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Thursday, 26 November 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission **Renotification** 25 November, Nay Pyi Taw

The 2020 General Election has been held on 8 November, and the election sub-commissions in respective regions and states have also announced the lists of elected candidates in accordance with Section 49 (b) of election laws from 9-11-2020 to 15-11-2020.

It has been announced that all the candidates who contested in the Hluttaw elections need to file the Form 20 to report on election expenses to the election sub-commissions where they submitted their candidacy within 30 days of announcement on elected candidates from region/state election sub-commissions in accordance with Section 77 of the election bylaws.

If the election candidates and their agents failed to submit their report on election expenses within the stipulated days, they will be determined as disqualified persons in accordance with Section 84 of the election bylaws.

Therefore, it is notified again to report the election expenses within the specific period.

Union Election Commission

Myanmar citizens, seamen brought back home by relief flights

A relief flight of All Nippon Airways, organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, landed at Yangon International Airport with 65 Myanmar citizens from Japan, yesterday afternoon.

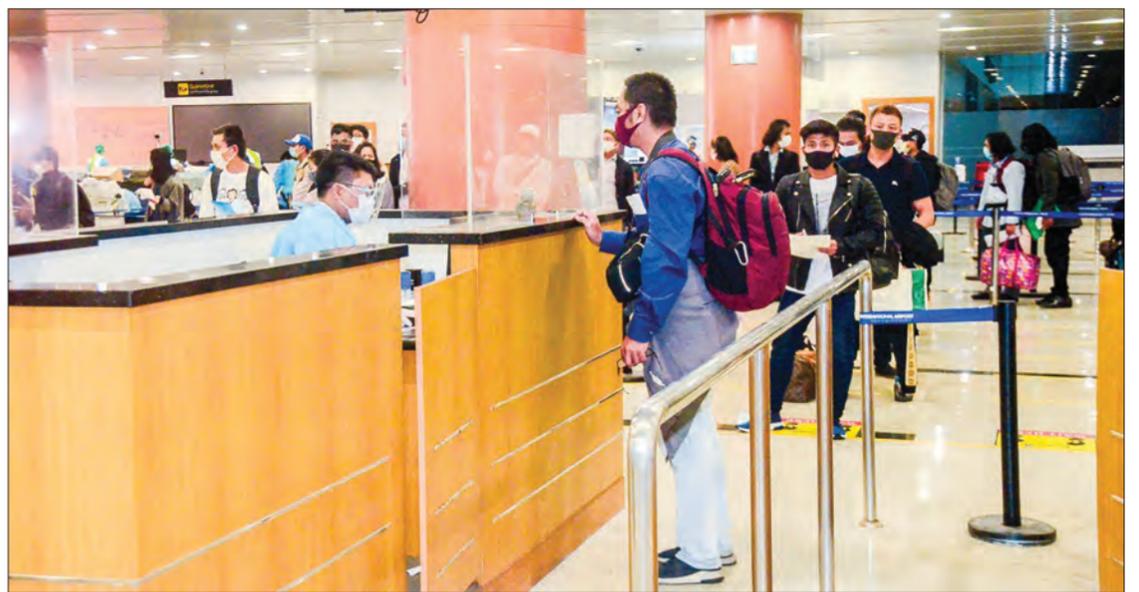
The Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and the Myanmar Seamen's Federation organized a relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines in repatriating 136 Myanmar seamen who were stranded in the Republic of Korea after their employment contracts with their shipping companies have expired. They arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Im-

migration 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.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating with the relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies from respective countries, shipping companies and seamen organizations to bring back the Myanmar citizens and seamen in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

—MNA

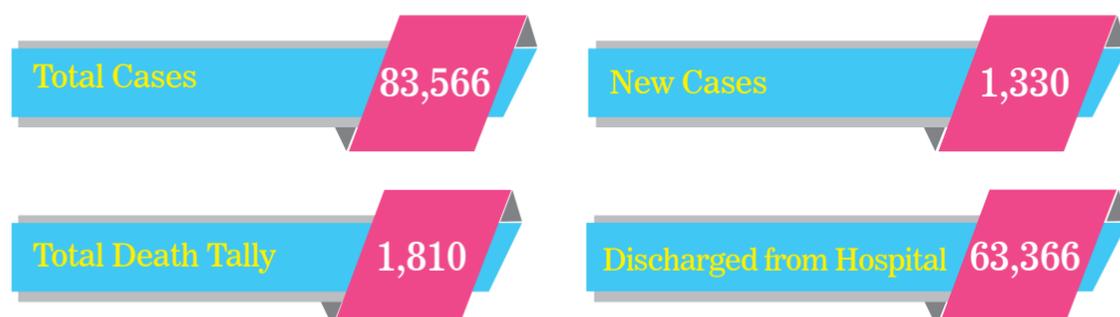


Myanmar nationals arrive at Yangon International Airport on 25 November. PHOTO: MNA

1,330 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 November, total figure rises to 83,566

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 83,566 after 1,330 new cases were reported on 25 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 83,566 confirmed cases, 1,810 died, 63,366 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 25 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 25-11-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

“People are the key”

Announcement of Supreme Court of the Union to hear criminal cases, civil cases and writs via videoconferencing

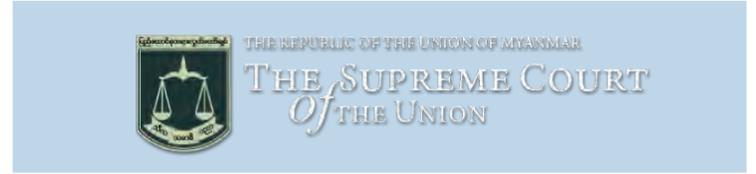
The Supreme Court of the Union will hear the cases for making decisions on the criminal cases and the civil cases whether should be brought before the court or not, and the writs for preliminary hearing via videoconferencing at Office 2 and 3 of the Supreme Court of the Union commencing 9:30 am on 21-12-2020.

The Supreme Court of the Union will continue hearings via videoconferencing until it issues any additional order after the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID lifted travel restrictions.

The list of cases for the hearing can be viewed on its website

www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm and its Facebook page of Public Relations www.facebook.com/ousc.publicrelations three weeks ahead.

Advocates and their clients of the respective cases must report on their absence from the appearance in videoconferencing five days ahead to



the relevant departments, and these cases will be heard after removing travel restrictions of National-Level Central Commit-

tee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID.

*Supreme Court of the Union
Nay Pyi Taw*

Statement of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on the status of its handling of complaints Statement No (14/2020)

1. The Commission has received a total of 818 complaints from June to September 2020 and acted as follows:

- | | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| • Referring to relevant departments and organizations | 188 | cases |
| • Advising the complainants on more appropriate remedies and other channels of complaint | 87 | cases |
| • Field investigations | 3 | cases |
| • Putting on record | 473 | cases |
| • Number of remaining cases to be examined | 67 | cases |

2. 473 complaints that do not warrant action are those under trial before a court, those cases under appeal or revision on the decision of any court, cases that have been finally determined by any court, complaints that do not meet admissible criteria and those cases that have been resolved before by the Commission. Accordingly, those cases are systematically recorded.

