market, the gold traders said.

The gold price continues dropping in the global market. On 23 November, gold price hit \$1,871 per ounce in the worldwide market. Then, the price fell to \$1,771 per ounce on 30 November, with a significant drop of over \$100 within one week.

Following the COVID-19 vaccine development, some major industries and businesses have restarted. The gold market has become sluggish as the investors returned to other sectors, said Chairperson U Myo Myint of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The domestic gold prices are declining following the global rate. The pure gold has touched below K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) since 25 November. It reached a low of K1,268,000 per tical on 30

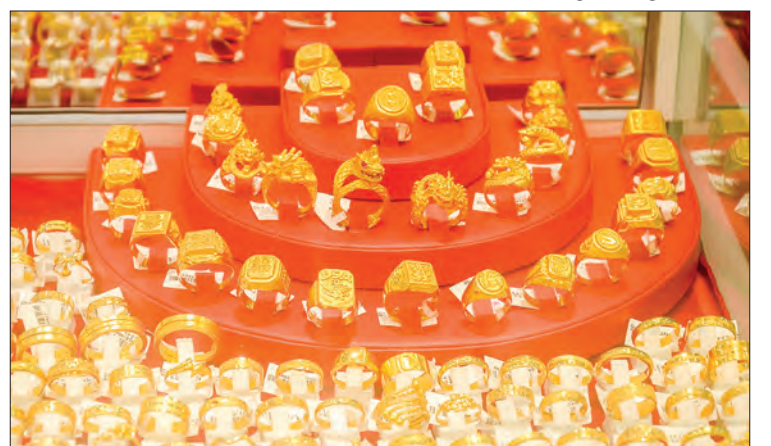
November in the local market.

The daily transaction of 50 visses (a viss equals to 1.6kg) of gold were earlier seen in the market. Now, about 5-10 visses are rarely traded per day, he continued. According to gold traders, during the past four months, the domestic gold was priced with the minimum rate of K1,216,500 (1 July) and the maximum rate of K1,296,500 (27 July). The price moved in the range of, K1,286,500 on 13 August and K1,332,500 on 7 August. The local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2

September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching an all-time record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Domestic gold price reached an all-time record high of K1,300,000 in 2019 before the pandemic. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



# Community-Based Tourism can help drive post-COVID-19 tourism recovery

WITH the good news of COVID-19 vaccines arriving recently, people in the world are in a wait-and-watch mode to start travel and to resume their businesses.

Local tourism will surely start with the local people who will gain enough confidence to travel when the COVID-19 restrictions are eased after vaccination.

It will take a certain amount of time for international travel in the country.

In a bid to restart tourism post COVID-19, we need to prepare now with the industry's stakeholders to offer hotels and experiences to local travellers at competitive prices.

It should be the first step in travel and hospitality post COVID-19.

Meanwhile, we need to find new destinations for community-based tourism which can generate income among local communities. Post COVID-19 travel and hospitality enterprises should prepare transformational, conscious and responsible tourism which will take advantage of the inclusiveness and participation of the people in doing tourism by recognizing the importance of the social relations and local cultural traditions.

Community tourism has been promoted in our country because we have diverse traditions and culture of ethnic peoples across the country.

In the post COVID-19 period, every country would try to attract visitors because international travel is a lucrative business that earns huge amounts of money for a country.

In our country, there are many places that are quite uninhabited or far off. Some travellers come with a mindset of being able to be far off

and in uninhabited places. But we must be careful. It is important to make sure that the places are not destroyed or spoiled by visitors.

Being least developed at least gives us the opportunity to take lessons from others, and this in itself is a plus, so it is important for us to take these opportunities and make the best out of it. When we plan our travel business and attract visitors, we need to look at the requirements of the whole country.

We should not look at one, two or three places only. The majority of our population need to develop. The travel businesses need to benefit the majority of our people.

**Trade Mark Ads**

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

By Lokethar

**M**OST people in Myanmar nowadays would link engineering graduates to the Institutes of Technologies in the various engineering fields. But engineering graduates prior to 1963, were born of the University of Yangon (at that time University of Rangoon). The University of Yangon had faculties under it, one of them being the Faculty of Engineering. The engineering course was of six years duration after Matriculation. The first two years being the Intermediate Science Course preceding the actual four years B.Sc. (Engineering) Degree course. The I.Sc part (A) course was at the Yankin College, now the State High School, Yankin. The I.Sc part (B) course was at the University of Yangon. Only those who passed the I.Sc (B) with the required marks in maths and science subjects were eligible to join the engineering course in the field of their choice.

The four year engineering course was at the brand new

“Faculty of Engineering” building on Pyae Road popularly referred to as “Leikkhone Kyaung” in the Myanmar language because of the turtle back shaped roof of the assembly hall (now dismantled). The other facilities included the lecture theatres, the laboratories and the well lighted and airy class rooms with the adjunct admin and library building as it stands now. Across the road at the back of the of new “Faculty of Engineering” is the traditional brick building of the “BOC College of Engineering” donated by the Burma Oil Company of the British Colonial Period. In the first and second years of the B.Sc (Engineering) courses the practical “Workshop” courses on Carpentry, Smithy, Machine Tool Operation and Bench Fitting; were held at the Workshops of the “BOC College of Engineering”. Lectures and the Laboratory courses were held at the lecture theatres and the modern laboratories of the various engineering fields in the Faculty of Engineering.

In 1962/63 the Faculty of Engineering was shifted to the im-



posing, new Rangoon Institute of Technology on Yangon Insein Road built and donated by the Russian Government. The Rangoon Institute of Technology (now the Yangon Institute of Technology) is awarding Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate degrees in various fields of Engineering. The “Faculty of Engineering” on Pyae Road was converted into the University of Medicine (2) and passed on to the Ministry of Health.

The Faculty of Engineering of University of Rangoon (now Yan-

gon) which I attended from 1957 to 61 had well qualified teaching staff, comprising of Professors, Lecturers, Assistant Lecturers and Demonstrators, both local and foreign. The local staff comprised of persons with masters and doctorate degrees from well known universities in the United States of America, the USSR, the United Kingdom and some European countries. The foreign teaching staff were also from well known universities in the UK, India and other countries. Some were on

short term contract basis and some on long term. The teaching was of a high quality such that B.Sc (Engineering) Graduates were accepted by universities in the USA and other countries for Master degree courses on the strength of their marks in the various years of study at the University of Rangoon (now Yangon), Faculty of Engineering. There were also the engineering graduates who secured jobs in foreign countries on the strength of their degrees awarded by the University of Rangoon (now Yangon) Faculty of Engineering.

