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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 227, Fullmoon of Tazaungmon 1382 ME

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

Sunday, 29 November 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19

14th Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1382 ME
28 November 2020

It is announced that public statements, orders, notifications, and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of the Union-level organizations and the Union ministries effective until 30 November 2020 for protection, control and prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 15 December 2020 as it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Myanmar citizens from Malaysia, Indonesia brought back home by relief flights

A total of 283 Myanmar nationals stranded abroad – 174 from Malaysia and 109 from Indonesia – because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flight yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur arranged the relief flight of Myanmar Airways International to bring back 174 Myanmar citizens home. It is a 34th relief flight organized by the embassy and landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta organized the relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines to repatriate 109 Myanmar citizens from Indonesia. It is a first relief flight arranged by the embassy and landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and



Myanmar returnees queue for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 28 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 7-day quarantine at specific places or designated

hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign

countries and local ministries to bring back Myanmar citizens stranded abroad 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 wish you peace of mind, good health and fulfillment of your desire on the occasion of

Ta-Zaung-Mone Full Moon Day




“People are the key”

Increase in foreign investments depends much on power availability and quality: Union Minister

UNION MINISTER for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing called for collective efforts as the increase in the flow of foreign investments depends much on the availability and quality of electricity supply, during his inspection of power distribution facilities in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing also explained the ministry's efforts for meeting the country's annually rising electricity demand by tapping various energy sources and implementing new National Grids including the Eastern Grid, Western Grid, Southern Grid, and Northern Grid that cover the whole country through 500-kV cable lines. The completion date of 500-kV Meiktila (Kangaung)-Toungoo (Sabakyai)-Payagyi (Kamanat) National Grid project is set in the financial year 2021-2022, he added.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and departmental personnel, he visited the national grid control centre, 230-kV power sub-stations and power distribution



Union Minister U Win Khaing inspects the power distribution facilities in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 28 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

facilities and undertakings.

After hearing the reports of the officials at the facilities, the Union Minister looked into their requirements. He said the cable lines would prevent the occasional occurrence of system breakdowns when completed. The work of replacing the old cable lines with Optical Fibre Ground Wire (OPGW) should be accelerated in extending SCADA System Network till materializing the automated power

supply system as the main goal of the whole project is the smart grid. As for the continuous supply of power during the occurrence of a fault, Single Circuit power lines must be substituted with Double Circuit lines. Apart from introducing the ring main distribution system, the installation of a safer N-1 Criterion System and a steadier radial distribution system is also underway. Hence, the harmonious development of power distribu-

tion alongside the application of the said systems has become a must. Control centres such as the National Control Centre (NCC) in Nay Pyi Taw and Load Dispatching Centre (LDC) in Yangon are now in operation, and the erection of regional control centres (RCC) in Mandalay and other suitable major towns is in progress.

The ministry has established four zones for ensuring effective electricity generation

control in fulfilling the annually rising power demand. So, there must be a balanced development between all the four zones – Zone A in Mandalay, Zone B in Nay Pyi Taw, Zone C in Magway and Zone D in Yangon. The Union Minister pointed out the importance of well-timed completion of the project and swift financial settlement programmes in support of the resurgence of the national economy and money circulation of the country including the private sector.

As the most basic need of the people is transport and energy, the ministry should pay special attention to its mission as it is related with social, education, health and employment opportunities of the public, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister, the deputy minister and officials also made arrangements for the well-functioning of the smart grid that ensures quality and full voltage power supply, SCADA System that operates unmanned sub-station through the automation system during the trip.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

MoC Union Minister sends video message to 10th anniversary of CAFTA

THE China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 10th Anniversary Forum was held at Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Nanning of the People's Republic of China yesterday.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint sent his video message to the event.

In his video message, he talked about the 10th year of the establishment of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and the first year of China-ASEAN digital economy cooperation, the world's largest FTA with about 2 billion consumers for the cooperation of 11 member countries, China being the largest trading partner for ASEAN, economic and trade growth between ASEAN and China amid COVID-19 pandemic and the



Union Minister Dr Than Myint sends video message to the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 10th Anniversary Forum in Nanning of the People's Republic of China on 28 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

increase of Chinese investment year by year.

He also discussed trade facilitation measures in region countries during COVID-19

outbreak, economic opportunities for MSMEs, regional development, new opportunities in the economy, the growth of the digital economy and the use

of potential technology.

He said the digital collaboration plays a key role for the competitive economy, and it needs to cooperate between ASEAN and China to upgrade the technology to apply the safe Cyber Space in promoting the digital economy.

All need to try hard to create opportunities based on the public in addition to the governments to promote the ASEAN-China trade and investment in digital.

The 10th anniversary of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area Forum is a milestone for the exchange of views on trade, investment, tourism, education and cultures including measures to overcome the difficulties amid COVID-19 pandemic.

He continued that the

regional cooperation works cannot be done only with the political pledges but with the understanding of the different conditions and natures of member countries.

He then made a call for mutual cooperation between ASEAN and China to build a peaceful and modern developed community.

The Commerce Ministers of ASEAN countries and China and the Secretary-General of ASEAN respectively sent their video messages.

Then, the officials made keynote speeches and exchanged views on further work programmes for trade growth.

The 17th ASEAN-China Expo will be held from 27 to 30 November.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Therefore don't lose heart, remain vigilant

THE Union Government is making plans for storage, distribution and vaccination. Therefore, people need to make sure they do not get infected. It is not good to get infected just before the vaccination appears. Therefore don't lose heart, remain vigilant. Don't go outside during the Christmas and New Year period. Avoid public gatherings. If you need to go outside, please wear a mask. Use a plastic cover or a face shield over the mask.

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



“Digital Platforms and Myanmar’s COVID-19 Response” online seminar held

Myanmar Digital Media Association Formation Committee organized an online seminar entitled “Digital Platforms and Myanmar’s COVID-19 Response” yesterday.

The event was joined by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Committee U Thaug Su Nyein, Committee Vice-Chairpersons U Ko Ko (RIT) and Daw Nan Kalayar Win, Secretary U Min Swe Hlaing, committee members and other enthusiasts of digital media.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe firstly discussed the high demand of COVID-19 vaccine all over the world despite the achievement of an effective vaccine, inability to immunize across the nation in the short term, the use of digital platforms as soon as possible due to the genetic mutation of virus which can cause long existence of the virus in the world and the establishment of new digital platforms to accelerate the preventive measures of COVID-19.

The Union Minister talked about Logistic Management Dashboard which is being used in regions, states and townships Public Health Department and hospitals, the use of “Web-based COVID-19 Database Management System Application” (<http://covid19db.mohs.gov.mm>) in Nay Pyi Taw, other regions and states in December which was conducted as pilot project in Quarantine Centres and 300-bed Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw in November, the establishment of COVID-19 Na-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the online seminar entitled “Digital Platforms and Myanmar’s COVID-19 Response” on 28 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

tional Call Centre with Hotline “2019” in April which received more than 5.2 million enquiries during the first wave of COVID-19 in April while more than 6.3 million during the second wave in September and 3.1 million in October.

He also highlighted the launch of “Saw Saw Shar” Mobile Application developed by ICT team, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Health and Sports and Myanmar Computer Federation, permission of the government in the formation of e-Government Unit, the cooperation of relevant ministries for the development of e-Government unit and the role of today’s seminar as it is absolutely essential for the sake of country

in the long run.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said that the most important thing for the successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic is the real-time flow of accurate news, information and facts from accountable news sources.

If the flow of real news is blocked and slow, fake news, unscrupulously-fabricated stories, hate speeches and fear can spread among the public, producing bad results.

Therefore, it is important to effectively work via digital technology-based online platforms in fighting against COVID-19 pandemic.

The most popular social media platform in our country is

Facebook, with its users 27.57 million in October 2020, the number that increased from 20.335 million in October 2018.

COVID-19, which is a big challenge for our country, cannot be overcome by only a person, a group and a department.

He then urged the people to cooperate with unity under the leadership of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, the organization chaired by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Committee Chairman U Thaug Su Nein made a greeting speech and continued the discussion.

U Chit Tun Pe, Managing Director (Digital) of AYA Bank

served as moderator and Dr Tun Thura Thet, Vice-Chair of Myanmar Computer Federation, Dr Sein Phyo Hlaing, who served as COVID-19 volunteer and the Author Lun Htar Htar (University of Medicine) coordinated the discussion.

They discussed digital technology, international digital platforms, experience in using QR Code, supports of digital adoption and the importance of correct information and data in using digital technology.

Dr Sein Phyo Hlaing talked about his experience while serving as a volunteer when he was admitted to the hospital as COVID-19 patient including the use of digital platforms, how the records of patients should be done in digital mode and educating programmes to eliminate the delivering of false news via digital platforms.

The Author Lun Htar Htar (University of Medicine) discussed the use of digital platforms in conducting Contact Tracing in England, opinions on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities of Myanmar and healthcare services of private clinics under Tele-medicine.

