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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 6 December 2020

Myanmar citizens from Malaysia brought back home by relief flight

A total of 172 Myanmar nationals stranded in Malaysia because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by an MAI relief flight yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur organized the relief flight of Myanmar Airways International to repatriate the Myanmar citizens from Malaysia. The flight landed at Yangon International Airport in the evening.

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

Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, under the guidance of the Ministry of Foreign



Myanmar returnees from Malaysia are queuing for the immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 5 December. PHOTO: MNA

Affairs, has been working with relevant organizations in Malaysia to repatriate Myanmar

citizens who have no official documents and who were detained in Malaysia by verifying

their citizenship.

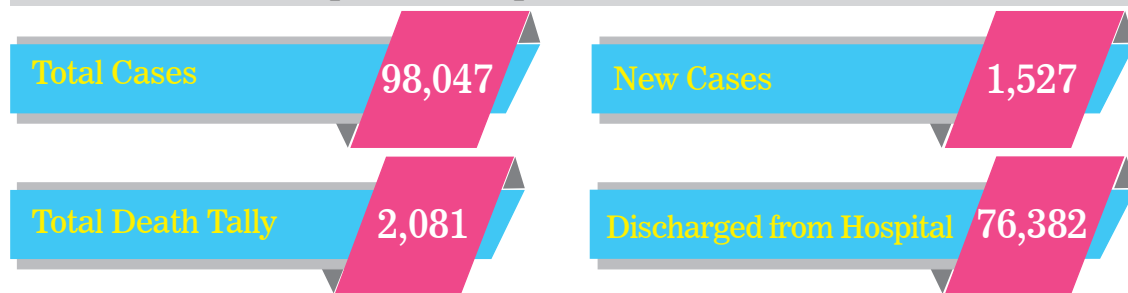
Until now there have been 35 relief flights that can man-

age to repatriate Myanmar nationals from Malaysia.— MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

1,527 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 December, total figure rises to 98,047

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 98,047 after 1,527 new cases were reported on 5 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 98,047 confirmed cases, 2,081 died, 76,382 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 5 December 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 5-12-2020

22

Ministry of Health and Sports

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TBR Truck & Bus Radial Tyre 702 711 720 722 723

Objectives for 100th Anniversary of National Day 2020

- Rights to basic education for all school-age children
- Rights to life-long learning of practical and useful subjects for socio-economics
- More education investment in ethnic areas for multi-sectoral development of the Union
- Technological and infrastructural inputs for education development
- Establishment of a Democratic Federal Union with the collective strength of all the nationals

Motto of 100th Anniversary of National Day 2020

- Make the Union Peace with collective efforts of all the nationals commencing 100th anniversary of National Day

10th Waning of Tazaungmon 1382 ME
(9-12-2020)

MoNREC, MoEE ministers join Asia Clean Power Ministerial Roundtable

THE UK government simultaneously hosted the 26th Session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Energy Transition Council meeting online in three groups including Africa regions, Asian countries and the countries with economic transitions on 4 December. Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing joined the Asia Clean Power Ministerial Roundtable.

During the discussion, Union Minister U Ohn Win discussed the extension of National Grid for the development of renewable energy and to meet the country's energy needs, infrastructure for the people living in rural areas, international aids to produce the clean energy with low carbon emission to mitigate the climate change, plans to increase the ratio of clean energy sources (renewable energy and clean gas) in producing power

according to the 2014 National Electrification Project and power distribution via National Grid across the country and also via hydro, natural gas and diesel plants to off-grid areas.

The Union Minister also talked about the drafting of renewable and clean energy policies including renewable energy law and Energy Conservation Guidelines in Myanmar, plans to raise to 54 per cent for the use of renewable energy such as hydro, solar and wind energy in 2030 with the technical aids and funding from international countries according to the Paris Agreement, permission given to private sector for 29 solar plant projects in 2020, the increase of 14 per cent in the renewable energy sector after the completion of these projects and the efforts of the government to conduct capacity building sessions and fundraising. The Union Minister then asked the Energy Transition Council to keep supporting the private sectors, fund and



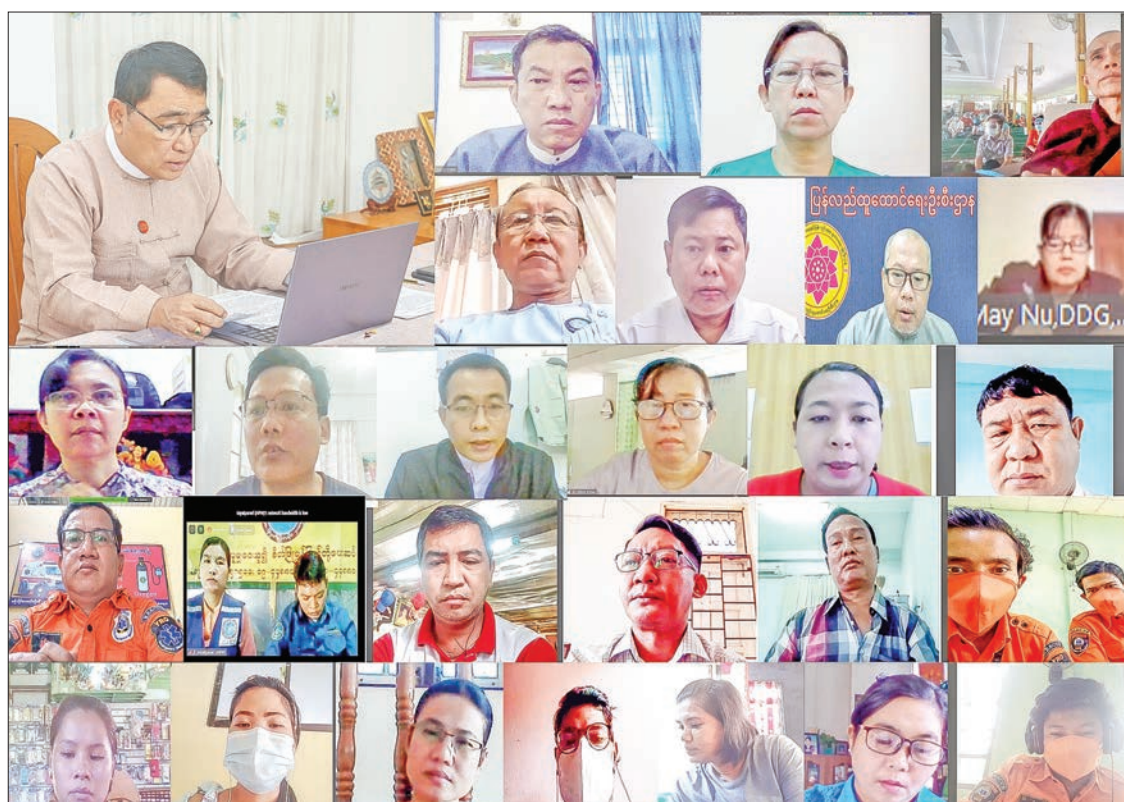
Union Minister U Ohn Win participates in the Asia Clean Power Ministerial Roundtable on 4 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

investment sectors of Myanmar according to the climate change policy, green economy strategic framework and sustainable development plans. Currently, the country conducts the survey for the power system, upgrade of power grids including geother-

mal energy to use more renewable energy for the National Grid and so it needs some supports mainly in power generating programmes.

The Natural Environment and Energy Ministers, development partners, development

bank officials and technical experts from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines and Viet Nam including Myanmar joined the Energy Transition Council Meeting.— MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye speaks at the multiplier course for volunteers on 5 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoSWRR conducts multiplier course for volunteers

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a multiplier course to encourage the volunteers who are fighting against COVID-19 yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye emphasized the role, diligence and altruism of volunteers in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities and the aims of training to offer systematic services with communication skills, safety and mental supports in accordance with the age group, sector and position and to bring mindfulness to avoid the risk of infection with COVID-19 as the

disease has fast infection rate.

The Union Minister also appreciated the spirit of volunteering in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities and requested the volunteers to discuss the challenges and the needs while serving as volunteers to make better preventive measures. Permanent Secretary Dr Ko Ko Naing, Director-General for Social Welfare the Department and other officials from the relevant departments and organizations and the volunteers from Nay Pyi Taw Council and Yangon Region attended the event.— MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Build a Union with a diversity of strength

The word Union is such a beautiful word. It is imbued with grace. It is very important for all of us to value, love and cherish this word. A Union means something which has been established collectively. A country which has been established collectively, a great country which has been established collectively is not the same as those countries which have not been established collectively. We will be able to establish a Union only after transforming our diversity and differences into strength.

