

NATIONAL

MoHS holds meeting on experiences of coronavirus treatments

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

MoE minister conducts online course in educational management

PAGE-4

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Sunday, 17 January 2021

Vice-President U Henry Van Thio inspects Attayan Bridge (Sabel Gu)



Vice-President U Henry Van Thio views the construction of the Attayan Bridge (Sabel Gu) in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State on 16 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

Vice-President U Henry Van Thio inspected the construction site of the Attayan Bridge (Sabel Gu) over the Attayan River on the Kyaikmaraw-Sabel Gu-Kawtpanaw Road in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State yesterday.

The Vice-President, together with Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint, Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing

and Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe and officials, came to Mawlamyine in Mon State from Myeik in Taninthayi Region by helicopter.

During the bridge inspection tour, Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan, State ministers and officials accompanied the Vice-President.

Deputy Director (Civil) U Zaw Moe Lwin explained the construction of the Attayan

Bridge (Sabel Gu) at the briefing hall of the bridge construction site.

The Vice-President gave guidance on planting shady trees on both sides of the road at the foot of the bridge and maintaining the bridge for durability.

The bridge located three miles east of Kyaikmaraw Town is 2,113 feet and 2 inches long and 34 feet and 6 inches wide.

It has a motorway of 23 feet and 7 inches wide; its vertical clearance is 46 feet; its horizontal clearance is 360 feet.

Construction of the bridge began on 30 December 2018, and it was completed on 30 September 2020. It costs K18 billion.

Local people from 97 villages on the east side of the Attayan River took a long time to go to Kyaikmaraw in the past.

Completing the bridge would improve transport as well as promote the development of the social, economic, health, education sectors and improve commodity flow.

The Vice-President and party arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw from Mawlamyine in the evening by helicopter.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Announcement on contribution of cash donation towards COVID Vaccination Fund

- THE people who want to contribute cash donation for the purchase of vaccines, can donate to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733 of Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by using the following methods:
 - Cash contribution can be made at Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw), branches of State-owned banks and private banks.
 - Cash contribution can be made with the Account Transfer method from other saving accounts of state-owned banks and private banks.
 - The donation via Mobile Banking/ Mobile Wallet can be made through Mobile Apps of their respective service Provider/private banks.
 - The donation via MPU Card (ATM Card) can be made through MPU.
 - The further information will be announced later for the well-wishers to donate safely via Over-the-Counter which links with MPU Debit/Credit cards, local/foreign Visa/Master Credit cards at the Website of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.
- The people who want to contribute cash donation for the purchase of vaccines can donate to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012 of Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by using the following methods:
 - Any type of foreign currency can be directly donated via all the branches of Myanma Economic banks which received MC and AD licences.
 - Cash contribution can be made with the Account Transfer method from foreign currency accounts opened at the branches of Myanma Economic Bank.
 - Cash contribution can be made via the private and foreign banks by using SWIFT Code-MYEBMMMY together with the expression of Donation to COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Account EDC 600012) Myanma Economic Bank.
 - If there is no direct communication between Myanma Economic Bank and the foreign banks for cash contribution by using the above — mentioned SWIFT Code and Donation to COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Account EDC 600012) Myanma Economic Bank, the cash contribution can be made via the following foreign bank partners of Myanma Economic Bank:

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp (Tokyo)	Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ (Tokyo)
Mizuho Bank (Tokyo)	Bangkok Bank (Bangkok)
Siam Commercial Bank (Bangkok)	Krung Thai Bank (Bangkok)
Thanachart Bank (Bangkok)	ICBC Bank (China)
OCBC Wing Hang Bank (Shanghai)	China Construction Bank (China)
Sonali Bank (Bangladesh)	AB Bank (Bangladesh)

- For the records, the donors should send their names, phone numbers and addresses in full and other pieces of evidence of cash contribution to the e-mail — treasury05@365mopfi.gov.mm, treasury10@365mopfi.gov.mm (or) Viber-09-251182042 and 09-420788851.
- Those who want to donate in person and in virtual system in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay can contact the following persons:

Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Si Si Pyone Director-General Treasury Department 067-3410156 09-450455237	U Min Thu Managing Director Myanma Agricultural Development Bank 01-8391342 01-8391072	U Tun Tun Aung Director Internal Revenue Department 02-4035916
Daw Yi Yi Khaing Deputy Director- General Treasury Department 067-3410158 09-254558424		

- The cash donated to COVID-19 vaccination Fund is exempted from tax according to the Income Tax Law.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

UOB Bank (Singapore)	OCBC Bank (Singapore)
DBS Bank (Singapore)	May Bank (Singapore/Kuala Lumpur)

Announcement on fund establishment to purchase COVID-19 vaccines

- The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 30-12-2020 formed a Fund Management Sub-committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines. The sub-committee has opened the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at the Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw as follows:
 - Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012). The bank account will be initially deposited with USD250 million, equivalent to about K338 billion from State-funding.
 - Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733). The bank account is initially deposited K1 billion (K1,000 million) from State-funding.
- Therefore, organizations and people (local/ foreign countries) who want to contribute cash donation for the purchase of vaccines, can donate any type of foreign currency to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012) at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw), and can donate Myanmar Kyat to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733).
- The potential well-wishers can contact the following phone numbers:

Director-General (067 3410156)
Treasury Department (067 3410158)

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

Myanmar nationals abroad brought back home by relief flights



Myanmar returnees are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 16 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

A total of 211 Myanmar citizens — 96 stranded in Thailand and 115 in Australia — because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flights yesterday.

The 14th relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines organized by Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok bringing 96 Myanmar nationals from Thailand landed at Yangon International Airport in the evening.

The 7th relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines organized by Myanmar Embassy in Canberra repatriating 115 Myanmar nationals from Australia landed at Yangon International Airport in the evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and

Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens and seamen stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

We should not stumble just as our goal comes into view



What we are now focusing our attention on is the vaccine. To purchase vaccines for 15 million people, our delegation is now in India. We will get a clearer picture regarding the purchase of this vaccine within next week. We have already made necessary preparations to initiate the vaccination programme not long after the sales agreement has been signed and all the necessary preparations have been made. This is for the whole country. We will be carrying this out step by step in order of priority; for example, the first priority will be for the healthcare workers who are on the frontlines. After that, we will conduct the vaccination programme as needed for the country as well as for the people. This will be carried out step by step. Whatever the case may be, even after we have obtained the vaccines, the vaccination process for the whole country will take months. That is why we need to be very vigilant during this interim period. We should not stumble just as our goal comes into view.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 containment measures, on 25 December 2020)

MoHS holds meeting on experiences of coronavirus treatments

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe organized a discussion with the medical professors, specialists and nurses for sharing experience and reviews in COVID-19 treatment activities via video-conferencing yesterday.

The Union Minister first highlighted the important role of the discussion for more than 700 medics across the nation, the nature of COVID-19 which damages the various organs of the body including lungs and long-term consequence of virus.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Rectors, Professors, Medical Superintendents, doctors and nurses including the volunteers in the fight against the virus while the country saw a resurgence of COVID-19.

He stressed the discussions with the local and foreign experts for the medical subjects, management and communication to provide the medical supplies in time, plans to conduct contact tracing to reduce the numbers of COVID-19 patients and better medical treatment of experts.

The Union Minister also said he feels energized for the moves of the health experts as they exchange their views in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities.

The infection rate currently declines in the country, and all should still need to follow the rules.

The health officials also delivered about 300 facts for



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe participates in the virtual meeting on experiences and findings about coronavirus treatments on 16 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

health awareness, and the ministry conducted Mask and Face Shield Campaign and Stop COVID-19 Yellow Campaign.

He also stressed the need to follow the COVID-19 rules and to conduct health awareness plan between family members, friends and coworkers.

He urged the participants to coordinate the discussion openly so that the ministry can fulfil the needs as quickly as possible.

The Union Minister also said the country reports 2,926 death cases so far and more than 2,300 of healthcare workers of ministry tested positive for COVID-19 and 3 died among

confirmed cases. It is a huge loss for the country and ministry.

He then highlighted the better treatment of hospitals as the required medical supplies and oxygen pipelines are installed at the hospitals and intensive care units by using the fund of government, cash contribution of donors, international loans and funds.

The Union Minister also discussed the SARS-CoV-2 virus which currently occurred in some world countries, efforts of ministry to put the returnees from foreign countries under 2-week quarantine by conducting health checks with RT PCR

system for two times and plans to conduct Whole Genome Sequencing at the Medical Research Department.