3. Regarding the complaints that had been referred to the relevant departments and organizations for necessary inquiry and action, 262 responses from respective departments and organizations have been received from June to September 2020 as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| • Responses to complaints in 2018 | - | 1 response |
| • Responses to complaints in 2019 | - | 50 responses |
| • Responses to complaints in 2020 | - | 211 responses |

4. To submit complaints or allegations on violations of human rights, a written complaint may be submitted in person or by registered mail and express mail to 27 Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon. Complaints may be submitted by fax or email to Fax No. 01-654678 and email: protection@mnhr.org.mm.

5. The name of the complainant, copy of national registration card, contact address, how human rights were violated and clear and full explanation of the circumstances leading to the instance shall be necessary together with the complaint signed by the complainant. If necessary, copies of documents relevant to the circumstances of the instance, photos, voice files, video files shall be attached in full with the complaint as evidence.

*Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date; 25 November 2020*

Second Myanmar-Korea Foreign Ministry Consultations held in Nay Pyi Taw



Myanmar and ROK hold the Second Foreign Office Consultations in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 November. PHOTO: MNA

THE Second Foreign Office Consultations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea was held on 25 November 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was co-chaired by U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr Kim Gunn, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

At the meeting, they discussed matters on promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, cooperation in the sectors of infrastructure, human resources

development and socio-economic development of Myanmar, Korea's support to Myanmar in the fight against COVID-19, situation in Rakhine State and peace process of Myanmar and cooperation in regional and multilateral arenas. They also deliberated on strengthening relations between ASEAN countries and the Republic of Korea in line with its New Southern Policy Plus and further cooperation related matters to dispatch Myanmar workers to ROK under EPS system.

Permanent Secretary U Chan Aye hosted the working dinner to the Korean delegation at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

MIC approves investment proposals with 3,300 job opportunities

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) held its regular meeting (15/2020) via videoconferencing system, yesterday morning. Chairman of the MIC, Union Minister U Thaung Tun and members of the Commission participated in the meeting.

The meeting approved six new projects in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries, manufacturing and other services sector as well as additional investment in five existing projects. The approved projects amounted to USD (73.820) million, Kyats (673.200) million and (3,300) job opportunities are expected to be created.



Union Minister U Thaung Tun presides over the meeting (15/2020) to approve six new projects and additional investment in five existing projects, on 25 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



By the end of October 2020, the countries with the largest investments in Myanmar are

Singapore, People's Republic of China and Thailand. The power sector accounted for 26.14%.

This was followed by the oil and gas sector, accounting for 26.05 % and the manufacturing sector,

accounting for 14.56 % of the total permitted amount of foreign investment.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin makes an elbow-bump greeting with ROK Deputy Minister Mr Kim Gunn at the meeting on 25 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Mr Kim Gunn, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr Kim Gunn at 2:00 pm on 25 November 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister congratulated on the successful completion of Myanmar's general elections, and stated that his visit is to further enhance the existing relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Union Minister expressed his appreciation for the congratulatory messages extended by the President of the

Republic of Korea to the President and the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the recent general elections in Myanmar and, for the assistance provided by the Government of Korea both bilaterally and under ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Framework in addressing the challenges posed by second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar.

The Union Minister also welcomed the Republic of Korea's initiatives in strengthening cooperation with ASEAN countries including Myanmar in line with the New Southern Policy Plus.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on the successful implementation of Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) project and Myanmar- Korea Industrial Complex project (K-MIC), the launching of Myanmar Development Institute-MDI and Technical Vocational Education and Training Teacher Training Institute of Myanmar TTTI (Yangon) to be carried out with the assistance from the Republic of Korea, facilitation of the travel of more Korean technicians to Myanmar to maintain the momentum of the implementation of bilateral projects between Myanmar and Korea.—MNA

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Physical exercises are useful for reducing stress

Regarding the COVID-19 disease, as the weather is becoming cooler, you need to be more careful. According to the assessments and experience of experts, the COVID-19 virus becomes a little more active and multiplies a little bit faster in cold weather. That is why we need to be more careful as the cold weather sets in. We are lucky because in our country some places are not that cold. However, we have areas where it is cold. We need to be very careful in cold regions. Therefore, for our people to be healthy and to keep warm the Ministry of Health and Sports has been broadcasting physical exercise programmes; I want our people to take interest in these programmes. If people take part in these exercise programmes, they would feel happy and healthy. Physical exercises are useful for reducing stress. This is what experts have found out scientifically.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report to people regarding COVID situation, on 17 November 2020)



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin accepts credentials from UNHCR Representative in Myanmar



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds an online meeting with newly-appointed UNHCR Representative in Myanmar on 25 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received Ms Hai Kyung Jun, the newly-appointed UNHCR Representative in Myanmar at 10:00 am on 25 November 2020 via videoconference. During the occasion, Ms Hai Kyung Jun presented her credentials to the Union Minister through video link.

After the presentation of the credentials, the Union Minister congratulated the new Representative of UNHCR on her appointment and extended a warm welcome to Myanmar and the latter also congratulated the Government of Myanmar for successful holding of the general

elections in a safe and peaceful manner. They exchanged views on the matters pertaining to the success of cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand on voluntary repatriation of displaced persons in Thailand with the assistance of UNHCR, the progress on the implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) for the communities in Rakhine State under the MoU signed between Myanmar and UNDP and UNHCR and strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and UNHCR with mutual respect and trust on the repatriation process of the displaced persons from Rakhine State.—MNA

MoTC joins 18th ATM+ Japan meeting , 11th ATM+ ROK meeting

THE 18th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting and the 11th ASEAN- Republic of Korea Transport Ministers Meeting were held through video conferencing yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, the Permanent Secretary, senior officials and departmental officials of the Ministry along with the transport ministers from the respective countries, officials and the ASEAN Secretary-General participated in the meetings.

The 18th ATM+ Japan Meeting discussed the development of tourist cruises with good service to be implemented by 2021 as a priority of the 27 ASEAN-Japan Transport Cooperation projects; estab-

lishing the necessary business guidelines for the improvement of ASEAN regional waterways and safe navigation of regional vessels; development of necessary guidelines for enhancing the capacity of container handling ports and the safe operation of small vessels in the ASEAN region as a new initiative between ASEAN and Japan; The meeting also discussed and approved the New Action Plan on Environmental Improvement to reduce the environmental impact of the transport sector.

At the 11th ATM+ROK Meeting, they discussed the projects to be implemented from 2021 to 2025 according to the ASEAN-Korea Transport Cooperation Roadmap, the feasibility study for the upgrade of the Yangon-Man-



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and officials take part in 18th ATM+ Japan and 11th ATM+ ROK meetings on 25 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

dalay Expressway and the Yangon-Pathein-Ngayotekauung Road according to the

ASEAN-Korea cooperation to Myanmar, and the feasibility study for the construction of

the War-Tayar Bridge.—MNA
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MoEE minister participates in Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations CAFEO 38

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing participated in the 38th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations—CAFEO 38 hosted by Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Viet Nam's Deputy Prime Minister Mr Vu Duc Dam and ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) Chairperson Dr Sc. Nghiem Vu Khai delivered opening speeches and presented ASEAN Awards to the winners.