Then, the questions raised by the attendees were answered by Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and other officials.

The event was concluded following the remarks of the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light
of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No.
00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com

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Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein inaugurates Painkan, Zwepalai power sub-stations in Kayan

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein inaugurates Painkan Power Plant and Zwepalai Power Plant sub-stations in Kayan Township on 27 November 2020. **PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO (IPRD)**

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein inaugurated Painkan Power sub-station and Zwepalai Power sub-station implemented by the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation

in Kayan Township, in southern Yangon District, on 27 November:

At the opening ceremony, the Chief Minister said a total of 13 power sub-station had been built in rural areas of the Yangon Region in the 2019-2020 financial year with the funds of the Yangon Region government. He added six 33/11 kV 5MVA power sub-stations in northern Yangon District and five other power sub-stations in southern Yangon District have been opened and the rest two will be open soon. He said 100% of the rural people in Yangon Region will have access to electricity by the end of December 2020 and the government is giving priority to the development of roads, safety and stable access to electricity.—San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

KMIC project to be implemented in December, creating around 100,000 job opportunities

CONSTRUCTION of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) project will begin in December, creating around 100,000 job opportunities for the residents, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The tender winner of the KMIC project will be chosen in two months. The construction Phase I of the KMIC project will be implemented on a plot of land of 315 acres, according to the announcement

of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex-KMIC Development Co., Ltd.

KMIC's Project's Phase I will be set up at about 10 kilometres north of Yangon Region. KMIC is a collaborative effort between the Korea Land and Housing Corporation and Myanmar's Department of Urban & Housing Development (DUHD). Myanmar Government expects KMIC to create more market opportunities and

bring benefits to the local and foreign companies that want to make a profit.

KMIC invited tenders for the Phase I construction of KMIC on 19 October 2020. Construction of the first phase will develop 315 acres of land out of 556 acres required for KMIC. The construction period will take 24 months, and it is expected to cost US\$27 million, according to the announcement of KMIC Development Co., Ltd.

This KMIC project will hold 60 per cent from Korea and a 40-per cent stake from Myanmar. KMIC is planning to finish the construction of \$120 million worth international industrial zone project on a 550-acre vast plot of land on Nyaunghapin in Hlegu Township in Yangon Region by 2025, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.—Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Road accidents kill 30 people in Monywa in 11 months

A total of 30 people were killed with 97 others injured in the traffic accidents in Monywa Township in Sagaing Region from 1 January to 22 November 2020, said Police Captain Yin Maung Oo from No 114 Traffic Police Force (Monywa).

There were a total of 74 road accidents reported in Monywa Township. Among them, the motorbike-related accident was recorded with the highest number of casualties with 63 cases reported, according to No 114 Traffic Police Force (Monywa).

"When we look into accidents, most of the cases were related to motorbike accidents.

A crane vehicle loads a car involved in a road accident in Monywa. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYYARDINE)**

We have already provided the awareness jointly with the ward administrators and social organizations. However, people do not comply enough with traffic rules and regulations. This is the reason why we urge people to follow the traffic rules and

regulations," said the police captain.

Deaths and injuries related to the traffic accidents remain a major concern in Myanmar and they were mostly caused by human error – over-speeding, negligent driving and drowsy driving and others which include defective vehicles and severe weather.

In 2019, a total of 197 road accidents were reported in Monywa, killing 52 and injuring 229 others. Among them, the motorbike related accidents account for 136 cases.—Win Oo (Zayyardine)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends meeting on implementation of face mask campaign

A meeting was held through videoconferencing to discuss the situation of COVID-19 outbreak in the regions and states and the implementation of the compulsory face mask community campaign in all townships on 27 November and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe addressed the meeting.

The Union Minister said due to the different conditions of resources including health and human resources, infection status and geographical situation by region and state it is not possible to carry out with the same work strategy to control the infection. The Central Epidemiology Unit has been researching daily on the international outbreak of COVID-19 disease, mortality rate. He said detailed analysis must be carried out regularly in each state and region and strategies should be revised as necessary. He added the Ministry is doing its best to reduce the COVID-19 pandemic as soon as possible and will only succeed if it focuses on public participation.

The Compulsory Face Mask Community Campaign aims to



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the virtual meeting on implementation of face mask campaign on 27 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

raise awareness among the public that “the most important factor in controlling the COVID-19 outbreak is that individuals should adhere to preventive measures”. The Union Minister said it is important to note that COVID-19 is highly contagious and some people have the disease without showing any symptoms, and those who have the disease are more likely to spread the disease to other people. The disease can

affect anyone and can be fatal if brought to the hospital only when it is severe. He added only wearing masks and social distancing can effectively prevent the infection and unfollowing the preventive measures is leading to high rates of disease and deaths as well as overcrowding in hospitals and health facilities in developed countries.

He said during the campaign, distributing masks and educating must be done by co-

operation between health and general administration staff and volunteers in the mornings and evenings when people are out. Vendors must cooperate with the relevant departments not to allow the seller to enter the market without wearing a mask and face shield as well as not to allow customers to enter the market without wearing a mask. He added to coordinate with the relevant department to charge people who don't follow the

COVID-19 preventive measures.

Afterwards, the Heads of Region/State Public Health Departments discussed the implementation of the COVID-19 preventive and control measure, the situation of the disease infection in prisons and challenges and difficulties during the control work of the disease. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win and Director-General for Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Soe Oo coordinated the meeting.

During the concluding remark, the Union Minister urged to cooperate with relevant government organizations to open shops that sell masks and face shields at affordable prices in the markets and the Ministry will provide as much as possible for the implementation of the work and will present to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 for the matters beyond the ability of the Ministry. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

SAM, Canon donate PPE suits to Ayeyawady COVID-19 Centre

SINGAPORE Association of Myanmar & Canon (Myanmar Golden Rock) donated COVID-19 medical devices worth of K10 million to Ayeyawady COVID-19 Treatment Centre yesterday morning.

The donation included 1,500 PPE Level-3, 650 KN95 masks, 700 3M N95 masks, 200 gloves and 200 shoe covers. Chairman of the Ayeyawady Foundation U Zaw Zaw accepted the donation and returned the certificate of honour.

The Ayeyawady Foundation has set up Ayeyawady COVID-19 treatment centres in Yangon and Mandalay to treat COVID-19 infected people with the provision of food, shelter and other daily necessities while the Ministry of Health and Sports provides healthcare. The centres provides treatment for nearly 1,400 people, including emergency care centres, as well as the Test & Care Ayeyawady Centre, which can diagnose patients.—Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



SAM members and Cannon officials pose for a picture with Chairman of the Ayeyawady Foundation U Zaw Zaw at the Ayeyawady Centre on 28 November 2020. PHOTO: KO MOE

1,344 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 November, total figure rises to 87,977

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 87,977 after 1,344 new cases were reported on 28 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 87,977 confirmed cases, 1,887 died, 67,588 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 28 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 28-11-2020

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Ministry of Health and Sports

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Scotland begins student virus tests before Christmas



The centuries-old university has set up the centre as part of a rollout of Covid-19 tests for students across Scotland. **PHOTO: AFP**

AS AN UNUSUAL term comes to a close and Christmas holidays draw closer, students at the University of St Andrews in Scotland filed in and out of a sports hall that has been transformed into a mass coronavirus testing centre.

"It's a huge piece of mind just to be able to go home and be with my family, knowing that everything is safe," Fiona Waddell, a 19-year-old psychology student said before the centre opens for testing on Saturday.

"We're lucky enough that we are able to be together at Christmas and I just don't want anything to compromise that," she told AFP.

The centuries-old university on Scotland's northeast coast has set up the centre as part of a rollout of Covid-19 tests for students across Scotland before the end of term.

The facility, where students self-test with one of the million lateral flow test kits that have been provided to Scotland by the

UK government, has the capacity for 1,500 students each day.

It will remain open until December 18 with students who plan to return home for the festive break asked to take two tests three days apart.

The UK government in London, which sets health policy for England, and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have unveiled plans to allow students to return home for Christmas.

SOURCE: AFP

BIGGEST VACCINE PROGRAMME IN DECADES

UK appoints vaccines minister to oversee Covid-19 inoculations

THE British government appointed a vaccines minister on Saturday as it prepares to inoculate millions of people against the coronavirus, potentially starting within days.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Conservative lawmaker Nadhim Zahawi will oversee the country's biggest vaccine program in decades.

The U.K. medicines regulator is currently assessing two vaccines — one developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, the other by Oxford University and AstraZeneca — to see if they are safe and effective. The Guardian newspaper reported that hospitals have been told they could receive the first doses of

the Pfizer shot the week of Dec. 7, if it receives approval.

The U.K. says frontline health care workers and nursing home residents will be the first to be vaccinated, followed by older people, starting with

those over age 80.