The meeting discussed the holding of regular meetings and consultations by professors from various medical fields; the strengths and weaknesses of the COVID-19 treatment process according to the survey findings; suggestions for future planning for COVID-19 ward in hospitals, intensive care unit, medicines and medical equipment; recommendations for ambulance transport and treatment and patient placement and step-by-step pathways for COVID-19 patients; refresher train-

ing by central-level hospitals to township and station hospitals.

Afterwards, Professor Dr Moe Moe San discussed the suggestions and discussions from the meeting of specialists and experts from the Department of Tropical and Infectious Diseases and Hormone Medicine. She presented the recommendations for updating treatment guidelines in line with the latest findings and for the continuity of the training of health professionals.

The meeting also discussed the nurse training and the involvement of nursing trainees in health education activities; the donation of foods and necessary medical equipment by volunteers and donors; the requirement of data assistance to record the data of COVID-19 patients.

The Union Minister said the ministry would carry out human resource development and further training, particularly, in intensive care medicine and intensive care nursing with a new curriculum online.

He called for the immediate opening of new postgraduate courses in Virology, Immunology, research and health sciences. He also said the implementation of electronic records for medical records and the preparation accommodation for health care workers and medical students and trainees.—MNA

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

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

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MoE minister conducts online course in educational management

UNION MINISTER for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi conducted online Certificate in Educational Management (CEM) Batch 1 under the topic called "Achievements and Challenges of the Ministry of Education" yesterday.

The CEM Batch 1 was led by the University of Education, Yangon under the management of the local and foreign experts from educational policy and educational management departments via Zoom App on 1 September 2020.

A total of 50 trainees - 3 Directors-General, 5 Rectors, 8 Deputy Directors-General, 19 Pro Rectors, 2 Principals of Government Technical



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi conducts online course on educational management in 16 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

Institute, 10 Directors and 3 Headmasters of basic education schools attended the course.

The CEM course focussed

on education management, human resource management, research and planning, transformational management processes and communication

skills.

The interactive discussion and self-directed learning methods were applied during the course, and the experts also tested the skills with assignments in accordance with the module. Arrangements are also being made to conduct CEM Batch 2 on 18 January 2021.

The courses aim to carry out the effective education reforms and to achieve collective strength in implementing the quality education with the teachers, staff, students and other education stakeholders who have the ability to overcome the challenges in the education sector. -MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Bago Chief Minister inspects Sittoung River bank maintenance, road construction

BAGO REGION Chief Minister U Win Thein, along with the officials for regional, district and township departments, inspected the completion of the groyne construction to maintain the bank of the Sittoung River in Shwe Gazaung village in Yedashe Township, yesterday evening.

Shwe Gazaung village was evacuated by more than 100 houses due to the flooding of the Sittoung River and divided into three. The current riverbank and the embankment of the Sittoung River are about 30 feet apart currently. With the people's contribution of K378,850 and the regional government disaster fund

K1,117,500 in the 2019-2020 financial year, the groynes were built.

When the local residents presented to continue the groyne constructions in the upper reaches of the river, the Chief Minister instructed the Township Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department to conduct a field inspection and report back on the needs.

The Chief Minister and party also visited Thaphanpin village and gave the necessary instruction for the construction of the connecting concrete road between Shwe Gazaung village, Thaphanpin and Shansu villages. If this road can be built, the



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein inspects maintenance of Sittoung River bank on 16 January 2021. PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWA)

villages east of the Sittoung River, and hill villages will be conveniently accessible.—Ko

Lwin (Swa)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

SMEs to apply for tourism loans from MTB

Tourism-related small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can now apply for loans at Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB) through the 11 associations under the Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) as collateral and insurance, according to the MTB Head Office.

"There are 11 associations in Myanmar tourism industry in the pandemic period. The Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between the team in each sector. The working processes are being

taken step by step to provide the loans to SMEs under these associations. Our MTB Head Office has a loan department. SME businesses can directly contact the MTB's loan department. Now, the department is also providing loans to the team's small businesses. However, it is more convenient to reach MTB through the relevant associations. The department again postponed the interest payment period and deferred the repayment dates during the pandemic period. When the tourism business-

es resume in the aftermath of COVID-19, the department will provide more loans to the SME businesses, said U Zaw Thu, the MTB deputy managing director.

MTF has 11 associations related to the tourism sector, including souvenir sale shops, hotel associations, and restaurant shops. MTB is providing loans to SME businesses under these 11 associations starting from last year. MTB firstly offered K 20 million loans to SMEs without the collaterals. The loans will be

provided depending upon the collateral application.

Under the Central Bank of Myanmar, the interest claiming period will be postponed in the pandemic period. At present, the loan interest rate of MTB is 10 per cent. MTB Head Office was opened on Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. According to MTB Head Office, the bank has already been opened up to six branches across the country. — Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)



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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.

Increasing golden deer, tortoises face killing in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary

ALTHOUGH the endangered species of Myanmar golden deer and star tortoises are yearly increasing in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu district, they are being killed by many reasons, according to the Region Forest Department.

Therefore, the officials from the wildlife sanctuary and staff from the forest department have to take good care of them.

“The new golden deer are also given birth on the yard, displayed for the public to observe. According to the survey data, the number of golden deer has increased in the forest. On the other hand, they are also being killed by the people, and killing cases are on the rise. We are also worried about the declining number of gold deer species. We are also breeding the star tortoises in the forest, 26 miles away from the wildlife sanctuary for them to be able to live naturally,” said U Htay Maung, the director of



A herd of deer in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

the Regional Forest Department.

Of 650 star tortoises trained to be released into the wild, 357 died and disappeared for many reasons on 15 July 2019. According to the official data, 157 star tortoises were missing from the barbed wire fence on 12 January 2020.

“The star tortoises died for many reasons with some being

eaten by the wild pigs because of being unsafe on farms and also because of starvation. Additionally, they were shot by the people because their dwelling lake is close to the road. The residents have fear to report on these cases to the related authorities,” said U Thein, a resident from Minbu township.

“There are eight male deer,



Picture shows tortoises eating vegetables. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

and 25 female deer in the yard set up in 2010 near Man Shwesettaw Pagoda for the people to observe. There are also more than 1,100 golden deer in the wildlife sanctuary and over 1,000 star tortoises at the breeding farms in the wildlife sanctuary,” said U Htay Maung.

The star tortoises that are native to Myanmar are function-

ally extinct, according to a survey. Since 1999, the department has rehabilitated tortoises in Shwesettaw under a conservation programme.

There are 14 mammals’ species, 43 amphibians’ species, 39 butterfly species and 113 bird species in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary. — Zayyatu (Magway)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Thanlyin to grow over 3,000 acres of summer paddy

THE Thanlyin Agriculture Department has targeted to grow a total of 3,096 acres of summer paddy in Thanlyin township this year. The local farmers from Thanlyin township are growing summer paddy, monsoon paddy and edible oil crop regarding the agricultural sector in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Southern District.

The department will cultivate over 3,000 acres of summer paddy using the irrigated water this summer season. Now, the

paddy growers have already grown 1,499 acres of summer paddy in Thanlyin Township.

Summer paddy and winter crops grower U Zaw Min from Bawt Thabyay Kan village said that I have already grown 35 acres of summer paddy. It has been produced for three years already. In the last two years, we faced a shortage of irrigated water, and the summer paddy price also plunged. I have also grown 27 acres of green gram. Our farmers need a lot of ca-

capacity to invest.

This year, we hope that the price of summer paddy and green gram will be much better. Myanmar exports rice to more than 60 countries, with most of the crop going to China, Bangladesh, African states, Sri Lanka, Senegal, Afghanistan and Poland. Also, Indonesia, Japan and Singapore, and some European countries, import rice from Myanmar. —Thet Khaing (Thanlyin)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Thanlyin will grow more than 3,000 acres of summer paddy this year. PHOTO: THET KHAING (THANLYIN)

Domestic gold price down in global plunge

By Nyein Nyein

According to the gold prices skimming in the global market, the gold market price in Myanmar has dropped to K1,318,800 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) the domestic gold market.

Although the global gold price stood at US\$1,955 per ounce on 6 January, it plunged to \$1,828 per ounce on 16 January with a decrease of over US\$100 in 11 days as per market data. Similarly, the local gold price has fallen as a result of the situation in the international market. The local gold price was only around K1,336,000 per tical on 6 January, but it spiked to K1,318,800 per tical on 16 January. Within 11 days, the domestic gold price plunged by K12,000 per tical.

The local dollar exchange rate was also on the downside. At present, the local dollar exchange rate stands at around

K1,339 per dollar. At the end of last year, the local gold reached the lowest K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The pace changed between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal price moved in the range of K1,280,000 (1 December) and K1,332,000 (28 December).