My first year at the Faculty of Engineering saw several females (about five as far as I can remember) taking engineering courses, particularly in Chemical and Textile Engineering. Prior to that there was only one female who took the Bachelor of Architecture course. In later years more and more females joined the engineering courses as well as the other technology courses so that in both the state sector and the private sector nowadays, the share of woman in the engineering profession is quite high.

There were some engineers of the Defence Forces attending the Faculty of Engineering as well. The convocation of all the Engineering graduates was held in the grand Convocation Hall of the University of Yangon together with the convocation of the other faculties.

Although the Engineering students attended the Faculty of Engineering, they were in fact students of the “Mother University”- the University of Yangon. They took part in all the activities of the students of the “Mother University” of Yangon such as joining in the University Training Corps, the University Rowing Club, the University Swimming Club, the University Tennis club as well as other clubs and associations the same as with the Arts and Science students of the University of Yangon.

With this article I pay tribute to the University of Yangon on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary and take pride in being an alumnus of a hundred year old Institution of higher learning in Myanmar.

With charity to all and malice to none.

# Despite global COVID-19 crisis, governments uphold support for women’s and girls’ health and rights, one year after historic summit

UNFPA (Myanmar)

**A**S the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a heavy toll on the health and economies of countries around the world, governments, non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions and the private sector are stepping up political, financial and in-kind support for programmes that protect the health and rights of women and girls in developing countries.

A year ago, at the landmark Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, the world came together to commit to ending preventable maternal death, the unmet need for contraception, and gender-based violence and harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation, by 2030. At that Summit, more than 8,000 delegates from 170 countries including Myanmar made 1,250 financial and other commitments in support of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, Myanmar has followed

up with many of the outcomes of ICPD. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), through its programmes, has been successful in the reduction of maternal mortality, from 282 maternal deaths in every 100,000 live births in 2014 as reported in the Myanmar Population and Housing Census to about 178 maternal deaths in 2015-2016 as reported in Myanmar Demographic Health Survey. Again at Nairobi Summit in 2019, the 25th Anniversary of ICPD, Government of Myanmar renewed and reiterated its commitments to the overall goals of zero preventable maternal death, morbidity and disability by 2030, zero unmet need for family planning by 2030 and many specific actions to bring quality sexual and reproductive health and rights based care to the people of Myanmar.

UNFPA Representative for Myanmar Ramanathan Balakrishnan said, “Myanmar has made important progress in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The women in Myanmar have moved quite far in exercising reproductive health and rights.

There have been achievements and progresses but there is still a long way to go.” He added, “In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the country will need to double the efforts to fulfil the unmet needs of ICPD commitments and ensure that the gains of the last decades are not reversed. This will require collective commitment and collaborative action by the Government, UN organizations including UNFPA, NGOs, Community-Based Organisations, and the society at large.” Today, UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive

health agency, reports that major donor governments are already substantially delivering on the amounts they pledged in Nairobi. And some are even surpassing what they promised, demonstrating their steadfast commitment to the rights of women and girls at the time it is most needed.

“The commitments made in Nairobi are more critical now than ever before. Far from dampening our ambition, COVID-19 has only sharpened our focus and resolve,” says UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem. “I am heart-



ened to see so many government, private sector and civil society partners take bold steps to sustain our collective efforts and deliver on our promises to women and girls. As long as we stand together, we will prevail.”

Civil society, the private sector, academia, and others rallied behind the cause on an unprecedented scale, pledging over \$8 billion towards achieving zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030. Governments also announced major global commitments, including:

- GBP 425 million (approx. USD 552 million) from the United Kingdom to UNFPA to boost supplies of contraceptives
- Over NOK 11 billion (approx. USD 1.2 billion) from Norway for sexual and reproductive health and rights in development and humanitarian settings between 2019 and 2025
- EUR 20 million (approx. USD 23 million) from Germany for sexual and reproductive health and rights, followed by EUR 30 million

(approx. USD 35 million) for UNFPA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- EUR 29 million (approx. USD 34 million) from the EU for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights
- DKK 100 million (approx. USD 16 million) from Denmark to UNFPA for sexual and reproductive health

In September 2020, UNFPA established a High-Level Commission to ensure that all the commitments made at the Nairobi Summit stay on track, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chaired by Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Canada, the Commission will make recommendations so that the momentum created in Nairobi continues towards a world of rights and choices for all.

“We will never lose sight of the world we are fighting for – one of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all,” Dr. Kanem concluded.

Source: UNFPA

အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး (၁၆)ရက်တာလှုပ်ရှားမှု အထိမ်းအမှတ်အခမ်းအနား

“အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ်အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ကာကွယ်တုံ့ပြန်ရေး ဘဏ္ဍာရင်းအဖွဲ့အစည်းကို အရက်အလက်ကောက်ယူရန်”

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

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာမာနာခံစွမ်းသူများနေ့

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

“ပိုမိုကောင်းမွန်သည့် COVID -19 အလွန်ကမ္ဘာတည်ဆောက်ရန် မာနာခံစွမ်းသူများ လက်လှမ်းမီပါဝင်ပြီး ရေရှည်တည်တံ့ရေးရန် ကြိုးစားရန်”

နေပြည်တော် ၃.၁၂.၂၀

Virtual celebration of University of Yangon centenary to be aired on TV channels

THE centenary celebration of the University of Yangon will be held in a virtual format at the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) Studio 1, Pyay Road, Yangon on 1 December. The MRTV will broadcast the virtual celebration at 5 pm on 1 December. MRTV Facebook Page and the University of Yangon Myanmar Facebook Page will also broadcast the virtual celebration. The virtual celebration will be re-broadcast at 9 pm on that day, along with other programmes marking the centenary of the university. Other channels including Up to Date, Channel 9, Education Channel, Music Channel, DVB, Mizzima, YTV Channels, Shwe FM Radio, and MOI Webportal Myanmar Facebook Page, Myanmar Digital News Facebook Page and Padamyar FM Broadcasting Page will also broadcast the programme. —MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 30 November, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved West- Northwestwards and centred at about (370) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka) and about (585) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Kanyakumari (India). Weather is cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1 December 2020:** Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Shan, Kayin, Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.