Union Minister U Win Khaing delivered a video message entitled "Industry 4.0 & engineering solutions in the new era for climate and disaster-proof and resilient ASEAN". He said that Industry 4.0 is important for the sustainable development goal of the ASEAN. Countries around the world are adopting Industry 4.0 as a strategy to use intelligent machines and advanced technologies.

He said that according to reports issued by the Interna-

tional Energy Agency (IEA), energy consumption, including consumption of fossil fuels, fell sharply during the COVID-19 crisis, and increased use of renewable energy such as solar energy has reduced greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution. He added that clean energy sectors could create many jobs.

Before 2016, only 34 per cent of Myanmar's population had access to the electricity, but because of the efforts of the government, the rate increased to 56 per cent in 2020, according to the Union Minister. The government is making efforts in order that 75 per cent of Myanmar's population can access electricity by 2025 and 100 per cent can access electricity by 2030.

He said that Myanmar's energy resources are mainly based on renewable energy such as hydropower and solar energy and clean energy such as natural gas and LNG. In 2021, Myanmar's generation mix will be 40 per cent hydropower; natural gas 34 per cent, LNG 11 per cent; and



Union Minister U Win Khaing joins the 38th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations on 25 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

solar 14 per cent.

The Union Minister added that Myanmar is planning to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions from the current level by 10.5 tonnes in 2030.

Malaysia's Institution of Engineers and ASEAN Academy of Science and Technology Chairperson Dr Chua Hean Teik delivered a speech entitled "Future-ready labour force: Innovative education for the next generation of ASEAN Engineers". Viet Nam Electricity (EVN) Vice President Mr Ngo

Son Hai delivered a speech entitled "People-centred connectivity: advanced connectivity, technology and solutions in the Electricity and Power sector of Viet Nam."

During the meeting, Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies President U Aung Myint gave a talk entitled "Fostering Initiatives and Actions by AFEO to Build a Sustainable and Prosperous ASEAN Community".

Associated meetings of the 38th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organ-

izations — AEI Building, AEI Manufacturing, AEI Electrical Installation, Sustainable Cities, Engineering Education and Capacity Building, AEI Boiler, Energy, Transport Workshop Webinar, Disaster Workshop Webinar — was being held from 18-26 November. The meeting was also participated by representatives of AFEO, and the President and officials of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Myanmar Competition Commission holds 2/2020 meeting



Union Minister Dr Than Myint chairs the 2/2020 meeting of Myanmar Competition Commission on 25 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Commerce hosted the 2/2020 meeting of Myanmar Competition Commission yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, in his capacity as the Chairman of the MCC, said the importance of the competition authorities in trying to find the best way to operate businesses in both during the COVID-19 period and the post-COVID-19 period.

He added the prohibition of manipulating the market price of essential commodities under the competition law while the government is also providing support and easing restrictions for a lim-

ited period of time, depending on the situation, to the cooperation of businesses produced health-promoting and essential products during the COVID-19 period.

The Union Minister urged to revise the guidelines and procedures required for the Commission in this period by regularly coordinating with relevant organizations and business associations. The commission members and officials discussed the implementation of the decisions on (1/2020) meeting, resolving received complaints and further plans and cooperation.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Thai Embassy, Thailand int'l Cooperation Agency donate COVID-19 devices

THAI Embassy to Myanmar and the Thailand International Cooperation Agency donated COVID-19 medical supplies and Favipiravir medicines to the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday afternoon in Yangon.

At the donation ceremony, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak explained the donation and Director-General for the Department of Medical Research Dr Zaw Tun expressed words of thanks. The Ambassador handed over the donated PPE, medical devices and the Favipiravir medicines worth of THB788,000 to the

Director-General and received the certificate of honour.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Thai Ambassador to Myanmar presents COVID-19 medical supplies for MoHS on 25 November. **PHOTO: MNA**



MoHS discusses preparations for COVID-19 vaccination plan

THE COVAX National Coordinating Committee under the Ministry of Health and Sports held its first meeting via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discussed the systematic immunization plan for the target priority groups when the COVID-19 vaccine is available, formation of COVAX National Coordinating Committee (CNCC), COVAX National Technical Working Group (CTWG) and National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG), efforts of Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance to access the vaccine at low price or free via COVAX Facility for 20 per cent of the country's population, negotiations with Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance and WHO to receive vaccine Myanmar, the duties of public to follow the health rules, procurement of vaccine with the government's budget, cash assistance of Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance and



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe chairs the meeting on COVID-19 vaccination plan on 25 November. PHOTO: MNA

World Bank loan, plans to allow private hospitals and clinics for vaccination, cooperation works with Ministry of Home Affairs and Customs Department to prevent from receiving substandard vaccine, programmes to use only the vaccine recognized by WHO and

FDA, plans to ban other vaccine without any guarantee for quality, advices of NITAG regarding Adverse event following immunization (AEFI), transport system, effectiveness, numbers of vaccination and immune response.

He also talked about the

arrangement for ultra-cold storage as some of the vaccines are needed to be kept at minus 70 degrees C, the experience of ministry in immunization campaign especially in the expanded programme on immunization, first priority groups depending on

the age and regions where have high infection rate, message to the Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance to send the vaccine no later than 7 December of this year and the importance of cooperation works for this process.

Then, the health officials including Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win and NITAG Chairman Dr Soe Lwin Nyein respectively briefed the plans and arrangement regarding the procurement of vaccine, ultra-cold storage system, digital system and target groups for vaccination and role of media for information.

The Union Minister concluded the meeting after saying the importance of information, communication and digitalization for all health plans, vaccine-related diploma courses and online capacity building classes.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MoC celebrates 134th anniversary of its Public Works Department



Union Minister U Han Zaw presents the award to an outstanding student in matriculation examination of 2019-2020 academic year. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Construction held a ceremony to mark 134 years of Public Works Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning in accordance with the health rules of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Union Minister U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn, Permanent Secretary U Shwe Lay, the Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General, invited guests and other officials, Chief Engineers and Directors of department joined the ceremony online from their respective regions and states.

During the ceremony, Union Minister U Han Zaw congratulated on 134th ceremony of Public Works Department (PWD) which fulfilled the needs of roads, bridges, housings and apartments for the public and discussed the reorganization of the Ministry of Construction with Department of Building, Department of Highway, Department of Bridge, Department of Urban Housing and Development and Department of Rural Road Development in 2017, the important role of these departments in implementing the basic infrastructure for the development of the country, appreciation those who serve dutifully under

the ministry to date, plans to stand as the outstanding ministry which constructs quality roads, bridges and buildings across the nation and serves for the development of engineering sector including researches, innovation and technology, efforts of ministry in providing technology and machines to develop the socio-economic status of public according to the objectives of the ministry.

Then, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn briefed the activities of ministry while the five departments under the ministry respectively presented their one-year performance in 2019-2020 via videos.

The Union Minister, Deputy Minister and other officials awarded the outstanding trainees, staff who serve dutifully for the ministry, students who passed the matriculation examination with distinctions in 2019-2020 academic year and presented certificates of honour to the retired senior officers.

Then, the Union Minister and party inspected the structural model of bridges, including Patheingyi Bridge (2). —MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar, Bangladesh hold battalion commander-level meeting

THE flag meeting of battalion commander level was held at the border checkpoint near the Friendship Bridge in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday morning.