With the global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to K1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a fresh peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September, according to the gold traders.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Announcement on fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines

A total of 728 donors from local and foreign countries contributed K10.126854 billion and US\$2.673 million to the accounts of COVID-19 Vaccination Fund opened at the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) — Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012 and Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733 — between 6-1-2021 and 12-1-2021.

The received funds including contribution from the Union Government amounted to K11.126854 billion and \$252.673 million.

Fund Management Sub-committee on Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines

Officials inspect winter garlic field for GAP certification in Mongpan

OFFICIALS from the Agriculture Department inspected the 500 acres of land for GAP (Good Agriculture Practices) certification for winter garlic, on 15 January in Mongpan Township, Langkho District, in southern Shan State.

A total of 112 farmers applied for GAP certification for winter garlic in 2020-2021 financial year.

The Department of Agriculture of Mongpan Township issued GAP certification to a total of 21 farmers for 95 acres of land in the previous financial year



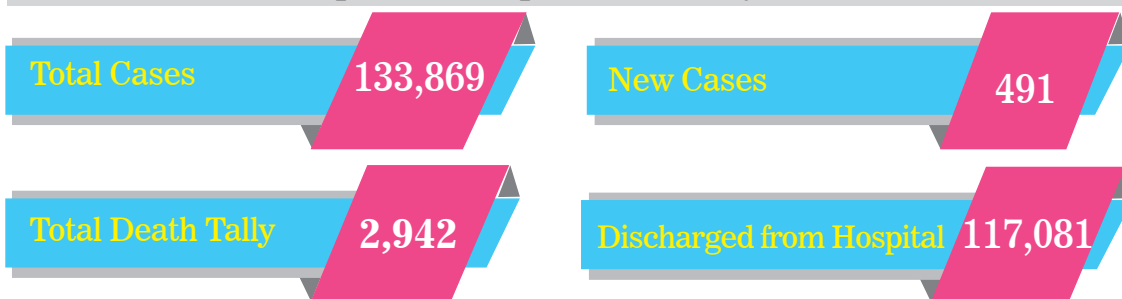
Agriculture Department officials inspect garlic field in Mongpan Township, southern Shan State on 15 January. **PHOTO: SAN MYINT (IPRD)**

2019-2020, according to Township Myint (IPRD) (Translated by Eidepartment U Kyaw Moe.—San Phyu Phyu Aung)

491 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 January, total figure rises to 133,869

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **133,869** after **491** new cases were reported on 16 January 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **133,869** confirmed cases, **2,942** died, **117,081** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 16 January 2021



Daily death toll until 8 pm 16-1-2021

16

Ministry of Health and Sports

PANDEMIC: TOP STORIES

STAUNCH ALLY

'Friend' China to donate one million vaccine doses to Cambodia: PM

CHINA will donate one million doses of its Sinovac coronavirus vaccine to Cambodia, the kingdom's strongman premier Hun Sen has said, thanking "friend" Beijing for its generosity.

Cambodia has long been a staunch ally of Beijing, receiving billions of dollars in soft loans and investment from China. While many countries reacted early in the pandemic by closing its bor-

ders to Chinese travellers, Hun Sen refused, and even travelled to Beijing to meet with leader Xi Jinping in a show of solidarity. The premier announced late Friday that China has offered to donate shots made by the firm Sinovac.

The first people to get the jab would include frontline health workers, teachers, soldiers, the premier's bodyguards, and officials around the king, he said.

Cambodia has appeared to do well in the pandemic so far, registering just 436 cases, though experts say the low numbers are likely due to a lack of testing.

Beijing has also offered to help another nation in the region, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi promising this week to provide 300,000 doses to Myanmar.

SOURCE: AFP



China will donate one million doses of its Sinovac coronavirus vaccine to Cambodia, the kingdom's strongman premier Hun Sen has said, thanking "friend" Beijing for its generosity. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN QUARANTINE

Disarray as 47 players affected after positive tests on Australian Open planes

Forty-seven players were barred from practising for a fortnight Saturday in a major setback to their Australian Open preparations after passengers on two charter flights that brought them to Melbourne tested positive to Covid-19.

While the three people who failed the tests were not players,

everyone on board was considered a close contact and ordered to stay in their hotel rooms for the entire 14-day mandatory quarantine period. It means none of them will now be allowed out to practise and train for the five hours each day agreed to as part of their build-up to the opening major of the year, Tennis Aus-

tralia said.

That included 24 players on a plane from Los Angeles, where a crew member and one other passenger, reportedly a coach, tested positive.

According to local media, former Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, 2017 US Open winner Sloane Stephens

and Japan's Kei Nishikori were among those on board.

A positive case – not a player – also emerged from a flight from Abu Dhabi, with 23 players affected, reportedly including Grand Slam winners Bianca Andreescu, Angelique Kerber, and Svetlana Kuznetsova.

"We are communicating with

everyone on this flight, and particularly the playing group whose conditions have now changed, to ensure their needs are being catered to as much as possible, and that they are fully apprised of the situation," tournament organizer Craig Tiley said of the Los Angeles service.

SOURCE: AFP

“SOLIDARITY IS FALLING”

UN head warns of ‘vaccinationalism’ as virus deaths top two million

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday deplored the “heart-wrenching milestone” of the global death toll from Covid-19 topping two million, and lamented the fact that “solidarity is failing” in the world’s response to the virus. “Today we are seeing a vaccine vacuum,” the UN head said. “Vaccines are reaching high income countries quickly, while the world’s poorest have none at all.” “Science is succeeding — but solidarity is failing,” he

warned. Without naming names, Guterres criticized the fact that “some countries are pursuing side deals, even procuring beyond need.” “Governments have a responsibility to protect their populations, but ‘vaccinationalism’ is self-defeating and will delay a global recovery,” he added. “Covid-19 cannot be beaten one country at a time.”

He said priority must be given to those who are “on the front line: humanitarian personnel and

populations at high risk.” At a press conference, the president of the UN General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, announced that he and Guterres would both be vaccinated very soon. The UN chief will be given the shot next week, and the President of the General Assembly on February 2. That is because New York, where the UN headquarters are located, has a public health policy of giving shots to anyone over the age of 65, said Bozkir. **SOURCE: AFP**



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday deplored the “heart-wrenching milestone” of the global death toll from Covid-19 topping two million, and lamented the fact that “solidarity is failing” in the world’s response to the virus. **PHOTO: AFP**

VIRUS TESTS FOR UP TO 800,000 PEOPLE

Hiroshima plans Japan’s first mass virus tests

JAPAN’S Hiroshima prefecture is to conduct the country’s first mass coronavirus tests as it battles a surge of infections, an official said Friday.

Prefectural official Kazuhiro Saito confirmed reports that the tests would be offered to up to 800,000 people living and working in parts of Hiroshima City, home to 1.2 million people.

“We want to discover positive cases at an early stage to prevent the virus from spreading, especially in the city area,” he told AFP.

Eleven of Japan’s regions are currently under a virus state of emergency as the country battles a third wave of infections, though Hiroshima is not among them.

Hiroshima governor Hidehiko Yuzaki said Thursday the number of infections in the city in December was “at the level where it could come under a state of emergency”, warning that the city faced a rapid expansion of cases, the regional Chugoku Shimbun reported.

Details as to when and where the free testing would be conducted are yet to be decided, Saito said.

Japan has faced criticism at times for avoiding the strategy of mass virus testing employed by some other countries. Experts argue a targeted testing strategy, paired with contact tracing, can help bring infections under control.

SOURCE: AFP

EMERGENCY APPROVAL

India begins mega-rollout of Covid-19 vaccine



Medical staff work inside a Covid-19 vaccination centre in Mumbai on January 15, 2021, a day before India starts the first phase of vaccination across the country. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDIA begins one of the world’s biggest coronavirus vaccine programmes on Saturday, a colossal and complex task compounded by safety worries, shaky infrastructure and public scepticism.

The world’s second-most

populous nation hopes to inoculate around 300 million of its 1.3 billion people by July — a number equal to almost the entire US population.

Health workers, people over 50 and those deemed at high-risk

are prioritized to receive one of two approved vaccines, although one has yet to complete clinical trials.

On day one around 300,000 people will receive the first of two doses, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to launch the programme virtually in New Delhi.

Authorities say they are drawing on their experience with elections and child immunization programmes for polio and tuberculosis in rolling out the vaccine.

About 150,000 staff in 700 districts have been specially trained, and India has held several national dry runs involving mock transportation of vaccines.

But in an enormous, impoverished nation with often shoddy transport networks and one of the

world’s worst-funded healthcare systems, it is still a daunting undertaking.