UPDATED COVID-19 NEWS

# Coronavirus: Latest global developments



Ambulances queue outside a hospital, where people suffering from the coronavirus disease are treated, in Tbilisi on 30 November 2020, amid the ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

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

## Hong Kong hotline

Hong Kong introduces a hotline to denounce people who do not respect social distancing after ballroom dancing nights

are blamed for helping spark a fourth wave of infections.

## Deadly prison riot

At least eight people die and 55 are wounded in a riot in a Sri Lankan high security prison after inmates broke out of their cells to protest at a surge of in-

fections in the jail.

## Surge upon surge

US official Anthony Fauci says Americans should brace for a “surge upon a surge” in infection as millions of travellers return home after the Thanksgiving holiday and with more

year-end travel looming.

## Canada stays shut

Canada extends border closures to all non-essential foreigners until January 21, 2021.

## Fashion victim

Topshop boss Philip Green's clothing empire Arcadia is on the brink of bankruptcy, the BBC reports, after being badly hit by lockdowns. The controversial entrepreneur inspired the film “Greed” last year. Arcadia employs more than 13,000 people in the UK alone.

## Madrid march

Thousands of health workers march in Madrid demanding more support for the Spanish health system. The country is among the hardest hit in Europe by the pandemic.

## 1.46 million dead

The virus has so far killed at least 1,460,018 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT Monday.

More than 62,732,523 cases of coronavirus have been registered.

The US is the worst-affected country with 266,887 deaths, followed by Brazil with 172,833 deaths, India with 137,139 deaths and Mexico with 105,655 deaths.

## Lebanon lightens up

Lebanon gradually eases restrictions imposed two weeks ago in a bid to revive its struggling economy in the run-up to Christmas.

## Back to school

The first flight in nine months carrying international students has touched down in Australia since the country shut its borders in March. Sixty-three students arrived on the special charter to Darwin.

## New Italy stimulus

Italy's government approves a new stimulus package worth eight billion euros (\$9.6 billion) as well as 1,000-euro lump sum to workers in tourism, the arts, sports and leisure. —AFP ■

## HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED

# Moderna requests US, Europe vaccine approvals after full results

WASHINGTON (United States) — US firm Moderna said it would file requests for emergency authorization of its Covid-19 vaccine in the United States and Europe on Monday, after full results confirmed a high efficacy estimated at 94.1 per cent.

The highly-anticipated news comes as the US braces for a supercharged post-Thanksgiving coronavirus surge.

More than 265,000 Americans have died from the disease and 93,000 are currently hospitalized.

“We believe that our vaccine will provide a new and powerful tool that may change the course of this pandemic and help prevent severe disease, hospitalizations and death,” said the company's CEO Stéphane Bancel.

If the US Food and Drug

Administration agrees it is safe and effective, the first of the drug's two doses could be injected into the arms of millions of Americans by the middle of December.

American pharmaceutical Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech applied for similar approvals last week, and their vaccine could be greenlit in the US shortly after December 10.

The Moderna vaccine, which was co-developed with the US National Institutes of Health, is being studied in a clinical trial with more than 30,000 participants across the United States. An interim analysis announced earlier this month was based on 95 patients who fell sick with Covid-19.

The final analysis was based on 196 cases, 185 of which were observed in a group assigned a placebo versus 11 who received the shots. —AFP ■

## SURGING PANDEMIC

# Europe virus toll crosses 400,000, shops reopen in France

PARIS (France) — Coronavirus deaths topped 400,000 Saturday in Europe, the world's second worst-hit region, as parts of the continent began to reopen shops for the holiday season.

But across the Atlantic fearful US shoppers turned to online outlets for a massive Black Friday sale, while densely populated Los Angeles county announced a ban on gatherings of people from different households under a new “safer-at-home order” to battle the surging pandemic.

Persistently high case numbers in many western countries loom over governments' hopes of easing their virus rules for Christmas and New Year.

The holidays would be a longed-for respite before bracing for what the world hopes is one last wave of restrictions until a clutch of promising new vaccines kick in.

Europe on Saturday crossed a grim barrier, registering 400,649 deaths according to an AFP tally

at 0800 GMT.

Britain, where police arrested over 60 people during a protest in London against virus restrictions, accounted for almost two-thirds of the fatalities with 57,551, followed by Italy (53,677), France (51,914) and Spain (44,668).

Stores began lifting their shutters in France on Saturday,

while Poland's shopping centres will also reopen.

“I'd rather avoid the internet, I'm going to buy things in the shops. They need it,” said Anne Dubois, one of the first customers applauded through the doors by staff at Paris' vast Galeries Lafayette department store as it opened at 10:00 am. —AFP ■



Customers walk past the Christmas tree of the Galeries Lafayette department store on 28 November 2020 in Paris after French government eased Covid-19 lockdown measures and allowed all 'non-essential' shops to re-open. **PHOTO: AFP**



ROYAL WEDDING

## Japan crown prince says he “approves” of daughter’s delayed marriage

TOKYO — Crown Prince Fumihito, the younger brother of Emperor Naruhito, said he “approves” of his daughter Princess Mako marrying her university boyfriend Kei Komuro, two years after their planned wedding was postponed following reports of money disputes involving Komuro’s mother.

Speaking at a press conference in Tokyo held ahead of his 55th birthday on Monday, the crown prince suggested that the money issue requires more visible efforts by the Komuros, but said he accepts the couple are committed to tying the knot.

“I mean, I approve of them getting married. The Constitution says marriage shall be based only on the mutual consent of both sexes. If that is what they really want, then I think that is something I need to respect as a parent,” said the crown prince, who is first in line to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

In a statement issued earlier this month, Princess Mako, 29, expressed strong resolve to go ahead with the marriage, which was originally scheduled in 2018 but pushed back following reports of a dispute between Komuro’s mother and her former



Crown Prince Fumihito (C) and his family in Tokyo on 14 November 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

fiance over money, including educational expenses for her son that the man shouldered.

The crown prince told reporters that no date has been set for his daughter’s wedding while maintaining his view that the couple have not won the support of the Japanese public.

“From my point of view, I think they are not in a situation where many people are convinced and pleased (about

their marriage),” he said, adding that he believes Princess Mako is also aware she has not gained sufficient public support for the wedding.