Britain has ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, enough for 20 million people, and 100 million doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. **SOURCE: AFP**



Conservative MP Nadhim Zahawi arrives in Downing Street in central London on October 23, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS ROUNDUP

- As EU countries debate a bloc-wide ban on ski holidays to curb coronavirus infections, downhill enthusiasts may be tempted to head to non-member Switzerland, where the winter season is well underway.
- It's been a rough year for Black-owned small businesses in the United States, and the latest surge in coronavirus cases suggests a festive season without much celebration.
- Senegal has been widely praised for its handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with few infections and life returning to normal, but the reason behind its success still divides experts.
- More than 23 million people will be under the tightest restrictions once England's nationwide coronavirus lockdown ends next week, but London will escape the toughest rules, the government said on Thursday.
- Wiping away tears, Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Thursday personally apologised for the handling of a crisis where a mutated version of the new coronavirus prompted the government to cull of millions of minks bred on farms.
- Further on that story, Denmark's government said Friday that it was considering digging up and cremating the hastily buried carcasses of millions of culled minks in the latest twist to a virus-linked farming scandal that has shaken the government.
- The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,433,378 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December.
- Tokyo Olympics test events will resume in March and a decision on fan attendance will come in the spring, an official said on Friday, as preparations continued for the postponed Games despite ongoing coronavirus fears.
- Biting new Chinese trade tariffs have stoked fears that Australia's virus-weakened economy is being targeted for political retribution and the two countries may be sliding into a shadow trade war.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONWIDE RESTRICTIONS

Georgia imposes stricter restrictions amid coronavirus surge

GEORGIA'S stricter nationwide restrictions took effect on Saturday to curb the fast spread of coronavirus across the country.

Put in place are measures including a curfew, takeaway-only services for all restaurants, and the suspension of all intercity public transport services from Nov. 28, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021.

Moreover, big cities including Tbilisi will see more restrictions during the same period, including suspension of municipal transport, closure of shopping facilities except for food stores and pharmacies, and online classes for students.

Some restrictive measures will be eased during the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays. For example, both municipal and intercity transport will be available, and malls and markets will be open between Dec. 24, 2020 and Jan. 2, 2021 across the country.

Georgia has been witnessing a sharp increase in daily new COVID-19 cases since mid-September.

According to the country's National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Georgia reported 4,472 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, bringing the national tally to 127,942.

So far, 106,328 patients have recovered from the disease, while 1,195 others have died, said the center. **SOURCE: XINHUA**

ENGLAND

Hospitals preparing for vaccine rollout in early December

THE Guardian reports that hospitals in England could receive deliveries of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine as early as 7 December. The vaccine will be rolled out to NHS staff first according to initial reports, despite the fact that care home residents and the over-80s have been classified as high priority groups for the vaccine by the British government. However, the Pfizer vaccine has a relatively short shelf life and should not be moved more than a limited number of times to avoid it becoming ineffective, according to officials - this would make it difficult to serve a number of homes in the community. By the time it reaches UK hospitals, it will have been moved twice, from the Pfizer production plant in Belgium to storage hubs in Britain, and from those hubs to hospitals where it can be administered. SOURCE: AFP



People walk past a cineworld cinema in Leicester Square in central London on October 4, 2020. Cineworld is set to close its 128 UK sites in the coming weeks. PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP

THE MANGA SERIES

50-year-old Japanese comic series Doraemon a smash hit in pandemic

PANDEMIC-induced school closures saw Japanese children discover the charm of the 50-year-old popular comic series Doraemon, which proved a smash hit this year, according to its publisher.

More than 5 million comic books and other publications featuring the robotic cat were printed in the 12 months to November, Shogakukan Inc. said Friday. Of the 45 volumes of the comic books, Volume 1 logged sales of more than 11,000 copies in March alone, a single-month record in the 21st century. In Japan, most elementary, junior high and high schools were closed between March and May due to a surge in coronavirus cases.

During this period, the country's publishing industry saw brisk sales of children's books and comics, with Doraemon a particular favourite, the Tokyo-based publisher said in a press release.

Adding to the popularity was the issuance in December last year of "Volume 0", a special edition that contained 6 variations of the first Doraemon episode, which was drawn by manga artist Fujiko F. Fujio (1933-1996), the company said.

When the manga series debuted in six Shogakukan magazines for preschoolers and elementary school pupils, the artist drew six different versions of the same episode according to the target audience of each magazine. SOURCE: Kyodo



Supplied photo shows "Volume 0," a special edition comic that contained 6 variations of the first Doraemon episode. PHOTO: KYODO

LET THEM EAT CAKE

Iconic Vienna hotel turns to drive-in cake as pandemic bites

THE coronavirus pandemic may have forced many of Vienna's luxury hotels to close indefinitely as global travel restrictions keep away the many millions of tourists who usually visit the Austrian capital every year.

But the city's iconic Hotel Sacher is determined not to let fans of its world-famous chocolate cake go hungry.

The hotel's concierge, Uwe Kotzendorfer, is selling "Sacher Torte", as the rich delicacy is known, on a drive-in stand just

across the road from Vienna's prestigious State Opera house.

"I do a bit of everything now," says Kotzendorfer, standing next to a small two-wheel cart stacked high with cakes, as he hands an imperial red bag containing one of them to a customer driving past in his BMW.

"I thought it was a fantastic idea," says another customer, Claudia Bednar.

"Because we can no longer travel, I am going to send one to my aunt in Ger-

many for her 65th wedding anniversary," she explains, then pays for the cake, which typically costs between 50 and 60 euros (\$60 to \$71), with her credit card.

The vast majority of the Sacher's staff are now on government-subsidized furlough.

And the rooms and dining halls in the six neoclassical buildings -- decorated with autographed images of previous guests such as Britain's Prince Charles, Franco-German film star Romy Schneider

and US opera singer Jessye Norman -- are deserted. Nevertheless, the hotel insists on displaying fresh flower arrangements in honour of the five business travellers currently staying there.

For those parts of the hotel not currently occupied, the management is taking the opportunity to carry out some much-needed maintenance, and Kotzendorfer often guides workmen around the deserted swathes of the building.

SOURCE: AFP

A KEY LOGISTICS HUB

Frankfurt airport prepares to transport millions of vaccine doses

AS a string of COVID-19 vaccines near approval, Frankfurt Airport staff are gearing up to handle the unprecedented logistical challenge of transporting millions of life-saving doses worldwide.

Frankfurt is Europe's largest hub for transporting pharmaceutical goods, and will be key to the success of inoculating millions of people against the deadly coronavirus.

"The stress is increasing now that we're entering the 'hot' phase," Karin Krestan, Lufthansa Cargo's director of operations, told AFP during a tour of the temperature-controlled "Cargo Cool Centre" terminal. Krestan, who uses her skills as a former nurse, is sure her team is ready for the task.

"The processes have been established, we're very confident and we feel well prepared," she said.

In fact, Max Philipp Conrady, head of

freight infrastructure at Fraport, told AFP: "We've been ready since August".

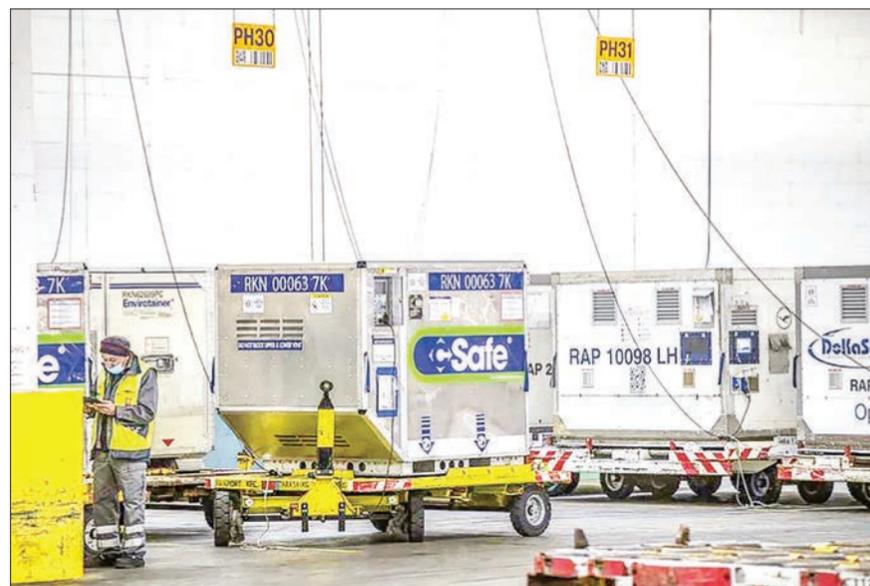
Keeping cool

Frankfurt's cargo terminal has been working around the clock since the pandemic began, delivering medicine, surgical gowns and masks and supporting global supply chains as passenger numbers collapsed and airlines grounded planes.