Seven members of Myanmar delegations led by Police Lt-Col Zaw Lin Aung and the 10 members of Bangladeshi counterparts at the meeting.

Myanmar officials discussed erecting border post No. 65 and 66 in Myanmar territory, and surprise attacks of ARSA terrorists to Myanmar security forces.

The Myanmar delegation presented a video clip of 3 deaths and 6 injury of civilians, including children, in a landmine attack of ARSA to a civilian vehicle near Leikya village in Maungtaw Township on 17 November.

They also discussed joint measures of border guard forces against ARSA, exchange of information to prevent landmine attacks, and the arrest of nine Bangladesh citizens who illegally entered Myanmar by fishing boats. They were released together with the boats and personal belongings on humanitarian ground in accordance with the bilateral agreements.

The leader of Bangladeshi delegation expressed thanks for the transfer of their citizens and agreed for the best coordination in border security and stability measures, exchange of information about terrorist groups and their further reports on Myanmar delegation to their senior officials.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar and Bangladesh security officials discuss bilateral border issues on 25 November. PHOTO: MNA

MoSWRR commemorates Activism against Gender-Based Violence

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held ceremony to mark 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Chairpersons of the Women and Children Affairs Committee of Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, Deputy Chairman and members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Ola Almgren, Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, chairpersons of women committees from Nay Pyi Taw, States and Regions, the Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and officials of the department concerned, country representatives of UN organizations, INGOs, NGOs and the civilian organizations.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister said the ceremony for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence has been holding in Myanmar since 2018, and the country reports 51.81 per

cent of the female population and so the measures to prevent the violence against women have positive impacts on the development and protections for all citizens.

The Union Minister discussed the membership of UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ASEAN Committee on Women Affairs, ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children, implementation of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action of Elimination on Violence against Women like other ASEAN regions between 2016 and 2019, 4 policies and 12 working plans of MNCWA, National Strategic Plan (2013-2022) for women advancement and drafting phase (2) as the strategic plan will expire in 2022.

He also talked about the formation of the national committee and the working committee on prevention and addressing conflict-related sexual violence, setting up of 24hours Help Line service in 2016, cash assistance and arrangement for the accommodation of the victims, the establishment of One-Stop Wom-



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye makes a commemorative speech to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence on 25 November . PHOTO: MNA

en Support Centres in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Lashio, Kayah and Monywa, the appointment of 250 Case Managers and this year's theme "Orange the World: Fund, Response, Prevent, Collect."

He also stressed the concerted efforts to do in line with the theme like collecting data and fund-raising to provide more cash assistance in preventing gender-based violence as it can

be supposed the numbers of domestic violence are increasing, the statement of Union Accord of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong Conference including gender equality, policy to prevent gender based violence in building the federal democratic union, amendment and revise of law if necessary, drafting of law for Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women, 30 per cent of women participation

according to Union Accord for gender equality and further cooperation for the development of all women including the ones from border areas.

Then, UN Resident Coordinator Mr Ola Almgren made a greeting speech and then video clip of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence was played.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Minister U Ohn Maung meets MTF, its affiliated organizations online

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung met with the chairpersons of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and its 11 affiliated organizations through videoconferencing and discussed to revive tourism and to the restoration of tourism in 2023-2024.

The online meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt,

Director-General for the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Kyaw and officials.

The Union Minister said that the Myanmar Tourism Rescue Plan was launched with three phases of survival, reopening and relaunching to remedy the impact on tourism industry which was almost paralyzed by the stay-at-home order due to COVID-19.

He added the release of Tourism National Guidelines for COVID-19 Safe Services Beta Version VI in collaboration with related ministries and the drawing up the Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) to restore tourism and return to its original state in 2023-2024.

He urged the federation and its affiliated organizations to help

and participate in the forums in the initial drafting of the Regional Tourism Master Plan under the Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) for each state and region.

The Union Minister continued the ministry has drawn up the Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol for Safe Tourism Myanmar to make international tourists believe in Myanmar as a safe and secure destination in the post-COVID-19 period and the trainers and inspectors will be trained to perform in accordance with the protocol.

He said it aims to make good use of rural tourism and the country's tourism resources, which will be important in the post-COVID-19 period. He urged to participate in the working groups for developing the tourism sector in Myanmar with the cooperation of regional governments. The chairpersons of the federation and its

associate organizations discussed the work to resume domestic tourism after COVID-19, implementation of agriculture tourism in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, availability of COVID loan and SME loans and training for tour guides respectively. Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw discussed the CERP submitted by the organization to the Ministry, coordination with the representatives to travel in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports when the return of tourists in the post-COVID-19 period, and the conditions for responding to a request for tourism promotion funds. After Deputy Minister U Tin Latt had explained in detail the Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol for Safe Tourism Myanmar; the Union Minister coordinated the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Union Minister U Ohn Maung holds an online meeting with chairpersons of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and its 11 affiliated organizations on 25 November . PHOTO: MNA

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

Time to act, end shadow pandemic of violence against women

ON the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, which marks the beginning of the UN's annual campaign, the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women, the WHO South-East Asia Region called on all health sector stakeholders in the region to take urgent actions across the region to strengthen efforts to protect women and girls from violence and to support their health needs amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Women make up more than half of the total population of Myanmar. If we can guarantee the rights of every woman and girl to live a free and safe life, we can say that we are protecting the majority of the country's people from violence.

Myanmar ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and submitted national reports to the CEDAW committee. The committee sent back its report with 56 suggestions, which include enacting a law protecting women and girls from violence and abuse and reviewing laws which discriminate against women.

In 2020, the Prevention of Violence against Women (PoV-AW) draft bill was submitted to the Hluttaw. The bill is different from other laws because it is a social legislation and it would be effective only when people practice in it.

When it comes to the bill, we should not neglect Myanmar's traditional customs. We are responsible towards and have a duty to support and protect women and girls.

Besides, the law should be an effective legal protection which can guarantee justice and rights to live free and safe

lives to women and girls.

Violence towards women and girls is being labeled as a global pandemic. Additionally, the emergence and spread of COVID-19 has made women and girls especially vulnerable to increased violence and abuse.

WHO commends Member States for introducing new or up-scaled gender-sensitive measures during the response to COVID-19.

Our efforts must also be scaled up to protect women and girls including health workers, around 70% of whom are women, not only from infection and stress, but also from stigma and violence.

Let us remind all people what the State Counsellor said at the International Women's Day celebration last year, "The more women get their rights, the higher the standard of human rights of a country."

We need to protect and end all forms of discrimination against women and girls, to ensure raising the standards of human rights in our country.



Commemoration of Centennial: Bringing the University Back into Excellence (Part 1)

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein (PhD),
University of Yangon

THE University of Yangon, established in 1920, was once the most outstanding university in Myanmar and has been recognized all over Southeast Asia for its high standards of graduate education. Known as Rangoon University in the days of the independence period, the University is also known for its historic political movements led by students such as the independence movement, the U Thant (former United Nations Secretary-General) movement, 1962 coup and democracy movement that led to the 1988 uprising. However, under military administration, it was closed for undergraduate programmes from 1995 to 2012 due to political reasons. It was only after Myanmar's historic transition in 2011 with a semi-civilian government installed that the reopening of University became a wish of stakeholders in Myanmar. The new government introduced series of reforms and efforts for reopening the University of Yangon were considered. From the side of Parliament, the proposal of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to upgrade the University was passed in November 2012. The University has been under reform since then and many stakeholders paid thoughtful attention to it becoming a Flagship University of Myanmar with autonomy.

