

NATIONAL

1st regular session of 3rd Hluttaws scheduled for early Feb

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

Senior General delivers speech at DSTA Passing-out Parade

PAGE-5

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Tuesday, 8 December 2020

State Counsellor reports on measures against COVID-19 to public

IF I am to talk about the latest situation of COVID-19, Yangon region should be extremely careful. I have said this before. I wish to say this again. The reason is that out of the total positive cases, 74 per cent are from the Yangon region. Furthermore, out of all deaths, 92.7 per cent are from the Yangon region. That is why we are repeating again and again that Yangon region should be extremely vigilant.

We can accept the fact that infection rates are high in the Yangon region because of the population density and the frequency and volume of travel. However, the willingness of the people to abide by the rules and regulations is also an important factor. The more people follow the rules and regulations, the better; then, the situation will be good. For example, in the Mandalay region, the infection rate increased a little bit compared to last month. However, due to the participation of the people, during the past 14 days, the situation became better. We could say that the situation is under control. That is why in every region and state, we will need to make concerted efforts to contain the spread of the



disease with the leadership of the respective governments and the participation of the people. I am sure people who are monitoring the news already know about this.

At this time, some countries have already begun using vaccines. That is to say that in some countries, they have declared that they will begin using vaccines on a large scale beginning this week. Some have already started using vaccines on a trial

basis. Therefore, in our country, we have made plans to use the vaccines as soon as the situation is favourable as quickly as possible, once we get the vaccines. However, for the people to benefit fully from the effects of the vaccine, they need to be extremely careful at this moment. The reason why we have to say this is because I am feeling anxious that some might become careless thinking that the vaccines would

soon be available. People should not become careless like this.

Firstly, healthcare workers and professionals have repeatedly been reminding. They say that it is impossible to predict the effects of COVID-19 in the future. What I wish to say is this – can a person become infected if this person had already been tested positive before? Whatever the case may be, no one can say for sure in detail the impacts on

health after being tested positive. The majority of the doctors know about this already. Some of the people might already know about this. The injuries of youth can emerge as one gets older. For example, an injury that occurred during childhood which looked quite insignificant could cause a great deal of pain in old age; it could cause problems in your ability to move about.

That is why, if a person's physical well-being has been harmed due to some slight mishap, you can never say what kind of effects can occur at any time in the future. That is the first point. If you live in a carefree manner at this time saying that vaccines would soon be available, don't think that it does not matter if you get infected. It is important. It is very important for your future health. It is very important for those around you.

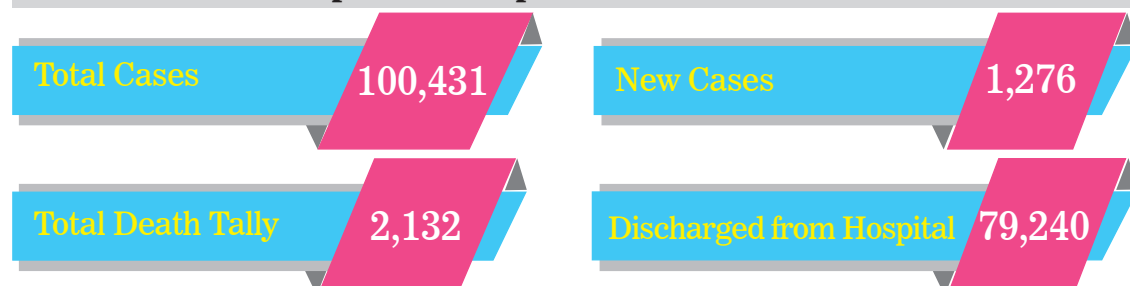
One more thing is what I said last week. Economic recovery is very important for our country because we will have to compete with other countries to achieve economic recovery. We have to do this. All the countries of the world are doing this.

SEE PAGE-3

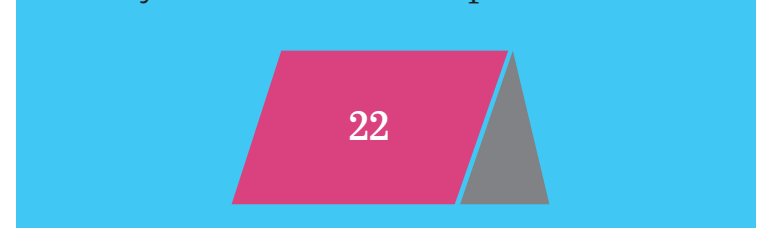
1,276 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 December, total figure rises to 100,431

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **100,431** after **1,276** new cases were reported on 7 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **100,431** confirmed cases, **2,132** died, **79,240** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 7 December 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 7-12-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

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)

UEC condemns accusation of Democratic Party of National Politics (DNP)

7 December 2020

1. The 9th paragraph of statement number 5/2020 (dated 6-11-2020) and the 4th paragraph of statement number 6/2020 (dated 9-11-2020) of the Democratic Party of National Politics (DNP) say that Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairperson U Hla Thein and UEC members, officials of Election Sub-commissions (all-levels) and relevant Quarter/Village Election Sub-commission Chairpersons and members failed to perform their duties imposed by laws under Section 399 (h) of the Constitution and Section 10 (m) of the Union Election Commission Law. The statements say it is a violation of Section 130 (a) of the Penal Code because it was a deliberate omission of necessary actions to be taken; it is also a violation of Section 120 (a) of the Penal Code because two or more persons are committing an illegal act; it is also a violation of Section 471 of the Penal Code that says whoever fraudulently or dishonestly uses as genuine any document which he/she knows or has reason to believe to be a forged document; casting forged ballot papers into the ballot box violates Section 59 (j) of the relevant Election Law.
2. Chapter 13 and 14 of the relevant Hluttaw election laws and their applicable by-laws determine who has the right to take which actions against electoral frauds. By doing in line with the provisions, anyone can get the protection of the law.
3. All UEC officials and other election officials who conducted the election processes respect and adhere to the Constitution, existing laws, Hluttaw Election Laws and by-laws. Section 402 of the 2008 Constitution says that the resolutions and functions made by the Union Election Commission on the electoral matters shall be final and conclusive. Section 86 of relevant Hluttaw Election Laws says no court has jurisdiction on the acts and decisions in line with Hluttaw election Laws made by the Commission and Sub-commissions at various levels.
4. Regarding alleged electoral frauds, the Democratic Party of National Politics (DNP) should take actions only in accordance with the relevant Hluttaw Election Laws and by-laws. But writing like that in their statements is a threat to election officials and a disturbance to the election officials' decisions. Moreover, it is found that the political party fails to obey the Constitution, existing laws, relevant Hluttaw Election Laws and by-laws, and Political Parties Registration Law and by-laws.

Union Election Commission

UEC rejects practising section 74, 76 of Evidence Act

7 December 2020

1. The Tatmadaw True News Information Team released a statement on 30-11-2020, requesting the Union Election Commission for giving necessary instructions to the respective election sub-commissions to be able to copy the public documents from sub-commissions in accordance with Section 74 and 76 of the Evidence Act in reviewing the election processes with the aims to recognize, without any doubt, that the free and fair elections took place in the country.
2. In giving reasons for submitting complaints of voters from military units in some constituencies of regions and states, permits are being asked to copy the following documents from township sub-commissions in referring to the sections 74 and 76 of Evidence Act.
 - (a) Regarding advance votes outside constituencies at home/abroad
 - (1) Form 15: the form for eligible voters outside respective constituencies
 - (2) Form 1-3: List of eligible voters who are staying abroad with the approval of the government and applied for an advance vote by submitting Form 15
 - (3) Form 18: List of votes for Hluttaw candidates in the advance vote, sent by eligible voters outside constituencies
 - (4) Form 17(a): Rejected votes
 - (5) Receipts for advance ballots
 - (b) Regarding votes on 8 November
 - (1) Form 1: Hluttaw election voter lists
 - (2) Form 16: Votes for Hluttaw candidates
 - (3) Form 16 (1): Unused ballots
 - (4) Voter lists used in polling stations
 - (5) Unused ballots and receipts
 - (6) Form 17: Rejected votes
 - (c) Advance votes in person in the constituency
 - (1) Form 13: Lists of advance votes in respective constituencies
 - (2) Form 16: Votes of Hluttaw candidates
 - (3) Rejected votes
 - (4) Receipts for advance votes
3. The Northern Command also asked to the Kachin State Election Sub-commission on 29-11-2020 for 11 kinds of election documents, including voter lists at 127 polling stations concerning with their military units, with the reason to keep the documents for the record.
4. The original voter lists were no more kept at the township election sub-commission after the elections. According to section 86(b) of respective Hluttaw election rules and regulations, the voter lists and election documents are kept by the sub-commissions of respective self-administered division and zones or districts. The original voter lists are packed with the seal in line with the rules. Moreover, the Hluttaw election laws and bylaws do not stipulate that requests for a copy of election document shall be allowed.
5. Section 1 Application of Act' in Evidence Act stipulates that 'This Act applies to all judicial proceedings in or before any Court, including Courts-martial, other than Courts-martial convened under Act relating to the Army, Navy or Air Force. Section 78 of the election laws mentioned that the election tribunal should apply provisions of Evidence Act only when inspections are made on electoral complaints. The tribunal of the Union Election Commission shall apply provisions of Evidence Act in inspecting electoral complaints. It does not define 'must apply'.
6. Therefore, the Union Election Commission has refused to issue unlawful directives to the respective election sub-commissions as requested by the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

Union Election Commission

Strive for development with united strength

All our ethnic national brothers and sisters need to strive with united strength based on national unity for the success of the peace process, for overcoming the various steps of the democratic transition process, for democracy to take firm root and for it to develop, progress and endure.