The vast temperature-controlled hangar, a few kilometres from the main passenger terminal, handled 120,000 tonnes of vaccines, drugs and other pharmaceutical products in 2019, airport operator Fraport said.

It has 12,000 square metres of temperature-controlled warehouses, essential for storing medicines. About 8,000 square metres, around the size of a football field, handles Lufthansa cargo alone, Krestan said.

SOURCE: AFP



A Frankfurt airport worker stands by the temperature-controlled dry ice carts used to transport the most sensitive of the vaccines. PHOTO: AFP

Mindfulness is a vaccine for mental illness

GLOBAL media are reporting about the successful trials of COVID-19 vaccines, and people around the world are hopeful with the news that vaccines would be ready in deployment in early 2021.

Amidst the already existing COVID-19 pandemic, another health problem being reported worldwide is a mental illness that is making our health concerns double. The knowledge of how to protect our mind is crucial for us like knowing how to protect our body from diseases.

A study of millions of US patient health records suggested that one in every 17 people who have had Covid-19 could be diagnosed with anxiety, depression or insomnia for the first time.

A medical university says one in four of us are coping with a mental health disorder at any given time. Compare that to a

high of one in seven who are diagnosed with the flu in a bad year, or one in 14 identified diabetics.

Mental illness is as common as the common cold, and the impact hits everything. Mind matters in recovery from all diseases. Therefore, we need to know how to keep our mind healthy.

To keep our mind healthy, be mindful all the time. "Mindfulness" is the best vaccine for all mental illnesses.

Professor Mark Williams, former director of the Oxford Mindfulness Centre, says to the National Health Services-NHS that mindfulness means knowing directly what is going on inside and outside ourselves, moment by moment.

"An important part of mindfulness is reconnecting with our bodies and the sensations they experience. This means waking up to the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the present moment. That might be something as simple as the feel of a bannister as we walk upstairs", he says.

Another important part of mindfulness is an awareness of our thoughts and feelings as they happen from moment to moment.

How does mindfulness help mental wellbeing? Becoming more aware of the present moment can help us enjoy the world around us more and understand ourselves better.

How to be more mindful? Reminding yourself to take notice of your thoughts, feelings, body sensations, and the world around you is the first step to mindfulness.

NHS pointed out some effective mindfulness tips- notice the everyday happenings, keep it regular, try something new, watch your thoughts, name the thoughts and feelings, and free yourself from past and future.

Therefore, let us be more mindful and share the mindfulness tips with others so that we can create a better world.



Many splendours month Tazaungmon

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Daja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Literally Tazaungmon is a combination of two words "Tazaung" meaning light by oil lamps, Mon (mhon) မုန့်: meaning to illuminate Illuminations with oil lamps shining in terracotta cups. (ဆီမီးခွက်)

Geographically Myanmar lies under the tropic of Cancer enjoying three seasons: Gain-Man summer of four months Tabaung (March) Tagu (April) Kason (May) Nayone (June). Wathan (Rainy Season) Waso (July), Wakhaung (August), Tawthalin (September), Thad-inkyunt (October). Heyman (winter or cold season) Tazaungmon (November), Nattaw (December), Pyatho (January), Tabodwe (February).

Astrologically called this month Bjeiha (Vris Chika) schopian Zodiacal sign. The cold breeze and the morning dew nourish a porticular creeper plant called Khawei (ခဲ) Botanically termed "Ridged ground Luffa acutogula. Artistically beautiful blooms with soft fragrance gold coloured enticing sweet smell to all insects especially waps and butterflies.

Festivals traditionally held in Tazaungmon may be classified into Pre-Buddhist Buddhist and post Buddhist.

Among Pre-Buddhist Festivals, festivals of Planets and constellations (နက္ခတ်ဘောင်) is the earliest one to clear blue sky which is freed from five kinds of pollutions namely snow, mist, cloud, sun rays and smoke (ဆီးနှင်း၊ မြူ တိမ်၊ သူရိန်၊ မီးခိုး၊ ညစ်မျိုးငါးဖြာ၊ ကင်းစင်ကွာ၊ တန်ဆောင် မုန့် ည အခါ) all heavenly bodies are visible to naked eyes.

All civilizations have festivals of planets and heavenly bodies. Humans of all civilizations believed that heavenly bodies exercised influence upon them. So they had to warship and propitiate for favour.

According to Myanmar Astrology and Astronomy there are nine planets and 27 constellations Phaya Koe Zu Puja (ဘုရားကိုးဆူပူဇော်ပွဲ) are still held at the time of new house warming time was in fact Nine Planets Pujas. The conductor performers mostly Hindu Brahmins recite in mantras



Women are weaving Matho-Thingan during the Tazaungdaing festival at the Shwedagon Pagoda in 2019. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

the songs invoking nine planets (9 Buddhas for Myanmar Buddhists. A special is made of banana stocks on which nine planets (Buddha statues are placed.) Flowers, candles, incense and fruits and milly sticky rice with coconut shells are offered. The while night conducting performers by turn chanted

feed at the auspicious corner of the house.

Meizaliphu Thout (Meizalu buds salad) eating festival is another pre-Buddhist festival. It is believed that one full moon of Tazaungmon Agni, Fire god comes down to visit his friend guarding gods of Meizali trees. So, All guarding

All friends and strangers are welcome to enjoy with hot cups of plain tea.

Nex pre-Buddhist festival is Thieves' Day Festival. On fullmoon Tazaungmon Sawya Netkhat Thieve Netkhat (Thieve constellation) shed rays of light on earth. Anyone who caught under these rays suffer an irresistible urge to steal.

It is kleptomania only at that moments on that nigh of Fullmoon Tazaungdaing. It is a prank played by youths while everyone, even crows are sound asleep. Youths play individually or in group. They steal any thing in the compound of houses not inside the houses. Such as chamber pats, ladies' under wears, skirts, braziers, slippers etc, etc and hang them up at road crossings or public places. On the morning, old ladies come out to take back their lost properties. Myanmar girls due to their feminine modesty do not come out to get their stolen objects. Youths yell out from hindings.

"Unity, Grandma it is your own why not the real owner come to get them."

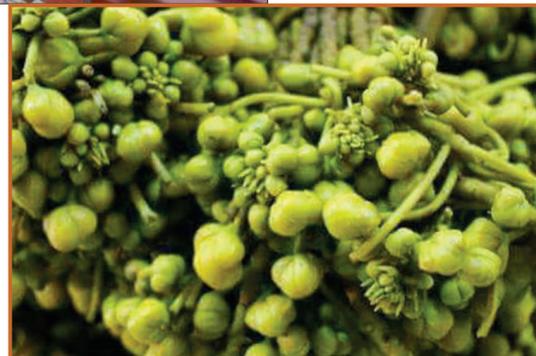
"You stupid fellows. You'll

She and her followers weave, dye and turn into yellow monk's robe within the time limit 6 pm to 6 am. If the robe can not be finished it is called "stale" (rotten). At prominent Pagodas Matho Thingan weaving contests are held and winners are awarded with cash and kind.

Kya Thingan is a robe made out of lotus flower's stems where there are lakes such as Inlay, Indaw Gyi as well as those in Mon, Rakhine and Shan State, and Mandalay such as robes are made and offered to Buddha Images and monks.

Pantthaku is the offering of cash or kind left on ground in the neighborhood of monasteries and nunneries. The letter Pantthaku must be written on the offers, otherwise they could be lost properties which monks or nuns could not even touch.

Youths even some grownups today hardly know such religious-socio-cultural festivals of



Meizali buds.

go to hell. None of your business." Youths clapp their hands and burst out laughter. Today which kind of youth pranks can be found in far away countryside in upper Myanmar.

The most well known festival of Buddhist Myanmar is offering Kathina robes to Buddhist monks. As the writer has written many articles in the Global New Light of Myanmar he does want to respect them in this article.

But the following festivals or practices should be noted.

Matho-Thingan weaving and offering on Full Moon Tazaungmone.

It was started by Bikhuni Gatami Buddha's foster mother:

our country. The writer not only writes about them Burmese and English but also teaches in classes and talks about them home and abroad.

The following Myanmar folk song epitomizes that Tazaungmon is a many splendors month.

အဖိုးကြီးအို ခါးကုန်းကုန်း
မသေဝါနဲ့ နှိုး
နောင်နှစ်ခါ တဆောင်မုန့်
ပြုကြည့်လို့။

Old man bent and double
Don't die so soon.
For watch again the pwes.
Festivals at next Tazaungmon's Fullmoon.



အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး (၁၆)ရက်တာလှုပ်ရှားမှု အထိမ်းအမှတ်အခမ်းအနား

“အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ်အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ကာကွယ်တုံ့ပြန်ဖို့ သီးသန့် ရန်ပုံငွေတာရီဖို့ အချက်အလက်ကောက်ယူဖို့”

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

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာမာသန်စွမ်းသူများနေ့

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

“ပိုမိုကောင်းမွန်သည့် COVID-19 အလွန်ကျွတ်တတ်ဆောက်တည်မှု မာသန်စွမ်းသူများ လက်လှမ်းမီဝင်ပြီး ရေရှည်တည်တံ့ရေးရှိ ကြိုးစားဖို့”

နေပြည်တော် ၃၁.၂.၂၀၂၀

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 28 November 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the South Andaman sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal and Equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. It may intensify into a Depression during next (48)hrs. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman sea and South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29 November 2020: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Shan(North and South) states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, Kayin and Mon states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35)mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (3-5) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Eastern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2020: Generally fair weather.

VACCINE PROJECT

US Operation Warp Speed backed vaccines for whole world

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's announcement in May of plans to develop a Covid-19 vaccine by year's end is near realization – despite a setback among one of the six candidates that the US supported.

The president described the effort as “a massive scientific, industrial and logistical endeavour unlike anything our country has seen since the Manhattan Project,” alluding to the US programme during World War II to develop a nuclear bomb.

At the time Trump was accused of caring only about the US as the pandemic raged worldwide in what some derided as “vaccine nationalism.”

Trump called the vaccine project Operation Warp Speed, putting at its head a US army general and a former executive of pharmaceutical giant GSK.

It brought together the scientific expertise of the Department of Health and Human Services and military logistics

experts.

Six months later, what Trump has termed “a miracle” is at hand: a vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech is being examined by the Food and Drug Administration for approval, some time shortly after December 10.

And another vaccine developed by Moderna, a small US company, could follow suit quickly.

In January the US multinational Johnson & Johnson could present its own clinical trial results to US regulators – boosting the US goal of having vaccines available for all Americans by April.

The operation relied on six projects, two each for three kinds of vaccine technology so as to spread out the risk of one or more failing.

Pfizer and Moderna worked on a new technology involving a molecule called messenger RNA. Meanwhile Johnson &



President Donald Trump, flanked (L) by General Gustave Perna, head of operations of Operation Warp Speed, and (R) Moncef Slaoui, the programme's chief scientist, on September 18, 2020 at the White House. **PHOTO: AFP**

Johnson and AstraZeneca, working with the University of Oxford, focused on “viral vectors.”

And Novavax and Sanofi/GSK centred on a protein-based product to defeat the coronavi-

rus. At first, the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford was out in front, with its CEO announcing in June that the team would know if it was effective by September.

It suffered a first snag in early September when a participant in its clinical trials fell ill. It took six weeks for the trials to resume in the US.

SOURCE: AFP

SPUTNIK V

Hungary looks east for coronavirus vaccines



A delivery of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine arrived in Hungary last week. **PHOTO: HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY KKM/AFP/FILE**

An Aeroflot delivery of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine to EU member Hungary last week has sparked new criticism at home and abroad of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's go-it-

alone policies.

“We are the first European country to receive such a sample,” said Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto in a video showing the plane touching down at Buda-

pest airport.

An initial 10 doses were handed over for local testing, with large-scale deliveries and potentially mass production by a Hungarian firm possible next year if it proves safe and effective, according to Budapest.

Hungarian doctors and experts will soon study the production of Sputnik V in Russia, Szijjarto told a press conference with Russian health minister Mikhail Murashko in Budapest on Friday. Their visit would allow a speedier decision on approval of the vaccine in Hungary, said Szijjarto. While Hungary has reserved potential future vaccines from both Europe and the United States, it is also in contact with Chinese and Israeli developers, according to Budapest.

SOURCE: AFP

Partial lockdown could last until spring

Germany's economy minister Peter Altmaier has warned that the country's partial lockdown measures could be extended to early spring if the number of cases does not reduce.

Altmaier told Die Welt newspaper that it was not possible to end the measures while there were incidences of more than 50 infections per 100,000 inhabitants in large parts of Germany.

Earlier this week, Chancellor Angela Merkel and the leaders of Germany's federal states decided to extend the current measures until 20 December.

SOURCE: AFP

AFP TALLY UPDATE

Europe virus toll crosses 400,000

CORONAVIRUS deaths topped 400,000 Saturday in Europe, the world's second worst-hit region, as parts of the continent began to reopen shops for the holiday season. But across the Atlantic fearful US shoppers turned to online outlets for a massive Black Friday sale, while densely populated Los Angeles county announced a ban on gatherings of people from different households under a new “safer-at-home order” to battle the surging pandemic.

Persistent high case numbers in many western countries loom over governments' hopes

to ease their virus rules for Christmas and New Year.

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

Europe on Saturday crossed a grim barrier, registering 400,649 deaths according to an AFP tally at 0800 GMT.

Britain accounted for almost two-thirds of the fatalities at 57,551, followed by Italy with 53,677, France at 51,914 and Spain with 44,668.

SOURCE: AFP



Belgium will allow shops to reopen from December 1, but keep the current semi-lockdown in place possibly until mid-January. Customers observe “social distancing rules” as they queue outside a haberdashery in Brussels. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

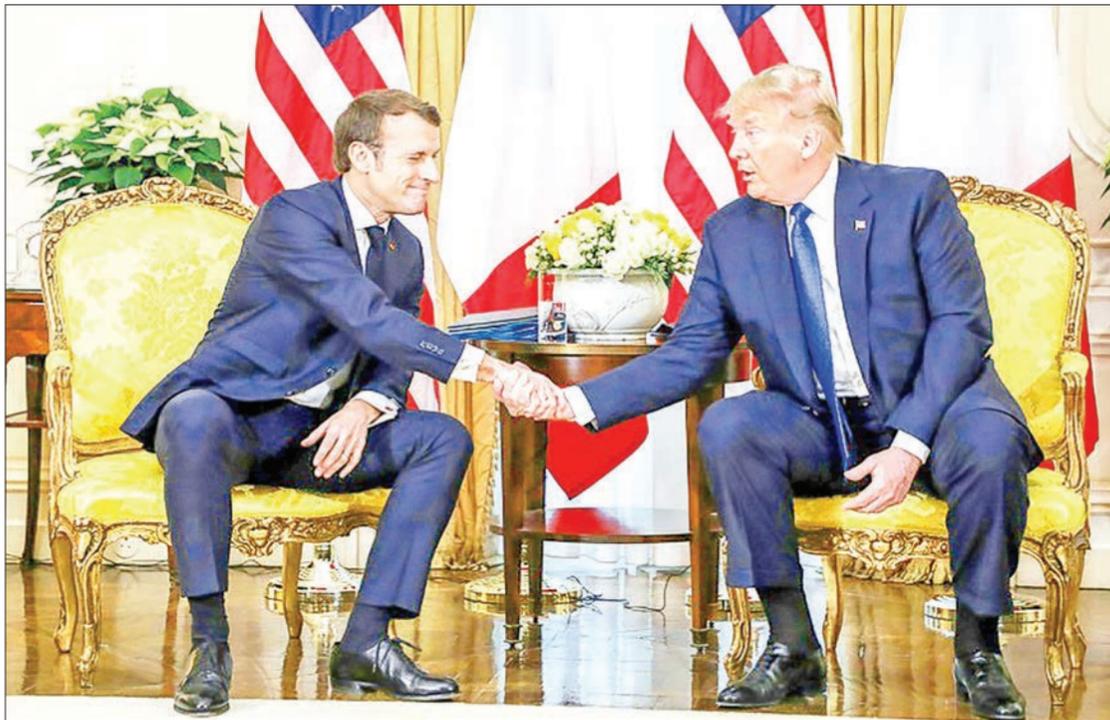
TRANSATLANTIC STRAINS

No easy ride for EU-US even with Biden's francophone team

US-PRESIDENT elect Joe Biden's appointment of French speakers to top positions has cheered Paris but France knows it will take more than mother tongue chats to overcome transatlantic strains, even after the departure of Donald Trump.

As his future secretary of state, Biden has named former deputy national security advisor Anthony Blinken, who spent part of his childhood in France and is fluent in French. The special envoy for climate, former secretary of state John Kerry, spends his holidays in Brittany, while Michele Flournoy, in the running for defence secretary, studied in Belgium where she learned French. The atmosphere of exchanges with this team is likely to be markedly more cheerful than contacts with the Trump administration that culminated in a frosty closed door visit to Paris this month by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

But an extra dose of bon-



Relations between US President Donald Trump and France's President Emmanuel Macron were not the easiest. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

homie will not make strategic disagreements -- that range from the future of NATO to policy towards China -- go away. Indeed, with conspicuous timing days after Biden's election vic-

tory was confirmed, a French journal published a mammoth interview with Macron where he outlined his vision for a Europe that acts independently of the United States. Europe should

have "strategic autonomy", he told *Le Grand Continent*, adding that it should "not become the vassal of this or that power and no longer have a say".

SOURCE: AFP

POTENTIAL CORONAVIRUS HOTSPOT

Germany's far right AfD holds congress despite virus curbs

AROUND 600 delegates from Germany's far right AfD gathered Saturday for a congress that the authorities have warned could become a coronavirus hotspot, as the party increasingly aligns itself with militants protesting anti-Covid restrictions.