(Extract from a Message of Greetings delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 15 January 2020 at the ceremony to celebrate Kayah State Day)



Myanmar Folk Dance - U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe. PHOTO: ZAW MG MG OO (SANDAKU)

COVAX National Coordination Committee holds Meeting 2/2020



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe joins the virtual meeting of COVAX National Coordination Committee on 4 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE COVAX National Coordination Committee (CNCC) organized its 2/2020 meeting via videoconferencing on 4 December.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Health and Sports said this meeting is the last one between CNCC and National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) regarding the immunization plan between the second quarter of 2021 and 2022, target priority groups, the cost borne by Gavi- and the government, vaccines for target groups and the storage system before filling in the form of Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance which must be sent on 7 December.

The ministry discussed with the Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance in details on the vaccine to get as soon as possible and set plans for vaccination in accordance with target priority groups when

the vaccine is available, he said.

The Union Minister also discussed the experience of ministry in immunization campaign especially in the expanded programme on immunization for 13 vaccines, preparations for ultra-cold storage, the reply of Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance to the country regarding with the type of vaccine, only 20 pc of the population are expected to get the vaccine as all the ordered vaccine cannot be received just in one time, communications with the Myanmar ambassadors in the US, UK, China and India which produce the vaccine to purchase the needed amount of vaccine, instructions of National-Level Central Committee on COVID-19 to buy the vaccine with the government budget and World Bank loan and the side effects of COVID-19 which show

up instantly or some days after vaccination.

He also emphasized the awareness on the vaccine as it is produced in a form that has never been used before in the world, panic buying for COVID-19 vaccine all over the world, COVAX programme for Myanmar among 92 countries, vaccine distribution system in tranches and the duties of the public to keep following the health guidelines without fail as it is hard to receive herd immunity in the short term.

He also highlighted the educating programmes of COVID-19 for the public via media including the Adverse event following immunization (AEFI) and target priority groups based on the country's health system, discussion with the relevant committee and working committees, keeping eyes on COVID-19 vaccine

research news of international countries from the reliable sources, work plans with Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance via COVAX Facility, readiness assessment, vaccine procurement under a bilateral agreement, direct procurement system for private vaccine producers and budget estimate for COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said the Ministry is keeping in touch with Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance, COVAX Facility, India, China, Russia, UK and US that are developing and testing the vaccine and will ensure to purchase the vaccine as soon as possible. He added the detail discussion with World Bank for the loan provisions to Myanmar and the submission of the discussion and suggestion of the Ministry to the COVID-19 Committee to continue the plan. He expressed words of thanks to the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group- NITAG for the suggestions to the Ministry.

Dr. Aung Naing Oo and Dr Aye Mya Chan Thar presented plans for systematic vaccination if COVID-19 vaccine is available and coordination with the relevant ministries. The presentation included to select the target population for the vaccine in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO); Financial forecasts for COVID-19 vaccination; Estimated cost per percentage of population to be vaccinated against COVID-19; Finance funding and loan availability; The success

rate and availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is being researched worldwide; Discussion with companies developing the vaccines and with World Bank; Preparation of the vaccine storage system that requires extreme freezing cold-storage system; setting guidelines and information to ensure the safety of the public in case of using the vaccine in private sector and public donations; Selection of national preference for the 12 vaccine characteristics available through the COVAX Facility; to include health workers from the field of the COVID-19 treatment and aged elderly people who are at risk of life-threatening disease in the priority group for the vaccines and selection of regions/states with the highest number of deaths.

The members of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group-NITAG also presented the success of the COVID-19 vaccine research around the world; Ineffective fake side effects of counterfeit COVID-19 vaccine; Private sector procurement issues and recommendation for systematic immunization during the vaccination period.

Afterwards, the Union Minister approved the application to be submitted to Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance by 7 December for access to the COVID-19 vaccine and coordinated the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung, Khine Thazin Han)

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

MoHT plans to launch 4 tourist destinations for tourism recovery

By Nyein Nyein

FOUR tourist destinations will be launched this month to resume suspended tourism, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Myanmar's tourism industry has nearly halted because of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. To resume tourism, the Ministry has planned to launch four tourist attraction places this month.

As an initial attempt, the authorities implemented a cruise trip in the first week of December. They will also implement river passenger ship trip in the second week of December, inland convoy and pelagic trips in the last week of December, according to the statement of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Regarding the implementation of tourism destinations, the Ministry will launch the

goals depending upon the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism also urged the Myanmar Tourism Federation and his brotherhood associations to assist in preparation for successful arrangement of the trips.

For the development of the Myanmar tourism industry, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

has carried out the adventure sports tourism, food tourism, cultural tourism, ecotourism, agriculture-based tourism, river cruises and train tourism, inland convoy and marine tourism, and meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) tourism. Myanmar's tourism industry has suspended since Myanmar confirmed the first COVID-19 positive patient in March 2020.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Sesame export dives by half this FY

THE export of sesame dropped by half in the early months of this financial year because of the lower demand for sesame from abroad, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA).

Myanmar sesame production has declined this year because of climate change. The sesame export has also decreased by half this year. Currently, Myanmar exports the sesame to China mainly via the border route.

"On account of weather condition, the monsoon sesame production has dropped by half. The export volume has also declined. Now, Myanmar exports the sesame mainly to



(FILES) Picture shows a sesame plantation in upper Myanmar, and it is cultivated throughout the year. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

China via the border route. The demand for sesame from Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea

has also fallen. The sesame export dropped by half this FY compared to that of the last FY,"

said an official from MPBSSMA.

Myanmar exports sesame to China, Indian, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, Malaysia and the Netherlands. The price of the exported sesame has registered US\$1,450 per tonne.

Myanmar shipped over 150,000 tonnes of sesame in the previous financial year 2019-2020, generating an export value of \$240 million, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Farmers cultivate sesame in the country throughout the year. Myanmar mainly grows white sesame, brown sesame and black sesame and exports them. —Aye Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

Electrofishing vessels seized in dolphin conservation area

UNDER the Ayeyawady dolphin conservation plan, authorities have seized a total of 21 electrofishing vessels and other related items in a dolphin conservation area within three months, said U Kyaw Hla Thein, officer-in-charge of Ayeyawady dolphin conservation under the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-Myanmar).

The Ayeyawady dolphin conservation plan is being carried out starting from 1 September between Mandalay and Kyauk Myaung.

To prevent the Ayeyawady dolphins from extinction and to eliminate the illegal fishing and electrofishing, a combined team comprising personnel from the Fisheries Department and other



Confiscated electrofishing boats are seen at a shore of the Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR

related organizations are patrolling day and night around the dolphin conservation area.

From 1 September to 30

November, the team seized 21 illegal fishing vessels, the electrofishing equipment and other accessories together with four

fishers. The illegal equipment was handed over to the related Fisheries Department officials, and the four fishermen had legal action taken under the Freshwater Fisheries Law.

Seven dolphins were found dead before starting the Ayeyawady dolphin conservation plan. One dolphin was found dead again in November. Around three or four dolphins are found dead annually, beginning from last year. The cause of death of the dolphins is both natural and electrofishing.

The patrolling is being conducted in Htigyain, Katha and Shwegu in Ayeyawady dolphin conservation area. —Aung Thura

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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It is believed people would have the required capacity for it

These projects could attract foreign investments and create employment opportunities for our people. Creation of job opportunities could provide considerable support for the economic development of each citizen in the post-COVID-19 period. The cool climate in the country has coincided with the increasing number of positive cases. People need to remain vigilant to overcome the disease, and it is believed people would have the required capacity for it.

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



MoHT holds discussion about COVID-19 impact on hotel industry

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and Deputy Minister U Tin Latt virtually joined the discussion under the topic “The impact of COVID-19 on Myanmar Hotel Industry & Better Future Plan” hosted by the Myanmar Hospitality Professionals Associations yesterday afternoon from Nay Pyi Taw.