Regular child inoculations are a “much smaller game” and vaccinating against Covid-19 will be “deeply challenging”, said Satyajit Rath from the National Institute of Immunology.

Bicycle transport

Both vaccines approved so far need to be kept refrigerated at all times, and others being developed will need to be stored at ultra-low temperatures too. To account for this, India has readied tens of thousands of refrigeration tools — including 45,000 ice-lined refrigerators, 41,000 deep freezers and 300 solar refrigerators.

SOURCE: AFP

TRACE EVERY CASE

Gene-mapping champion Iceland leads the way in Covid sequencing

ICELAND has genetically sequenced all its positive Covid-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, an increasingly vital practice as worrying new strains emerge from Britain and South Africa.

The World Health Organization on Friday urged all countries to ramp up genome sequencing to help combat the emerging variants. Scientists at the Icelandic biopharma group deCODE Genetics’ laboratory in Reykjavik have worked relentlessly for the past 10 months, analyzing each positive coronavirus test in Iceland at the request of the country’s health authorities. The aim is to trace every case in order to prevent problematic ones from slipping through the net.

“It takes us relatively short time to do the actual sequenc-



The entire process can take up to a day and a half. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ing,” explains the head of the lab, Olafur Thor Magnusson, adding that “about three hours” is all that is needed to determine the virus strain.

The entire process, from isolating the DNA to sequencing it, can take up to a day and a

half, and has enabled Iceland to identify 463 separate variants — which scientists call haplotypes.

Prior to sequencing, the DNA of each sample is first isolated, then purified using magnetic beads. The samples are then taken to a massive, bright

room full of equipment, where a deafening sound emanates from small machines resembling scanners. The machines are gene sequencers which map the novel coronavirus genome.

World leader

Inside each machine is a black box called a “flow cell”, a glass slide that contains the DNA molecules. This technology has played a large role in Iceland since the start of the pandemic.

“The sequencing of samples is key to helping us follow the state and development of the epidemic,” Health Minister Svandis Svavarsdottir told AFP. Authorities have used the sequencing information to decide on precise, targeted measures to curb the spread of the virus, she said.

SOURCE: AFP

First jab for medical heroes in February

THE world's nations are now carrying out the vaccination drive in their respective countries as they all wage war against the deadly pathogen much more strenuously than ever before. Medical scientists have also recently found a new virus mutation that could be more infectious than before.

The Union Government has led the national vaccination programme in Myanmar after establishing the COVAX National Coordination Committee (CNCC) and the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG). The health ministry and NITAG professionals are working collaboratively to draft a detailed plan of the vaccination programme.

It is heartening news that Myanmar is planning to sign a purchase contract for the first batch of the vaccines from India. We all are happy to know that the priority group comprising medical professionals and medical personnel will get the first vaccine jabs in February. Undoubtedly, that's a step by step process in line with 'no one will be left behind' policy.

Furthermore, we have a piece of encouraging news that our national vaccination drive will cover all citizens over 18. That's 67.9 per cent of the whole Myanmar population. The programme duration will span two years - from 2021 to 2022. Led by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), we are confident that the health ministry will do its best to systematically manage the national vaccination programme in the country, with the consultations and wise suggestions from the World Health Organization, 'Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance', and the NITAG.

Our national task force against COVID also established a Fund Management Sub-Committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines on 30 December 2020. It has recently opened both Foreign Currency and Myanmar Currency accounts, namely the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at the Myanma Economic Bank

in Nay Pyi Taw. We are encouraged to hear that well-wishers are beginning to donate towards the Fund. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry has also issued the Fund-related announcements that are published in the daily newspapers both in the Myanmar and English languages.

Here, we wish to quote the State Counsellor who said: "During the period when the vaccines are still not available, I wish to appeal to the people to abide by the health rules and regulations and give support to our efforts to beat COVID-19."

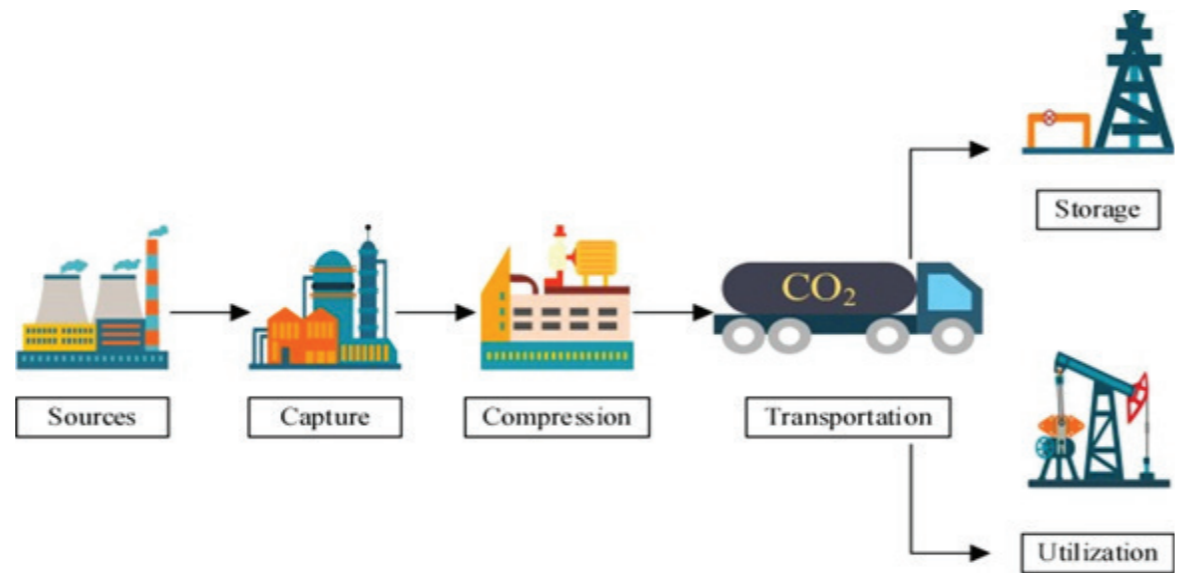
Thus, vaccines are on the way. However, we need to be both much more vigilant and patient than ever in the meantime. Anyway, let's wash our hands frequently; let's distance ourselves socially; let's wear masks whenever going outside; let's protect ourselves while protecting others.

On the path to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050

By Mg Han Tin

THE fifth anniversary of the Paris climate accord, which more than 190 countries signed on to in 2015, was held virtual online on Dec.12, 2020. Speaking at the opening of the Climate Summit, UN chief Antonio Guterres called on governments to declare a "state of climate emergency" and urged countries that had already announced net-zero targets to make good on their promises and to accelerate emissions cuts in line with the science to slash carbon pollution as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Guterres warned that nations' current commitments were "far from enough" to limit temperature rises to 1.5C degrees Celsius. He says that "If we don't change course, we may be headed for a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 3.0C degrees Celsius. That is why today, I call on all leaders worldwide to declare a State of Climate Emergency in their countries until carbon neutrality is reached." He added that emissions must fall 7.6 per cent annually through 2030 to keep the temperature cap by 1.5C, and net-zero greenhouse emissions must be met by 2050. He also said that "Climate action is the barometer of leadership in today's world. It is what people and planet need at this time", and G20 nations are responsible for the lion's share of carbon pollution.

The European Union has made a commitment to become climate-neutral that is with net-zero greenhouse emissions, by 2050. PM Yoshihide Suga pledges that Japan will become carbon neutral by 2050. PM Justin Trudeau has unveiled his plans for achieving net-zero emissions in Canada by 2050. PM Boris Johnson promises to cut the UK's emissions by at least 68% from 1990 levels by 2030 and to set on the path to net-zero by 2050. US president-elect Joe Biden has set the goal of "net-zero emissions, economy-wide, by no later than 2050." Corporate commitments to sustainable growth and net-zero emissions are on the rise. More than 60 countries have pledged to have a net carbon footprint of zero by 2050. The Paris Agreement is a



landmark environmental accord that was adopted in 2015 to address climate change and its negative impacts. It ostensibly requires the signed nations to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and enjoined the limitation of the global temperature increase in this 21st. Century to "well below" 2C degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial (1850 - 1900) levels, (i.e., before the Industrial Revolution). Therefore the countries will have to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5C.