Reform period

The reform period has been in place for eight-years and opportunities as well as challenges have emerged. Many opportunities have risen by bringing back to the University its momentum in collaboration with regional and international universities. Many faculty members and students have been joining overseas scholarship programmes, receiving training on teaching and research and attending leadership and management programmes offered by external partner universities and external institutions. Some academic freedoms are granted but with-



The University of Yangon, founded in 1920, is the earliest university in Myanmar and has played an important role in the life of the nation through educating future leaders and undertaking ground-breaking research. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

out financial and administrative autonomy. The challenge for achieving autonomy during Myanmar's transition has several important characteristics such as the centralized culture that has been embedded for many years. The freedom for the formation of student unions as well as teacher associations has seen different opinions ex-

The reform period has been in place for eight-years and opportunities as well as challenges have emerged.

pressed about the future University structure as has the involvement of strong alumni who wish to see the golden image of their university restored.

A public university

The University of Yangon is a public university and all the University leaderships, teachers and admin staff are

civil servants. So, the reform process is a top-down reform process and several actors play important roles in this process. Key actors who play important roles in this process are State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Ministry of Education, the National Education Policy Commission (NEPC), the Parliament, student unions, teacher

Parliament to implement the revitalization process.

In this context, external actors such as the Australian government, AusAID, the UK government, the British Council and the Central European University came to support the University's reform. As mentioned above, to support the work of the Revitalization Committee, two overseas study tours were conducted at the direct request of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as chair of the Revitalization of University of Yangon. In May 2013, Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister of Education headed the study tour to UK. Another study tour to Australia was led by Dr Soe Yin former Rector of University of Yangon and Member of Parliament in October 2013. These study tours were to learn about the well-developed university system in the UK and Australia. To support the reform process, SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat) analysis was conducted with the

tional collaborations and the immediate need of a Master Plan for the University. These programmes were initiated by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and have been supported by external actors since her tenure as a member of Parliament.

The key actor

The key actor from the government is the Ministry of Education. From 2011-2014, Dr Mya Aye, former Rector of Mandalay University was appointed as Minister for Education. After his death in 2014, Dr Khin San Yee, former Rector of Yangon Economic University, was appointed as Minister. The Ministry also supports the programmes initiated by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi concerning budget allocation. For the infrastructural development of the University, the priority is given for the renovation of the Bago Hall (men's hostel) where national hero General Aung San

The Ministry has decentralized in the area of international cooperation to some extent, giving the University the ability to sign MoUs with foreign universities.

support of Australian Aid. The SWOT analysis was implemented by faculty members of UY in collaboration with education experts from Australia. The report highlights the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities as well as threats of the University. It analyzed the needs for autonomy such as autonomy over academic programme - degrees, curricula, assessments, autonomy over research programmes and publications, autonomy over budgets, autonomy to select its own staff and students based on ability, autonomy to identify, develop and participate interna-

stayed during his student life. The Ministry has decentralized in the area of international cooperation to some extent, giving the University the ability to sign MoUs with foreign universities, allowing the faculties to participate in international seminars abroad, and awarding President's scholarships to the students. All these efforts support the University to become centre of excellence among other universities in Myanmar.

(To be continued)



အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး (၁၆)ရက်တာလွှဲရှာမှု အထိမ်းအမှတ်အခမ်းအနား

“အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ်အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ကာကွယ်တုံ့ပြန်ရေး ဘီလီယံ ဝန်ဆောင်မှုအဖွဲ့အစည်း၏ အချက်အလက်ကောက်ယူမှု”

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 25 November, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:00) hrs M.S.T today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm (NIVAR) over the Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards and intensified into the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (NIVAR). It is centered at about (80) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Cuddalore, about (80) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Puducherry and about (120) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Chennai (India). Weather is cloudy over the Southwest Bay and Westcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26 November, 2020: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Kayah and 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 Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 November, 2020: Generally fair.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 November, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 November, 2020: Partly cloudy.

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Domestic gold price drops below K1.3 mln amid global plunge

By Nyein Nyein

WITH the global gold price falling, the gold price in Myanmar has dropped to below K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces or 0.016 kilogrammes), according to the domestic gold market.

The global gold price has been continuously falling. The international gold price was around US\$1,871 per ounce on 23 November but sharply plunged to \$1,803 on 25 November. The gold price dropped by over \$60 in two days.

With the development of

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

The domestic gold price is slightly declining following the global rate. On 25 November, the pure domestic gold price started at K1,297,300 per tical.

Currently, the domestic gold market sees more sellers than buyers. Previously, about

50 visses of gold were traded daily in the domestic market, but now, only five or ten visses of gold are being traded, he added.

According to the gold traders, during the past four months, the domestic gold was priced with a minimum rate of K1,216,500 (1 July) and the maximum rate of K1,296,500 (27 July). The price moved in the range of K1,286,500 on 13 August and K1,332,500 on 7 August. The local gold price reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level

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

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

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 1,800 COVID-19 patients discharged from Inya Centre

By Nyein Nyein

MORE THAN 1,800 Covid-19 patients have been allowed to discharge from Inya Centre, according to a doctor there.

From 16 October to 25 November, a total of 1,874 patients were discharged from the centre with the permission of the Yangon Region COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Coordination Committee and in accord with the guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Under the guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region government, the treatment centre started to be constructed at Yangon Convention Centre on 29 September with an initial fund of K1 billion—K700 million by KBZ Bank and K300 million by Shwe Thanlwin Company. The operation of the centre started on 10 October.

The treatment centre



Over 1,800 COVID-19 positive cases have been discharged from Inya Centre after they have recovered from the disease. **PHOTO: INYA CENTRE**

will be furnished with 500 beds, including 16 high dependency units.

Moreover, the centre has ar-

ranged for breakfast, lunch and dinner of nutritional value and necessary medicines for the patients. The centre includes sep-

arate buildings for the doctors, nurses and volunteers and also a 24-hour food court.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Ayeyawady dolphin found inhabiting near Ywathit Village in Pakokku

AN Ayeyawady dolphin is found to be inhabiting near Ywathit Village in Pakokku Township in Magway Region.

"I am a fisherman. The dolphins inhabit mostly on the riverbanks, most of which are the habitats of the fish. The dolphins are used to consuming only the tails of the fish instead of the head. What is strange with the dolphins is that they are mammals. We found only one dolphin inhabiting near our village, said U Myint Htway, a fisherman from Oakkyaung Village in Pakokku Township.

"We have found the dolphin in the Ayeyawady River, east



An Ayeyawady dolphin is seen in the Ayeyawady River near Ywathit village in October this year. **PHOTO: SALAI KO KI (IPRD)**

of Ywathit Village at the end of October 2020. Our village administrators near the Ayeyawady River

are taking care of the dolphins. We have also prohibited illegal fishing such as electrofishing

because the dolphins are endangered species. We will also take legal action if we find the fishermen using the illegal fishing methods," said U Win Kyaw Oo, the head of Oakkyaung Village.