At the discussion, Deputy Minister U Tin Latt, Director from the Ministry of Health and Sports Dr Khin Khin Gyi, Vice-Chair of the Myanmar Hotelier Association U Than Htut and Advisor to the Myanmar Tourism Federation U Thet Lwin Toe acted as panellists.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung said the topic of the discussion is very timely as it is aimed at overcoming the current situation and how to overcome it. He said the present Government started to develop not only regular hotel-centred tourism but also community-based tourism in 2016 as well as the development of the primary destinations such as Yangon, Bagan, Inlay, Ngapali and secondary goals in 2017.



Union Minister U Ohn Maung participates in the seminar titled “The Impact of COVID-19 on Myanmar Hotel Industry & Better Future Plan” via videoconference on 5 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

He continued the number of tourist arrival increased from over 2 million in 2016 to over 4 million in 2019 because of visa liberalization in 10 Western European countries and 5 Asian countries in 2019. He said the COVID-19 pandemic occurred by the time more

than 400,000 tourists arrived in the early months of 2020, which was expected to reach 5 million tourists in 2020 and 6 million in 2021.

The Union Minister added the implementation of COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan and the development of the

Myanmar Tourism Strategic Rescue Roadmap (2021-2025) MTSRR in accordance with the Myanmar Economic Recovery & Reform Plan MERRP for the post-2020 years which aim to revive the tourism and to return to its original state in 2023-2024.

He also said the tourism businesses that follow the protocol of the Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocols would be allowed to use Safe Tourism Myanmar Stamp. He called on the tour operators to work with the Ministry to restore the trust of foreign tourist and domestic travellers as the Ministry is cooperating with relevant ministries to develop Myanmar's rural tourism areas in line with the World Tourism Organization's 2020 theme of rural development with tourism.

The panellists coordinated the meeting after the discussion of Deputy Minister U Tin Latt on development of tourism recovery plan, conditions on impact survey for Hotels and Tourism and the development of COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan and Myanmar Tourism Strategic Rescue Roadmap (2021-2025) (MTSRR) as a follow-up to COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP). — MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MoUGO, MoSWRR discuss resettlement, closure of IDPs camps

THE Ministry of Union Government Office and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a virtual workshop on resettlement of internally displaced persons and closure of IDPs camps, on 3 and 4 December.

Prof. Walter Kalin, Representative of the Secretary-Gen-

eral on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, who assisted drawing up of National-Level Strategy, led the virtual discussion.

The meeting discussed matters relating to resettlement and closure of IDPs camps in line with UN guidelines, long-term programmes of physical security,

social security and law protecting in restoring IDPs, and drawing up of national-level strategy for closure of IDPs camps.

They also detailed about experiences of the closure of IDPs camps in Sudan and Somalia, monitoring and reviewing the implementing tasks, and implementation of Myanmar's strategy

and policies.

Attendees at the meeting, being divided into three groups, discussed the difficulties, challenges, good habits, experiences, and future tasks relating to the implementation of the national-level strategy on resettlement and closure of IDPs camps.

The Director-General of the

General Administration Department and District Administrators from the GAD, the Ministry of Union Government Office and officials from the Disaster Management Department and Rehabilitation Department took part in the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

“People are the key”

MoEE minister inspects electrical engineer office, national electrification project in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing along with the officials from the district Electrical Offices made an inspection tour in Shar Taw Village electrified by National Electrification Plan (NEP) in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

After Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and officials explained the electricity consumption and distribution in the Union Territory and in Dekkhina District, the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister said efforts are being made to achieve 100% nationwide electricity supply by 2030 and over 75% electricity supply by 2025-2026 with decentralization system, Mini Grid, Renewable Energy, Solar, Small Hydropower projects and diesel engine generator to provide electricity by planning to build self-supporting projects in rural areas far from the electricity system and at present, 56% of the whole country can access to electricity.

The Government has pro-



Union Minister U Win Khaing and party visit Shar Taw Village electrified by National Electrification Plan (NEP) in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

vided electricity to a total of 82 towns and 10,294 villages with expanded power lines and substations within 4 years. In 2020-2021FY, the Government

is implementing to build power lines with the loan from World Bank, ADB, JICA and KfW and grants from partner countries. The first phase of the Nation-

al Electrification Plan (NEP) implemented with the loan from World Bank aims to provide electricity to 5,080 villages across the countries and as of

21 November 2020, construction work has been completed in 4,394 villages and 3,971 of them have been lit.

When all the first phase of NEP projects is completed, 626,757 households will have access to electricity, and the electrification rate for households will increase by 5.76%. The implementation of the second phase of the NEP will be completed in 4700 villages in 2021 September which will make the electrification rate increase by 4.96%.

The Union Minister said the efforts of the Ministry are essential for the social and economic well-being of the people. As the basic needs of the people are roads, communications and electricity, it is important to pay special attention to the goals given to the Ministry.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party met with the residents of Shar Taw Village and donated masks and hand sanitizers.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Comparisons of inbound foreigners through international airports and border crossings

Sr	International airports and border crossings	November 2019		November 2020		remark
		Tourism	Business	Tourism	Business	
1	Yangon Airport/Seaport	70197	17697	0	563	
2	Mandalay Airport	37736	4595	0	0	
3	Nay Pyi Taw Airport	1380	344	0	0	
4	Myeik Airport	0	0	0	0	
5	Tachilek	3660	71	0	0	
6	Myawady	1809	4675	0	0	
7	Kawthoung	580	44	0	0	
8	Hteekee	50	19	0	0	
9	Tamu	476	43	0	0	
10	Reedhorda	10	0	0	0	
Total		115898	27488	0	563	

Remark: Although international inbound flights have been suspended since 30 March 2020, the foreign visitors in the list are from special flights related with COVID-19.

Comparisons of inbound foreigners through international airports/seaports and border crossings

Sr	Month	2019-2020 financial year			2020-2021 financial year		
		Tourism	Business	Total	Tourism	Business	Total
1	October	91836	27590	119426	3	440	443
2	November	115898	27488	143386	0	563	563
3	December	127950	24967	152917			0
4	January	123622	26032	149654			0
5	February	46879	21948	68827			0
6	March	14479	21979	36458			0
7	April	0	61	61			0
8	May	0	102	102			0
9	June	1	278	279			0
10	July	0	426	426			0
11	August	0	1175	1175			0
12	September	0	345	345			0
Total		520665	152391	673056	3	1003	1006

Remark: Although international inbound flights have been suspended since 30 March 2020, the foreign visitors in the list are from special flights related with COVID-19.

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

NO MAGIC BULLET

WHO warns virus crisis not over as vaccine rollout approaches

THE World Health Organization has warned that vaccines will be no magic bullet for the coronavirus crisis as nations gear up for a massive rollout to tackle surging infections.

The word of caution comes as the United States clocked a record number of Covid-19 cases for a second day in a row, with the country preparing for what US President-elect Joe Biden has called a “dark winter”.

America’s Centres for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday recommended “universal face mask use” indoors and Biden said he would scale down his January inauguration ceremony

to mitigate the virus risk.

It comes as countries prepare for the approval and rollout of several vaccines that have proven effective in trials.

The WHO however warned against vaccine complacency on Friday and what it said was an erroneous belief that the Covid-19 crisis is over with jabs on the horizon.

“Vaccines do not equal zero Covid,” said WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan, adding that not everyone will be able to receive it early next year.

“Vaccination will add a major, major, powerful tool to the tool kit that we have. But

by themselves, they will not do the job.”

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said progress on vaccines signalled “light at the end of the tunnel”. But he cautioned against the “growing perception that the pandemic is over” with the virus still spreading fast, putting enormous pressure on hospitals and health care workers.

Massive logistical effort

The WHO says 51 candidate vaccines are currently being tested on humans, with 13 reaching final-stage mass testing.

SOURCE: AFP

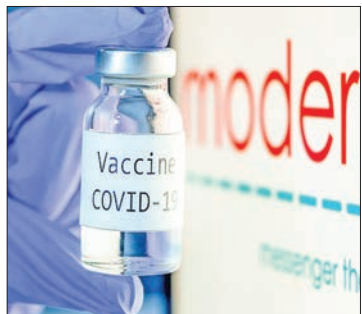


Britain is training healthcare workers to administer the Covid-19 vaccine after it became the first country to approve one for public use.