There is at least a one in five chance of it temporarily exceeding 1.5C by 2024. According to the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) provisional 2020 State of the Global Climate report, which is based on temperature data from January to October (the final 2020 report will be published in March 2021), the past six years, 2015 to 2020, are the hottest years since modern records began in 1850. The average global temperature in 2020 is set to be about 1.2C above the pre-industrial level and is the second hottest year ever said the WMO. It is obvious that, in 2020, we saw new extreme temperatures on the land, sea, and especially in the Arctic. Wildfires consumed vast areas in Australia, Siberia, the US west coast and South America. Flooding in parts of US east coast, Africa and Southeast Asia led to massive population displacement and undermined food security for millions. The heat in northern Siberia reached 38C at Verkhoyansk on June 20/2020, provisionally the highest known temperature anywhere north of the Arctic Circle. And

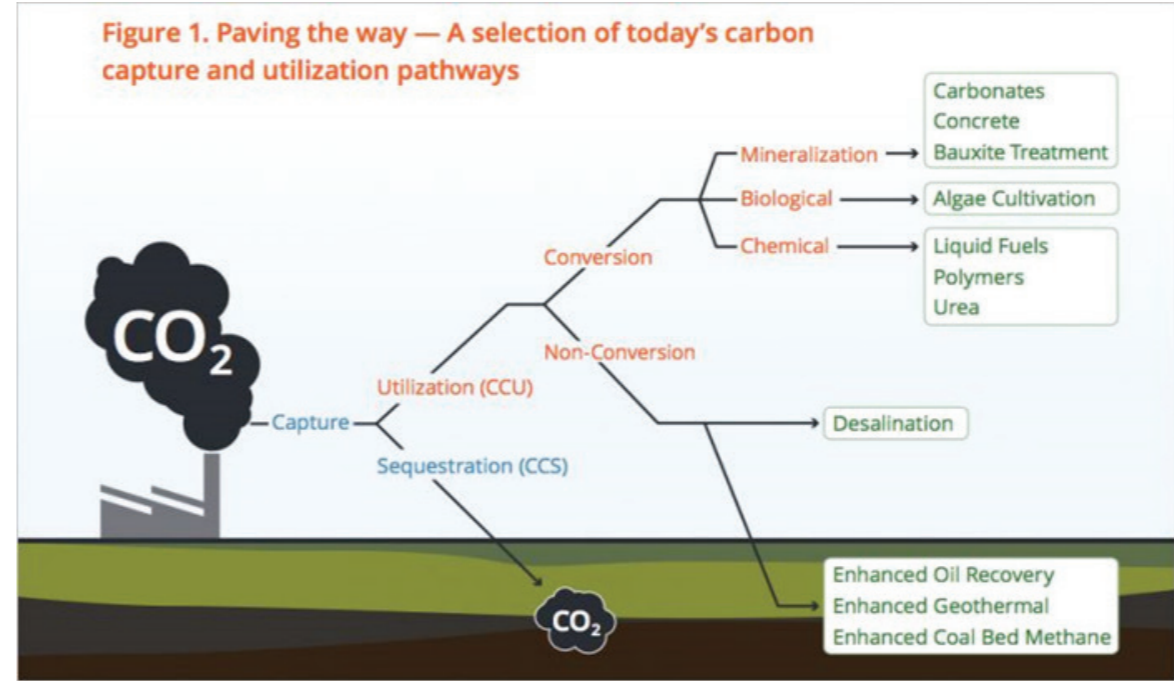
recently, the sea level has risen at a higher rate due partly to the increased melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. An eventuality that scientists warn will expose some 350 million additional people to drought and push roughly 120 million people into extreme poverty by 2030.

Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. A carbon sink is any system that absorbs more carbon than it emits. The main natural carbon sinks are soil, forests, and oceans. **Carbon Offsetting** is another way to reduce emissions and to pursue carbon neutrality, which is to offset emissions made in one sector by reducing them somewhere else. This can be done through investment in renewable energy, the energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, including carbon-neutral sources like sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. **Net-zero emissions** mean that all emissions produced are absorbed through plants and trees or buried through carbon-capture technology. In order to achieve net-zero emissions, all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions will have to be counterbalanced by **carbon sequestration**.

Carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration/storage (CCUS) technologies have been emerged due to their potential of significantly reducing CO2 emissions from the point of sources of the energy-intensive industries (especially industrial sources within the power, chemicals, cement, and

storage (i.e., geological or ocean storage) by injecting the CO2. (It may also be injected into growing trees to enable biological fixation of CO2 via photosynthesis). Feasible methods of transporting CO2 include both pipelines and shipping. Appropriate geological storage locations for CO2 include abandoned oil and gas fields, deep saline formations, and unmixable coal seams. The deployment of CCS in the industrial and power generation sectors would allow fossil fuel use to continue with a significant decrease in CO2 emissions. There are several technologies that are employed in the capture, transport, and geological storage of CO2.

Despite CCS has the potential to significantly reduce CO2 emissions from power generation and industrial installations, the environmental impact and the greatest risk associated with CCS is possible leakage from pipeline systems and storage sites, either temporary or permanent. Although, CO2 is not a poisonous gas, but can lead to asphyxiation if the concentration in the air becomes high enough, for example, if the leakage occurs in a closed building. The risks of CO2 leaking from a pipeline are no different from the transportation of natural gas; however, CO2 is not flammable. Many countries have established regulatory frameworks and standards for the transport and permanent storage of CO2, which aim to ensure that such practices pose no threat to the safety of humans and the envi-



ronment. CCS technology hasn't progressed much beyond the pilot-project stage yet and has mostly been used with fossil fuel power plants or to capture industrial emissions. The CO2 capture stage also occurs in **Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU)** processes but, in this case, the captured CO2 is converted into other components and products, such as chemical feedstock, fuels or building materials, in-lieu of typically derived from fossil-based resources. The inputs required for the conversion of CO2 are essentially energy and water. Carbon utilization and storage schemes can be classified by their capacity and permanence of storage, environmental consequences, and cost of implementation. Any viable system for storing carbon must be (1) effective and cost-competitive, (2) stable as long-term storage, and (3) environmentally friendly. CCU technology is economically viable to convert industrial CO2 into Dimethyl Ether (DME), which is sustainable and energy-efficient. (It is a synthetically produced alternative to diesel for use in specially designed compression ignition diesel engines. Under normal atmospheric conditions, DME is a colorless gas. The properties of DME are similar to those of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). DME is degradable in the atmosphere and is not a greenhouse gas. It's a substitute for diesel fuel; transportation fuel; power generation fuel; domestic gas).

SEE PAGE-10

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 16 January 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 17 January 2021: Rain will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago regions and Kayah, Kayin states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 January 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 January 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 January 2021: Generally fair weather.

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AN ADVERSE REACTION

Norwegian health authorities say deaths among elderly likely related to vaccine

AN adverse reaction to the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine may be responsible for as many as 23 reported deaths among frail and elderly patients in nursing homes in Norway, said a press release from the Norwegian Medicines Agency (NoMA) on Friday.

The studies on Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) included few participants aged over 85 and did not include patients with unstable or acute illness, according to NoMA.

“The assessment suggests that common adverse reactions to mRNA vaccines, such as fever and nausea, may have contrib-

uted to a fatal outcome in some frail patients,” said Sigurd Hørtemo, NoMA’s chief physician.

Reports of suspected adverse reactions including death are received on a daily basis and are continuously assessed by both the Norwegian Medicines Agency and the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), said the press release.

As a result of 13 autopsies of the deceased undertaken for the assessment, the NIPH has updated the COVID-19 vaccination guidelines, providing more detailed advice on the vaccination of the elderly who are frail.

SOURCE: AFP



Residents of the Nordberg home for the elderly take part in outdoor activities during the new coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in Oslo, Norway. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEFS

BioNTech/Pfizer delays vaccine shipments by a week

PFIZER and BioNTech said Saturday they will limit the delays of their vaccine deliveries to just one week, after fears in Europe that shipments of the jabs could be slowed for up to a month.

The US drugmaker and its German partner “have developed a plan that will allow the scale-up of manufacturing capacities in Europe and deliver significantly more doses in the second quarter,” they said in a joint statement.

“As a result, our facility in Puurs, Belgium will experience a temporary reduction in the number of doses delivered in the upcoming week.”

Pfizer and BioNTech pledged that deliveries would be back to the original schedule to the European Union from the week of January 25, with increased delivery from the week of February 15.

“To accomplish this, certain modifications of production processes are required now.”

Pfizer had said Friday it would delay shipments of the jabs over the next three to four weeks due to works at its key plant in Belgium.

SOURCE: AFP

ARRIVING TRAVELLERS

UK to require all arrivals to quarantine as virus deaths rise

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday that all arrivals to the UK will have to quarantine and show negative virus tests as from next week, after hospitalisations and deaths continued to soar.

The measures which enter into force early on Monday come after Britain banned all

arrivals from South America and Portugal on Friday over fears of importing a new coronavirus variant from Brazil.