Alternative for Germany co-leader Tino Chrupalla opened the event by attacking the "state of emergency" policy introduced by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to tackle the health crisis.

"Lives have been broken, there's a wave of bankruptcies... lots of people have lost their

jobs," he told the congress being held in a vast hall in a former nuclear plant in the western city of Kalkar.

To win approval for the huge gathering at a time when Germans are asked to limit their contacts to just two households at a time, the AfD had to sign up to stringent rules including compulsory mask wearing and social distancing.

Outside the venue -- now a hotel and leisure complex -- about 500 people demonstrated against the staging of the conference following a call by the "Stand up to Racism"

coalition.

Kalkar's mayor Britta Schulz had said it was "irresponsible" to hold such a big event and warned it could "become a (virus) hotspot," but acknowledged that the gathering could not be banned.

In contrast, Merkel's Christian Democratic Union has twice postponed its congress to elect a new leader because of the risks of coronavirus contagion.

The Green party last weekend held its meeting online.

SOURCE: AFP

REGIONAL CONFLICT

Heavy shelling rocks Tigray capital as Ethiopia steps up offensive



Tens of thousands have poured into neighbouring Sudan. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

HEAVY shelling rocked the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region Saturday as the city of half a million braced for an all-out offensive by government forces against its dissident leaders. Heavy shelling rocked the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region Saturday as the city of half a million braced for an all-out offensive by government forces against its dissident leaders.

Ethiopia's military "has started hitting with heavy weaponry and artillery the centre of Mekele", the local government said. Two humanitarian officials with staff in the city confirmed the strikes.

"The Tigray regional state calls upon all who have a clear conscience, including the international community, to condemn the artillery and warplane attacks and massacres being committed," the statement said. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, announced November 4 he had ordered military operations against Tigray's ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

ARTISTS' DEMONSTRATION

Cuba sees rare protest over freedom of expression

ABOUT 200 Cuban artists demonstrated outside the country's culture ministry on Friday in a rare protest over freedom of expression that received support from leading Cuban cinema figures.

The demonstration followed the expulsion by authorities on Thursday night of protesting members of an artists' collective from their premises in the historic centre of Havana. Authorities said the eviction of the 14 members of the San Isidro Movement was necessary due to Covid-19 protocols since one had returned from Mexico via the United States and not properly quarantined. They had been protesting for 10 days, with six of them on hunger strike, and their movement had gained significant attention.

Demonstrators outside the culture ministry on Friday demanded "dialogue" and representatives were waiting to meet with vice minister Fernando Rojas after having gathered there for much of the day.

SOURCE: AFP

HONDURAN LAW

Former Honduran president stopped at airport due to bag of money

FORMER Honduran President Manuel Zelaya said on Friday that he was "unjustly" detained at the airport in the capital city of Tegucigalpa due to 18,000 U.S. dollars of cash in his bag.

"I have been unjustly detained at the Toncontin airport when I was about to travel to Mexico for a PT seminar. The cause is a bag with 18,000 dollars in it, which is not mine," Zelaya said on Twitter.

The former president who served from 2006 to 2009 was detained and released four hours later, local media reported.

To control trafficking and money laundering, Honduran law only allows for a maximum of 10,000 dollars to be taken out of the country.

SOURCE: Xinhua

NUCLEAR PHYSICIST

Iran vows revenge for assassination of nuclear scientist

IRANIAN Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday vowed to avenge the previous day's assassination of a top Iranian nuclear scientist, state-run media reported.

Khamenei, in a message, "ordered to punish perpetrators of terrorist attack to assassinate Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the head of Research and Innovation Organization of Iran Ministry of Defence," the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The supreme leader also "made it clear...that the scientific and technical efforts made by martyr Fakhrizadeh in all fields be followed up."

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Hossein Dehqan, the military advisor to Khamenei, vowed a crushing response to perpetrators, Press TV reported.

"We will come down hard on those who killed martyr Mohsen

Fakhrizadeh like thunder and make them regret their deed," he said.

Fakhrizadeh was assassinated Friday afternoon in an ambush by a group of unidentified gunmen, with the country's foreign minister saying there are "serious indications" of an "Israeli role."

According to semiofficial Tasnim News Agency, Fakhrizadeh was travelling with relatives in a car east of Tehran when the attackers detonated an explosives-laden pickup truck near the vehicle and then sprayed it with bullets.

After sustaining injuries from the blast and being shot four times, Fakhrizadeh was taken to hospital by helicopter, but succumbed to injuries a few hours later, it said.

"Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today,"



Supplied file photo taken in January, 2019 shows Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. **PHOTO: IRANIAN LEADER PRESS OFFICE/HANDOUT/ANADOLU/GETTY/KYODO)**

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet. "Iran calls on int'l community -- and especially EU -- to end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror."

Fakhrizadeh is not the first Iranian scientist assassinated after being involved with the country's nuclear programme.

Tehran has accused Israel of involvement in the past killings.

The incident followed an explosion at a key nuclear facility in Natanz in central Iran in July, which was later condemned by Iranian security authorities as an act of "sabotage," possibly by Israel and the United States.

SOURCE: Kyodo

26 MILLION DOSES

Thailand signs deal with AstraZeneca for 26 mil. COVID-19 dose supply

THAILAND signed on Friday an agreement with British drugmaker AstraZeneca Plc to receive a supply of 26 million doses of its potential COVID-19 vaccine being developed with the University of Oxford.

It marks the Southeast Asian country's first such procurement deal for treatment of the virus. Under the deal, Thailand will pre-order the doses, worth about 6 billion baht (\$198 million), to be approved for use by the middle of next year.

"Thailand must be able to have a sufficient supply of vaccine doses both during normal times and emergencies," Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said during a signing ceremony for the accord struck between his country's National Vaccine Institute and AstraZeneca.

SOURCE: Kyodo

NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY

China's first domestic nuclear reactor goes online

CHINA has powered up its first domestically developed nuclear reactor – the Hualong One – a significant step in Beijing's attempts to become less dependent on Western allies for energy security and critical technology.

The reactor, which was connected to the national grid on Friday, can generate 10 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year and cut carbon emissions by 8.16 million tonnes, according to China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

"This marks China breaking the monopoly of foreign nuclear power technology and officially entering the technology's first batch of advanced countries," CNNC said in a statement.

Nuclear plants supplied less than 5% of China's annual electricity needs in 2019, according to the National Energy Administration, but this share is expected to grow as Beijing attempts to become carbon neutral by 2060.

Reducing its dependence on Western allies in critical high-tech sectors such as power generation is a key goal in Beijing's "Made in China 2025" plan.

SOURCE: AFP



The reactor can generate 10 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year and cut carbon emissions by 8.16 million tonnes. **PHOTO: CHINA NATIONAL NUCLEAR CORPORATION**

ATTACK ON SCIENTIST

Iran accuses Israel of assassinating scientist and seeking 'chaos'

IRAN'S President Hassan Rouhani Saturday accused arch-foe Israel of acting as a "mercenary" for the United States and seeking to create chaos, vowing Tehran would avenge the assassination of a top Iranian nuclear scientist.

Islamic Republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called for the perpetrators to be punished for Friday's killing, while Rouhani stressed the country would seek its revenge in "due time" and not be rushed into a "trap".

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was dubbed by Israel the "father of Iran's nuclear programme", died after being seriously wounded when assailants targeted his car and engaged in a gunfight with his bodyguards outside the capital Tehran on Friday, according to Iran's defence ministry.

The assassination comes less than two months before US President-elect Joe Biden is due to take office, after a tumultuous four years of hawkish US foreign policy in the Middle



This photo released by the semi-official Fars News Agency shows the scene where Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was killed in Absard, a small city just east of the capital, Tehran, Iran, Friday, Nov. 27, 2020. Fakhrizadeh, an Iranian scientist that Israel alleged led the Islamic Republic's military nuclear program until its disbanding in the early 2000s was "assassinated" Friday, state television said. **(STR)/AFP**

East under President Donald Trump. "They are thinking of creating chaos, but they should know that we have read their hands and they will not succeed," Iran's president said in televised remarks.

He pinned the blame for the killing on "the wicked hands of the global arrogance, with the usurper Zionist regime as the mercenary".

Iran generally uses the

term "global arrogance" to refer to the United States.

Trump unilaterally withdrew in 2018 from a multilateral nuclear deal with the Islamic republic, which sought to contain its atomic ambitions, and has re-imposed crippling sanctions. But Biden has signalled his administration may be prepared to rejoin the accord.

SOURCE: AFP

THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Pandemic and economic uncertainty darken Black Friday in Spain

BLACK Friday, one of the most anticipated days by consumers, could indeed be a black day for retailers in 2020 as millions of Spaniards change their shopping habits, preferring to either buy online or buy nothing at all, according to a recent study carried out by EAE Business School in Spain.

