

**NATIONAL**

Construction work to be allowed to continue if complied with COVID-19 prevention guidelines

PAGE-2

**NATIONAL**

MoEE Minister inspects Paunglaung hydropower plant

PAGE-3

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 22 November 2020

## Prime Minister of United Kingdom congratulates State Counsellor on victory in recent election

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, had a teleconference with the Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 20 November.

During the conversation, the Prime Minister congratulated the State Counsellor on the victory of the National League for Democracy in the recent general elections in Myanmar. They also cordially exchanged views on matters related to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation in the fight against Covid-19 global pandemic and combatting climate change, strengthening partnership between ASEAN and the United Kingdom and the ongoing challenges facing Myanmar in its transition including the issue of Rakhine State. The Prime Minister also invited the State Counsellor to participate at the Climate Ambition Virtual Summit to be held in December 2020 and at the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to be held in November 2021.—MNA

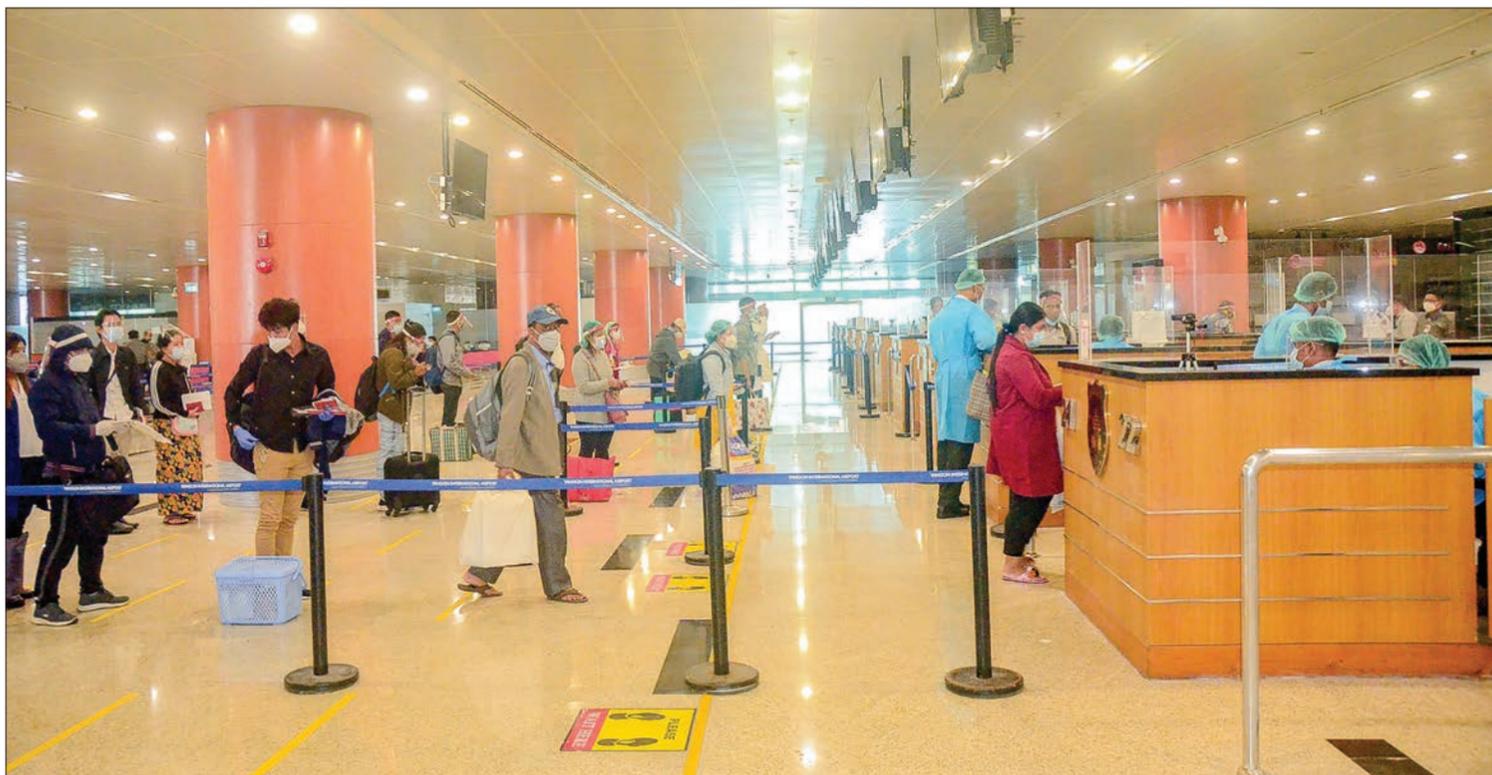
## 176 Myanmar nationals abroad arrive back home by relief flights