“This means that if you come to this country you must have proof of a negative Covid virus test that you have taken in the 72 hours before leaving,” the prime minister said, flanked by top medical and

scientific officials.

“Upon arrival, you must then quarantine for 10 days not leaving your home for any reason at all,” he added, though travellers can take another test after five days to get out earlier.

The UK had previously made an exception for travellers from certain countries

and territories with low numbers of cases allowing them to arrive freely through “corridors”, without showing negative virus tests or quarantining afterwards.

These included Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Singapore as well as Bermuda and Gibraltar.

SOURCE: AFP

On the path to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050

FROM PAGE-9

Hence, CCS and CCU differ in the final destination of the captured CO₂, namely long-term storage versus conversion into products. Thus, CCUS can play a key role not only in meeting CO₂ emission reduction targets, such as the ones set by the Paris Agreement but also in accelerating the energy transition and in accomplishing the industry redeployment. Efforts to limit rising atmospheric CO₂ concentrations while meeting increasing global energy demand can only be achieved by deploying a comprehensive portfolio of technologies that include alternative energy sources, energy-efficient systems, and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) measures.

Alongside carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane are also greenhouse gases that

collect in the atmosphere and prevent heat from radiating from earth’s surface into space, creating the greenhouse effect. Nitrous oxide is released from bacteria in the soil. Modern agricultural practices — tilling and soil cultivation, livestock waste management, and the use of nitrogen-rich fertilizers — contribute significantly to nitrous oxide emissions. A single nitrous oxide molecule has 298 times the global warming potential of a carbon dioxide molecule. Methane is caused by the decomposition of plant matter and is released from landfills, swamps, rice paddies. Fracked natural-gas wells were leaking vast quantities of methane into the atmosphere, and biomass burning. (Biomass burning is the burning of living and dead vegetation. It includes the human-initiated burning of vegetation for land clearing

and land-use change as well as natural, lightning-induced fires. Scientists estimate that humans are responsible for about 90% of biomass burning with only a small percentage of natural fires contributing to the total amount of vegetation burned). Cattle also release methane. The amount of greenhouse-gas emissions from worldwide beef production annually is about 2.9 Giga-tons. 14.5% of all emissions come from livestock. (Therefore it will be helpful if people stop eating the meat or eat less). Although methane emissions are lower than carbon dioxide emissions, it is considered a major greenhouse gas because each methane molecule has 25 times the global warming potential of a carbon dioxide molecule.

In its published World Energy Outlook (WEO) report, the International Ener-

gy Agency (IEA) said that the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must fall by 40% by 2030 on the path to 2050 carbon neutrality. Therefore it is now the time for the countries to mull over implementing appropriate large scale investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, electric cars, electric grid modernization to replace the ageing coal-powered infrastructure to support global de-carbonization, and innovation in new technologies like hydrogen. Human behavioural change is an even more pivotal role.

Critics predict that in the meantime, the Paris Agreement is now nowhere near enough. Today, we clearly did not escape climate change or solve global warming; the temperature keeps climbing, though the rate increased has lessened. The predicament

is that the planet is still on a devastating course toward 3-4C global warming. Even if all the countries followed all the promises made in that accord, the global temperature would still likely to rise more than 3C (5-6 F) by 2100. Therefore, if we let the planet warm that much, we won’t be able to have civilizations like the ones we’re used to. Global warming was warned firstly since 1990. If the nations acknowledged climate change in earnest a decade or two earlier, we might have shaved a degree off the temperature. There are glimmers of hope if we do to make the needed changes as fast as possible, but it should not be too little and too late. Climate change is a central pillar of our humanity. We must save our planet.

Reference:-

1. Internet
2. TIME

NOT ATTENDING

Trump to leave town early Wednesday before Biden inauguration

BY the time Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th US president Wednesday, his scandal-tainted predecessor Donald Trump will already be far away, having helicoptered out of the White House a last time earlier that morning, an official said Friday. Trump will be the first president in a century and a half to snub the inauguration of his successor. An official who asked not to be identified said Trump would go to his Mar-a-Lago golf club in Florida, which is his legal residence and will become home after the White House. He is expected to be out of town well before Biden is sworn in on the steps of the Capitol building at exactly noon. After spending more than two months trying to overturn the results of the November election, pushing false conspiracy theories about fraud, Trump's presence had not been expected at the inauguration.

The final straw came on January 6

when Trump gathered a huge crowd of supporters on the National Mall and once more claimed that they had to fight to stop a fraudulent election. A mob then stormed Congress, halting proceedings underway to certify Biden's win. For longer than anyone can remember, outgoing presidents have stood by their replacement on the Capitol steps, watching them take the oath -- and in so doing showing visible support for the peaceful transfer of power. Trump, who was impeached for a record second time in the wake of the Congress storming, has also broken with more discreet protocol by refusing to invite Biden and his wife Jill Biden to the White House for a traditional cup of tea in the Oval Office. On Friday, Vice President Mike Pence did make the gesture of telephoning his incoming counterpart Kamala Harris, a source said.

SOURCE: AFP



US President Donald Trump boards Marine One as he departs the White House in October 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ARMIN LASCHET

Merkel ally wins race to lead her party

CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel's conservative CDU party on Saturday picked her ally Armin Laschet as its next leader, in a vote that kicks off the race for Germany's top job as a deadly pandemic roils Europe's biggest economy.

In the close race, Laschet, the state premier of Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, triumphed over old Merkel nemesis Friedrich Merz, after a first round that saw Merz leading by just five votes. A third hopeful, foreign affairs expert Norbert Roettgen, was knocked out of the race.

Merz had campaigned on a promise to shift away from Merkel's centrist path and steer right, writing in a column for Der Spiegel that a "happy 'carry on like this' is just as inappropriate as the vague claim to occupy the centre at all times". In contrast,



Merkel ally Armin Laschet delivers a speech after being elected as the CDU party's new leader. PHOTO: AFP

Laschet pledged to continue with Merkel's more moderate course.

In a speech minutes before the vote on Saturday, Laschet called for "continuity" and highlighted the challenge of retaining CDU voters without Merkel at the top. "What we need is continuity of success," he said, in a direct

rejection of Merz's vision.

Merz, meanwhile, attempted to address his low levels of support among women in the party by highlighting his good relationship with his wife and daughter -- leading to some panning on social media.

SOURCE: AFP

AT LEAST 45 DEAD

Hunt for buried survivors after Indonesia quake

RESCUERS scrambled to find buried survivors Saturday after a powerful earthquake on Indonesia's Sulawesi island killed dozens, injured hundreds and left more feared trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings.

At least 45 people died after the 6.2-magnitude quake struck in the early hours of Friday, triggering panic among residents of the island, which was hit by a 2018 quake-tsunami disaster that killed thousands.

Dozens of bodies have been hauled from beneath crumpled buildings in Mamuju, a city of about 110,000 in West Sulawesi province, while others were killed south of the area after the quake struck.

"The latest data we have is 45" dead, said Arianto from the rescue agency in Mamuju, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. The toll was up from 42 on Friday evening.

Authorities have not given a figure for the number of residents who could be trapped under levelled buildings, including a hospital that collapsed with more than a dozen patients and staff inside.

At least one hotel had partially collapsed, while the regional governor's office also suffered extensive damage.

About 15,000 residents have fled to temporary shelters and nearly 190 people were being treated for serious injuries, local authorities said.

SOURCE: AFP

ACTING ON ORDERS OF JUAN CARLOS I

Ex-king's former lover says Spain spy chief threatened her life

THE ex-lover of Spain's king emeritus testified Friday that her life had been threatened by a former spy chief on orders from the exiled monarch himself in a conversation that "terrified" her.

The explosive testimony by German-born business consultant Corinna Larsen emerged during the trial of a notorious retired police chief suspected of large-scale corruption whose revelations have shaken Spain's elite.

But her allegations were denied by General Felix Sanz Roldan, who served as head of Spain's CNI intelligence services between 2009 and 2019.

Speaking to a court in Madrid by video conference from London, Larsen -- who also uses the surname zu Sayn Wittgenstein -- said she had been directly threatened in May 2012 by Sanz Roldan.

And she testified that the orders had ultimately come from the then monarch, Juan Carlos I.

During her affair with the king, which she says ended in 2012, two years before his abdication, Larsen said she received sensitive documents about the "financial and business dealings" of the king and the royal household, which the security services wanted to get hold of.

Testifying in court, she said Sanz Roldan had contacted her on several occasions to make clear that until she handed over the documents, she would not be safe, threatening both her and her children in a meeting at London's Connaught Hotel on May 5, 2012. She said he had laid out various recommendations "which were in fact orders" which he advised her to follow. SOURCE: AFP



Corinna Larsen, seen here in 2015, on Friday delivered explosive testimony. PHOTO: JP YIM/AFP

THE DRAFT BILL

China mulls bolstering control of rare earths as national strategy

CHINA has unveiled a draft bill designed to strengthen control of rare earths, vital to the production of high-tech goods such as hybrid cars and mobile phones, officials said Saturday.