(Extract from the Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on 4 January 2020 on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of Independence Day.)



Landscape of Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone. PHOTO BY: TUN TUN THEIN

State Counsellor reports on measures against COVID-19 to public

FROM PAGE-1

In this regard, we need full work capacity for the competition. It is very important for our people to be able to compete with full capacity in this competition. Therefore at this time, stay healthy, be tolerant, maintain discipline, protect yourself from the disease and don't cause disease transmission. Just like I said last week, the more the infection spreads, the more state revenues we need to spend. Therefore we will have less financial resources for economic recovery. If we spend more on one side, we will have less on the other side. This is something all of you can understand easily. Therefore, we hope to end the COVID fight successfully; we do not wish to end in a state of disorder and chaos.

Therefore, people require increased vigilance. Try to live healthily, and you should be able

to control your desires. In the end that is the crux of the matter. Containing COVID-19 means all the people individually exercising self-control. Our Union government, the State will make plans to make the vaccines available to the people and have them vaccinated.

We will also strive hard for the resumption of businesses, economic recovery and more economic development than in the past. We will try to seek COVID-19 related opportunities which we could not get in the past. However, we need to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that come our way effectively without missing these opportunities.

Therefore, I want to urge all the people to join hands and participate. Mandalay Region is a good example. If the people join in and participate, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. That is why I want all of you to strive

hard. With regard to public awareness campaigns about health, I think the people know already that we have been saying again and again; please wear masks all the time. Please wash your hands thoroughly in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports. Also, please stay 6-ft apart from each other. Please don't go outside unnecessarily. Especially at this time, please don't go outside. At this time when New Year is approaching, and Christmas is approaching, don't say to yourself "I'm going to have a nice party" and have yourself a celebration. Just because you want to celebrate this time, I don't want your future to be affected in a bad way. A loss for the people is a loss for the country. Therefore, at this time, I want you all to be extremely vigilant. Try to control yourselves.

We are also working with

special focus to create job opportunities. We are making these plans right now. However, I am sure our people know that you need to be healthy to be able to work. Therefore as we create employment opportunities, I don't want you to be sent to the end of the line because of your health just as the job becomes available. Then you will suffer, your family will suffer, and the country will suffer. With regard to COVID-19, we have developed not only health programmes but also education programmes; the majority of the people know this already. Therefore I want you all to watch these programmes with focused attention and follow them; listen to them. You need to be ready. What can be done, what are the opportunities? You need to think of new innovative ways to achieve development; you need to ponder on these things. I want

all of you to listen to our health and business programmes with focused attention. Furthermore, I want you to study on your own.

The most important thing is to live healthily. Therefore, rules and disciplines must be followed seriously. Although the four-fundamentals for success start with intention, it is needed to have the intention, determined effort, strong will and wisdom. The intention will be supported by determined effort and strong will, while wisdom will show you how to apply physical and mental strengths in the most effective manner. Therefore, I send these good wishes with Metta for all of our people to be able to overcome COVID-19 expeditiously by practising the four-fundamentals for success. Thank you.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing and Aung Khin)

UEC turns down demands on copying electoral documents

7 December 2020

1. For the multiparty democracy general elections held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission (UEC) announced the eligible voter lists twice: from 25-7-2020 to 14-8-2020, and from 1-10-2020 to 14-10-2020. All eligible voter lists for Regions/States have also been published online for review.
2. The Union Election Commission (UEC) has issued letter-number 4/Ya Ka Pa (255)/KaMaYa dated 30-9-2020, in order to provide eligible voter lists to political parties and Hluttaw candidates in Soft Copy CD (PDF Format). The UEC addressed the letter to the Region/State Election Sub-commissions, and copies of the letter were also sent to all political parties.
3. Township Election sub-Commissions let all the Hluttaw candidates who wanted to get the lists to copy the lists free of charge under section 15 (b) (1) of relevant Hluttaw Election by-laws. Until the day after the election, in accordance with section 15 (b) (2), if a person wished to obtain a copy of the voter lists under good reason, we could issue the lists to the person in accordance with the law, but no application was requested.
4. Only after the election results were announced, some political parties made various allegations, and some parties held press conferences to make allegations by saying that election officials let those who were not on the voter lists, under-18 persons, and those who did not have Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to cast their votes. They alleged that holders of voter-slips were allowed to vote without any inspection and the number of people who actually voted was larger than the number of eligible voters. Then, some Hluttaw candidates and some voters requested their relevant Township Election Sub-commissions to give them copies of eligible voter lists. The Union Solidarity and Development Party (Yangon Region) also requested us to let them copy the final eligible voter list - Form (1) - of the 45 Townships in the Yangon Region.
5. Head and deputy head of each polling station, voter list checkers, and those who issued the ballot papers checked the people to see whether they really were on the relevant voter list. If the person was on the list, he/she had to sign on the voter list. If the voter was not able to sign, a fingerprint of the voter was taken, and then the voter could cast his/her vote.

SEE PAGE-4

The virus can spread to others

Everybody should consider it. We have frequently reminded that 65 per cent of positive cases do not show symptoms; and that, they might feel well. Most of these persons are middle-age persons with good health conditions without showing any symptoms. However, the virus can spread to others. The infected persons might have any underlying disease and poor health conditions.

Moreover, it is needed to have constant vigilance because these elderly persons are also vulnerable to the infection and could suffer life-threatening complications.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 situation amid containment measures, on 4 December 2020)



1st regular session of 3rd Hluttaws scheduled for early Feb

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Tun Aung said that the 1st regular session of 3rd Hluttaws is scheduled for the first week in February 2021.



Central Committee on Organizing Hluttaw Meetings and the work committees hold meeting 4/2020 in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Central Committee on Organizing Hluttaw Meetings and the work committees held the 4/2020 coordination meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to prepare for administrative affairs in the upcoming Hluttaw session.

The term of Second Hluttaws will end on 31 January 2021, and the next Hluttaw session will have to convene within 90 days after 8 November General Election in 2020.

The Speaker also discussed measures related to security, healthcare and accommodation for Hluttaw representatives as the first regular session of Hluttaw are important for legislation, administration and judiciary sectors of the country.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

Mahn Win Khaing Than, the patron of Central Committee, discussed coordination of relevant work committees in preparations for the Hluttaw session.

The meeting was also attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, and Union Ministers from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Construction, together with secretaries of work committees and officials from Hluttaws.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC turns down demands on copying electoral documents

FROM PAGE-3

6. When the polls closed, election officials had to enter various information -- the number of eligible voters, the number of people who actually voted, the number of votes obtained by each candidate, and the number of rejected ballots and missing ballots -- in the relevant forms. Then, the results were announced via Form (16) at the relevant polling station. The head of the polling station, election officials, polling station agents of Hluttaw candidates, and witnesses (general public) had to sign the Form (16).
7. After counting votes and filling the required forms, ballots papers voted for candidates, advance ballot papers, unused ballot papers, receipts, Form (16-1), the voter list used in the polling station, receipts related to advance voting, and Form (17), which is related to rejected ballots, were put into small packages in accordance with Section 66 (g) (h) (i) and (j) of the relevant Hluttaw Election by-laws, and then those small packages had to be put into a large package. Then the package had to be officially sealed. After that, alongside the relevant Quarter/Village-tract Election Sub-commission, polling station officials had to hand over the package to the Township Election Sub-commission immediately.
8. Township Election Sub-commission had to count the advance votes received until 4 pm on Election Day in accordance with Section 67, and then the information had to be filled in Form 18. The results (Form 16) obtained from heads of the relevant polling stations and the results in Form 18 were collected, and the relevant information had to be filled in Form 19. After that
9. After that, Township Election Sub-Commission had to send the Record of Township Election to the relevant Election Sub-commission of the Self-Administered Division/ Zone or the relevant District Election Sub-commission in accordance with Section 86 (a) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law. In accordance with Section 86 (b), the relevant Election Sub-commission of the Self-Administered Division/ Zone or the relevant District Election Sub-commission must carefully maintain the lists of the votes, records of the election, reports of election expenditures of Hluttaw candidates and other necessary documents until the next general election is complete.
10. In accordance with Section 86 (b) of the Hluttaw Election, the relevant Election Sub-commission of the Self-Administered Division/ Zone or the relevant District Election Sub-commission must keep well the lists of the votes and other electoral documents. The voter lists used in the general elections are now in the packages that are sealed, so we cannot let anybody to photocopy the lists. Relevant Hluttaw Election laws and by-laws do not stipulate that electoral forms and documents except Form 20 (election expenditure report of the candidate) must be allowed to be photocopied.