PHOTO: POOL/AFP

MASSIVE LOGISTICAL EFFORT

US firms gear up for distribution of Covid vaccines



US firms are gearing up for the massive logistical challenge of distributing Covid vaccines when they become available.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

WITH the imminent arrival of coronavirus vaccines that will need to be stored at ultra-low temperatures, US companies are gearing up for a massive logistical effort to aid their distribution.

Automaker Ford has ordered its own freezers while meat processing giant Smithfield said it is ready to put the cold room at its abattoirs at the disposal of vaccine roll-out operations.

Companies specializing in insulating containers have been on a war footing for weeks after Pfizer and BioNTech said the vaccine they had jointly developed needs to be stored at -94 degrees Fahrenheit (-70 Celsius).

US logistics giant UPS is already producing 1,100 lbs (500 kilos) of dry ice an hour in its depots and has developed portable freezers capable of storing the vaccines at temperatures of between -4 to -112 Fahrenheit.

But companies not directly linked to the manufacture, storage or transport of vaccines are also stepping up.

“We have assessed our ultra-low freezer capabilities and capacity and are ready and willing to assist health agencies if storage capacity becomes constrained,” said meat giant Smithfield’s chief administrative director, Keira Lombardo.

The meatpacker, which suffered a large number of cases of Covid-19 in some of its US slaughterhouses, said it now stands ready to help authorities distribute the vaccine, particularly to workers in the agricultural and food-supply sector, Lombardo said.

SOURCE: AFP

THE BEIJING 2022 WINTER OLYMPICS

Beijing Olympic skiing test events wiped out by Covid-19

All skiing test events this season for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics have been cancelled because of coronavirus restrictions, the international ski federation (FIS) said on Friday.

The events include the freestyle, snowboard and freeski world championships scheduled for February 18-28 at the Olympic site at Yanqing.

Two ski-jumping events, the Nordic combined world cup, a women’s Alpine world cup downhill and super-G and the cross country world cup were also cancelled. All were scheduled between late January and mid-March.

“The current second wave of Covid-19 has resulted in very strong travel restrictions that

made it virtually impossible to stage international competitions,” said FIS president Gian Franco Kasper on the organization’s web site.

FIS says it is looking for a new venue for all the cancelled events.

It said it still hoped to stage as many Olympic test events as possible.

“Testing of the venues is a requirement to ensure the venues in 2022 will be of the highest possible standard and in the safest environment,” said FIS.

It said it hoped to re-schedule test events “on different levels” at later dates, or stage national championships with “only Chinese athletes.”

SOURCE: AFP

CELEBRATING 104TH BIRTHDAY

104-year-old World War II veteran back home after battling Covid

A World War II veteran from Alabama celebrated his 104th birthday at home this week after a hospital stay battling Covid-19.

Major Wooten, of Madison, Alabama, was admitted to hospital on November 24 with coronavirus, his granddaughter Holly Wooten McDonald said on her Facebook page.

Wooten was discharged from Madison Hospital on

Tuesday, two days before he turned 104 years old, and his granddaughter posted video of his release.

Doctors, nurses and family members lined up with posters and balloons and serenaded Wooten with “Happy Birthday” as he left the hospital in a wheelchair.

Wooten, known as “Pop Pop” to his family, thanked the

hospital workers before heading home.

Wooten served as a private in the US Army during World War II. Three of his brothers also served and one was killed in action.

Wooten was among a group of veterans who visited Normandy last year for the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

SOURCE: AFP



US Bode Miller competes on January 26, 2014 in the FIS men’s Alpine ski World Cup Super G in Kitzbuehel. PHOTO: AFP/ALEXANDER KLEIN

Beware of counterfeit coronavirus vaccines

AS THE world was preparing for the launch of coronavirus vaccines that are expected to bring the pandemic to an end, some challenges that organized crime networks may try to sell fake COVID-19 vaccines or disrupt supply chains came out.

Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organization, has warned law enforcement agencies across the globe that organized criminal networks could try to advertise and sell fake COVID-19 vaccines physically and on the internet.

The INTERPOL Orange Notice dated 2 December outlines potential criminal activity in relation to the falsification, theft and illegal advertising of COVID-19 and flu vaccines, with the pandemic having already triggered unprecedented opportunistic and predatory criminal behaviour.

Myanmar is one of the 194 member countries of the world's largest police organization, and it is crucial to learn to ensure global vaccine distribution.

As the saying goes "The world is a dangerous place. Not because of the people who are evil; but because of the people who don't do anything about it", not only law enforcement organizations but also all of the public across the world need to cooperate on fights against fake coronavirus vaccines and the criminals.

The police organization called for close coordination between health regulators and law enforcement agencies as vaccines come closer to approval and distribution so as to ensure the safety of the supply chain and identify illicit websites selling fakes.

"As governments are preparing to roll out vaccines, criminal organizations are planning to infiltrate or disrupt supply chains." Jürgen Stock, INTERPOL Secretary-General said.

He added that it is essential that law enforcement is as prepared as possible for what will be an onslaught of all types of criminal activity linked to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Interpol also advised its members of the public to take special care when going online to search for medical equipment or medicines, saying that people could face danger not just from potentially life-threatening products, but also from cyber-threats.

An analysis by the INTERPOL's Cybercrime Unit showed that of 3,000 websites associated with online pharmacies suspected of selling illicit medicines and medical devices, around 1,700 contained cyber threats, especially phishing and spamming malware.

"It is important to be vigilant, sceptical and safe, as offers which appear too good to be true usually are", the agency advised people to always check with their respective national health authorities or the World Health Organization for the latest health advice in relation to COVID-19.

Beware of organized crime threats to coronavirus vaccines. Meanwhile, don't forget to always check with local health authorities or WHO for latest COVID-19 health advice.

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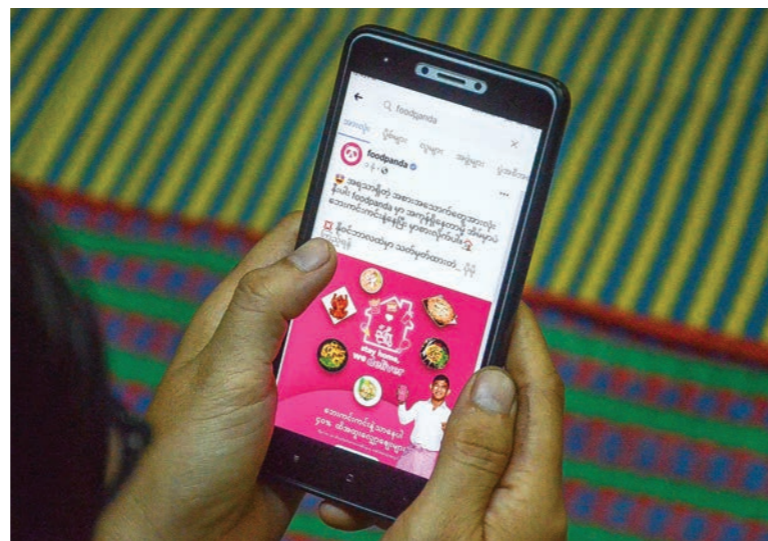
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Online Shopping and Delivery Service

By Lokethar

BEFORE the advent of modern day online shopping the Postal Service had long been delivering parcels to any person it had been addressed to. In the olden days students from the districts even purchased books through the Postal Service.

The present form of online shopping and the delivery of the purchased goods to the customer started in Myanmar with the delivery of bottled purified drinking water. Then it progressed to delivery of goods purchased online after the advertisements of the goods on TV or the Social Media. These were mostly dresses and beauty products ordered by customers, largely females. It is learned that sometimes the goods delivered were somewhat different in form and quality from those advertised. However except for those who were "once



Online shopping application on a screen. PHOTO: KYAW ZAYA

bitten, twice shy" the local online shopping culture has grown immensely drawing in many customers. With the coming of the Corona Virus-19, and the limiting of peoples' mobility, online shopping, especially for food items, increased "leaps and bounds". Nowadays we see food deliverers of many delivery services flitting all over the city on their bicycles and delivering food to customers wherever in the city they are. The delivery charge is mostly added on to the price of the delivered

item, be it food or other items, though some food shops have the ordered items delivered free of charge. The cost of the food item plus the delivery charge is given to the person delivering the goods at the customers door-step. (In some cases now at the gate of the housing complex if the delivery man/boy is not allowed to enter the premises for fear of bringing in the dreaded Covid-19 virus.)