In a 2018 press conference held ahead of his birthday, the crown prince said, “If (their marriage) cannot be celebrated by many people, we cannot hold” a betrothal ceremony, known as “Nosai no Gi.”

He suggested that the Ko-

muros have tried to resolve the issue to some extent, but said it is necessary for the efforts to be “visible”. He also urged the couple to offer a public explanation of developments regarding their marriage when plans to tie the knot are set.

Princess Mako and Komuro, 29, announced their plan to get engaged in September 2017. The agency said their wedding would take place in November 2018, but

in February that year announced that their marriage would be put off until 2020.

While the crown prince said in the latest news conference that he respects his daughter’s desire, he said that marriage and an engagement are two different things.

Under Japanese law, female members of the imperial family must abandon their royal status upon marriage to a commoner. They usually receive a lump sum payment from the state to maintain the dignity of their position after leaving the imperial household.

Since the payment comes from public coffers, the princess’ marriage plan has stirred widespread debate.

“Engagement is considered as a bond between families, so it is different from marriage that is based on the choice of individuals,” said Hideya Kawanishi, an associate professor in Nagoya University’s Graduate School.

The latest comments by the crown prince indicate that he is conflicted between respecting the free will of his daughter and protecting the tradition of the imperial family, Kawanishi said.—Kyodo News ■

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

## At least 13 dead in fiery Pakistan road crash: police

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan) — At least 13 people were killed when a passenger van and a bus collided and caught fire in Pakistan’s central Punjab province on Monday, police said.

The vehicles were consumed by flames when a gas cylinder fitted in one of the vehicles exploded in the accident in NarangMandi city, north of Lahore.

“Those killed included seven members of one family,” police spokesman Manzoor Hussain told AFP.

“Four were burnt so badly that they could not be identified,” he added.

A police report seen by AFP said the van was carrying members of a wedding party. —AFP ■

PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTEST

## Thai protest leaders charged with royal defamation

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Thai police charged five key leaders of the country’s pro-democracy protest movement Monday under the kingdom’s tough royal defamation laws, the first such use of the controversial legislation in two years.

Section 112 of the Thai penal code is one of the world’s toughest lese majeste laws, shielding the ultra-powerful King MahaVajiralongkorn from criticism.

But in recent months leaders of the pro-democracy movement have called for reforms to the monarchy -- including for the law’s abolition -- a move that has sent shockwaves through Thai society.

Human rights activist Anon Numpu -- one of the most prominent faces rallying for royal reform -- and four others arrived at a Bangkok police station for questioning Monday.

“The police charged us under section 112,” Anon told reporters after leaving the station.

“We have all denied it.”

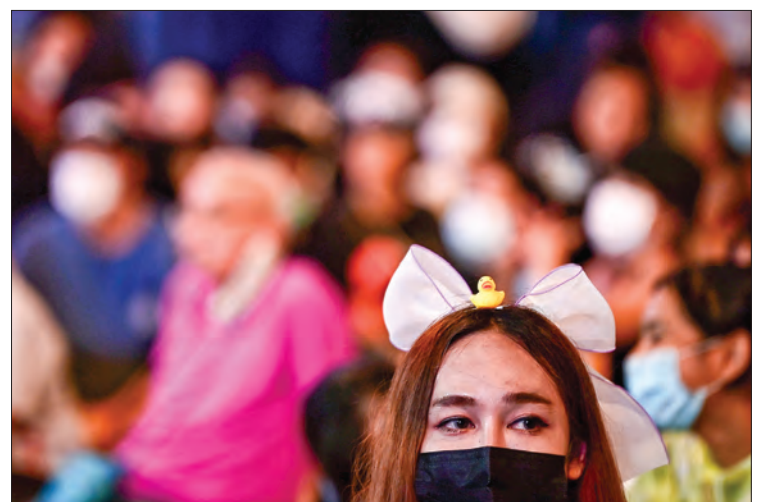
They have been charged over their role in a September rally, and if found guilty face up to 15 years in prison per charge.

They have led dozens of protests since July, the largest drawing tens of thousands supporting their demands.

They are also calling for a rewrite of the military-scripted constitution and the resignation of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, a former army chief who came to power in a coup in 2014.

Scores of protesters have been hit with sedition charges, while authorities have stepped up enforcement tactics in recent weeks -- deploying water cannon and tear gas against unarmed demonstrators.

Leader Panupong “Mike” Jadnok remained defiant Monday, saying that the 112 charge will not deter them from their goals. “I stand on our ideology... we will not be bound by the dictatorship and we do not accept section 112 as a law,” he said.



A protester wears a small yellow duck -- which have become a recent symbol for the Thai pro-democracy protests -- during a ‘Bad Student’ rally in Bangkok on 21 November 2020. PHOTO: AFP

The leaders were allowed to leave the police station after being questioned and charged by the police -- a rarity as most lese majeste suspects tend to be held until trial.

The law has long drawn criticism from human rights activists, who say it is a tool deployed to suppress political dissent.

The use of it was stepped up after the 2014 coup, with legal rights group Thai Lawyers for Human Rights registering a jump from just six convictions to 169 under the junta.

The group has not recorded a charge since 2018.

Prayut had previously said the use of 112 slowed due to “the mercy” of the king. —AFP ■



## NATO ALLIANCE

## NATO seeks more political role despite divisions

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — The NATO alliance should seek a more political role as the lynchpin of the West, ministers will hear this week, despite disputes about its strategy.

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg will present foreign ministers with a report from an outside expert panel, arguing the case for NATO as a policy hub.

“I will then develop my proposals for the heads of state and government when they meet next year,” Stoltenberg said.

“And I’m looking forward to that because NATO has proven to be a very agile alliance,” he said.

US President Donald Trump accuses European allies of not pulling their weight, and France’s Emmanuel Macron has said NATO is experiencing “brain death”.

Trump has also accelerated with withdrawal of US soldiers from the NATO mission in Afghanistan — despite there being no lasting political solution in place.

Turkey, meanwhile, bought a Russian-made air defence system despite NATO warnings, and is in a dangerous maritime stand-

off with fellow member Greece.

Macron has seized on the crisis to push his call for Europe to develop its “strategic autonomy” to act beyond its borders without the allies if needed.

**Summit next year**

But this in turn led to resistance in Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel hopes US president-elect Joe Biden will restore a more collective approach.