Union Election Commission

Senior General delivers speech at DSTA Passing-out Parade

THE Defence Services Technological Academy held the Passing-out Parade of its 22nd intake in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the parade which was also attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyawhtin Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyawhtin Maung Maung Kyaw, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), the commandant of DSTA, senior military officers from PyinOoLwin station.

After taking salute of the



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks during the Passing-out Parade of Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin on 7 December 2020. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

cadet companies, the Senior General presented awards to outstanding cadets.

He delivered the speech before departing from the parade ground. He also met with

three outstanding cadets at the parlour of DSTA, according to the report of Office of Command-

er-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Central Administrative Body of Farmland organizes coordination meeting

THE Central Administrative Body of the Farmland yesterday morning organized 34th coordination meeting at the Ministerial Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in accordance with health guidelines.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, in his capacity as Central Administrative Body of the Farmland, said that some processes were delayed because of the COVID-19 crisis, but the Central Administrative Body of the Farmland is working hard to avoid unnecessary delays in order to support relevant investments and development processes in the region.

Regarding the farmers' right

to switch to other appropriate crops, the Union Minister said that it is important to arrange for the farmers in order that they can grow appropriate crops in accordance with the changing climate.

He said that in calculating compensations for farmlands confiscated in the past, the amounts need to be also based on the original land prices incurred during the period of the confiscations and the current prices alone should not be considered in calculating compensations. He stressed that miscalculations could cost the country more money.

Director-General U Thet



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu attends the coordination meeting of Central Administrative Body of the Farmland in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Naing Oo, Secretary of the Central Administrative Body of the Farmland, explained compensations for confiscated lands, and matters related to seeking

permission to use the farmlands for other purposes such as development or religious affairs. Using farmlands for other purposes can lead to development

in the area and more factories can be built on those lands and that will increase the industrial productivities of the country, but on the other hand, it will reduce the number of farmlands, and it can lead to undermining food security of the country. So, the Central Administrative Body of the Farmland has thoroughly scrutinized the requests to use farmlands for other purposes.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is also making efforts to transform vacant lands into arable lands to make up for the farmlands used in other purposes. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses protection of children from involvement in armed conflict

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye chaired the first meeting in the virtual format of National Committee on Implementation of Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict yesterday.

The Union Minister, in his capacity as the committee chairman, explained the formation of a committee with the Notification 116/2020 of President's Office on 21-11-2020 for implementing 13 tasks.

Myanmar signed the Unit-

ed Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991, and will also implement the three optional protocols.

The MoSWRR is implementing the protocol to prevent the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography after signing it in 2012, and another protocol on 27-9-2019 to implement legal and management measures to prevent children under 18-year-old from military recruitment.

The Union Minister said that his committee would coordinate with the Ministry of State Counsellor Office, the National Recon-

ciliation and Peace Centre and the Joint Monitoring Committee on Ceasefire, while working closely with the Ministry of Information for the media campaign in these measures. The Secretary of the committee and the Director-General of the Department of Rehabilitation explained the works of the committee.

The meeting was also attended by senior officers from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Union Attorney-General Office, the Ministry



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presides over the virtual meeting on protection of children from involvement in armed conflict on 7 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Information, the Department of General Administration, the Department of Social Welfare

and the Department of Rehabilitation.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

MoHT launches COVID-19 Safe Service Master Trainer, Inspector Training for Inspection



Union Minister U Ohn Maung participates in the opening ceremony of the ‘COVID-19 Safe Service Master Trainer’ and ‘Inspector Training for Inspection’ via videoconference on 7 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism yesterday morning organized an opening ceremony of the ‘COVID-19 Safe Service Master Trainer’ and ‘Inspector Training for Inspection’ via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung,

Deputy Minister U Tin Latt, the Directors-General, other senior officials, representatives from Myanmar Tourism Federation, officials from other relevant organizations, trainers and trainees attended the ceremony via videoconferencing.

During the ceremony, video

messages from Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe were shown.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung said that his Ministry had drafted the COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan in line with the gov-

ernment’s COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) in order to restart and revive the tourism industry that was stopped because of COVID-19 crisis.

He stressed that travellers and staff members who will provide services to travellers need to be healthy and safe. So the ‘National Tourism Guidelines’ has been issued in line with instructions by the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The “Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol” was also developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports to make Myanmar a safe destination for tourists.

Regular and casual inspections will be made to check whether tourism businesses are

operated in line with the National Tourism Guidelines. Training will be provided to nurture COVID-19 Safe Service Master Trainers and COVID-19 related inspectors.

Those who pass the tests will be allowed to use ‘Safe Tourism Myanmar Stamp’ recognized by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, according to Union Minister U Ohn Maung.

When travel restrictions are relaxed, in order to restart tourism businesses on sight-seeing flight trips, river cruises and caravan tours, the officials will conduct necessary checks in line with Health and Safety Protocol, said Union Minister U Ohn Maung.

There are 30 trainees in one training session, and a total of 10 training sessions will be provided.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Coordination meeting on amendment to political dialogue framework is in progress at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 December 2020. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**

NRPC discusses amendment of political dialogue framework

A coordination meeting on amendment of political dialogue framework was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of NRPC and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Secretary of Peace Commission Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Members of Advisory

Body from Peace Commission U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo and Director-General of Ministry of State Counsellor Office U Zaw Htay.

The meeting focused on reviewing the framework for political dialogue, Agreement 2 of Union Accord Part 3, phase by phase processes for the establishment of Democratic Federal Union and other issues related with the amendment of the peace dialogue.

The meeting will continue on 8 December.—Myo Min Naing

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Govt, KNPP hold peace talks

Government officials and delegates of Karenni National Progressive Party held a meeting on peacemaking processes via videoconferencing yesterday afternoon.

The attendees at the meeting were Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Kayah State Transport and Electricity Minister U Khin Maung Phyu, Members of Advisory Body from Peace Commission U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo, Director-General of Ministry of State Counsellor

Office U Zaw Htay and Secretary of Kayah State Government U Earnt Maw, Vice-Chairman of KNPP Khu Oo Reh, Secretary (1) Khu Plu Reh, Central Committee Member Khu Hte Bu, and Deputy In-charge (2) of Social Security and Resettlement Committee of KNPP U Htoo Chit.

The meeting focused on the education affairs of Seh Tow Ro dormitory, peacemaking processes and future plans.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Government officials and delegates of Karenni National Progressive Party hold virtual meeting on peacemaking processes on 7 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tamu highway bus terminal construction completed

THE construction of highway bus terminal in Tamu town, Sagaing Region, which is a gateway to Myanmar-India cross-border trading, is completed, said U Myo Min Tun, Executive Officer of Tamu Township Development Committee.

“There was no highway bus terminal in Tamu. It is self-provided building in cooperation with the relevant organizations and the local people. The construction is completed. The operation is expected to start in the coming open season,” he continued.

The highway bus terminal is constructed on 5 acres of land near the roadside of Tamu-Nanphalon market. It includes two-storey buildings for gates, warehouses, 20 food stalls and 120 stores, he added.

Sagaing Region government is implementing bus terminals to facilitate public transport and trade flow. There is a plan to construct more bus terminals in Monywa, Indaw, Katha, Kalay and Tamu.

“There are ten operators running air-conditioned highway bus for Tamu-Monywa, Ta-



Completed Tamu highway bus terminal is seen and it is a gateway to Myanmar-India cross-border trading. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN**

mu-Mandalay and Tamu-Yangon routes. And, 12 operators are proving service for cross-border transport. The terminal is situated not far from town, market and border checkpoint. As there are vacant land areas,

more buildings or gates can be built later,” said U Ye Swe Win, chair of Private Motor Vehicles Management Committee.

This terminal project started in June 2018 under the approval of Sagaing Region

government and Township Development Committee and other relevant organizations, to facilitate the trading and transport of the local people. — Myo Win Tun

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Chinese trader to be prosecuted through diplomatic channel for K10.6 bln fraud

By Nyein Nyein

A fraud case of a Chinese citizen who allegedly scammed over K10.6 billion from rice traders will be filed to the Ministry of Commerce, and we will initiate to prosecution through diplomatic missions, said U Min Thein, Vice Chairman of Muse rice depot.