Online shopping

Online shopping and the delivery of goods is somehow keeping many small and medium businesses running in spite of the Pandemic. From that perspective on line shopping or as some label it, "e-Commerce" is like a "silver lining to the dark clouds" of retail business slow down. However there are some online businesses which are not very "honest" so to speak. There have been cases

where the quality and physical characteristics of the purchased items, particularly food items, have not been as expected. When a complaint is made to the seller, all sorts of excuses are given. Such happenings are fortunately rare and online shopping especially for food and medicines are a boon indeed in the time of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Quick action

Fortunately the Covid-19 Detection, Prevention and Treatment Central Committee's quick action in checking the spread of the Pandemic has controlled both the Infection Rate as well as the Mortality Rate to some extent. It is expected that e-Commerce and online shopping will continue to thrive even after the Corona Virus-19 Pandemic has hopefully, died down. If so

e-Commerce has to be regulated so that the people are not swindled by dishonest online "shops and establishments". First of all, those wishing to conduct trading over the internet would need to be registered and/or licenced like all other "businesses". There must be rules made in order to protect the citizens (customers) from being "conned". Perhaps the present Consumer Protection Law can be extended to cover consumers and the business-owners in the domain of online business. Most online businesses shops and establishments would be more than willing to abide by the law considering the amount of business online shopping culture can bring them.

With charity to all and malice to none.



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 5 DECEMBER: VOLUNTEERS ARE ON THE FRONTLINE OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

First Person: COVID education is child's play for Thai UN volunteer

An innovative initiative to provide child-friendly information about COVID-19 has been launched by a UN volunteer (UNV) in Thailand who recognized that children needed to know more about the dangers of the virus but also have fun learning at home during the lockdown. On International Volunteer Day marked annually on 5 December, UNICEF's Rasa Pattikasemkul talks about motivation, family loss and keeping children safe.

I AM in charge of the Volunteer Leader programme for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) which is part of the I Am UNICEF initiative. We have some 22 volunteer leaders in communities across Thailand, who told me that while there is sufficient information and support for parents about COVID-19, there is nothing specifically for children. So, I had the idea of designing and distributing a children's activity book to teach children about best practices in avoiding COVID-19 while keeping them entertained at home.

The initiative consists of three engagement opportunities; a story for children showing what they need to do to stay safe during the pandemic, a painting or illustration activity with winning designs chosen to illustrate a UNICEF booklet and a challenge to get volunteers to distribute UNICEF COVID-19 information. **Loving the story and tears of joy**

At first, we planned to produce only 4,000 copies of the story booklet, but the requests have far exceeded the production quota. The kids love it, which fills my heart with joy. I went to the community to help the emergency response distributing toolkits and supplies to those families in the slum areas. I saw quite a big smile on their faces. Some of them shouted to their neighbour "I got something!" After that, all the kids in the area were standing at their doorstep waiting for us to walk over. There was one little girl who ran to me after I gave her the booklet who said "Can I have one more, please? I have a little brother; he is still very tiny but when he is bigger, I will give it to him"

A few weeks after that we received more feedback from the community. They said that the booklet was effective. Children are learning while coloring the booklet and the content helps parents and caregivers to initiate

conversations with them. I have read all the social media posts about the booklet, and my eyes are filled with tears of joy.

Role of volunteers "absolutely changed" during pandemic COVID-19, which is now our main focus, absolutely changed the role of our volunteers. Before the pandemic, we were able to go outside, organize a walk, talk to people, and advocate for children. Now, we have to be more cautious with no unnecessary physical contact between volunteers and children. That's for the safety of both sides.

Most of our activities now are online. For example, we recruited professional psychologists to volunteer with us to provide counselling sessions for youth who need mental health support.

We also recruited a videographer and editor, to produce an interview with a doctor and psychologist who provided tips and advice on how to cope with the lockdown.



UNICEF volunteer Rasa Pattikasemkul at work in Khon Kean, in northeastern Thailand. PHOTO: UNICEF/NIPATTRA WILKES

All the UNVs are now working from home. Personally, I don't think this change is a problem. We have to adapt to it, be flexible and have the right mentality of "nothing can stop you". We have worked with great team spirit and we were able to launch the three initiatives.

Vulnerable children facing a "wide range of risks"

Even prior to the pandemic, children were vulnerable in

our society. Lockdown measures due to COVID-19 have exposed children to a wide range of risks. Many families lost their sources of income so there can be heightened tensions in the household; stressed parents or caregivers, social isolation and increased risk factors for violence at home.

The children I have spoken to are very resilient; Some say it's good that they get to be with their parents more, some say that they

want to go to school and play with their friends.

Acting as "big sister", following family loss

My little brother died on a rainy day in September 2018. I loved watching him grow up, how he took his first steps; sadly I had to see the place where he took his last steps, as well. Ever since I lost my brother, I have wanted to recapture that feeling of being the big sister again; that is my passion.

As a volunteer, I now have thousands of brothers and sisters who could benefit from my strength, my personal skills and my professional abilities. I think this is my calling, this is my passion. No matter what I do at UNICEF if I could make one child's life a little bit better. It's worth everything to me.

Some people take pleasure in making someone's life a little bit better. I am one of those people."

SOURCE: UN News

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 5 December 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over Ramanathapuram district coast still persists. Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman sea and North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 6 DECEMBER 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Shan states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine, Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 DECEMBER 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 DECEMBER 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 DECEMBER 2020: Generally fair weather.

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NEWS
IN BRIEF

INTERESTING MOVE

Malls in Brazil's Rio to open 24 hours for Christmas

RIO DE Janeiro's shopping malls will stay open 24 hours a day through Christmas, authorities announced Friday, hoping to avoid overcrowding amidst a second wave of coronavirus.

The move goes against the recommendations of scientists who are advocating new restrictions in the Brazilian city, given a worrying increase in Covid-19 deaths and infections.

Brazil has the second-highest death toll in the pandemic, after the United States, with more than 175,000 people killed.

SOURCE: AFP

KINSHASA

DR Congo coronavirus treatment hindered by lack of oxygen

HOSPITALS in Kinshasa are struggling to treat rising coronavirus cases because of a lack of oxygen supplies, health officials in the Democratic Republic of Congo said Saturday.

"The number of cases is rising and the cases are more and more serious," said epidemiologist Jean-Jacques Muyembe, head of the team leading the country's response to the pandemic.

SOURCE: AFP

AFTER VACCINATIONS

UK medical chiefs eye major fall in Covid deaths by early 2021

THE arrival of a vaccine should see coronavirus deaths in Britain reduce "significantly" by early next year but social mixing over Christmas could cause another spike before that, UK medical chiefs said Friday.

Britain on Wednesday gave emergency approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine and will begin the world's first roll-out from next week.

SOURCE: AFP

MASS VACCINATION

Moscow starts inoculating vulnerable workers against coronavirus



Moscow's mayor said thousands registered for vaccination within hours of it opening online. PHOTO: AFP

MOSCOW on Saturday began vaccinating workers at high risk of becoming infected with the coronavirus at newly opened clinics across the city.

Health officials said they had opened 70 coronavirus vaccine centres in the Russian capital that would initially offer jabs for health, education and social workers.

"Citizens from the main risk groups who in connection with their professional activities come into contact with a large number of people can get vaccinated," officials said.

Russia was one of the first countries to announce the development of a vaccine, Sputnik V -- dubbed after the Soviet-era satellite -- in August but before beginning final clinical trials.

It is currently in its third and final stage of clinical trials involving some 40,000 volunteers. Sputnik V's developers last month said interim results had shown the vaccine was 95-per cent effective and would be cheaper and easier to store than some alternatives.

SOURCE: AFP

THE EMERGENCY USE

Bahrain becomes second country to approve Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine

BAHRAIN announced on Friday that it had approved the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine, becoming the second country after Britain to green-light the drug.

"The approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine will add a further important layer to the kingdom's national Covid-19 response," said Mariam al-Jalahma, CEO of the National Health Regulatory Authority, according to a statement carried by the official Bahrain News Agency (BNA). Manama did not specify when it would begin the rollout of the vaccine by US pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech.