The draft bill, released to the public on Friday, said the Chinese government will manage the process from mining to exports of rare earths as a national strategy, as tensions with the United States have been escalating over state-of-the-art technologies.



China is the world's biggest supplier of rare-earth elements, the crucial component in an array of high tech and military applications. PHOTO: VCG/XINHUA

The United States and other major economies, including Europe, an countries and Japan, world's dominant supplier of the materials. depend on rare earth imports from China, the

SOURCE: Kyodo

BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES

Germany's DB Schenker halts UK deliveries over Brexit red tape

GERMAN logistics company DB Schenker is temporarily suspending deliveries from the European Union to Britain because

of bureaucratic hurdles brought on by Brexit.

The transport giant is experiencing "considerable problems" in Customs for-

malities in the movement of goods between the UK and EU, it said in a statement on Friday.

Only "around 10 per

cent" of deliveries are accompanied by the complete and correct paperwork, it added.

SOURCE: AFP

CONVENIENCE STORE

Canadian firm pulls out of Carrefour takeover after France insists 'No'

CANADIAN convenience store chain Couche-Tard has reportedly pulled out of a multi-billion euro takeover of supermarket giant Carrefour after the French government said it would veto the deal.

Negotiations over the 16 billion euro (\$19.5 billion) deal ended after a meeting between the French Minister of the Economy Bruno Le Maire and the founder of Couche-Tard Alain Bouchard, Bloomberg news agency said, citing sources. French ministers had insisted Friday they would not agree to the takeover because it could jeopardize food security, an even more important consideration given the coronavirus pandemic.

In an attempt to reassure ministers, Bouchard had promised to invest billions in Carrefour, said he would maintain employment for two years and that the group would be listed on the Paris Stock Exchange in parallel with Canada, Bloomberg reported.

SOURCE: AFP



French ministers had insisted they would not agree to the Carrefour takeover because it could jeopardize food security. PHOTO: AFP

FOURTH-LARGEST AUTOMAKER

Stellantis is born as Peugeot and Fiat complete their merger

THE merger of France's PSA and US-Italian rival Fiat Chrysler becomes official on Saturday, creating Stellantis, the world's fourth-biggest automaker by volume. The long-awaited 50/50 tie-up, which was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, is seen as crucial for the two groups to undertake the investment necessary to transition to clean car technology.

The new company will bring together producers such as Peugeot, Citroen, Fiat, Chrysler, Jeep, Alfa Romeo and Maserati, each of which will continue under their own brand names.

The 14 Stellantis brands will account for about nine per cent of the global auto market. Together they produced eight million vehicles in 2019.

Ranking behind global rivals such as Volkswagen, Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi and Toyota, Stellantis will be the fourth-largest automaker by volume and the third-largest by revenue, with a workforce of over 400,000. John Elkann, Fiat chairman and scion of Italy's storied Agnelli family, will retain his role at Stellantis in what he has called "a challenging era".

SOURCE: AFP



Fiat-Chrysler and PSA are merging to form the fourth-largest automaker. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS FENJA VOY. NO. (008W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS FENJA VOY. NO. (008W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PINE LEADER VOY. NO. (2001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PINE LEADER VOY. NO. (2001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES SINGAPORE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (102S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (102S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2021** 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 KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU0162N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU0162N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Hearty Congratulations

**Dr Bhaddanta Nimala
(Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja),**

Presiding Sayadaw of Nandar Aungmyay Monastery in Leikpyarkan Monastic Compound on Shwegondaing Road, Ngahtetgyi North Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region,

on being conferred with the title for outstanding performance for propagation of Sasana at home and abroad

“Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja”

on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day by Notification 1/2021 of the Office of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



U Theim Swe (Amyotha Hluttaw MP, Pyapon)
U Aye Lwin (Pyapon District Commissioner, Pyapon)
U Thein Soe (Pyapon Township Commissioner, Pyapon)
U Htet Myat Aung (Dedaye Township Commissioner)
U Aung Myat Khaing (Kyaiklat Township Commissioner)
U Kyaw Win Htet (Bogale Township Commissioner)
Police Lt-Col Moe Myint Zaw, Head of Pyapon District Police Force and heads of township police, Pyapon District
U Than Shwe, Head of Pyapon District Immigration and Population Department, heads of township IPDs in Pyapon District
Daw Sele Hlaing (Pyapon District Education Officer, and township education officers, heads of schools in Pyapon District)

- Dr Zin Mar Soe, Superintendent of the Pyapon District Hospital, heads of township health departments in Pyapon District
- U Aye Kyaw, Head of Pyapon District Social Welfare Department, and staff, Pyapon
- U Kyaw Min Htoo, Pyapon District Rural Road Department, and heads of township RRDs
- U Kyaw Zin, Head of Pyapon District Religious Affairs Department, and staff (U Kyi Than)-Daw Nwe, and son Ko Kyaw Min Oo -Ma Aye Aye Myint, granddaughter
- Ma Hsu Wint Htae, Ma Mya Myat Thwe and family, No. 54, 2nd Road, Ward-5, Pyapon
- U Than Tun Aye-Daw Maw Maw Thin, 555 Rice Shop, Pyapon
- Daw Aye Aye Mar and family, Bogyoke Road, Pyapon
- Ko Nyunt Win-Ma Theingi Phyo, Pyai Phyo Kyaw Logistics, Pyapon
- Ko Aung Ko Min-Ma Mizzu Khaing, 3D-Paradiso Cinema, Pyapon

MIXED MARKS

Spotty report card on climate for top asset managers

THE world's top 30 fund managers, collectively holding \$50 trillion in assets, get mixed marks on steering the global economy into alignment with Paris climate targets, according to a report released Thursday.

The annual assessment from London-based think tank InfluenceMap graded investment giants across three criteria: support for climate-related shareholder resolutions, the greenness of portfolios, and engagement with the companies in those portfolios.

“Given the huge influence these asset manag-



“More and more, we are seeing investors wanting to know that corporate lobbying and business models are aligned with Paris targets,” said InfluenceMap executive director Dylan Tanner. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ers have over the global economy, it is vital they take action to ensure the

world can meet the climate goals of the Paris Agreement,” said InfluenceMap

executive director Dylan Tanner.

SOURCE: AFP

CAVE PAINTING AT LEANG TEDONGNGE

World's oldest known cave painting found in Indonesia

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered the world's oldest known cave painting: a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was made at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia. The finding described in the journal Science Advances on Wednesday provides the earliest evidence of human settlement of the region. Co-author Maxime Aubert of Australia's Griffith

University told AFP it was found on the island of Sulawesi in 2017 by doctoral student Basran Burhan, as part of surveys the team was carrying out with Indonesian authorities. The Leang Tedongnge cave is located in a remote valley enclosed by sheer limestone cliffs, about an hour's walk from the nearest road. **SOURCE: AFP**

TEMPERATURES HIT HISTORIC LOWS

Historic snowfall chills Madrid slum to the bones

“WE'RE not animals but dogs live better than us,” sighs Lidia Arribas, who lives without electricity in a vast slum near Madrid where temperatures hit historic lows this week.

Days after its heaviest snowfall in 50 years, Madrid woke on Tuesday to its lowest temperatures in decades, with the mercury plummeting to minus 10 degrees Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit).

And the brutal cold has hit particularly hard in Canada Real Galiana, one of Europe's largest slums, where for months more than half of its nearly 8,000 residents have had no electricity for heating or light.

Police blame the shortage on the illegal cannabis plantations whose lamps, extractors and fans use so much power that they cause widespread electrical outages in the surrounding area. The crisis posed by the power cuts and the cold snap has been denounced by UN human rights experts, NGOs and Oscar-winning Spanish actress Penelope Cruz. **SOURCE: AFP**



Days after its heaviest snowfall in 50 years, Madrid woke to its lowest temperatures in decades. **PHOTO: AFP**

Air quality monitoring stations to be established across Myanmar



The photo shows an aerial view of a section of Yangon city.

AS SOON as attempts are being made to carry out the country's economic and social developments and create livelihoods and job employments, favourable conditions have been already seen in all aspects of the country. With these good foundations, the government is striving for development works in all parts of the country with might and main. To do

By Zin Lin Myint
TRANSLATED BY HTUT
HTUT (TWANTAY)

so, the participation of all the people is of importance and basic health service to be provided for the public is one of the key factors. To help the people residing across the country with good practice of public health, the government will establish air quality monitoring stations in the places where necessary.