A Chinese citizen identified Luo Jianfang or Luo Laoban from Hubei Province of China cheated K2.6 billion from Myanmar traders and K8 billion from the traders based in Ruili, China in November-end. He scammed over K10.6 billion and fled.

“We will call a meeting and collect the lists of traders who got cheated. That report will be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce. The prosecution will be undertaken through the diplomatic missions,” he affirmed.

On 5 December, rice mills owned by Luo Jianfang or Luo Laoban from Hubei Province of China, which is located in Ruili and Wand-

ing areas, were seized by the creditors, he continued.

The fraud case has not affected the rice trade through the Muse border, and the business is still continued. About 40,000 rice bags are daily entering the Muse trade zone for now, and then, the rice bags are continued to be sent to China.

“There is no impact by the fraud case for now. The depot sees a regular supply and demand. The broken rice fetches 130 Yuan per 50-kilo bag while the price of rice is 137 Yuan per bag in Muse,” U Min Thein said.

This being so, the Myanmar Rice Federation notified the traders to enter into a firm contract and strictly adhere to trade regulations. 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 on 27 November.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MIC to permit raw sesame, peanut import upon approval of concerned ministries

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) will grant a permit on the raw and sesame seeds importation proposal if the ministries concerned will give the go-ahead, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“We have to ask for the opinions of the Ministry of Commerce if the proposal is related to import/export business. For pulses such as beans and sesame seeds, we call for opinions from the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation. We will continue the processing upon the response of the ministries concerned,” he affirmed.

The ministries balance on local production and harvest season. Also, they assess whether the imported goods are suitable for the domestic market. The commission will issue the permit upon the approval of the ministries concerned, he added.

Last November, Maha Nyi Ahko Company sought import permit for 10,500 tonnes of raw sesame and 32,000 tonnes of peanuts (with food waste estimated

20 per cent) under zero tariff with the contract manufacturing process. The Ministry of Commerce asked for the opinions of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association and the association asked again for the views of the owners of the respective depots where sesame and peanut are primarily traded on 12 November. The owners of the respective depots raised the objection to the raw sesame and peanut importation.

The association was asked opinions on sesame raw material importation three years ago and responded that the peanut and sesame are locally produced, and it should not be allowed for importation, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of the association.

Nevertheless, the association cannot afford to do anything as the raw materials can be imported to produce value-added items for exports under the existing law, he continued.

Myanmar’s peanut and sesame are of high quality with the use of natural fertilizer. They are offered fair price by China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. Additionally, Myanmar grants tax-exempt on raw materi-

al import if the goods are exported with a few exceptions. It has a direct impact on the interest of the local growers.

Myanmar has liberalized the trade and Mandalay depot sent 70 per cent of agricultural products to China through the land border. It generated the country’s revenue and brought benefits to the growers and traders. The border trade has halted during the early outbreak of COVID-19 and has resumed for now. As a result of this, the import of individual company can harm the local market. Otherwise, foreign buyers can confuse outsourcing materials with locally produced materials. Market manipulation may arise later on.

We are welcome with the trade openness. Yet, it will harm the interest of the country, local growers and traders. Mandalay depot suggested that the import is not allowed. The depot showed the further opinion that vacant, fallow and virgin land should be treated and the contract farming system is required to be conducted to boost the production and offer guaranteed pricing to motivate the farmers to produce a quality crop. *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Let's fight COVID-19 together till the end of pandemic

WITH the achievements in producing COVID-19 vaccines in record time, the end of pandemic catastrophe is in sight.

The good news comes as a light at the end of the tunnel. The Union Government is also planning to make the vaccines available for everyone in the country.

The number of people infected with the coronavirus across the country reached over 100,000 yesterday, with over 2,000 deaths. The increase in cases have been expected by the authorities as there happened crowds without following social distancing after the November 8 general elections.

Again, the health authorities has warned the people to avoid crowds, to follow health guidelines and to keep new year celebrations small as they fear that the infection rate will arise after gatherings in the new year celebrations.

Yangon Region is still the worst affected with 74 per cent of all cases and 92 per cent of all deaths nationwide.

people against the coronavirus.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Union Government has been providing the patients with the free medical care. Let's remind you again that the money spent on the patients since the outbreak was from the budget intended to be used for the development projects in the country.

The country must deal with the financial and debt management in the post-COVID-19 period for the economic recovery.

The cost of treatment is a very heavy burden for a country such as Myanmar, which is still a developing country. That's why the Union Government has placed more emphasis on prevention.

Today is not the time to become careless, as we all must remain ever-vigilant so as not to become infected by COVID-19 or to spread the virus before being vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Let's fight the disease together till the end of the pandemic.

RASU Art Centre: The Journey of No Return

(A tribute to the centennial celebration of the University of Yangon)

By Khin Swe Win

I was a first-year university student in 1976. Since 1975 after the U Thant Uprising, the academic years had got jammed, so it might be referred to as the 1975-76 academic year. It was only after eleven months after we had passed the matriculation that we had a chance to join the university. My specialization was Economics, and I joined the Institute of Economics. I got 100 marks in Mathematics in the matriculation, but I didn't know I was eligible for applying for the Maths Scholarship. As a result, I missed the great opportunity of joining Rangoon Arts and Science University (University of Yangon). Though I missed a chance to specialize in one of the Arts and Science subjects, RASU (Rangoon Arts and Science University) had not been an unfamiliar site for me because I was very much interested with the Notice for the enrollment in Art Classes among other notices announced on the walls near the Arts hall, and in the Recreation Centre and before the canteen of the Institute of Economics, known as the Eco Canteen. So I made a search for the location of the Art Centre, and finally, found it. It was a one-storeyed building behind the Arts Hall. It was rather crowded, and feeling scared to

mix with the crowd, I did not join the Art Classes. But in my second year in the university, I ventured to go there and enroll my name. And I found myself quite unable to leave this social circle founded in the RASU campus as if I had set out a journey of no return.

After the first year Art course was completed, the fifth Art Exhibition sponsored by the Arts Section of the University Art Association was held, and I was overjoyed to have my pencil drawings on display in the exhibition. My fear of mixing with the crowd and my unsociable nature subsided. The Art Centre opened at the week-ends only, but because I was informed that I could come and practise my skills in my free time, and because I had to take lectures in an AE (Art Extension) classroom, which is located beside the Art Centre, luck was on my side: just four or five steps, and there you are, at the Art Centre. Sometimes, reading the Billboard Writings of students displayed over there, I even forgot to resume taking lectures. But I had a hundred percent attendance on the students' roll call because my trustworthy pals kindly did forging my signature on it. Thus, I continued to study the second year Art course, and was taught the Water Colour painting. I had a great opportunity to participate in the Sixth Art and Sculpture Exhibition of Rangoon Arts and Science



The Art Centre of the Rangoon Arts and Science University.

University. I was then a very active member of the Art Association. No more fear of mixing with the crowd. But I never let myself be out of touch with my study. I love Mathematics and applied for Statistics specialization, so I had to say good bye to my pals I had made friends with in my first year. Because my new class had only a few students, I had to make regular attendance

as best as I could. Even then, I bunked the class on the days of the Art Exhibition. Though there was no third year Art course, there I went again for another year since I wanted to place myself at the feet of the great artists Sayagyi U Thein Han and Sayagyi U Lun Gywe and studied Art as much as I could. I took the responsibility of the Finance Manager of the Art

Association. Naturally, I visited the Art Center seven days a week! In those days, the Art Association had allotted no budget for the Art Exhibition. The fund of the Centre came from the members, who had to find ways and means for the support: drawing and selling postcards during the Exhibition, selling the catalogues, and approaching the Rector and the professors for the sale of the paintings, and what else. I was assigned the duty of Finance Manager in 1979. The Seventh Art and Sculpture Exhibition was a success, and I felt very much elated over making contributions to support the fund for the next academic year. Changing my roles of a student and a finance manager back and forth between the lecture room and the Art Centre, I managed to be graduated as a degree holder of B. Economics (Statistics) in 1979.

Students may come and students may go, but my blood ties with RASU have never been ended. In 1980, I attended the Full-time Diploma in French at the Institute of Foreign Languages (Yangon University of Foreign Languages), and this gave me a chance to visit the Art Center in the campus of RASU (University of Rangoon). I had never been away from the Art Centre from 1981 to 1987! While I expanded my horizon of studying Art under the great art masters, I shared my experiences with the new

blood, filling the stock of drawing papers, drawing pencils, brushes and paints. I envied those seniors who have now become well-known artists of Myanmar. I also keep on learning Art from them. So the Art Centre of RASU has been a part of my life because, though a student specializing Economics at the Institute of Economics for four years, my life as a university student must have been spent at the Art Centre of RASU and its environs. Since I often got sick then, I even thought that, God forbid it! if I should die, my spirit would be visiting the Art Centre, feeling amused among the paintings and counting money so as to pay the cash for drawing papers!