At a news conference to preview Tuesday’s videoconference, Stoltenberg said he had invited Biden to a summit in Brussels “early next year” with the other allied leaders.

“The specific date is not yet decided. But there will be a NATO Summit. And of course, all NATO leaders will be there,” he said.

Britain, which left the EU but remains committed to NATO, has boosted military spending to meet members’ target of two per cent of GDP within four years.

But other European members — notably economic powerhouse Germany — will not meet this level of defence funding for many years to come, if ever.

Against this background, the allies must decide how to meet the challenge of an increasingly assertive Russia and China, which are modernising their armies.

NATO, set up in the aftermath of World War II as the West’s shield during the Cold War, has sought a new role in Afghan peacekeeping, cyber warfare and counter-terrorism.

But its bread and butter remains maintaining a credible deterrence against major rivals Russia and — increasingly — China.

It also faces the beginnings of what could become a rivalry with its fellow Brussels-based organization, the European Union, which is seeking a more “geo-political” role.

**‘Strategic illusions’**

Most, but not all EU members are also NATO members, and bloc members are considering an as-yet unpublished plan to develop its own “strategic compass” and to reduce its dependence on Washington.

But the Europeans are themselves divided.



A British soldier serving in a NATO-led international peacekeeping mission in Kosovo (KFOR) takes part in a ceremony in Pristina, to remember British soldiers who lost their lives while on a mission in Kosovo, on November 8, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

“Illusions of European strategic autonomy must come to an end,” Germany’s defence minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer warned.

“Europeans will not be able to replace America’s crucial role as a security provider,” she said

this month.

Macron disagreed, and said so in a long rumination on strategic policy in an interview with the magazine *Le Grand Continent* — accusing the German minister of a “historical misunderstanding.” —AFP ■

## BACKING A FRENCH INITIATIVE

## Digital giants sign on to fair tax initiative

PARIS (France) — Some 75 major tech players, including Google and Facebook, are backing a French initiative committing them to making a “fair tax contribution” in countries where they operate.

French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled the “Tech

For Good” initiative at the Elysee Palace on Monday in a move designed to draw up the ground rules for ensuring the internet is a borderless “free, open and safe space”.

Signing on to the initiative are tech big-hitters such as Google, Facebook, Microsoft,

Twitter, Snapchat and Huawei. Assorted tech ‘unicorns’, startups and NGOs have also joined.

Two big names yet to sign on are Amazon and Apple, but French presidential sources said both have expressed a “desire” to join. The initiative comes with France having last week pledged to enforce a new digital levy for online technology giants, breaking a truce with Washington over a long-running tax fight that could prompt a round of punitive US tariffs on French goods.

France has been seeking a global tax accord but the OECD has warned no such deal is immediately in the offing owing to strong US opposition.

“Tech for Good” includes eight commitments for joint regulation of digital space involving “transparent measures” designed to “prevent transmission of material relating to child pornography, terrorism or hardcore violence”.

Those measures would also seek to guarantee “consumer freedom of choice”. —AFP ■



A photo taken on October 21, 2020 shows the logo of the multinational American Internet technology and services company, Google (centre), the American online social media and social networking service, Facebook (Top R), Snapchat (Bottom R), Twitter (top L) and Instagram (bottom L) on a computer screen in Lille. **PHOTO: AFP**

## FISHING AGREEMENT

## Brexit deal ‘mustn’t sideline our fishermen’: France

MADRID (Spain) — French fishermen must not be sidelined in post-Brexit talks, a French minister insisted Monday, saying London and Brussels were “still very far from agreement” on the trade issues.

“Our fishermen are no less important than theirs and they didn’t have the right to vote in the referendum,” European Affairs Minister Clement Beaune told reporters on a visit to Madrid.

He was referring to the weekend’s last-ditch trade talks between Britain and the EU in London at which British foreign minister Dominic Raab said fishing rights remaining an “outstanding major bone of contention”.

“We are still very far from an agreement,” he said with just one month and a day left until the transition period ends and Britain leaves Europe’s trade and customs area.

Should the parties fail to reach an agreement, trade would be switched to World Trade Organization terms, causing economic chaos with tariffs immediately imposed on goods and customs checks required at borders.

And Beaune ruled out the idea that “one country should law down the law”, he said, referring to Britain.

“There can be no agreement unless there is one that gives sustainable and wide-ranging access to British waters,” he insisted, echoing Raab in saying fishing rights was one of the main sticking points. A no-deal scenario or “a bad fishing agreement” would have a knock-on effect on all fishing policies in Europe, and risk harming “a carefully-designed trade balance”.

“Our terms are known, they are not new,” he said, pledging to “try again” to reach a deal so French fishing business would know where they stand on January 1. —AFP ■



VIRUS SURGE

## Stocks mostly drop as infections overshadow vaccine hopes

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Global equity markets mostly fell Monday as hopes that vaccines will soon be rolled out were overshadowed by concerns over a pick-up in virus cases around the world.

Oil prices were also under pressure ahead of a two-day meeting of major producers, with traders worried that they had still not agreed on an extension of the output cuts that have provided support for most of the year.

World markets have surged this month thanks to breakthroughs on vaccines, while investors have also been cheered by Joe Biden's US presidential election win and signs that incumbent Donald Trump will allow a smooth transfer, despite claims of voter fraud.

With at least three vaccines in the pipeline and approval in some countries said to be just weeks away, there is optimism on trading floors as dealers forecast an economic rebound next year.

"Vaccines offer the promise that the major disruptions of the pandemic will fade from the scene in 2021," said Axi strategist Stephen Innes. "Economic life will gradually heal; the world will start to move on from all the human suffering that the virus has wrought."

Indications that a surge in new infections in Europe looks to be slowing were also providing some hope, while Britain and France are preparing to ease some of their lockdown restrictions.—AFP ■

OILPRODUCTION CUTS

## OPEC to discuss extension of output cuts beyond January

LONDON (United Kingdom) — The OPEC oil producers' club will meet virtually Monday to mull over an extension to production cuts as the coronavirus pandemic continues to weigh on global demand.

Ministers from the cartel will start meeting via video conference at 1 pm GMT Monday and will be hoping that they can turn a page on a disastrous year.

The 13 members to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) want to avoid a repeat of the collapse in prices seen in April at the beginning of the pandemic.