Britain on Wednesday said it approved the Covid-19 vaccine for general use, with plans to start rolling it out next week. In November, the small Gulf kingdom of Bahrain approved the use of China's Sinopharm vaccine on frontline healthcare workers.

Bahrain has so far recorded more than 87,000 novel coronavirus cases, including 341 deaths.

SOURCE: AFP



A man wearing a surgical mask in the centre of the Bahraini capital Manama, February 26, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

SECOND WAVE

Canada Covid surge sees 100,000 new cases in two weeks

CANADA'S second wave of Covid-19 infections has led to 100,000 new cases reported in just the last two weeks, data compiled by public broadcaster CBC showed Friday.

There has now been a total of 400,031 cases in the country of 38 million people. The illness has been blamed for 12,470 deaths.

It took just 18 days to go from 300,000 to 400,000 cases in a second wave of Covid-19 that has prompted several regions to reintroduce measures to curb its spread.

They include Quebec province cancelling Christmas



A shopper walks past a Christmas display on Montreal's Saint-Catherine Street in Montreal, Friday, Nov. 27, 2020. PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS/PAUL CHIASSON/TWITTER/AFP

plans for many people with new rules restricting holiday gatherings and Alberta looking to set up field hospitals to help treat patients.

By comparison, Canada did not cross the threshold of 100,000 infections until June, three months after its first Covid-19 cases were reported.

In the past month, the average number of new daily cases has doubled to about 6,000.

Almost 75,000 people have been tested for the illness each day with 7.4 per cent having tested positive.

SOURCE: AFP

RED LINES

France threatens veto as 'difficult' Brexit talks drag on

EUROPEAN doubts over a post-Brexit trade deal with Britain boiled over on Friday with France threatening a veto as tricky negotiations entered what could be their final hours.

EU and UK negotiators Michel Barnier and David Frost were locked in last-minute debates over fishing rights, fair trade rules and an enforcement mechanism to govern any deal.

But, with time running out for the accord to be ratified before the end of the year and ahead of Britain's departure from the EU single market, EU capitals are getting cold feet.

"If there's a deal that isn't a good one, we'd oppose it," France's minister for European affairs Clement Beaune told Eu-



EU, UK negotiators locked in debates over fishing rights, fair trade rules. PHOTO: AFP

rope 1 radio, adding that "every country has the right to veto".

A European diplomat told AFP that Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Denmark share France's concerns that in the

rush to conclude a deal, Barnier will give too much ground on rules to maintain fair competition. Britain's nearest neighbours suspect Germany and the European Commission are too

keen to agree a deal to avoid the damaging economic fallout.

"We don't want to lock in an unbalanced relationship for decades to come," the diplomat said.

"We are not going to want to explain to our companies why they are being undercut in their market by enterprising British corporates in a less regulated environment."

Germany currently holds the EU's rotating presidency and is also the bloc's biggest economy and most influential country.

Asked about the state of the talks, Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman said Europe "is ready to reach an agreement with Great Britain, but not at any price".

SOURCE: AFP

ELECTIONS

Kuwait holds parliamentary election under shadow of virus

KUWAITIS hoping for reform went to the polls on Saturday in a parliamentary election overshadowed by Covid-19, with facilities laid on for citizens infected with the disease to vote in special polling stations.

The oil-rich emirate has enforced some of the strictest regulations in the Gulf to combat the spread of the virus, imposing a months-long lockdown earlier this year.

While some of those curbs have been eased, over-the-top campaign events that traditionally draw thousands for lavish banquets were absent from this year's election, while masks remain mandatory and temper-

ature checks are routine when venturing outdoors.

Infected people or those under mandatory quarantine are usually confined to home, with electronic wristbands monitoring their movements.

But in an effort to respect their right to vote, authorities designated five polling stations – one in each electoral district – for them to cast their ballots, among the 102 across the country.

And on Saturday authorities set up security barriers around the polling stations to prevent gatherings, with designated lanes for entry and exit.

Mask-clad voters, who were



Kuwaiti men wearing protective face masks wait to cast their votes in a parliamentary election overshadowed by Covid-19. PHOTO: AFP

also forced to wear gloves, were subject to temperature checks before entering the facilities

where election officials stood behind glass barriers.

SOURCE: AFP

AT RISK

Brexit casts shadow over Gibraltar's future



THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR. Motorists queue at the border crossing between Spain and Gibraltar in La Linea de la Concepcion on August 7, 2013. PHOTO: AFP/MARCOS MORENO

WITH its traditional British red phone boxes, pubs serving fish-and-chips and tax-free shopping, Gibraltar has long drawn day-trippers from neighbouring Spain.

But the easy flow of people across the border from Spain which underpins the economy of this tiny British territory on the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula risks ending when Britain leaves the European Union's single market on December 31. Along Gibraltar's pedestrianized Main Street whose buildings feature decorative Portuguese tiles, Genoese shutters and British wrought-iron balconies, shopkeepers worry business will be hurt by tighter controls at what will be a new border between Britain and the EU. "It is going to put people off visiting Gibraltar I think," said 41-year-old Prem Mahtani at his jewellery shop on Main Street, one of four tourism-dependent stores run by his family in the enclave. Along with gambling and offshore banking, tourism is a cornerstone of the economy for Gibraltar, one of the most prosperous regions in Europe which is home to 34,000 people and is historically claimed by Spain. SOURCE: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

BELOVED LEADER

French ex-president Giscard laid to rest in low-key ceremony

FRANCE'S former president Valery Giscard d'Estaing, credited with leading social and technological reform of the country and placing it at the heart of Europe, was laid to rest Saturday in a low-key funeral attended only by family and his close circle.

It had been the wish of Giscard, who ruled France from 1974-1981 and died on Wednesday of Covid-19 aged 94, to have such a small-scale ceremony, which was attended by around 40 people.

The ceremony, in the town of Authon in the Loire region of central France where he lived, contrasted with the lavish send-off for former president Jacques Chirac when he died in 2019.

SOURCE: AFP

A NATIONAL SECURITY RISK

TikTok keeps ticking in US as deadline for asset sale passes

TALKS between TikTok parent ByteDance and government negotiators were continuing despite the missed deadline set by the Committee on Foreign Investment to carry out an executive order by President Donald Trump, according to a source familiar with the matter.

"The committee is engaging with ByteDance to complete the divestment and other steps necessary to resolve the national security risks arising from the transaction, consistent with the president's August 14 order," said a spokesperson for the Treasury, which oversees the committee.

TikTok declined to comment.

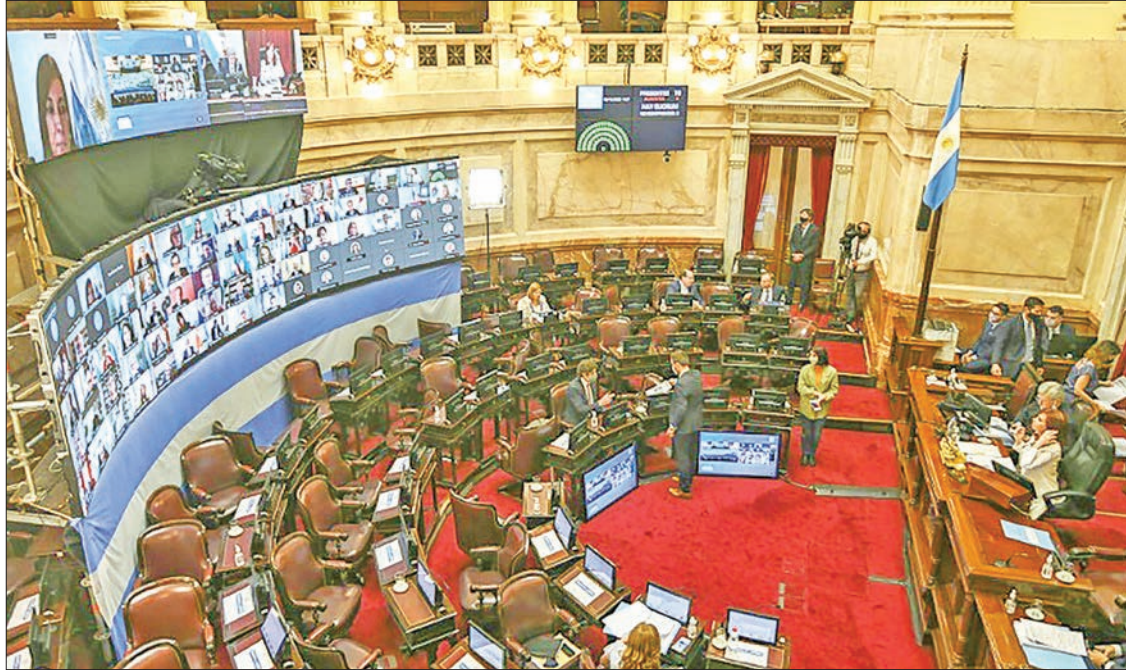
ByteDance, based in China, had been given until midnight Eastern time on Friday to come up with a plan to sell its US operations to American buyers.