I was glad that the Art Centre, which had remained dormant like Rip Van Winkle for some years, now came back to life once again in 2015. I was very grateful to those who made efforts to re-introduce the Art classes to the aspiring university students. The Art Exhibition has since then been held four times. So here I am back again to support the new budding artists. I feel that entering the Art Centre of the University of Yangon is like setting out a journey of no return. Long Live Art! Long Live our Alma Mater!

(Translated by Dr Zaw Tun)



Egyptian inventor tests robot for diagnosing COVID-19

IN an unusual scene, a white human-shaped robot was walking on its four wheels in the corridor of a private hospital's emergency department in Tanta city of Gharbiya province, north of Egyptian capital Cairo.

Cira 03 was remotely controlled by his inventor Mahmoud el-Komy, an 27-year-old Egyptian mechatronic engineer who has been developing his robot until he recently came up with the current prototype version.

"The new version is more accurate, with a higher degree of recognition of faces and face masks. Also a new robotic arm has been added to Cira 03 to make it multipurpose," the inventor told Xinhua at the hospital.

"Besides its ability to conduct

PCR testing for COVID-19, temperature-measuring and other vital functions, Cira 03 is able to perform echocardiograms and X-rays," he added, noting that his robot helps reduce direct contact between medical staff and patients by 90 percent.

The robot has two monitors: a main monitor on the chest and an auxiliary one down below.

"Through AI, Cira 03 can count the people present within its reach via facial recognition and determine if they are maintaining proper social distancing based on the area of the place," el-Komy explained.

The creative young man said that he developed three Cira versions on his own using simple available components, adding

that he aims to develop the Cira 04 and expects possible mass production afterwards.

He said he has been testing the new version in a nearby private hospital over the past few weeks.

The hospital's officials said that they welcomed el-Komy's invention out of the belief that his robot would help reduce the infection rate among staff and hospitalized patients.

"When el-Komy first proposed the idea about six months ago, we were so convinced as we mainly encourage science and support creative young people," said Dalia Raslan, head of the hospital where el-Komy is experimenting Cira 03.

"The older version success-



Cira 03 robot performs an echocardiogram on a volunteer at a hospital in Tanta city of Gharbiya province, north of Cairo, Egypt, on 3 December 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

fully managed to perform PCR tests during the peak of COVID-19 outbreak when medics were reluctant. Now the new version can

remotely measure temperature and perform ultrasound scans and echocardiograms. It is such an innovation in a short time,"

the hospital's official told Xinhua.

At the emergency room, el-Komy's assistant Abdel-Rahman Hossam, a 16-year-old high school student, lay down shirtless on the bed while Cira 03 was moving its robotic arm on his chest like an ultrasound probe to perform an echocardiogram.

"I've been with Engineer Mahmoud el-Komy for six years and I learned from him programming languages and designs. I was also the first to undergo a COVID-19 PCR test by his robot," the student proudly said.

The hospital where Cira 03 is being on trial is close to the Roboto Academy, a school-like center founded by el-Komy for teaching children robotics.—Xinhua



President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 42/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 5 December.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 5 December. The full text of the press release will be reported in the 9 December issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
a. Dr Ni Ni Oo	Rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
b. Dr Kyaw Tun	Rector Lashio University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
c. Dr Aung Win	Rector University of Technology (Yatanarpon Cyber City) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
d. Dr Khin Htaik Htaik Lwin	Rector University of Technology (Kyaukse), Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
e. Dr Thandar Thein	Rector University of Computer Studies (Maubin) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
f. Daw Phyu Mar Wai	Director-General Prosecution Department Union Attorney General Office

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Marlar Than Htaik, Deputy Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the Director-General of the same department on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

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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.

Yangon water bus to resume services today

Yangon Water Buses will resume services commencing 8 December. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

YANGON Water Bus service, which has temporarily halted due to the COVID-19 outbreak, will reopen on 7 December, Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies released a statement.

The reopened route is Yangon Water bus route Sarparchaung-Lanthit. The very first

ferries are scheduled to run at 6 am at Sarparchaung Terminal, and 6:15 am at Lanthit Terminal. The last departure is at 7 pm Lanthit Terminal and 7:15 pm at Sarparchaung Terminal.

The service will run between 6 and 9:45 am and 3:30 and 7:15 pm.

The passengers will receive the mask free of charge. The service will resume at Pansodan, Antgyi, Thamada terminals later.

Plans are underway to reopen the memorable trip for Yangon River Sunset in line with the health guidelines is-

sued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, said Daw Tint Tint Lwin, chair of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies.

Yangon Water Bus service started in 2017 to help smooth the transport of commuters. — Myint Maung
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

140 Myanmar seamen brought back home by relief flight

A total of 140 Myanmar seamen arrived back home by an MNA relief flight organized by Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and the Myanmar Seafarers' Employment Services Federation via Incheon International Airport yesterday evening.

The returnees included 92 persons from ROK, 8 from Ja-

pan, 3 from the Netherlands, 5 from Indonesia, 7 from Singapore, 11 from the Philippines, 2 from Australia, 2 from Canada, 1 from Malaysia, 1 from Nigeria, 2 from Chili, 1 from Brazil, 1 from Ethiopia, and 4 from Egypt.

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 and Myanmar seamen 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, shipping companies/organizations and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.—MNA

Police destroy poppy plants in Hopong Township, Shan State

SHAN State Police Commander Police Brigadier General Tin Ko Ko, police officials and administrative officials on 6 December destroyed poppy plants in Kyaukkacha Village, Sanhpoo Village-tract, the Pa'O Self-Administered Zone, Hopong Township in southern Shan State.

A total of 67 officials, including Police Brigadier General Tin Ko Ko, Lieutenant Colonel Nyi Nyi Tin (member of the Leading Body of Pa'O Self-Administered Zone), Shan State Police Force Deputy Commander Police



Authorities destroy opium plants in Hopong Township, Shan State. **PHOTO: HOPONG IPRD**

Colonel Zaw Min Aung and administrative officials, destroyed the 32 acres of poppy fields.

From 27 November to 6

December, a total of 296 acres of poppy fields have been destroyed in Hopong Township, according to the Ho-

pong Township Police Force. —Hopong IPRD
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

THE FIRST EVER

Pope plans historic Iraq trip in March

VATICAN CITY (Holy See) — Pope Francis will make a historic visit to Iraq in March, the Vatican said Monday, the first ever by a pontiff and which will include a trip to Mosul.

The 83-year-old has long spoken of his desire to visit the Middle Eastern country, where conflict has caused the number of Christians to fall dramatically over the past two decades.

Between March 5 and 8 next year, Francis will “visit Baghdad, the plain of Ur... the city of Erbil, as well as Mosul and Qaraqosh in the plain of Nineveh,” spokesman Matteo Brunni said in a statement.

The pope’s visit to the ancient city of Mosul in northern Iraq will be particularly signifi-



This photo taken and handout by the Vatican Media on November 25, 2020 shows Pope Francis holding a weekly private and live TV-streaming audience from the library of the apostolic palace in The Vatican, during the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

cant, as the former stronghold of the Islamic State group.

Iraq’s historic and diverse Christian communities have

been devastated in the bloody sectarian warfare that followed the 2003 US-led invasion and the Islamic State group’s sweep through a third of the country in 2014.

Communities of Assyrians, Armenians, Chaldeans, Protestants and more have all been directly targeted.

There are no reliable statistics on the number of Christians who fled Iraq during these consecutive waves of bloodshed.

According to William Warda, co-founder of the Hammurabi Human Rights Organization, Christians who have remained in Iraq number up to 400,000, down from 1.5 million in 2003.

SOURCE: AFP

HOPE

Russia urges release of reporters detained in Turkey

MOSCOW (Russia) — President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman said on Monday the Kremlin hopes that two Russian journalists detained in Turkey will be released as soon as possible.

Dmitry Peskov told reporters Russian diplomats were in contact with Turkish representatives to secure the release of two journalists working with Kremlin-friendly NTV channel “in the near future.”

“We hope through dialogue we will be able to resolve this incident,” Peskov said.

NTV said last week that journalist Alexei Petrushko and cameraman Ivan Malyshkin were arrested by police in Istanbul on Thursday morning. A Turkish foreign ministry source said they were detained while filming near a facility for manufacturing drones and were working without accreditation.