With the aim of helping the basic health of the national ethnics residing in the regions and states, the government is to build air quality monitoring stations, for that reason, the local people are going to have access to right data about air quality, thereby contributing to a better natural environment.

Air quality monitoring stations will be established three in Yangon region, three in Mandalay Region and one in Nay Pyi Taw respectively. It is actually seven fixed type air quality monitoring stations that are to be built at the cost of USD9.4 million, revealed in the project.

In addition to these seven type air quality monitoring stations, five mobile type air quality monitoring stations will be constructed one in Nay Pyi Taw, one in Yangon Region, one in Mandalay Region, one in Shan State and one in Sagaing Region, according to Myanmar Project Bank.

The project will commence in 2020-2021 financial years and conclude in 2022-2023 FY. The Environmental

Conservation Department under the control of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is the implementing government agency.

The project will provide support in formulating environmental regulations and quality standards to mitigate the impact of air pollution on public health and build the capacity of the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in air quality monitoring.

Dr Kyaw Moe Oo, Director-General of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, said that the establishment of air quality monitoring stations would be extended to all parts of the country one year after another. Smaller amount of government budget will have to be spent in this move to go ahead as planned, and air quality measuring machines will have to be bought as well.

The air quality monitoring stations from Yangon and Mandalay are currently operational with the data sent to Japan to perform a regular analysis, according to an official release of the DMH. The air quality in Yangon during earlier moments of the Covid-19 crisis has faced a considerable decrease due to the closure of industrial zones and factories with lesser volumes of traffic.

The air quality measuring machine installed by Heinrich Boll



The photo shows an air quality monitoring station.

Stiftung from German indicated that the Yangon's air from 9 am to 10 am in the morning and from 8 pm and 10 pm in the night is the most polluted moments. Yangon, a commercial city of Myanmar, has the highest number of vehicles with a host of industrial zones with industries and factories.

These situations encourage a mass emission of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, causing Yangon to be the city with the most air pollution. It seems essential for people to have health awareness of effort to curb the emission level of carbon dioxide without having a bad effect on the natural environment.

The air quality index (AQI) is divided into six categories, each corresponding to a different level of health concern. When it is symbolized by the colour green, an AQI ranging from 0 to 50 is considered "good," and air pollution poses little to no risk. When the AQI ranges from 51-100, the health concern level is "moderate" and symbolized by the colour yellow. In this range, air quality conditions are acceptable; however, people who are unusually sensitive to ozone may experience respiratory symptoms.

When the AQI ranges from 101 to 150, air quality conditions are "unhealthy for sensitive groups," which is symbolized by the colour orange. People with lung disease, older adults and children, are at greater risk from exposure to ozone, while those with heart and lung disease, older adults and children are at greater risk from the presence of particles in the air. An AQI from 151 to 200 represents "unhealthy" air quality conditions and is symbolized by the colour red. At this AQI, everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects. Any AQI from 201-500, is considered "very unhealthy" or "hazardous," and can trigger negative health effects and health warnings for the entire population. More efforts are being put into the establishment of the air quality monitoring stations wherever necessary.

The use of vehicles, burning of rubbish and plastic, use of fossil fuels, deforestation, nationwide construction of concrete roads, and releasing particles from the construction sites are taking place these days. The volume of

local and foreign investments flowing into the country has become bigger, bringing better opportunities capable of improving economy, infrastructure and employment. These situations make it essential for us to strive for control over the air quality to reduce the carbon dioxide emission level.

The WHO measured air quality in 400 world cities, and Yangon's particle composition in the air quality is a little more than the regular level. The ministry concerned is closely working together with the Yangon Region government and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) to make it known to the public constantly.

Air Visual website announced air quality indexes on 12 May in 2019 which Myanmar stood seven in the list of poor air cities with AQI values 143.

With the ambitious plan for ensuring the emergence of a healthy society and mitigation in natural environmental degradation, the government has decided to establish air quality monitoring stations in all parts of the country.



The photo shows a machine measuring air quality index.

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

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

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

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT
No. 16, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant
No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles
No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

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

Get Directions

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

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

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON
No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

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

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

PAN PACIFIC YANGON
No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Champion v Challenger: Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp will come up against Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United at Anfield. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Man Utd face acid test of Premier League title credentials at Liverpool

LONDON—Liverpool and Manchester United face off on Sunday as the Premier League's top two teams for the first time since 1997 – with the rivalry between England's most successful clubs rekindled by a fascinating title race.

United top the table after the New Year for the first time since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013 thanks to an 11-match unbeaten run to take them past Jurgen Klopp's men.

Liverpool have surrendered top spot after three league games without a win and could drop to fifth place on Sunday if results go against them.

The last time United and Liverpool locked horns in a title race was 12 years ago.

Back then United were hardened winners under Ferguson, who saw off Rafael Benitez's challengers to win a third consecutive league title.

Now it is United who Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admits are the "hunters" chasing the champions.

Ferguson, who arrived at Old Trafford in 1986 with United firmly in Liverpool's shadow, once famously said his goal was to knock them "off their perch" and he went on to win 13 league titles.

But United have been displaced as top dogs even in their own city by Manchester City.

And fans have been forced to watch Klopp spearhead another era of glory at Anfield, winning the Champions League in 2019 before ending the club's 30-year wait for a league title last season – putting them just one behind United's record tally of 20.

But, in a strange and at times soulless season in empty stadiums, the relentless consistency shown by Liverpool in recent years has dropped off.—AFP ■

Hantharwady United defender Nyi Nyi Aung retires from football

NYI NYI AUNG, who played as a centre-back player for Hantharwady United (formerly Otthar United) from 2009 to 2020, has officially announced his retirement from football, according to the team's statement.

The 31-years-old defender played for the Ministry of Mines Football Club, before arriving at the Hantharwady United Football Club. As a greeting, Hantharwady United made a special wish for the player: "May you have a peaceful and happy life in the future Nyi Nyi Aung".

Hantharwady United won the championship trophy of the Myanmar National League in 2010, the 5th place in 2011, the fourth in 2018, the fifth in 2019, and bagged second place in 2020 respectively and the defender assisted the team with best of his



Hantharwady United veteran defender Nyi Nyi Aung (in red) has retired from football this month. **PHOTO: HUFUFC**

effort.

Nyi Nyi Aung played for Hantharwady United for more than ten years, and also played 12 matches in the International Club Invitational Tournament and 147

matches in Myanmar National League.

He scored one goal in an international tourney and scored another single goal in the domestic league.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Boxing: Whyte's heavyweight rematch with Povetkin set for March



Britain's Dillian Whyte (left). **PHOTO: AFP/ADRIAN DENNIS**

LONDON—Dillian Whyte's heavyweight rematch against Alexander Povetkin will now take place on March 6, his promoter said

Friday (Jan 15).

The 32-year-old British boxer was originally due to meet Povetkin for a second bout at London's

Wembley Arena in late November.

But the bout was postponed after Povetkin tested positive for the coronavirus.

The 41-year-old Russian was hospitalized with Covid-19 and his illness meant initial plans for a contest in January were scrapped.

Whyte had hoped to challenge WBC champion Tyson Fury for his compatriot's version of the world heavyweight title.

But while still the mandatory challenger, he was knocked out by Povetkin in August, with Fury's promoter, Frank Warren, saying Whyte had "lost his chance".—AFP ■

Brazil arrests Ángel Cabrera, fugitive Argentine golfer accused of abuse

RIO DE JANEIRO—Argentine golfer Ángel Cabrera, wanted by Interpol on domestic violence charges, was arrested in Rio de Janeiro Thursday, and will be extradited to his home country to stand trial, Brazilian police said. Winner of two major tournaments – the US Open in 2007 and the Masters in 2009 – the 51-year-old is accused by police in Argentina of "bodily injury, theft, repeatedly disobeying authority and threats", the Brazilian federal police said in a statement Friday. He was arrested Thursday in Rio's upscale Leblon neighbourhood, and will remain in custody until his extradition to

Argentina, it added. No date has been announced. Interpol in September issued a red notice for the golfer – a request for police forces worldwide to locate a wanted person and send them back home.

Cabrera has been a fugitive in Argentina since August 14, when he failed to show up to the prosecutor's office for a meeting as scheduled, after being accused of violence against his partner, Cecilia Torres Mana. Cabrera was last seen at a tournament in August in Ohio in the United States. Mana filed an abuse complaint against the golfer in 2016, saying he had punched her in the face.—AFP ■



Angel Cabrera faces charges of several crimes allegedly committed from 2016 to 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**