The number of the dolphins in the river has dropped to just over 70 after six of them died in the past seven months, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-Myanmar).

The Ayeyawady dolphins have mostly been killed by electrofishing. The dolphins take a long time to reproduce in their natural habitat. —Salai Ko Ki (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Watermelon prices hit seven-year record high

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of watermelon exported to China reached the highest level in seven years, said Chairperson U Naing Win of the Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Producers and Exporters Association.

The watermelon fetches a high of 6,200 Yuan per tonne at present. It hit the most elevated of 7,000 Yuan per tonne back in 2013, he continued.

“The melon price is extremely high. It is the highest level in six-seven years. In 2013, the melon reached the all-time high of 7,000 Yuan per tonne for 14 to 15 days. For now, the price remained at 6,200 Yuan per tonne for a month,” he said.

Myanmar is daily exporting about 60 trucks of watermelon to China. And, the demand is surpassing the supply, for now, he added.

About 300 trucks of watermelon and muskmelons were earlier traded a day. This year, the growers raised the concerns over the melon market amid the COVID-19 crisis. Consequently, the number of melon growers sharply fell, and so, the acreage did. Only 50-60 trucks enter the Muse market every day. The market is expected to remain more vigorous as the demand exceeds the supply, U Naing Win shared his opinion.

During the previous financial year, the growers and the traders suffered the loss due to

the price instability and transportation difficulties triggered by the COVID-19.

Myanmar’s watermelon market earlier relied only on China. For the first time, 25 tonnes of Myanmar’s seedless watermelon will be shipped to Dubai market on 6 December, said the association.

After the country achieves success on the Dubai market, Myanmar has a plan to expand its market to Hong Kong SAR, the UAE and Qatar, the association stated.

Myanmar yearly exports over 800,000 tonnes of watermelon and about 150,000 tonnes of muskmelons to China, the association affirmed.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Demand of Myanmar watermelon from China reaches highest record in seven years. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Domestic, foreign demand for Heirloom bean, Ricebean drives price up



Heirloom beans and Ricebeans become commercial crops in the market. Photo: supplied

DESPITE the various pulses market cooling down during the COVID-19 crisis, heirloom beans and rice beans (*Vigna umbellata*) are selling well in Mandalay market as both domestic and foreign demand has risen, Mandalay bean traders said.

Earlier, the market of those beans was cool in the early outbreak of COVID-19. In recent days, the market raises its head again on account of China’s strong demand for butter beans and heirloom beans, Mandalay traders.

The heirloom bean was worth K60,000 per three-basket bag during the early harvest time in March. In the third week of November, the price of heirloom soared to K85,000 per bag. Similarly, the cost of rice bean increased from K60,000 to K73,000 per pack at present, Soe Win Myint, depot owner from Mandalay said.

“We are delighted with the active

market of heirloom bean and rice bean when the market of other bean varieties is slowing down. Thanks to the high demand for heirloom bean by China, we are running out of the stock. Furthermore, rice beans are highly demanded by India and China. The growers with a large stock of heirloom beans and rice beans are earning a healthy profit this year,” he said.

Those winter crops have only one growing season. They are harvested in March. It is a lucrative crop with low input cost, he continued.

As the heirloom beans have market potentials, the growers are interested in extending the growing acres.

The Ricebeans are primarily cultivated in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay. Pakokku, Myitthay and Madaya towns produce good-quality beans. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Agricultural exports up by \$63 mln as of 13 November

THE agricultural exports showed a remarkable increase of \$63 million over the past month in the current financial year despite a drastic drop in overall export values amid the COVID-19 resurgence.

Myanmar’s exports of agricultural products soared to US\$435 million between 1 October and 13 November in the financial year 2020-2021 from \$371.75 million in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

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

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

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, the involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some

grower groups, are required to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

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

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and unpredictable weather conditions.

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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diesel engines not for land vehicles" in **International Class 7**; "Desiccating apparatus; recuperators; steamers; evaporators; distillation apparatus; heat exchangers; industrial furnaces; forage drying apparatus; boilers, other than parts of non-electric prime movers or engines; feed water heaters [for industrial purposes]; air conditioners; air dehumidifiers; freezing machines and apparatus; waste water treatment tanks for industrial purposes; solar water heaters; water purifying apparatus for industrial purposes; tap water faucets; level controlling valves for tanks; pipe line cocks; bath fittings; water heaters; heaters; apparatus and installations for cooling" in **International Class 11**; "Vessels and their parts and fittings; aircraft and their parts and fittings; railway rolling stock and their parts and fittings; automobiles and their parts and fittings; carts; carts [Riyakah]; car dampers; car pushers; car pullers; traction engine; non-electric prime movers for land vehicles, not including their parts; anti-theft alarms for vehicles; machine elements for land vehicles; AC motors or DC motors for land vehicles, not including their parts; self-driving cars; camera drones; civilian drones; dump trucks; fork lift trucks; diesel engines for land vehicles" in **International Class 12**; "Repair or maintenance of metalworking machines and tools; providing location information regarding metalworking machines and tools; providing operational status information regarding metalworking machines and tools; providing information regarding maintenance of metalworking machines and tools; providing information regarding location and operational status of metalworking machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of metalworking machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of construction machines and apparatus; providing location information regarding construction machines and apparatus; providing operational status information regarding construction machines and apparatus; 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providing information regarding location and operational status of automobiles for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of industrial robots; providing location information regarding industrial robots; providing operational status information regarding industrial robots; providing information regarding maintenance of industrial robots; providing information regarding location and operational status of industrial robots for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of industrial robots for repair and maintenance; construction and providing information relating thereto; construction by intelligent computerised construction technology via computer communications and providing information relating thereto; construction planning services; consulting services regarding constructions to execute optimal constructions; construction consultancy; construction supervision; supervision of building construction, civil engineering structures and underground structures; operation and maintenance of building equipment and providing information relating thereto; mining and providing advice and information relating thereto; snow removal and providing advice and information relating thereto" in **International Class 37**; "Providing information regarding operational control and operational status of cars and dump trucks; providing information regarding dynamic control of cars and dump trucks; providing information regarding the location of cars and dump trucks; transport of cars and dump trucks and providing information relating thereto; consultancy relating to planning of operational control of cars and dump trucks in transport; providing information regarding the operational control and operational status of the land vehicles; providing information regarding the operating location of land vehicles; physical storage of electronic media containing data, drawings, texts, digital photographs, music, images, video and electronic data; warehousing services; advisory services relating to the storage and transportation of goods, freight or cargo; freighting services; rental of warehouse space; rental of land vehicles; providing location information regarding automobiles; providing operational status information regarding automobiles" in **International Class 39** and "Computer software design, computer programming and maintenance of computer software; design and development of operating software for accessing and using a cloud computing network; computer programming for information management; providing computer programs; cloud computing; rental of operating software for accessing and using cloud computing network; electronic data storage and data back-up services; electronic storage of data, drawings, texts, digital photographs, music, images, video and electronic data by cloud computing; computer data processing; technical data analysis; surveying and engineering services; testing, data-analysing and measuring regarding civil engineering and building construction; drafting of building

WARRING PARTIES

Calls to protect civilians in Ethiopia as decisive battle looms

INTERNATIONAL pressure mounted Tuesday on Ethiopia's warring parties to cease fighting and protect civilians in Tigray, where the army says it has encircled the capital ahead of a threatened bombardment.