SOURCE: AFP

ECONOMY

Cybercrime costs to top \$1 trillion this year: researchers

WASHINGTON (United States) — Cybercrime is expected to cost the global economy more than \$1 trillion this year, up more than 50 percent since 2018, a research report said Monday.

The report by McAfee Corp. with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) concluded that the cost of online

criminal activity is more than one percent of global economic output, and also had significant non-monetary impacts.

The researchers noted a surge in a range of attacks including ransomware, phishing, business email takeovers, spyware and cryptocurrency theft.

Some of the increase can be

attributed to weaker security with more people working remotely outside their workplace.

“The severity and frequency of cyberattacks on businesses continues to rise as techniques evolve, new technologies broaden the threat surface, and the nature of work expands into home and remote environments,” said

Steve Grobman, chief technical officer at McAfee. “While industry and government are aware of the financial and national security implications of cyberattacks, unplanned downtime, the cost of investigating breaches and disruption to productivity represent less appreciated high impact costs.”—SOURCE: AFP

WEST AFRICA

Ghana set for close election in ‘beacon of democracy’

ACCRA (Ghana) — Ghanaians voted Monday in an election seen as a close fight between President Nana Akufo-Addo and his longtime rival John Mahama, vying to lead the country long viewed a beacon of stability in a troubled region.

From the oceanside capital Accra to the northern city of Tamale, voters lined up at polling stations at the crack of dawn to pick a president among 12 candidates and members of parliament for 275 constituencies.

Crowds cheered and chanted “four more years!” as the incumbent of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) cast his vote in Kyebi, a town in the eastern region.

“I’m feeling fine, happy that the process is going well and peacefully,” 76-year-old Akufo-Addo said.

A November survey by the University of Ghana put Akufo-Addo ahead with 51.7 per

cent of support, while Ghanaian pollster Ben Ephson estimated the incumbent would garner 52.6 per cent.

His challenger Mahama, 62, of the National Democratic Congress party (NDC) was surrounded by his supporters as he voted in Bole, in the northern Savannah Region.

A few polling stations opened late and long queues were seen by AFP journalists in Accra, with voters waiting for hours in the glaring sun.

But by midday, election observers had signalled no major incidents across the 38,000 polling stations, which will remain open until 1700 GMT.

“It’s too early to make an assessment, but I understand there have been a few hitches,” Mahama said after casting his vote.

“I hope that there will be no incidents and I hope that voting will go smoothly,” he added.



A man casts his vote at a polling station in the Eastern Region district of Kyebi on December 7, 2020 during Ghana’s presidential and parliamentary elections. PHOTO: AFP

The duo have faced each other at the ballot box twice before. Mahama was president for four

years until 2016, when his rival succeeded him.

Key issues in this year’s vote

include unemployment, infrastructure, education and health.

SOURCE: AFP

COVID UPDATE

Coronavirus: Latest global developments

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

Giuliani positive

Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who has been leading the president's effort to undo Joe Biden's election victory, tests positive. The former New York mayor has been seen frequently without a mask despite at 76 being part of a high-risk group.

Georgia's Republicans mostly maskless

Trump holds a rally for Georgia Republican Senate candidates where few wear masks and many ignore social-distancing rules as health officials despair over the nation's soaring death toll.

UK preps V-day

The world-first rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is due to start on Tuesday in the UK. Dubbed "V-Day" by Health Secretary Matt Hancock, he has



A kite maker gives finishing touches to kites with a design displaying Covid-19 prevention guidelines, at a workshop ahead of Makarsankranti or Festival of Kites, in Ahmedabad on December 7, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

volunteered to take it live on television. Queen Elizabeth II, 94, has also said she will take the vaccine as has Monty Python star Michael Palin, 77, campaigning singer Bob Geldof, 69, and 73-year-old Ronnie Wood of The Rolling Stones.

Italy toll tops 60,000

Italy records 60,078 deaths with hundreds succumbing daily despite tough new restrictions.

Jakarta gets Chinese shot

The world's fourth most populous nation has received 1.2 million doses of China's Sinovac vaccine, which will be examined by Indonesia's food and drug agency

as well its Islamic authorities.

Romania vote subdued

Record low turnout – around 33 per cent – for the Romanian parliamentary vote is partially blamed on a second wave of the pandemic in the country.

Mirren: Awful for actors

British acting legend Helen Mirren sounds the alarm for struggling arts workers in dire straits since the pandemic forced theatres to shut in March.

Over 1.53 million dead

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,535,987 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT on Monday.

The US is the worst-affected country with 282,324 deaths.

After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 176,941 deaths, India with 140,573 deaths, Mexico with 109,717 deaths, and

the UK with 61,245 deaths.

Paris air show grounded

Organizers of the Paris Air Show say they have cancelled next year's edition of the biannual event, usually held in June.

Cricket crisis

Pakistan cricketers locked up in their New Zealand hotel for nearly two weeks complain of being affected "mentally and physically" by strict quarantine protocols.

And in Cape Town after scrapping their first one-day international match, England and South Africa's cricket boards cancel the second, putting the tour in jeopardy.

Nobel at home

This year's Nobel laureates will not travel to Stockholm or Oslo to receive their prizes following the cancellation of the traditional ceremonies.

SOURCE: AFP

CHILDREN IN NEED

UNICEF seeks \$2.5 bln for Mideast children as virus deepens poverty

AMMAN (Jordan) — The UN children's agency Monday appealed for \$2.5 billion in new funds for 39 million children in the Middle East and North Africa impacted by war, poverty and the coronavirus pandemic.

"The region is home to the highest number of children in need in the world," said Ted Chaiban, UNICEF regional director

for the Middle East and North Africa.

"This is largely due to man-made crises including armed conflicts, poverty and economic stagnation."

He said the latest appeal "aims to reach children with critical humanitarian assistance and continue responding to the massive needs emerging as a result

of the Covid-19 pandemic".

Children are most in need in war-torn Yemen, in and outside conflict-wracked Syria, and in Sudan, UNICEF said in a statement.

In Yemen, 12 million children, or almost every child, need assistance after five years of conflict, it said.

In Syria, 4.8 million children need aid after a civil war has

killed more than 380,000 people, displaced millions and ravaged the economy.

A further 2.5 million live as refugees in neighbouring countries after their parents fled the almost ten-year conflict.

In Sudan, 5.3 million children need aid because of unprecedented floods, an economic crisis and a sweeping political transition from autocratic rule toward democracy.

In Lebanon, 1.9 million children now rely on assistance as the economy has plummeted and following a massive explosion in Beirut that killed more than 200 people and ravaged large parts of the capital in August.

Most funds requested in UNICEF's appeal would go towards supporting children's education, while the rest would ensure access to water, sanitation, healthcare and nutrition, and mental health support, it said.

"We hear of fatigue to fund long-term crises like in Yemen and Syria," Chaiban said.

But he stressed that "the world cannot turn a blind eye to the needs of children impacted by two of the most horrific conflicts in recent history".

SOURCE: AFP



Israeli children take part in activities at a kindergarten in the central city of Shoham, on October 18, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

TO END VIRUS

Japan to compile 73 tril. yen new stimulus package to fight pandemic

TOKYO — The Japanese government's additional stimulus package will be worth 73 trillion yen (\$700 billion), government sources said Monday, as the country continues to grapple with the economic fallout from the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Fiscal spending to implement the package, which the Cabinet is expected to approve on Tuesday, will total about 30 trillion yen to be financed by the government's third supplementary budget for the 2020 fiscal year through March and the initial budget for fiscal 2021, according to the sources.

The package will include 5.9 trillion yen for measures related to curbing the spread of the coronavirus, the sources said.

SOURCE: KYODO

ROBOTIC DELIVERY

Panasonic to start trial home delivery by self-driving robot in Feb.

TOKYO—Panasonic Corp. said Monday it will start trials in February of home deliveries by a self-driving robot in a residential area near Tokyo as the coronavirus pandemic has raised demand for services with reduced or no human-to-human contact.

Panasonic plans to test the feasibility of the delivery service using an autonomous robot that can travel at a maximum speed of 4 kilometres per hour being developed by the Osaka-based firm to showcase advanced technologies in cooperation with local authorities and other companies.

Self-driving robots have gained renewed attention amid the global coronavirus pandemic, which has raised the need



Undated supplied photo shows Panasonic Corp.'s self-driving robot in Kanagawa Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

for some people to avoid human-to-human contact and stay at home. The virus outbreak has led more people to shop online and have food and other items

delivered home, but a labor shortage in a range of industries including parcel delivery has been an issue in Japan.

Panasonic has already

begun the first phase of the test that is scheduled to run until the end of December, putting the self-driving robot on a public road within the designated area called

the Fujisawa Sustainable Smart Town, located in Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture. In the second phase, the robot will deliver food and daily necessities purchased at shops to residents in the area between February and March.