On Tuesday they will be joined by their allies, including Russia, who form the OPEC+ grouping.

The common goal of the alliance is to keep afloat a crude market devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic and which is slowly recovering from the depths into which prices plunged at the end of April.

According to the current deal, a cut of 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd) is meant to be eased to 5.8 million bpd in January 2021, but most observers expect this to be extended by between three and six months.

The current deal was reached in April but since then producers have had the second wave of the pandemic to take into account.

Key players within the grouping have hinted in recent weeks that an extension is on the table despite encouraging news from trials for vaccines by pharmaceutical companies like AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. The effect of vaccines, however, will play out over the longer term, while OPEC and its allies will be focused on supporting prices in the first and possibly the second quarter of 2021.—AFP ■

CEO RESIGNATION

## Tokyo Stock Exchange head resigns over Oct. full-day outage

TOKYO — Tokyo Stock Exchange Inc. President and CEO Koichiro Miyahara resigned on Monday to take responsibility for a system failure in October that caused an unprecedented full-day trading suspension at the bourse.

His resignation was announced just after Japan's financial watchdog issued a business improvement order to Tokyo Stock Exchange and its parent company.

With the order, the Financial Services Agency added to pressure on the bourse operator and its owner, Japan Exchange Group Inc., to take steps to restore international trust following the Oct. 1 disruption, the worst in the history of the Tokyo market, where about 3 trillion yen (\$29 billion) is traded daily.

At a press conference, JPX CEO Akira Kiyota said his monthly salary will be halved for four months and pledged to prevent any recurrence of such failures.

"We take the business improvement order very seriously," Kiyota said, adding he will tentatively double as the TSE chief from Tuesday. "There were vulnerabilities in how to resume trading."

While two other executives were also given pay cuts of up to 20 per cent for four months, Kiyota said JPX has no plans to seek compensation for damages



Japan Exchange Group Inc. CEO Akira Kiyota bows at a press conference in Tokyo on Nov. 30, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

from Fujitsu Ltd., developer of the "arrowhead" trading system.

"But we want Fujitsu to fully commit to building a secure and resilient system," Kiyota said.

The directive calling for measures to prevent recurrences came at a time when Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is trying to bolster Japan's status as a global financial hub while making efforts to attract more investment from abroad. "As the business improvement order was issued, we want (the TSE) to make efforts to secure people's trust in Japanese markets by taking thorough measures based on it," Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato said at a regular news conference.

He added regaining trust in the trading system is "very important" also for Japan to bolster its status as an international financial center.

The order demanded that the two companies clarify their responsibility for the problem and submit plans on how they will improve their operations.

The agency said it will regularly check on the progress made based on the plans. The TSE and JPX will submit their reports once a month until next March. FSA officials told a press conference that the order had to be issued given the magnitude of the impact that the failure had on Japan's capital markets.

Before issuing the order, the agency looked

into reports submitted by the exchange group and conducted on-site inspections from Oct. 23 at the two companies.

The full-day shutdown, the first since the Tokyo bourse's trading was completely computerized in May 1999, stopped dealing in all equities listed on stock exchanges in Sapporo, Nagoya and Fukuoka.

It is the fourth time that the financial watchdog has given such an order to the TSE. The last one was issued in August 2012 following a system glitch in that month that led to a temporary suspension of all derivatives trading on the bourse.

The latest shutdown was caused by a settings error, which prevented an automatic backup from activating after a memory failure in the TSE's trading system. The shutdown also betrayed the TSE's inability to resume trading promptly in the event of an unexpected occurrence.

The settings mistake was blamed on an outdated manual provided by Fujitsu, but the TSE has said it was responsible for the outage as the market operator.

As one of its preventive measures, the bourse has set up a panel of market professionals to craft new rules by March on how to resume trading in the wake of a serious shutdown.—Kyodo News ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FENJA VOY. NO. (006)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS FENJA VOY. NO. (006)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **01-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (107N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (107N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **01-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES**



## SLAIN SCIENTIST

## Iran lays to rest nuclear scientist as it mulls response



A man walks by a poster depicting slain nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in the Iranian capital Tehran, on November 30, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran was on Monday laying to rest one of its top nuclear scientists, as the Islamic

republic weighed how and when to retaliate for an assassination pinned on arch-foe Israel.

The killing of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh — whom Israel has dubbed the “father” of Iran’s nuclear weapons programme — has once more heightened tensions between Tehran and its foes, with President Hassan Rouhani accusing the Jewish state of acting as Washington’s “mercenary”.

Fakhrizadeh died on Friday after being seriously wounded when assailants targeted his car and engaged in a gunfight with his bodyguards outside Tehran, according to Iran’s defence ministry.

The funeral got underway with a religious singer alluding to the martyrdom of Imam Hossein, a revered seventh century holy figure from whom Shiite Muslims draw inspiration.

A large display showed a picture of the slain scientist next to Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as well as former top general Qasem Soleimani, who was killed by the US in a drone strike in Baghdad early this year.

Iran’s parliament on Sunday demanded a halt to international inspections of nuclear sites in the country, signalling another

potential retreat from a key commitment in its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, while a top official hinted Iran should leave the global non-proliferation treaty.

The Supreme National Security Council usually handles decisions related to the country’s nuclear programme, and parliamentary bills must be approved by the powerful Guardians Council.

President Rouhani has stressed his country will seek its revenge for the assassination in “due time” and not be rushed into a “trap”, with less than two months to go before US President Donald Trump leaves office after four hawkish years at the White House.

US President-elect Joe Biden has promised a return to diplomacy with Iran, after Trump unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018 and began reimposing crippling sanctions.

#### ‘Deter & take revenge’

Israel says Fakhrizadeh was the head of an Iranian nuclear weapons programme, the existence of which the Islamic republic has consistently denied,

and Washington had sanctioned him in 2008 for activities linked to Iran’s atomic activities.

The head of Iran’s Expediency Council, a key advisory and arbitration body, said there was “no reason why (Iran) should not reconsider the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty”.

Mohsen Rezai said Tehran should also halt implementation of the additional protocol, a document prescribing intrusive inspections of Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Khamenei called Saturday for Fakhrizadeh’s killers to be punished and parliament speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf on Sunday urged “a strong reaction” that would “deter and take revenge” on those behind the killing of Fakhrizadeh, who was aged 59 according to Iranian media.