Pablo Contreras, marketing consultant and professor at EAE, told Xinhua that Black Friday's special offers

have not lost their appeal, but it is clear that face-to-face channels, such as high street stores, shopping centres or department stores will see fewer benefits this year than companies that offer their products online. According to the study, 49 per cent of people in Spain now visit shopping centres less than before the COVID-19 pandemic, with 44 per cent now shopping more online.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Photo taken on Oct. 30, 2020 shows a view of the centre of Valencia, Spain. Valencia imposed restrictions on movement on Friday to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: PABLO MORANO/XINHUA

Russian economy to decline by 4.5 pct in 2020: official

THE Russian economy is projected to decline by 4.5 per cent this year, a senior official said Saturday.

The drop will be "more than 4 per cent, (and) it will be even 4.5 per cent," Aleksei Kudrin, head of the country's Accounts Chamber, was

quoted by Sputnik as saying at a forum.

Noting that the country will have roughly 1 million more poor people, Kudrin said that "we will need to focus more on those people who need support."

SOURCE: Xinhua

CAEXPO

ASEAN officials, businessmen laud China-ASEAN Expo for deepening regional cooperation, free trade

THE ongoing 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) has significantly deepened regional cooperation and will further facilitate free trade following the signing of the landmark Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's biggest trade pact, senior officials and businessmen from the ASEAN countries have said.

The expo, held from Nov. 27 to 30 in Nanning, capital city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, features a "Belt and Road" exhibition area, online trade and investment promotion activities, as well as high-level dialogues to promote the greater participation of the RCEP members in the construction of the Belt and Road.

"The CAEXPO repre-



Photo taken on Nov. 27, 2020 shows Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The 17th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit kicked off here on Friday. PHOTO: XINHUA/LU BOAN

sents a platform, and we can further deepen the cooperation and further increase the trade volume so that we can maintain this trajectory of closer economic and trade cooperation," said Philippine Ambassador to China Jose

Santiago Sta. Romana.

"This is a significant opportunity to deepen the cooperation particularly in trade and economy between China and the Philippines," he added.

The ambassador also noted that the RCEP

means bigger trading opportunities. "It also (helps) streamline the trading rules of different countries. All of this will contribute to more trade, more development and more improvement in people's livelihood," he stressed.

Zeng Jingsong, vice president of the Bangkok-based Charoen Pokphand Group, also hailed the CAEXPO as a key platform that brings more and more opportunities for cooperation and communication, and allows various enterprises to establish partnership in the region.

"Besides, I also believe that the platform facilitates exchanges among governments and enterprises on their understanding of each other's markets, business strategies and development policies," he added.

SOURCE: Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ARTABAZ VOY. NO. (ISC1101)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ARTABAZ VOY. NO. (ISC1101)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0222-019N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0222-019N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO LUNG VOY. NO. (105N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KUO LUNG VOY. NO. (105N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TAN BINH 79 VOY. NO. (1420)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TAN BINH 79 VOY. NO. (1420)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA HOMBURG VOY. NO. (047S/048N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA HOMBURG VOY. NO. (047S/048N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

The photo shows a power plant is under construction in Yangon.



New LNG power plant to supply power to residential areas, industrial zones and Thilawa SEZ

By Swe Oo Wai
TRANSLATED
BY HTUT HTUT
(TWANTAY)

IBECAME somewhat depressed by a flash of electricity while I was sitting in the dark in front of the house. To get sufficient electricity is an important part of the daily life of the Yangonites who rely heavily on electric power. Power shortages in Yangon are fewer now than those in the past. The significant reduction in power shortages gives the Yangonites pleasure to some degree. Plans

are underway to establish a new power plant in Yangon with the purpose of supplying full electricity to the residential areas, industrial zones and Thilawa Special Economic Zone round the clock.

Making investment

The power plant will be built in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, Thanlyin township, a suburb of Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital and most

populous city. Three Japanese companies are planning to partner with Eden Group, a local conglomerate whose businesses include real estate and agriculture. The three Japanese companies estimate a total investment in the power plant project to be worth USD1.5 billion to 2 billion.

Yangon still needs electric power

Yangon is still facing the need for electric power as the Yangonites use more household-use electrical appliances, migrants to Yangon increase and industrial zones with factories and industries grow. Power is generated from plants, wind, sun, water and coal in order to fulfil the requirement of electric power. But we need to consider the least environmental impacts in the search for power.

The currently-planned liquefied natural gas-fired power plant will have a generating capacity of 1,250 megawatts. The Japanese trading houses are Marubeni, Sumitomo Corp. and Mitsui & Co. and they are planning to build a liquefied natural gas-fired power plant.

Generation of power plant

to be operational from 2025

The three Japanese companies are going to make an investment in the power plant. It is expected that the power plant will start operation in 2025 at a time when the implementation of the process is completed. Its initial capacity will be equal to about 20% of Myanmar's existing power plants. The generation of the power plant is expected to fulfil the need for both Myanmar's electricity and Yangon's to some degree.

Myanmar seeks local foreign investments

The need for Myanmar's electricity increases by 10 % to 20 % every year with foreign investments being sought in order to deal with the yearly electricity increase. All power generation projects require skilled technicians as well as capital investment. In general, foreign investments flow only to the electric power sector.

It is true that Myanmar requires electric power so as to supply sufficient power to Yangon's industrial zones, businesses, special zones, urban projects and further new projects. The power requirement causes an obstacle to foreign investments that would like to enter the country.

A major point

In addition to capital investment, sufficient electric power is an important point in order to improve local businesses, small and medium enterprises. For that reason, the State, the region and state governments are striving for the power necessary across the nation.

Fulfilling the need for the country's power consumption

The currently-planned liquefied natural gas-fired power plant is some important support that enables to fulfil the power needed for the country. Demand for LNG power is expected to grow in Southeast Asia as a low-emission alternative to cheap coal, according to international energy researchers.

Moreover, the liquefied natural gas-fired power plant project capable of generating 300 megawatts is under implementation in Kyauktan township, a suburb of Yangon. The jetty the LNG vessel is going to dock, and the construction tasks for the installation of the generators, the connection of 20 inches gas pipelines and the extension of sub-power generation are in the process.

Apart from Ahlon, Thanlyin and Thakayta power plants



The photo shows Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyin, southern part of Yangon.

in Yangon, five power plant projects of Kyunchaung and Kyaukphyu are being implemented by tender winning companies so as to generate 1,072.08 megawatts. The Chinese tender winning companies are working for Ahlon power plant project while China-based companies are working for Thanlyin and Thakayta power plant projects.

“Japanese companies considered to make investment in the power generation sector of Myanmar when the latter raised the power bill,” said U Zaw Min Win, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Implementation by Japanese companies

The Japanese companies are going to implement the liquefied natural gas-fired power plant project on the land plots of No 27, No 28 and No 29 in Thilawa Special Economic Zone at the moment. “The Japanese companies have won the tender to build the LNG power plant in Myanmar that is worth USD1.5 to USD 2 billion” revealed in the Facebook of U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The generation capacity of the liquefied natural gas-fired power plant is about as much as one nuclear reactor. The liquefied natural gas-fired power plant that is expected to complete in 2025 will supply power to industries, but it also joins the national grid.

The government and the Japanese companies were scheduled to sign a contract to build and operate the power plant in early 2021. The power plant project was expected to generate more than 1,200 megawatts.

If this power plant project were able to be implemented, Japan’s investment would be the first in the electric power sector. The Japanese companies would be able to see excellent potentials while making investment in Myanmar’s power sector.

Power consumption of Myanmar and Yangon

Myanmar generated 3,413 megawatts in 2010-2011 financial year. Myanmar gen-

erated 3,185 megawatts from hydropower, 1,829 megawatts from natural gas, 120 megawatts from coal and 101 megawatts from diesel in 2015-2016FY.

Yangon Region consumed 1,050 megawatts in 2015 and 1,250 megawatts in 2016, an increase of 200 megawatts in power consumption. In 2019-2020FY, Yangon’s power consumption reached 1,548.23 megawatts, bringing the total amount to about half of the power consumption of the whole country, according to the data released by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The most important point is to supply sufficient power to Thilawa SEZ and industrial zones in Yangon so that their productivity will be boosted. For that reason, a natural gas-fired power plant was built at the cost of Japanese ODA loan of USD126 million in Thilawa in 2015-2016 FY and it can generate 50 megawatts. This power plant has to take natural gas from Yadana offshore gas field. It is installed with two H-25 turbines and generates 50 megawatts. The generation of power from the natural gas-fired power plant is added to the national grid, and it is supplied to Kyauktan and Thilawa SEZ.

Yangon is still in need of electric power as there has been an increase in the number of factories and industries in addition to the industrial zones and the special economic zone. Local and foreign investments are growing in Yangon as well. Yangon has a population of 7 million, according to the initial statistics of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. For these reasons, the government is making all-out efforts in the search for electric power in order to meet the demand for Yangon’s power consumption.