The robot can avoid obstacles on its own but it will be remotely controlled when self-driving is not possible, according to Panasonic. Panasonic is involved in a public-private sector panel to discuss the reworking of the legal framework to accommodate self-driving delivery vehicles.

Testing of autonomous vehicles on a public road including such delivery robots requires permission from local police.

SOURCE: KYODO

CHINA'S EXPORT

China exports surge by forecast-beating 21.1% in November

BEIJING (China) — China's exports rose in November at their fastest pace in almost three years, official figures showed Monday, as a surge in demand in key markets ahead of the festive period also helped the country post a record trade surplus.

The reading is the latest spot of good news out of the world's number two economy, which has been enjoying a bounce-back from virus-induced lockdowns that sent it into a rare contraction earlier in the year.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (948S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (948S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NOBLE SW

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NOBLE SW VOY. NO. (2002)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

TUG: ANGGUN SARI & BARGE: EWAN 32

Consignees of cargo carried on **TUG: ANGGUN SARI & BARGE: EWAN 32** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MSTL** 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 CEA PROJECT LOGISTICS (MALAYSIA)

Changing of the Manufacturer Name.

Pesticide Registration Board granted registration of the following (5) pesticides with their Manufacturer Name as Forward International Ltd, Taipei, Taiwan. The Manufacturer Name of these 5 pesticides will be changed from Forward International Ltd, Taipei, Taiwan to Forward (Beihai) Pesticide Co., Ltd. People's Republic of China as below.

No	Pesticide Name	Registration No.	Current Manufacturer Name	New Manufacturer Name
1.	Forgon 40EC (40% Dimethoate EC)	F 2009 – 310	Forward International Ltd. Taipei, Taiwan	Forward (Beihai) Hepu Pesticide Co., Ltd. People's Republic of China
2.	Fortazeb 72 WP (64% Mancozeb + 8% Metalaxyl WP)	F 2010 – 328	Forward International Ltd. Taipei, Taiwan	Forward (Beihai) Hepu Pesticide Co., Ltd. People's Republic of China
3.	Forfen 20EC (20% Fenvalerate EC)	F 2010 – 388	Forward International Ltd. Taipei, Taiwan	Forward (Beihai) Hepu Pesticide Co., Ltd. People's Republic of China
4.	Forwatap 50 SP (50% Cartap hydrochloride WP)	F 2010 – 424	Forward International Ltd. Taipei, Taiwan	Forward (Beihai) Hepu Pesticide Co., Ltd. People's Republic of China
5.	Forlambda 2.5 EC (2.5% Lambda- Cyhalothrin EC)	F 2010 – 417	Forward International Ltd. Taipei, Taiwan	Forward (Beihai) Hepu Pesticide Co., Ltd. People's Republic of China

Any objection regarding to this can be lodged within 14 days to the Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Insein Township, Yangon.

Forward International Ltd.

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Kayah State Mineral Production Company Limited, for the sale Tin, Tungsten, Scheelite mixed concentrates Mawchi mixed ore (92.436) Mts Lot-(1) 10.160 Mts Sn (45.08)%, Wo₃ (21.76)% Lot-(2) 82.276 Mts Sn (37.66)%, Wo₃ (17.96%).

Tender documents are available during office hour at Kayah State Mineral Production Company Limited office, No(22) Pyay Road (7)mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Myanmar from (4-12-2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (16-12-2020) 15:00 pm, which no form will be accepted no telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information, please contact to the Phone (01-656579), email address - kayahstatemineralproduction09@gmail.com

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Biden picks California official Becerra for health secretary: report

WASHINGTON (United States) — Joe Biden plans to nominate California attorney general Xavier Becerra for secretary of health and human services, which would add another Latino member to the president-elect's increasingly diverse cabinet, US media reported Sunday.

During Becerra's 12 terms in the US Congress representing Los Angeles, he was an outspoken advocate of Latino rights and a vigorous defender of former president Barack Obama's signature health care programme — a policy that has been much attacked by President Donald Trump and Republicans.

NBC, The New York Times and several other news organizations reported on the plan to nominate Becerra, citing anonymous sources close to the president-elect. Becerra, 62, was elected as California attorney-general in 2016, succeeding Vice President-elect Kamala Harris after she was elected to the US Senate. Becerra was the first Latino to hold that office.

While in office, he also de-



US President-elect Joe Biden speaks at The Queen in Wilmington, Delaware on 4 December 2020. PHOTO: AFP

fended the immigrant rights programme DACA in front of the Supreme Court. According to the Times, Becerra's nomination comes after complaints from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus about a lack of Latinos in

the incoming cabinet.

Biden has announced Cuban-born Alejandro Mayorkas as his pick to head the Department of Homeland Security.

If confirmed, Becerra would be tasked with leading the health

department amid the coronavirus pandemic that has killed over 282,000 in the US.

Biden has also picked Rochelle Walensky to head the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the government's

health protection agency, the Wall Street Journal and New York Times reported.

Walensky is chief of the infectious diseases division at Massachusetts General Hospital and is also a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

She will replace Robert Redfield as director of the CDC, which has come under pressure from the Trump administration and its allies over its coronavirus guidance.

For the third day in a row, the United States on Saturday notched a record number of coronavirus cases in 24 hours, reaching nearly 230,000 new infections, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Biden has stressed that he would strive for diversity while choosing staff for when he takes office in January.

In addition to Becerra, other firsts include the first female Treasury secretary, the first female head of intelligence and the first Latino chief of homeland security.

SOURCE: AFP

MIDDLE EAST

Gunmen kill 5 south Yemen separatists: security official

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates) — Suspected Al-Qaeda gunmen killed five south Yemen separatists in Abyan province on Monday, in the terror group's biggest attack in the region for months, a secessionist security official said.

The five members of the Security Belt separatist force, which is dominated by the Southern Transitional Council (STC), were killed at dawn on the outskirts of Lawdar city, the official told AFP.

"It was gunmen believed to be from Al-Qaeda who launched the attack and managed to escape," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A medic in Lawdar confirmed the death toll, while Al-Qaeda has yet to issue any statements on the attack.

SOURCE: AFP

CONTENT SHARING

Israel-based channel and UAE broadcaster ink partnership

JERUSALEM — Israel-based-broadcaster i24NEWS and Abu Dhabi Media, a public conglomerate in the United Arab Emirates, announced Monday a content sharing arrangement after the Jewish state and UAE normalized ties.

i24NEWS, which broadcasts in French, Arabic and English, and Abu Dhabi Media have signed a memorandum of understanding that allows for shared reporting and archival content.

Frank Melloul, chief executive of i24NEWS, said in a statement that the arrangement highlighted "the many possibilities that have opened up to us in the wake of the Abraham Accords".

Under the US-brokered accords, Israel has established ties with the UAE and Bahrain, only the third and fourth Arab nations to normalize relations with the Jewish state after its neighbours Egypt and Jordan.

The accords have been condemned by the Palestinians as they break with years of Arab League policy which has held that there should be no relations with Israel until it makes peace with the Palestinians.

Israel has already signed a raft of deals with both UAE and Bahrain, ranging from tourism to aviation and financial services.

Abu Dhabi Media, whose content includes news and

sports, said in a statement it was committed to establishing "strong and solid relationships"

with media organizations across the Middle East.

SOURCE: AFP



A picture taken on March 12, 2014 in Paris shows the logo of International 24-hour news television channel "i24 News". PHOTO: AFP

UK-EU

Decision time nears as Brexit talks enter endgame

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — Post-Brexit trade talks between the EU and UK neared a decisive point on Monday, with the outcome highly uncertain and the threat of a wrenching "no-deal" mounting by the hour.

Brussels' chief negotiator

Michel Barnier briefed ambassadors from EU member states at a pre-dawn crisis meeting, warning that divisions were still stark after talks with his UK counterpart David Frost broke up overnight.

Barnier and Frost will resume face-to-face talks later on

Monday before reporting back to their respective bosses, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The two leaders will speak by phone later in the day, a call that a senior diplomat said would assess where matters stood and

was not yet the make-or-break moment. Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin warned the chances for a deal were only "50-50", while sources close to the talks said Sunday's horse trading was slow and expectations were low.— SOURCE: AFP

CHINA-US RELATION

China calls for new talks with US after Biden win



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi gestures during an interview with AFP in Paris on 21 October 2019. PHOTO: AFP

BEIJING (China) — China's top diplomat on Monday called for the resumption of talks with the incoming US administration of president-elect Joe Biden, as relations between the world's two largest economies continued to nosedive.

Beijing and Washington have locked horns over issues from trade and China's human

rights record to its expansionist ambitions in the South China Sea.

But speaking during a video call with the board of the US-China Business Council (USCBC) on Monday, foreign minister Wang Yi said "the two sides should work together".