Parliament called for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to be barred from the country’s atomic sites, according to the legislature’s news agency ICANA, after some lawmakers had accused inspectors of acting as “spies” who were potentially responsible for Fakhrizadeh’s death. —AFP ■

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE

## Syria, Russia under pressure at chemical weapons watchdog

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — Syria and Russia faced renewed pressure over allegations of chemical weapons use as member countries of the global toxic arms watchdog met on Monday.

Moscow was urged by Western nations to “transparently” reveal the circumstances of the Novichok nerve agent poisoning of opposition figure Alexei Navalny.

Damascus meanwhile faced calls for sanctions at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) after investigators accused the Syrian regime of sarin attacks in 2017.

Russia and Syria have repeatedly denied the accusations, alleging that Western powers have politicized the Hague-based OPCW.

Syria had failed to meet 90-day deadline set in July to declare the weapons used in the attacks on the village of Lataminah and to reveal its remaining stocks, OPCW chief Fernando Arias said.

“The Syrian Arab Republic has not completed any of the measures,” Arias told the meeting.

He said “gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies” remained in Syria’s account of its progress on its 2013 agreement to give up all chemical weapons following a suspected sarin attack that killed 1,400 people in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta.

France proposed that the OPCW should “suspend the rights and privileges” of Syria for failing to meet the deadline, French ambassador Luis Vassy said, adding that the proposal was backed by 43 states.

These would include Syria’s voting rights in the OPCW, depriving it of a voice at a body where it has been deflecting allegations of toxic arms use for years.

Russia meanwhile came under pressure over the poisoning of Navalny, which the politician and western governments have blamed on the Kremlin.

The OPCW has confirmed

traces of the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok in samples taken from Navalny in hospital in Germany, where he is recovering.

Arias said the OPCW was still in talks with Russia to send a fact-finding team there to investigate the incident, he said.

In a joint statement, 55 countries including the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia and many in Europe said they “con-

demn in the strongest possible terms” the attack on Navalny.

They urged Russia “to assist... by disclosing in a swift and transparent manner the circumstances of this chemical weapons attack” on Russian territory.

The OPCW has 193 member states and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 for its work in destroying the world’s stocks of chemical weapons. —AFP ■



A picture shows a flame photometric detector and an ion mobility spectrometer at the OPCW (The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) headquarters in The Hague, The Netherlands, on April 20, 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

## BLACK MUSIC PRODUCER

## French police charged over black man’s beating

PARIS (France) — Four French police officers were charged Monday over the beating and racial abuse of a black music producer, a case that has outraged France and ramped up pressure on the government to give ground on a controversial security bill.

The assault of Michel Zecler — exposed in video footage published last week — has become a new rallying cause for critics who accuse the police of institutionalised racism and brutality. President Emmanuel Macron summoned cabinet ministers and parliamentary leaders to a crisis meeting Monday to rapidly produce “suggestions to re-establish confidence” between the police and the population, government sources said. —AFP ■



KAAVAN'S MUCH-ANTICIPATED JOURNEY

## “World’s loneliest elephant” arrives in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — An elephant dubbed the “world’s loneliest” landed Monday in Cambodia by cargo plane after more than 35 years of captivity in a Pakistani zoo and after months of preparation for the journey to freedom.

“Cambodia is pleased to welcome Kaavan. No longer will he be ‘the world’s loneliest elephant,’” the Environment Ministry said shortly after his arrival in the country’s northern province of Siem Reap.

The 36-year-old Asian elephant will live out the rest of his life in the Kulen Prom Tep Wildlife Sanctuary in Oddar Meanchey province in the company of others of his species.

Kaavan’s transfer from run-down and underfunded Marghazar Zoo, which was ordered by an Islamabad court to close down earlier this year due to the horrible conditions, was the fruit of determined efforts of animal welfare groups Four Paws and Free The Wild, as well as U.S. entertainer Cher and businessman Eric Margolis.

Four Paws CEO Josef Pfabigan said he hopes the transfer will raise international attention



Photo taken Oct. 1, 2020, in Islamabad, Pakistan, shows Kaavan, an elephant dubbed the “world’s loneliest.” PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

to “the suffering of countless wild animals in captivity.”

“With Kaavan’s transfer to a species-appropriate sanctuary, we demonstrate how life for so many animals can be improved which are still kept in substand-

ard zoos around the world,” he said.

Kaavan came to Pakistan as a gift from Sri Lanka in 1985.

From 1990 on, he shared his enclosure at Marghazar Zoo with his partner Saheli, but

since her death in 2012, Kaavan had lived a lonely existence at the zoo, which repeatedly made headlines because of its poor keeping conditions and unexplained animal disappearances. —Kyodo News ■

SRI LANKAN PRISON RIOT

## Eight shot dead in Sri Lanka prison coronavirus riot

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Sri Lanka’s prisons have seen weeks of unrest as the number of Covid-19 cases soared and authorities banned visits.

Two inmates have died of

the disease, and more than 1,200 guards and prisoners have been infected, officials say.

Inmates at the high-security Mahara jail outside Colombo fought with guards through Sun-

day night after setting fire to the kitchens and an administrative block, and taking two wardens hostage, residents and police said.

On Monday, intermittent gunfire rang out as around 800 security force members -- including some 200 police comandos -- retook control.

Prison Reforms Minister Sudarshini Fernandopulle said they had no choice but to open fire to prevent a break-out.

“Unfortunately, eight inmates have been killed,” Fernandopulle told parliament.

“Prison authorities have moved in and taken full control, but the inmates have caused extensive damage to property.”

Medical sources said 71 inmates were admitted to the nearby Ragama hospital, mostly with gunshot wounds.

“The two officers have been rescued and hospitalized,” police spokesman Ajith Rohana said.

The riot at the overcrowded

jail, holding nearly 10,000 prisoners, began when inmates broke out of their cells to protest after the number of coronavirus infections passed 180, officials said.

Last week authorities banned prison visits and staff from travelling across the country as the number of cases increased.

At the same time, a prisoner was killed when he fell while trying to scale the wall of a jail in central Bogambara region.

The number of Covid-19 deaths across Sri Lanka has increased six-fold this month to 116, while infections have more than doubled to 23,484.

The South Asian island nation of 21 million people eased a three-month curfew on June 28, but a second wave hit in October prompting tighter restrictions.