But after the deadline passed, users could still tap into the smartphone app for a seemingly endless stream of video snippets, an AFP visit to the platform showed.

SOURCE: AFP

TAX ON MILLIONAIRES

‘Millionaire’s tax’ for virus relief passes Argentina Senate



The tax was passed after a long and polarizing debate in Argentina’s Senate. PHOTO: AFP

ARGENTINA’S Senate passed a tax on about 12,000 of the country’s richest people on Friday, to pay for coronavirus measures including medical supplies and relief for the poor and small businesses.

In a session streamed live on YouTube, and after a long and polarizing debate, the so-called solidarity contribution was signed into law with 42 votes in favour and 26 against, as the pro-government alliance flexed

its majority.

The government of President Alberto Fernandez hopes to raise 300 billion pesos (\$3.75 billion) with the one-off levy, which earlier passed the Chamber of Deputies with 133 for votes to 115 against.

Argentina’s 44 million population has been badly hit by the coronavirus, with more than 1.4 million cases and over 39,500 deaths, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University.

The pandemic has exacerbated already high unemployment and poverty rates in a country which has been in recession since 2018.

Under the scheme -- also dubbed the “millionaire’s tax” -- people with declared assets greater than 200 million pesos will pay a progressive rate of up to 3.5 per cent on wealth in Argentina and up to 5.25 per cent on wealth outside the country.

SOURCE: AFP

END OF YEAR PLANS

Cyprus hopes to roll out Covid vaccine by year-end

CYPRUS expects its first deliveries of Covid-19 vaccines before the end of the year as part of the rollout across Europe once the drugs are approved, officials said Friday. Zoi Dorothea Pana, a member of the government’s coronavirus task force, said two manufacturers—AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech—had pledged to start supplying countries with their vaccines in December.

If all goes according to plan, Cyprus will get 119,024 doses from AstraZeneca and 48,955 from Pfizer/BioNTech, according to government advisers. In total, Cyprus has ordered around 1.8 million doses from AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech and Janssen, with each vaccine requiring two shots for immunity. Cyprus expects to receive 1,192,043 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine from December through to the second quarter of 2022. Delivery of 391,637 doses of the Pfizer/



A file picture shows people getting free Covid-19 tests in the Cyprus capital Nicosia on November 18, 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BioNTech vaccine is expected this month, and this would continue until the third quarter of 2021. Another 200,000 doses are expected from Janssen from the second quarter of next year. Once the rollout starts, those given priority will be front line workers like hospital staff plus high-risk vulnerable groups with serious illness. Health Minister Constantinos Ioannou has said Covid-19 vaccines would not be

obligatory. Cyprus, a member of the European Union, takes part in all four agreements signed by the European Commission with the vaccine companies.

Safe travel scheme

Once the European Medicines Agency approve a vaccine it needs confirmation from the European Commission before distribution can begin.

SOURCE: AFP

COLD CHAIN

German firm’s super-coolers to send vaccines around the world

AT first sight, they look like regular containers. But the rectangular boxes made by German company Va-Q-Tec will in fact play a key role in keeping life-saving Covid-19 vaccines ultra cool as they are shipped across the world.

After Britain this week became the first country to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for general use, other medical authorities around the world could in the next days or weeks decide on similar applications by a host of pharmaceutical companies developing coronavirus vaccines.

There will be an enormous logistical challenge to transport billions of doses at the right temperature across

the globe, maintaining the so-called “cold chain” from a vaccine manufacturer into a patient’s arm.

Pfizer/BioNTech’s vaccine for instance, must be stored at a frigid minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit).

The Va-Q-Tec containers will serve this purpose of keeping the vaccines cool enough, the company’s founder and chief executive Joachim Kuhn told AFP, describing them as “big thermos flasks”.

In the company’s factory in the Bavarian city of Würzburg, workers were assembling panels with glue or making vacuum-packed linings.

SOURCE: AFP



Pfizer/BioNTech’s vaccine must be stored at a frigid minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit). PHOTO: AFP

WORLD-FIRST APPROVAL

UK drugs regulator defends fast pace of vaccine approval

BRITAIN’S medicines regulator insisted Friday its world-first approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine met all safety standards, after officials in Europe and the United States raised questions about the rapid process.

Britain announced on Wednesday it had given emergency approval for the vaccine’s general use and would start rolling it out next week.

“Any vaccine must undergo robust clinical trials in line with international standards, with oversight provided by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency,” the MHRA regulator said in a statement.

“No vaccine would be authorized for supply in the UK unless the expected standards of safety, quality and efficacy are met,” the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency said.

Leading US infectious disease scientist Anthony Fauci on Thursday said the MHRA had “rushed through that approval” but later apologised.

“I have a great deal of confidence in what the UK does both scientifically and from a regulator standpoint,” Fauci, who leads the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told the BBC.

SOURCE: AFP

AN ENERGY TRANSITION ROLE MODEL

Denmark to end North Sea oil and gas production by 2050

DENMARK, the EU's biggest oil producer post-Brexit, said Friday it will halt all North Sea oil and gas production and exploration by 2050 in line with its bid to become an energy transition role model.

Following an agreement reached between the Social Democratic government and a majority in parliament, "Denmark becomes the biggest oil and gas producer to set a date for a definitive end" to oil production, the energy ministry said in a statement.

While Denmark produces far less oil than neighbouring Norway, which produces around 1.4 million barrels per day, and the UK with around one million per day, since Britain's exit from the EU it has become the bloc's largest producer with around 100,000 barrels per day, according to oil giant BP's annual figures. The decision means an eighth tender offer for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea will now be cancelled. Danish oil production, which began in 1972, has been on the decline for several years, and has been halved in the past decade. Its gas production has also become minimal, at 3.2 billion cubic metres last year.

"We are now putting an end to the fossil fuels era and tying our North Sea activities to the 2050 climate neutral goal outlined in our climate law," Energy Minister Dan Jorgensen said.

SOURCE: AFP

TRADE DEAL NEGOTIATIONS

UK, EU leaders to hold call in bid for Brexit breakthrough



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen will hold talks Saturday to try to break the deadlock in post-Brexit trade deal negotiations, with time running short. The crunch

phone call, expected during the afternoon, follows UK and European Union envoys pausing last-ditch talks late Friday and acknowledging that the conditions for an agreement had not been met. In a joint

statement, top British negotiator David Frost and his European counterpart Michel Barnier said "significant divergences" remained over several key issues that have stalled talks since the summer.

Pressure is growing on both sides to strike a deal with just weeks left until the 11-month Brexit transition period ends on December 31. A deal is seen as essential to avoid deep disruption on both sides -- but especially in Britain -- to economies already damaged by the coronavirus pandemic. Returning to Brussels from London on Saturday to brief von der Leyen before the call, Barnier told reporters his team would "keep calm, as always". "If there is still a way, we will see," he added.

Johnson and EU Commission President von der Leyen last spoke on November 7, but a month later Britain and the bloc remain divided over so-called level playing field provisions, governance and fisheries.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2022E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2022E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TAW DAR DAE WE

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TAW DAR DAE WE VOY. NO. (V.01)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL
CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SUN NOBLE VOY. NO. (2001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SUN NOBLE VOY. NO. (2001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-3** 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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VENUS TRIUMPH VOY. NO. (EAL 27)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VENUS TRIUMPH VOY. NO. (EAL 27)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEA TRANS SHIPPING CO LTD

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New Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway to appear almost immediately

By Zin Lin Myint

TRANSLATED BY HTUT
HTUT (TWANTAY)

PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN
(NLM)

TRANSPORT, one of the primary systems of infrastructures, plays one of the most essential parts, thereby helping to improve any country, any town or any village. The world nations are making an effort in the search for new flight routes and new navigation routes in a synchronous manner. Myanmar is also engaged in upgrading transport facilities such as motor roads while it is trying to build expressways. Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung will be the new expressway among the said projects.