A total of 176 Myanmar citizens – 56 stranded in India and 120 in Australia and New Zealand – because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flights yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi organized the relief flight of Air India to repatriate 56 Myanmar nationals from India, and Myanmar Embassy in Canberra arranged the relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines to bring back the Myanmar citizens in Australia and New Zealand. The two flights landed at Yangon International Airport.

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

The Ministry of Foreign



Myanmar returnees from India queue for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 21 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries, local ministries and

shipping companies/organizations to bring back citizens stranded abroad under the

guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of

COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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# “People are the key”

## World leaders congratulate Myanmar on successful holding of 2020 General Election

THE following are congratulatory messages from General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Nguyen Phu Trong, President of the Republic of Korea Mr Moon Jae-in and Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Mr Andrej Babiš sent to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, for victory in the General Election held on 8 November 2020.

### General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Nguyen Phu Trong congratulates the State Counsellor

ON behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and in my own name, I would like to extend to you, the Leadership and all members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) our warmest congratulations on your resonating victory in the recent General Election.

During the last several years, the Government of Myanmar, under the leadership of the NLD headed by you, has bravely overcome numerous difficulties and challenges, promoted the national peace and reconciliation, recorded remarkable achievements in socio-economic development. The result of the General Elections once again reflects the support and trust of the overwhelming majority of the Myanmar people in the NLD's leadership.

It is my strong conviction that the NLD, with its proved capability, whole-hearted devotion and new mandate, will lead the Myanmar people to meet the challenges, soon contain the pandemic, recover the economy and build Myanmar into a country of peace, unity, equality and prosperity.

May the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership between our two countries as well as the fine friendship and cooperation between our two parties be further strengthened and vigorously developed.

Wish you good health, happiness and every success in your lofty position.

### Mr Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea sends congratulatory message to the State Counsellor

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the victory of National League for Democracy with overwhelming support from the people of Myanmar. I think this election demonstrated the trust and support of people of Myanmar for the brilliant outcomes you have achieved. As the slogan of “People are the key”, I am confident that the people of Myanmar will be blessed with happiness and prosperity under the leadership of Your Excellency.

Our two countries, commemorating the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties this year, are maintaining ever-strengthened cooperative relations in diverse areas including economy, society and culture. I hope that Korea and Myanmar can continue to work together toward the mutual cooperation and common prosperity.

Please accept my best wishes for your good health and the lasting prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

### Mr Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic sends congratulatory message to the State Counsellor

Allow me to sincerely congratulate you on your party's decisive election victory. On this occasion, I would like to highlight the very good and friendly relations between the Czech Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I firmly believe that in your capacity you will continue to advocate for human rights, peace, democracy and development. I would also like to express my sincere hope that our mutual cooperation will further deepen in all areas of our common interest, mainly in economic and cultural field, but also in the field of humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

Your Excellency, allow me to wish you every success in your demanding and responsible work.

## Construction work to be allowed to continue if complied with COVID-19 prevention guidelines

CONSTRUCTION works in Yangon Region will be allowed to continue if they follow the guidelines of the COVID-19 disease prevention and control (Version 4.0) issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the 18-point examination form of the Yangon Region Construction Supervision Committee, according to Deputy Director-General for the committee and the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

The responsible person of the construction project needs to submit the photographs of compliance with the committee's 18 inspection rules and a declaration of compliance with the version 4.0 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports to the Yangon Region Construction Supervision Committee in order to resume the project.