A riot at Sri Lanka’s main Welikada prison in 2012 saw 27 inmates killed by police comandos, who have since been accused of execution-style murders. —AFP ■



Sri Lankan prison guards shot dead eight inmates and wounded at least 71 others in a riot sparked by anger over rising coronavirus infections, officials said Monday. PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ex-S. Korean President Chun given suspended term in libel case

SEOUL — Former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan was given a suspended jail term by the Gwangju District Court on Monday for insulting a late democratic activist in his controversial memoir published in 2017.

The court sentenced Chun, 89, to eight months in jail, suspended for two years, for defaming priest Cho Pius as “a shameless liar,” who made eyewitness accounts of military shootings from helicopters upon citizens during the 1980 Gwangju pro-democracy uprising. —Kyodo News ■

#### Afghan forces kill Taliban mastermind of army base attack

KABUL (Afghanistan) — Afghan forces have killed the Taliban mastermind of a suicide car bomb attack that left at least 30 security personnel dead, officials said Monday.

Hamza Waziristani was killed in an air strike overnight in the eastern province of Ghazni where the bomber struck an Afghan military base on Sunday.

“The mastermind behind yesterday’s terrorist attack on the (Ghazni) base was killed along with seven other terrorists,” the defence ministry said in a statement. —AFP ■

#### Thousands flee as Indonesian volcano bursts to life

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — Thousands have fled the scene of a rumbling Indonesian volcano that burst to life for the first time in several years, belching a massive column of smoke and ash, the disaster agency said Monday.

The evacuation of more than 4,400 residents came as Mount Ili Lewotolok erupted Sunday, spouting a thick tower of debris four kilometres (2.5 miles) into the sky, triggering a flight warning and the closure of a local airport. —AFP ■



## MFF vice-president donates K10 million to Ayeyarwady Centre



MFF president U Zaw Zaw presents the certificate of honour to the MFF vice-president U Pye Phyo Tay Za for his donation to Ayeyarwady Centre. **PHOTO: AYEYARWADY FOUNDATION**

MYANMAR Football Federation vice-president U Pye Phyo Tay Za and family donated K10 million to the Ayeyarwady Centre for combatting COVID-19 pandemic across the country, stated the announcement by Myanmar National League and Ayeyarwady Foundation on their official social media pages this week.

Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw who is also a chairperson of the Ayeyarwady Foundation presented the certificate of honour to the MFF vice president and family.

Officials of the centre have also expressed their deep gratitude to the MFF vice-president

U Pye Phyo Tay Za and his family for their donations, according to the Ayeyarwady Foundation.

The Ayeyarwady centre, located on the Thuwunna Youth training ground, has been giving health service for the public since 19 September 2020.

There are currently 250 ICU/HDU beds in the centre and also planning to have more and more essential equipment in the centre.

The centre is running smoothly by the direct support of the Ayeyarwady Foundation Chairman U Zaw Zaw, with the fund USD7 million and additional funds from the donors across Myanmar. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Olympics: Organizers estimate 100 bil. yen for virus countermeasures

TOKYO — The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics organizing committee has estimated the cost of novel coronavirus countermeasures at around 100 billion yen (\$960 million), sources with knowledge of the matter said Sunday.

The organizing committee, the Tokyo metropolitan government and the Japanese government are to present an interim report on coronavirus countermeasures on Dec. 2, having held several meetings on the issue since September, the sources said.

The one-year postponement of the Olympics and Paralympics to next summer due to the pandemic will drive up the total price tag of the games by some 200 billion yen, according to the sources, and the three parties

will determine how much of that additional burden each will shoulder.

The coronavirus countermeasure costs will include the setting up of health care infrastructure, including a testing system, and procuring the necessary equipment for infection prevention.

Additional operating costs from the one-year postponement are expected to include expenses related to securing games venues, equipment rental and storage fees, and expenditures on labour.

The games were expected to cost around 1.35 trillion yen before they were postponed in March, just four months before the Olympic opening ceremony was slated to be held in the Japanese capital.— Kyodo News ■



Security checks for next year's Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics are demonstrated to the media on 21 October 2020, with security guards wearing face shields and a thermography device measuring a participant's temperature in the Japanese capital. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Maradona's surgeon responds tearfully to investigation into star's death

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) —Diego Maradona's surgeon responded to the launch of an investigation for involuntary manslaughter by saying he did "everything he could, up to the impossible" for an "unmanageable" patient.

Earlier in the day prosecutors in San Isidro, near Buenos Aires, said they were investigating Leopoldo Luque while Argentine television showed police raiding the doctor's surgery and home.

A statement from the prosecutors' office later said they had begun analysing material gathered and clarified that "no decisions have been made at the moment regarding the procedural situation of any person."

The probe was triggered by concerns raised by Maradona's daughters Dalma, Gianinna and Jana over the treatment he received for his heart condition at his home in Tigre, north of Buenos Aires, judicial sources said.

Maradona died of a heart attack on Wednesday aged 60, and was buried on Thursday at the Jardin de Paz cemetery on the outskirts of the Argentine capital.

"Our investigations are ongoing, we are talking to witnesses including members of the family" of Maradona, a source close to the San Isidro inquiry said.

"The clinic had recommended that he go elsewhere



This handout file photo taken on November 11, 2020 and released by the press officer of Diego Armando Maradona shows Argentine football legend Diego Maradona (R) shaking hands with his doctor Leopoldo Luque in Olivos, Buenos Aires province, Argentina. **PHOTO: AFP**

to be hospitalized, but the family decided otherwise. His daughters signed for him to be discharged from the hospital," said a family member, on the condition of anonymity.

Later in the day, Luque, who is no relation to Maradona's former Argentina team-mate of the same name, gave an emotional televised news conference.

"You want to know what I am responsible for?" the 39-year-old doctor asked between sobs. "For having loved him, for having taken care of him, for having extended his life, for having improved it to the end."

Luque said he did

"everything he could, up to the impossible" and considered himself a "friend" of Maradona and saw him "as a father, not as a patient".

Luque had posted a photograph of himself with Maradona when the former player left hospital on November 12, eight days after the doctor operated to remove a brain blood clot. Maradona returned home to Tigre where he received round-the-clock medical care and could remain close to his daughters.

"He should have gone to a rehabilitation centre. He didn't want to," said Luque who called Maradona "unmanageable". —AFP ■