"We need to strive to restart the dialogue, get back on

the right track, and rebuild mutual trust in the next phase of China-US relations," he said, according to a readout of his remarks on the foreign ministry website.

His comments come days after Washington unveiled travel restrictions for members of the Chinese Communist Party over human rights abuses in the restive region of Xinjiang, as relations between the two tumble to the lowest point in decades.

More sanctions are expected this week, with Bloomberg reporting Monday that the US was set to slap at least a dozen officials with asset freezes over their role in the disqualification of pro-democracy lawmakers in Hong Kong.

China's relations with US allies, most notably Australia, have also plummeted in recent weeks. Amid a growing spat between Beijing and Canberra, a senior Chinese official sparked outrage last Monday when he tweeted a staged image of an Australian soldier holding a bloody knife to an Afghan child's throat.

But China's top diplomat appeared to strike a more conciliatory tone from his so-called "Wolf Warrior" colleagues on Monday, saying the two sides should work to "expand consensus" and co-operation.

"For problems that cannot be immediately resolved, we need to maintain a constructive attitude to manage the situation to avoid intensifying and escalating the overall situation of China-US relations," Wang said.

Biden is set to assume the presidency on January 20, succeeding Donald Trump, who launched a bruising trade war against China and targeted the global ambitions of groups including telecoms giant Huawei.

The president-elect is expected to be more measured in tone and knit back together tattered alliances on the global stage.

But he has told US media that he will keep Donald Trump's trade war tariffs on China for the time being when he moves into the Oval Office.

SOURCE: AFP

OXYGEN DEFICIENCY

Pakistan suspends staff after oxygen shortage kills Covid patients

PESHAWAR (Pakistan) — Seven workers at a Pakistan hospital who left scores of Covid-19 patients without sufficient oxygen for hours have been suspended after several of their charges died, authorities said.

Five patients in the Covid isolation ward and one in the intensive care unit at the government-run hospital in Peshawar died due to the delay in sourcing oxygen, a preliminary report said late Sunday.

The chronic oxygen deficiency "went unnoticed, unsupervised and unchecked," the report said, adding that no back-up oxygen supply had been put in place.

The hospital director was among those suspended with immediate effect.

TaimurSaleemJhagra, a provincial health minister, told AFP that authorities will hold a second detailed inquiry over the next five days.

"The hospital was low on oxygen from around 8 pm in the evening, how come they couldn't manage to solve the issue until after 12 pm?" Jhagra said.



A worker fills oxygen cylinders for hospital use in Peshawar December 7, 2020. Seven workers at a Pakistan hospital who left scores of Covid-19 patients without sufficient oxygen for hours have been suspended after several of their charges died, authorities said. PHOTO: AFP

"Some of the staff were off, some were absent and there wasn't any alternate arrangements, even the emergency squad was not available," he added.

Hospital spokesman Farhad

Khan told AFP Sunday a disruption in oxygen supplies affected some 200 people, including nearly 100 with coronavirus.

Pakistan has reported more than 400,000 cases of coronavirus -- including over 8,000 deaths --

since it arrived in late February.

Intensive care units in hospitals across the country are now almost full, with provincial governments struggling to deal with the soaring caseload.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesian police kill 6 alleged supporters of firebrand Muslim cleric

JAKARTA — Six alleged supporters of firebrand Muslim cleric RizieqShihab were killed Monday in a shoot-out with police officers in Jakarta, the police said.

Shihab, leader of the Islamic Defenders Front, had been summoned by police for questioning and at the time of the incident the officers were working to thwart a plan by a large group of his followers to support him while he was with authorities, according to the police.

SOURCE: KYODO

Japan space agency hails return of asteroid dust on Earth

TOKYO (Japan) — Japanspace-agency officials on Sunday hailed the arrival of rare asteroid samples onEarth after they were collected by space probe Hayabusa-2 during an unprecedented mission.

In a streak of light across the night sky, a capsule containing the precious specimens taken from a distant asteroid arrived onEarth after being dropped off by the probe.

SOURCE: AFP

India actress passes away in Mumbai due to COVID-19

MUMBAI — Indian actress Divya Bhatnagar died on Monday due to COVID-19, local media reported.

The 34-year-old actress was suffering from pneumonia, which further worsened owing to the coronavirus before she was put on ventilator support last week.

Starting her career in 2006, Divya had also worked in a few Bollywood films apart from several television soap operas.

Several of Divya's colleagues took to social media to express their condolences and pay tributes.

SOURCE: XINHUA

Everyone wants the best in football: MFF president U Zaw Zaw



MFF President U Zaw Zaw chairs the Myanmar Football Federation third virtual Executive Meeting to highlight the regional football matters. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw stressed everyone's desire to be the best in development of Myanmar football world amidst a hard time of COVID-19 pandemic during the third Executive Meeting via videoconference on 5 December.

"Everyone wants the best. Although we are a non-governmental organization, we can only move forward with the development of football if we can find it commercially," U Zaw Zaw said.

"We need to reconsider our financial expenditures. The

coaching staff has to review the details of the competition. It is the situation we have to move on. It is a time when survival and life insurance are a priority. I want everyone to discuss together. Everyone is in trouble right now. It is a time of suffocation.

"Without ignoring this, executives are encouraged to carefully consider presentations and discussions. Depending on the leadership of our executives, good results can come out. We want them to consider the situation in the midst of difficulties and discuss

the development of their own football world", he added in his opening remarks.

After the MFF president's speech, sectoral discussions were held with the members of the Executive Committee.

Football authorities also discussed special matters on youth football matches, coordination processes with the Ministry of Health and Sports to hold regular futsal events. The Myanmar Football Federation Congress will also be held on 30, January 2021 with a videoconference, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Mayweather to stage exhibition against YouTuber Logan Paul

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Floyd Mayweather announced Sunday he is set for an exhibition boxing match against popular YouTube personality Logan Paul at an undetermined venue early next year.

No details were released about the former boxing champion's latest exhibition, other than it would be held on February 20.

The 43-year-old Mayweather has not had a serious boxing match since fighting Andre Berto in 2015, the same year he battled Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao.

In 2017, Mayweather stopped mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor, who had never boxed professionally before. The one-sided fight allowed Mayweather an easy way to close his overall boxing record at 50-0.

A year later, Mayweather

staged another widely ridiculed exhibition against kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa on New Year's Eve that reportedly netted him \$9 million.

The 25-year-old Paul's lone boxing match was against his YouTube rival, KSI, back in November 2019.

Paul triggered widespread criticism with his YouTube portfolio in 2017 when he posted a video showing the body of an apparent suicide victim in Japan. The video, shot in the Aokigahara forest, caused YouTube to cut some business ties with Paul.

Last month, Mayweather shared a video on Instagram teasing an upcoming fight but without any details.

Mayweather will be giving up six inches in height to the six-foot-two Paul. Tickets are priced between \$25 and \$70. — AFP ■



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 31 December 2018, US boxing legend Floyd Mayweather celebrates after winning an exhibition fight against kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa of Japan at Saitama Super Arena in Saitama. **PHOTO: AFP**

Messi, Ronaldo set to renew stellar rivalry in Champions League



(FILES) Argentine forward Lionel Messi (R) speaks with Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L) during the UEFA Champions League football group stage draw ceremony in Monaco on August 29, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID (Spain) — Lionel Messi's rivalry with Cristiano Ronaldo has enthralled football for the better part of a decade, and the pair will duel for potentially the final time when Barcelona host Juventus in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The two titans of the modern game, who split ownership of the Ballon d'Or between 2008-2017, were the talismans of Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid until Ronaldo left the Spanish capital for Juventus in 2018.

After the Portuguese forward arrived from Manchester United in 2009, El Clasico became synonymous with his rivalry with Barcelona captain

Messi.

Since Ronaldo's departure, the fixture has lost some of its glamour, leaving the football world eager for the pair to be pitted against each other again.

Those hopes were frustrated earlier in the group phase, with Ronaldo missing Barcelona's 2-0 win in Turin after testing positive for Covid-19. Messi scored with a penalty. They are poised to meet again this week.

Both sides have already qualified for the last 16 from Group G but Juventus can overtake Barcelona if they win at Camp Nou by three goals or more, or by any two-goal margin other than 2-0.

Ronaldo and Messi are in

the latter phases of their careers, at 35 and 33 respectively, but both retain their elite status.

Messi has six Ballons d'Or to his name and is the current holder, while Ronaldo finished third in the 2019 awards, boasting five.

Ronaldo thriving

He is thriving in Italy, having quickly become key for Juventus, who presented him with a commemorative shirt on Saturday to recognize his 750th career goal, ahead of a 2-1 win over neighbours Torino.

"Ronaldo is the top player for mentality," his former Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri told The Times.—AFP ■