Joint secretary of the Com-

mittee U Myo Myint said the project would be allowed to resume as soon as the submission is completed. He added the important rules must be followed, and if there is no compliance with the set rules or if it is found due to a complaint or an unexpected inspection, the project will be temporarily closed.

The Yangon Region Construction Supervision Committee was formed on 4 May with the aim of ensuring that the construction works continue, that the people in the construction sector are protected from the pandemic and timely treatment in the situation of an outbreak of COVID-19.

There are over 400 construction projects submitted to the committee, and over 100 of these were granted the permission to resume.

The set 18 inspection rules

and the Version 4.0 to be followed at the construction sites can be checked on the Yangon City Gallery Facebook Page, Yangon Regional government website, the

Ministry of Health and Sports' website, Ministry of Construction's websites, Department of Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development's Facebook

Page and Construction Business Associations' websites. — Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Officials speak to media about COVID-19 guidelines at construction sites in Yangon Region on 21 November. PHOTO: NAY LINN

## Mr Moon Jae-in, President of Republic of Korea congratulates President U Win Myint on successful holding of 2020 General Election

THE following is congratulatory message from President of the Republic of Korea Mr Moon Jae-in sent to President U Win Myint, for the successful holding of General Election on 8 November 2020.

### Mr Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea sends congratulatory message to the President

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the successful completion of Myanmar's general election amid the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 pandemic. Commemorating the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties this year, it gives me great pleasure that our two countries are maintaining cooperative relations stronger than ever in various fields including economy, society and culture. Furthermore, I highly appreciate our close cooperation for the successful general election in Myanmar.

I have high expectation that our two countries can overcome the current challenges together and further develop our relations. Please accept my best wishes for your good health and the lasting prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

## MoEE Minister inspects Paunglaung hydropower plant

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing inspected Paunglaung hydropower plant in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning together with

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and other departmental personnels.

The head of the power plant firstly explained power production and water storage of Up-

per Paunglaung, Paunglaung underground type power plant and Nan Cho power plant at the meeting hall and the Deputy Minister and the Managing Director of Electric Power Gen-

eration Enterprise coordinated the meeting.

Then, the Union Minister discussed the preparations to meet the country's power needs incoming summer like this year, generated power for people during Stay-at-home period amid COVID-19 pandemic, plans to meet the power demand in future, electrification to about 10 villages per day under National Electrification Project, the increase of Electrification Ratio from 55pc to over 56.68pc in 2020-2021 and power generation under the management of National Control Centre (NCC).

The Union Minister continued saying that the ministry is currently generating 65,000 megawatt hours of electricity per day from 48,000 megawatt hours of electricity per day in 2016.

The 28 hydropower plants are generating 3,225 megawatts of electricity with an average capacity of 2,600 megawatts per day (36%).

Moreover, the further four hydropower projects -the 51-megawatt Upper Kyaing Taung project (2021-2022), the 280-megawatt Upper Yeywa project (2022-2023), the 152-megawatt Middle Paunglaung project (2024-2025) and the 111-megawatt Tha Htay project (2025-2026) are being implemented.

He also talked about plans to construct Floating Solar Power Plant to generate power with Hydro-Solar Hybrid soon and the efforts of the ministry to meet the power demand by implementing Generation Mix of hydropower plants, solar-power plant, natural gas and thermal power plant and LNG power plants.

Then, the Union Minister and party inspected the power generation processes, and water flows into dams, water storage and a designated place to construct Floating Solar Power Plant.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