Forces loyal to Tigray's ruling party have been battling Ethiopian soldiers in the northern region for nearly three weeks, sparking a refugee exodus, civilian atrocities and fears of broader instability in the Horn of Africa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, last year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, on Sunday gave the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) 72 hours to surrender – an ultimatum rejected by the leader of the dissident region, who has said his people are “ready to die” for their

homeland.

As the deadline looms, the UN Security Council held its first meeting on the crisis, despite disagreement between European and African members over whether the closed-door discussion should take place.

Ethiopia's army says tanks are within 60 kilometres (37 miles) of the regional capital Mekele, where it has promised a “no mercy” assault on TPLF forces.

“The highly aggressive rhetoric on both sides regarding the fight for Mekele is dangerously provocative and risks placing already vulnerable and frightened civilians in grave danger,” said UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet.

SOURCE: AFP

“READY TO LEAD THE WORLD”

Saying ‘America is back,’ Biden presents security and foreign policy team



Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to serve as Homeland Security secretary. PHOTO: AFP

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden on Tuesday introduced a slate of veteran diplomats and policy-makers who will make up his national security and foreign policy team, saying: “America is

back, ready to lead the world.”

Biden, 78, presented his picks for secretary of state, national security advisor, homeland security secretary, intelligence chief, UN ambassador and cli-

mate change envoy.

“These public servants will restore America's global leadership and moral leadership,” Biden said as the six men and women stood behind him wearing face-masks.

Biden said that after he is inaugurated on January 20 and Donald Trump leaves the White House, the United States will “once again sit at the head of the table, ready to confront our adversaries and not reject our allies.”

“It is a team that reflects the fact that America is back, ready to lead the world, not retreat from it,” he said in a jab at President Trump's go-it-alone “America First” policies.

Biden's remarks came after Trump suffered further setbacks in his efforts to overturn the results of the election with unsubstantiated claims of fraud.

SOURCE: AFP

COVID-19, BREXIT AND BEYOND

Britain braces for govt spending review

BRITAIN'S government will launch spending plans for the next year as it seeks to support the coronavirus-ravaged economy and chart the nation's post-Brexit future.

Finance minister Rishi Sunak will address parliament at 1230 GMT, with one week to go until England ends a month of restrictions aimed at curbing a second wave of infections.

Sunak will unveil depart-

mental resource and capital budgets for 2021/2022, as he also eyes ongoing EU trade talks before the Brexit transition period ends at the end of December.

“My number one priority is to protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK,” Chancellor of the Exchequer Sunak said in a statement ahead of his speech.

“This spending review will ensure hundreds of thousands

of jobs are supported and protected in the acute phase of this crisis and beyond with a multi-billion (pound) package of investment to ensure that no-one is left without hope or opportunity.”

He will launch a three-year jobs programme to help more than a million unemployed people get back into work in the wake of the pandemic.

Sunak has refused to say

whether he will impose a public sector pay freeze, angering unions and the main opposition Labour party, as he wrestles with the soaring public debt fuelled by the virus.

Recent data shows state debt has exceeded £2.0 trillion for the first time ever, as the pandemic pushed the UK economy into a record recession.

Britain's rightwing government has already spent billions so far this year on battling the economic fallout from the virus, paying private-sector wages, and boosting the state-run National Health Service (NHS).

The Treasury has already revealed that the NHS will receive another £3.0 billion in the spending review.

Sunak warned last weekend that the British economy was under “enormous strain” because of Covid-19 — but ruled out cuts to public services.

Following the statement, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) watchdog will publish its latest economic growth forecasts, detailing the damage caused by the virus.

SOURCE: AFP

FERVENT FAN BASE

S.Africa's Zuma still popular despite graft scandals

OVER the course of his scandal-tainted career, South Africa's ex-president Jacob Zuma accumulated 16 fraud charges, faced court over alleged rape and built a fervent fan base that continues to rattle politics.

He now faces a police investigation after walking out last week on a panel probing rampant state corruption during his nine-year reign.

The former anti-apartheid resistance fighter is accused of overseeing mass looting of state assets. After months of playing cat-and-mouse, it was expected he would be asked to take the witness stand.

Instead, Zuma and his lawyer did not return from a recess after the head of the judicial commission refused to recuse himself, as requested by Zuma.

On Monday, the commission announced it would “lay a criminal complaint with the South African police against Mr Zuma so that the police can investigate his conduct”.

SOURCE: AFP



Protesters walk down Oxford Street at a demonstration against vaccinations and government restrictions designed to fight the spread of the coronavirus in London on October 17, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

NEARING CHRISTMAS

Don't relax virus rules too quickly, says EU chief



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. **POOL PHOTO BY OLIVIER MATTHYS/AFP**

EUROPEAN countries should not ease coronavirus restrictions too quickly, EU chief Ursula von

der Leyen warned on Wednesday, stressing the risk of a post-Christmas third wave.

Some European nations are slowly relaxing measures including stay-at-home orders put in place to fight the pandemic, as they gear up for end-of-year holidays.

But von der Leyen told EU lawmakers: "We must learn from the summer and not repeat the same mistakes, relaxing too fast."

French President Emmanuel Macron announced late on Tuesday that shops could reopen on Saturday and nationwide stay-at-home orders would be lifted from December 15, though a nighttime curfew would be reintroduced. Elsewhere in Europe, 16 German states agreed guidelines for Christmas that were less

strict than those proposed for the rest of December, even as virus cases near one million.

State leaders agreed to cap gatherings to 10 people over the December 23 to January 1 holiday -- double the limit for the rest of December.

The latest bulletin by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control issued early this week classes most of the European Union countries, including France and Germany, as being of "serious concern".

"Relaxing too fast and too much is a risk for a third wave after Christmas," von der Leyen said.

SOURCE: AFP

BATTLING A THIRD WAVE

Tokyo urges residents to avoid 'non-essential' outings

TOKYO'S governor on Wednesday urged residents to avoid non-essential outings and asked businesses serving alcohol to shut early as Japan battles record coronavirus infections.

The country has seen a comparatively small outbreak overall, with just over 2,000 deaths and 135,400 confirmed cases, and has not imposed the strict lockdowns seen elsewhere.

But it is now battling a third wave of the respiratory disease, reporting record numbers of daily infections nationwide in recent days.

"We'd like to ask Tokyo residents, if they can, to refrain from non-essential outings as much as possible to prevent further spread of infection," Governor Yuriko Koike told reporters.

She also encouraged Tokyo-

ites to work from home.

Neither of the governor's new calls will carry any enforcement mechanism. Even a state of emergency declared in the spring during a spike in infections did not carry punishments for those who defied advice to stay home or shutter their businesses.

In addition, Koike asked businesses serving alcohol,

including karaoke parlours, to close at 10 pm starting from Saturday for approximately three weeks. Businesses complying will be eligible for compensation.