“Feasibility study on the proposed new Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway is now in the process with the grant assistance of KOICA of the Republic of Korea,” said U Myint Oo, Chief Engineer of Roads Department under the Ministry of Construction.

New Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway is 216 km long, and it is a tarred road with four lanes. This project is under observation since 2018. If completed, new Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway will be able to link with East-West Economic Corridor

Highway Development Project being implemented by Japan.

A jetty will appear in Nga Yoke Kaung in Pathein district, Ayeyawady region due to the construction of new Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway. At this exit for the sea, a new route will emerge to link with East-West Economic Corridor Highway Development Project through Thilawa Port of Yangon. The new Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway will be able to be parallel with Kyaukphyu deep seaport, thereby contributing much to Myanmar trade and economy.

The recent meeting via videoconferencing organized by the Roads Department under the Ministry of Construction was held in Nay Pyi Taw, followed by discussions about feasibility study on the new Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway. At the meeting, the latest report was discussed by the officials. Difficult situations are to be dealt with through collaborative efforts. The new Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway is a part of the expansion plan of East-West Economic Corridor Highway Development Pro-

ject, and it is also a vital road network of Myanmar.

Yangon-Mandalay expressway already exists in Myanmar, and it is 364.6 miles long. The construction of new Yangon-Mandalay expressway was

completed in 2010, and it was commissioned into service in 2011. The new Yangon-Mandalay expressway has now become a major expressway for three cities—Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. In the past, it took 16 hours to go



The photo shows Yangon-Bago-Toungoo-Mandalay asphalt road section.



via the Union Highway and now it takes seven hours to go from Yangon to Mandalay.

Yangon-Mandalay expressway was built section by section. The construction of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section began in October in 2005 and was completed in March in 2009. Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section was commissioned into service on 25 March in 2009 and it is 323.2 km long. A total of 40 bridges with no longer than 60 metres were constructed along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section.

The construction of Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway section began in 2007 and was completed on 29 December in 2010. Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway section is 240 km long. A total of 60 bridges with no longer than 60 metres were constructed along Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway section.



Mandalay-Sakarin and Mandalay-Tagundaing road sections began construction in 2010, and the construction was concluded in December in 2011. This road section was commissioned into service on 30 December in 2011, and it is 18.3 km long.

Feasibility study on Yangon-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway project and upgrading project of Yangon-Mandalay expressway project was conducted at the same time. The expressway project includes the major backbone roads of Myanmar, and so efforts are being made to practice the technical assistance of KOICA. Yangon-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway will link Yangon with the coastal regions of Ayeyawady river, contributing much toward the development of socio-economic life of the country, becoming a significant road section for East-West Economic Corridor Highway Development Project.

The distance from zero km to 60 km on Yangon-Mandalay expressway is being implemented as the AC road by spending the ADB loan. All are making every effort to implement Yangon-Pathein-Nag Yoke Kaung expressway. The total length of the asphalt concrete road built across the country from 2016 to 2020 reached 1,902 miles and 7 furlongs, that of the concrete road, 1,045 miles and 3 furlongs and that of the asphalt road, 209 miles and 4 furlongs, according to the Department of Roads under the Ministry of Construction.

Once Yangon-Pathein-Nga Yoke Kaung expressway is completed, it will contribute to the economic development of Myanmar, thereby providing lots of job employments, moreover, helping to become a new landscape not only for Myanmar but also for regional economic development.



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ

Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyo Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARKVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

ONE Big Bang: Marat Grigorian wins with come-from-behind action



Marat Grigorian (Left) lands the punch on Ivan Kondratev during their Featherweight Kickboxing Fight of ONE Championship: Big Bang at Singapore Indoor Stadium on 4 December 2020. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

ARMENIA fighter Marat Grigorian defeated Russian fighter Ivan Kondratev via Technical Knockout at 1:52 minutes of round two in the Featherweight Kickboxing Fight of ONE Championship event named Big Bang which was held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 4 December 2020.

First, Marat Grigorian was getting hit by the heavy beats of Ivan Kondratev in the early minute mark.

But before the end of the first round, Marat Grigorian changed his fighting tactic as he relied on low kicks to destroy every attack

by the Russian fighter.

The second round saw an equal fight in the very beginning.

In the 1:52 minutes mark of the round 2, Russian fighter Kondratev lost his balance, and Marat Grigorian hit his fetal position to have knocked out.

In the Featherweight Mixed Martial Arts fight, Garry Tonon defeated Koyomi Matsushima via unanimous decision.

In the Light Heavyweight Kickboxing, Murat Aygun beat Anderson Silva via unanimous decision.

In the Featherweight Kick-

boxing, Andy Souwer made the win over Zhang Chunyu via unanimous decision.

In the Strawweight MMA fight, Bokang Masunyane cut off Rene Catalan via knockout at 0:37 of round one.

In the Women's Atomweight MMA bout, Jihin Radzuan defeated Bi Nguyen via unanimous decision.

In other Women's Atomweight MMA bout of the Big Bang, Ritu Phogat beat Jomary Torres via Technical Knockout at 3:55 of round one.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Manchester United to install seats for 'safe standing' at Old Trafford

LONDON —Manchester United are to install 1,500 barrier seats early next year as they prepare to trial "safe standing" at Old Trafford. Fans can finally return to Premier League matches in some parts of England this weekend after coronavirus restrictions were eased.

But United have been pressing ahead with plans to create a section of seating that allows fans to stand against barriers.

Following recommendations on stadium safety made after the 1989 Hillsborough disaster, all-seater venues have been mandatory in the top tiers of English football since the 1994/95 season.

But there has been a re-



Manchester United are to trial safe standing at Old Trafford. **PHOTO: AFP**

newed push in recent years for safe standing to be brought in, with United following fellow Premier League clubs Tottenham and Wolves by installing barrier seating at their ground.

Managing director Richard

Arnold said in April that United's "belief is that the introduction of barrier seats will enhance spectator safety in areas of the stadium where — as with other clubs — we have seen examples of persistent standing".—AFP ■

Japan to host FIFA Club World Cup in 2021

LAUSANNE—Japan will host the Club World Cup in its existing format in late 2021, FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced on Friday, with his expanded version of the tournament still on hold for now after being postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It means there will be two Club World Cups in the same year, with Qatar hosting the 2020 edition between February 1 and 11 before another seven-team edition goes ahead in Japan in December.

Japan has hosted the Club World Cup eight times before, most recently in 2016.

A lucrative, revamped 24-team Club World Cup, including eight sides from Europe, was due to be played in China next year, but the expanded competition will not now start until a later date after the delayed Euro 2020 and the Copa America were pencilled in for next June and July.

"Due to the Covid-19 situation, which has led to the postponement of the revamped new Club World Cup...we've decided to organise a Club World Cup in the current format again in 2021 in December and we awarded the hosting rights to Japan," Infantino said following a FIFA Council meeting on Friday.

It means there will be one representative each from Europe, South America, North and Central America, Africa, Asia and Oceania, with the Japanese champions completing the line-up.—AFP ■



The United States contributed \$2.7 million (2.2 million euros) to WADA's 2020 budget of \$37.4 million. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rodchenkov anti-doping bill signed into US law by Trump

WASHINGTON—An anti-doping bill named for Grigory Rodchenkov, the whistleblower who unveiled a state-run Russian doping programme, was signed into US law on Friday by President Donald Trump.

"The Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" imposes criminal sanctions on certain people involved in international doping fraud conspiracies and requires restitution for victims.

The Senate passed the measure last month, setting the stage for the act to become law with Trump's approval.

It calls for fines and prison sentences for those involved in doping schemes at international sports events.

The law began with February 2018 discussions at a meeting of the US Helsinki Commission, a panel of US lawmakers that considers US-Europe issues. "Three years ago, the idea to criminalize doping fraud and the corruption it breeds was born at a briefing on Capitol Hill," said Jim Walden, Rodchenkov's lawyer, in a statement.

"The Rodchenkov Anti-doping Act is now law and part of the United States criminal code, giving the Department of Justice a powerful and unique set of tools to eradicate doping fraud and related criminal activities from international competitions."—AFP ■