Plans are underway to fulfil the need for Yangon’s power consumption and supplying power to other regions and states. 151.54 MW Ahlon natural gas-fired power plant, 350 MW Thanlyin liquefied natural gas-fired power plant, 400 MW Thakayta liquefied natural gas-fired power plant are now under construction in Yangon.

It is believed that the liquefied natural gas-fired power plant would be a new project on which the Yangonites and the industrial zones in Yangon can rely if it was signed for implementation in early 2021.



The photo shows a power plant is under construction in Yangon.

Accelerating digitalization requires accelerated cybersecurity

By Ms. Caroline Yin Yin Htay

AS COVID-19 has accelerated digitalization for people, business and society, the with it come benefits, but also new risks. Myanmar consumers and businesses are increasingly concerned with cybersecurity. That has nothing but upside.



Ms Caroline Yin Yin Htay
Chief Business Officer, Telenor Myanmar.

Why? Because concern means awareness, and awareness means action. Today, most of our tech devices, such as computers, smartphones, and other gadgets are connected online for either individual or business purposes. Some of these devices hold a lifetime of data: precious and irreplaceable photos, journals, novels, passwords and much more. Protecting this content is vital, and by keeping devices safe, the people using them are protected, too.

From digital leapfrogging to data evolution

As internet access in Myanmar expanded with affordable SIM cards, reliable 3G and 4G network infrastructure, the internet penetration in Myanmar was 40% as of 2019. During the first wave of the pandemic in April, telecommunications companies reported a 25% increase in internet usage. Videoconferencing, multimedia content streaming, e-commerce, mobile money and digital payments have also surged dramatically.

Increasing awareness of cyber threats

However, cybersecurity attacks and breaches have also risen sharply. In 2013 there were only two cases of cyber-related crimes reported in Myanmar. Five years later the number stood at 744. Scanning and malware attacks are among the most frequently reported types of cyber-crimes in the country. Cybersecurity stories are also starting to find their way into the media, and the COVID-19 crisis has further escalated that trend. At Telenor, we believe this is good – because growing awareness of the value of data means people are more likely to take better care of their data.

Data is the new oil

In a digital economy, data is consid-

ered a valuable asset and an enabler for competitiveness. Telenor Myanmar uses customer data and insights to personalize and tailor products and services. Doing so also comes with a responsibility to protect, and we invest significantly to keep our customers’ data safe. Customers are increasingly looking to large corporations and public institutions to keep them safe. According to a U-Report Myanmar’s Poll from earlier this year, 4 in 10 respondents expect internet service providers to help protect them online. Building digital resilience for society at large, however, is a shared responsibility. It starts with awareness.

Theft you may not notice before it is too late

Lost or stolen credit cards used to be what we worried most about. It is a visible and concrete threat, but it is one that is becoming manageable as more banks put in place digital safeguards and authentication solutions. Theft of your identity or your personal information, however, is not quite so concrete. The most advanced threats via malware, phishing and botnets can go completely undetected, making this invisible enemy even more difficult to get a grip on. It is critical that each individual feels a sense of responsibility for their personal data, and keep in mind that cyber-attacks exist – and can happen to anyone. Weak passwords are the number one source of information theft. Training and awareness is key to building resilience.

Keeping businesses safe

In response to the pandemic, businesses everywhere have been required to reinvent themselves and digitalize much faster than they might have anticipated. With sales moving online and staff working from home, Myanmar businesses are much more exposed to cyber threats today than they were only in February. To help keep businesses safe and secure, Telenor Myanmar recently introduced Web Shield, a cloud-based cybersecurity solution with advanced and always-updated safeguards against known cyber threats. With Telenor Web Shield, customers can keep all their devices safe by subscribing to the service connecting via the Telenor network.

Staying safe while bouncing back

Myanmar’s rapid data evolution fuels our increasingly digital economy and can help us mount a forceful recovery after COVID-19. But we need to make sure it is an evolution that remains safe and secure for everyone. Cybersecurity needs to move up on our national agenda. The cybersecurity law, which is under development, is an important step in this direction.



Tyson plans fast start in ring return at 54 against Jones

LOS ANGELES—Mike Tyson says he never imagined as a heavyweight boxing champion that he would climb into the ring with Roy Jones Jr. at age 54 as he does on Saturday.

Fifteen years after retiring with a 2005 loss to journeyman Kevin McBride, Tyson makes a comeback after dropping 100 pounds and returning to training.

“I didn’t think I’d live that long. It was so intense,” Tyson said Friday in a news conference ahead of the eight-round fight in Los Angeles.

“Me just existing is a success.”

Tyson said his hunger has returned 15 years after finishing his career.

“I don’t know who I was then. I’m just very comfortable with who I am now,” Tyson said. “My last fight, I didn’t have no interest in it. I’m interested now.”

Tyson, 50-6 with 44 knockouts, plans to take the fight to 51-year-old Jones, 66-9 with 47 knockouts, from the start.

“I’m just going to go right at him at the bell and see what happens,” Tyson said. “It’s going to be entertaining. He’s a fighter. I’m a fighter. We’re in there throwing punches. Anything can happen.”—AFP ■



Chelsea manager Frank Lampard wants to turn the club into Premier League title challengers. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

Restless Lampard targets return to top for Abramovich’s Chelsea

LONDON—Frank Lampard says he is proud to have been associated with Chelsea during the Roman Abramovich era but will not rest until they are back at the pinnacle of the English game.

The 42-year-old won three Premier League titles and the Champions League as a player at Stamford Bridge and is now in his second season in the managerial hotseat.

Lampard, Chelsea’s all-time record goalscorer, joined the club in 2001 and was a key part of their rise as they were bankrolled by the Russian billionaire.

Sunday’s game against his former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, now Tottenham coach, is the club’s 1,000th

since Abramovich became the owner in 2003.

Abramovich’s cash injection turned the club from also-rans to serial title winners — they have claimed five Premier League titles since 2005.

“As much as you can invest in football you only win things through pure hard work and personnel on the ground whether you spend money or not in the modern Premier League,” said Lampard.

“I’ve been proud to be associated with the club through thick and thin.” Lampard said last season was “transitional” for Chelsea, who qualified for the Champions League despite a transfer ban as punishment for breaking rules on registering young players.—AFP ■

AFF plans to host Suzuki Cup in two different ways



Cambodian midfielder Thierry Chantha Bin makes a free kick during the previous AFC Cup group match against Myanmar team at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 11 December 2018. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) is planning to host the ASEAN Suzuki Cup next year in two different ways, with the Myanmar national team competing.

The SUZUKI tourney has previously been scheduled to hold in the end of this year but has been postponed again to 2021 due to the pandemic. The competition will be held from April 11 to May 8 2021. The tourney has been re-approved by the ASEAN Football Federation Congress on

24 November and will be held in two modes to prevent the event from being postponed.

The AFF has set a priority for the 2018 version of the tourney but has set a second priority for all matches in one or both countries if it is difficult for the participating teams to travel.

The 2018 version of the tourney will no longer feature group matches but will feature four group matches, two home games and two away matches.

The semi-finals and finals will be played at home and abroad. It will be held in a long-distance double loop system.

The tournament has been held 12 times, and the Thai team is the most successful team by winning five times. After the Thai team, the Singapore team won four times, Viet Nam team twice and the Malaysia team once. Myanmar team has reached the semi-finals twice.—Shine Htet Zaw (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Solskjaer happy to have fans back, even if Man Utd support shut out

LONDON—Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is delighted that limited numbers of fans will soon be back in Premier League stadiums, even if United supporters are not among them.

Fans have been shut out of top-level matches in England since March but a relaxation of coronavirus restrictions will allow them back into grounds in some parts of England from next week.

London and Liverpool are among the areas to have been placed into the Tier-2 category based on infection rates, meaning up to 2,000 fans will be able to attend matches. But clubs based in Tier-3 areas, such as Manchester and Birmingham, are still not allowed to open their gates. United’s visit to West Ham on December 5 will be the first Premier League game that fans can attend for eight months.

“I’m very pleased that we’re making progress and we can let



Manchester United will not be able to welcome fans back to Old Trafford even as restrictions in other parts of England are eased next week. **PHOTO: MICHAEL STEELE POOL/AFP**

the fans in gradually,” Solskjaer said on Friday. “Of course we can’t wait to see our own fans at Old Trafford and we know how long they’ve been waiting to be there to watch the games live.

“This is a step in the right direction and even though they are fans for the other team, they are still creating an atmosphere in the game.” United travel to high-flying Southampton on

Sunday hoping to build on a run of three consecutive wins that have eased the pressure on Solskjaer. But fifth-placed Saints are unbeaten in seven league games and sit four points ahead of United in the table.

“If you look over the last 13 or 14 games they’re one of the top teams so they’ve made great improvements,” said Solskjaer.—AFP ■