Koike's announcement came as the Japan Medical Association warned that "medical provision systems across Japan are squarely facing the danger of collapse".

SOURCE: AFP

PANDEMIC BUILDS MOMENTUM

Hospitals full as second wave of virus grips Pakistan

INTENSIVE care units across Pakistan are nearing capacity as a second, deadlier wave of the coronavirus builds momentum and officials struggle to counter public indifference to the pandemic.

Several doctors told AFP on Wednesday that hospitals are having to turn away suspected Covid-19 patients, with the potential for a major health care crisis increasing daily. "The coming two weeks are critical and our situation is going to worsen," said Qaisar Sajjad, secretary general of the Pakistan Medical Association.

"Around 95 per cent of the beds are occupied. Only a few hospitals still have capacity -- but most of the hospitals are full and refusing to take more patients."

Sajjad said the virus was proving "far more lethal" this time around. Authorities this week ordered the closure of educational institutes and banned



Pakistan has ordered all schools to close in an attempt to contain the spread of Covid-19. **PHOTO: FAROOQ NAEEM/AFP**

indoor dining at restaurants.

The new outbreak has surprised Pakistan, where for months many have been saying the pandemic was done.

The government of Prime Minister Imran Khan, which nev-

er imposed the sort of sweeping lockdowns seen in wealthier countries, had boasted of controlling the virus but is again urging people to follow safeguards.

Compared to neighbours Iran and India, Pakistan dodged

the worst of the pandemic's first wave, something health experts have said was due partly to the young population and the fact many Pakistanis travel little around the country.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS
IN BRIEF

APPROVAL IN THE
NEAR FUTURE FOR
VACCINES

EU announces latest vaccine contract with Moderna

The EU said Tuesday it would sign a sixth contract for an upcoming coronavirus vaccine, this time for up to 160 million doses of a jab developed by US firm Moderna.

"According to the results of clinical trials, this vaccine could be highly effective against Covid-19," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

"Once the vaccine is indeed proven as safe and effective, every member state will receive it at the same time on a pro rata basis," she said, in a brief statement.

Details of the contract, including any purchase options within the 160 million possible total number of doses, will be announced when it is signed on Wednesday.

SOURCE: AFP

WAITING FOR
REGULATORY
APPROVAL

France's Macron eyes COVID-19 vaccination starting by year-end

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday a vaccine to prevent COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, could start being administered as soon as the end of the year in France if approved by regulators.

"We are going to organize a swift and massive vaccination campaign," Macron said in a televised address to the nation detailing how the country would start easing a lockdown this weekend.

"We will very likely, and pending authorization by health authorities, start vaccination of the most vulnerable populations, hence the elderly, as soon as the end of December, early January," he said, adding other population groups would be offered the vaccination consecutively.

Vaccination would not be compulsory, Macron said.

SOURCE: AFP

MFF President 'attends' 6th AFC Executive Committee Meeting



U Zaw Zaw, Vice-President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and President of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) attended the online meeting of the 6th AFC Executive Committee on 25 November (yesterday).

The meeting was attended by the President of the Asian Football Confederation, Mr Shaikh Salman, Vice-President of the Asian Football Confederation and President of the Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and Vice-Presidents; Members

of the FIFA Council; Executive Committee members and Asian Football Confederation General Secretary Dato Windsor John.

U Zaw Zaw, who is also a chairman of the Social Welfare Committee of the Asian Football Confederation, discussed the continuation of humanitarian work in the Asian region during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

U Zaw Zaw also stressed the procedures of the AFC Economic Agreement which should be amended next.

ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) also held its 27th AFF Congress on 24 November, and U Zaw Zaw also attended the videoconference and discussed the upcoming international competitions of the Asian region to be held in 2021.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

AFC Vice-President U Zaw Zaw attends the online meeting of the 6th AFC Executive Committee on 25 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

Barcelona, Juventus join Chelsea and Sevilla in Champions League last 16

PARIS — Juventus, Chelsea and Sevilla all claimed last-gasp wins as they qualified for the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday, while Martin Braithwaite grabbed a double in Barcelona's 4-0 victory at Dynamo Kiev as they also secured a place in the knockout rounds.

They are the first teams to make it out of the group stage, doing so with two games to spare, on a night which saw Erling Braut Haaland, Neymar, Cristiano Ronaldo and Bruno Fernandes all get among the goals.

There was no Lionel Messi for Barcelona, with the Argentine rested for the trip to Ukraine, but Ronald Koeman's side got the job done to make it four wins from four in Group G. All the goals came in the second half, with Sergino Dest opening the scoring before Danish striker Braithwaite added another and then converted a penalty to make it 3-0.

On as a substitute, Antoine Griezmann wrapped up the win on the night young centre-back Oscar Mingueza, Brazilian midfielder Matheus Fernandes and

teenage American winger Konrad de la Fuente were all blooded in the first team.

"We've achieved our objective," said Koeman. "We looked hungry and scored four goals. Important players were able to rest and the youngsters deserved their minutes."

Morata, Giroud strike late

Juventus joined Barcelona in qualifying from Group G but the Italian champions needed a stoppage-time header by substitute Alvaro Morata to beat Ferencvaros 2-1 in Turin and seal their progress.

Albanian international Myrto Uzuni put the Hungarians ahead but Ronaldo drilled in the equaliser before half-time, meaning he has scored in 15 consecutive Champions League seasons.

Chelsea are through from Group E after edging Rennes 2-1 in France, with Olivier Giroud coming off the bench to head in an injury-time winner. Serhou Guirassy had cancelled out Callum Hudson-Odoi's breakaway opener.—AFP ■



Martin Braithwaite celebrates with Junior Firpo after scoring as Barcelona beat Dynamo Kiev 4-0 to qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League. **PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY/ AFP**

Football legend Maradona dead at 60: spokesman

Buenos Aires (Argentina) — Buenos Aires, Argentina Argentine football legend Diego Maradona has died at the age of 60, his spokesman announced Wednesday.

Renowned along with Brazil's Pele as one of the greatest footballers of all time, the Argentine World Cup winning captain died of a heart attack, having undergone brain surgery earlier this month, a member of his entourage told AFP.

President Alberto Fernandez immediately announced

three days of national mourning in the South American country.

Shortly before the announcement that shocked a nation, Argentine media reported Maradona had suffered a serious health setback on Wednesday and was being treated by doctors at his home north of Buenos Aires.

"There are four ambulances at the door of the residence. They have summoned family members to come. It is serious," the TyC Sports channel reported.—AFP ■



(FILES) Argentina's coach Diego Maradona on July 03, 2010. **PHOTO: AFP**

Murray backs compulsory vaccine programme for tennis tournaments

LONDON — Andy Murray said on Tuesday (Nov 23) that tennis players should be required to have a coronavirus vaccination before they are allowed to take

part in tournaments.

With the 2021 tennis schedule facing inevitable issues with the COVID-19 pandemic, three-time Grand Slam winner

Murray hopes the long-awaited vaccine will be available by the spring and that a compulsory programme is rolled out within tennis.

"I think that probably should be the case. I would hope that all the players would be willing to do that for the good of the sport - providing everything has

proved to be safe, clinical trials and everything have been done and there are not any significant side-effects," Murray said.—AFP ■