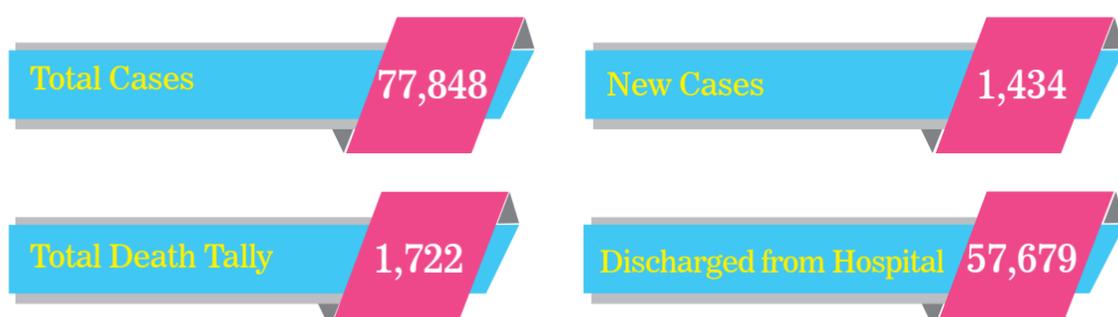


Union Minister U Win Khaing inspects Paunglaung underground type power plant in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 21 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

## 1,434 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 November, total figure rises to 77,848

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 77,848 after 1,434 new cases were reported on 21 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 77,848 confirmed cases, 1,722 died, 57,679 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 21 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 21-11-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

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## Chinese broccoli growers get good price this year

Farmers are working at a farm in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MYAT TUN MIN (KAWLIN)**

THE Chinese broccoli (Chinese kale) growers from Kawlin and Wuntho townships are happy with its good price this year compared to that of the last year.

The Chinese kale is growing well on the small farmlands. The five villages in Kawlin Township and nine villages in Wuntho Township are planting the Chinese kale vegetables with the use of Kaung My creek water.

There are two Chinese kale varieties, one with white flowers and the other with yellow flowers. The white flower variety is popular and grows up to 19 inches' height while the yellow flower plant only grows to about 8 inches' height.

"We are growing kailan (Chinese kale) on 0.20 acres of farmland annually. The cultivation of this vegetable costs K25,000,

including the expenses for seeds, fertilizer and pesticides. This time last year, the Chinese kale yielded highly and was sold for only K500 per bundle. This year, only a few people are growing this vegetable because of incessant rains. The Chinese kale is also sold for K1,000 per bundle. So, the growers are earning K15,000 daily. We have expected to earn K400,000 for growing of

0.20 acre of Chinese kale," said U Sein Min, a Chinese kale grower from Oak Pho village.

"I buy a variety of crops and sell them back at the market. Last time this year, we found the yellow flower plant of Chinese kale in the Kawlin night market. This year, we could not even buy the yellow flower plant in the farmland because they have their own customers and are not likely to share with us.

We are also sending the yellow flower plant to Mandalay, Shwebo, Kanbalu, Thinchat, Mohnyin, Moegaung, Hopin and Indaw towns by train and also cars," said Ma Kyine, a vegetable seller.

Although the local farmers from those villages are growing Chinese kale, each farmer grows only half an acre mostly. They are growing many vegetables and crops because if the price of one harvest is not reasonable, they can make a profit from growing another produce. —Myat Tun Min (Kawlin) (Translated by Hay Mar)

## Black bean price down in local market as Indian demand lessens

By Nyein Nyein

THE black bean price in the local market has been brought down by less demand for black bean from India, according to the official statistics from Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

Although the price of black bean reached about K1.1 million per tonne on 1 November, it is now K1.04 million per tonne on 20 November, a decrease of over K66,000 per tonne.

"The price of black bean has dropped in the local market, and it can be attributed to less demand from India. Fluctuations in the local pulses market depend

on the supply and demand," said U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. The country has less than 100,000 tonnes of black bean and about 30,000 tonnes of pigeon pea stocks, according to the association. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India has issued a 150,000 tonnes import quota for black beans on 1 October. And those who have export licences in Myanmar have the chance to do so until March 2021.

Although there are fewer stockpiles of black bean in the country, we can meet the target of 150,000 tonnes import quota when the new black beans are

harvested, he explained.

Previously, India made a statement to import 400,000 tonnes of black bean not later than March 2021. However, on 22 May, India rapidly changed the import period of black bean to three months by August-end 2020 from the earlier set deadline.

Although the bean body has asked the extension of the August-end deadline, India has not responded yet to the request. However, the Indian government issued a statement to buy about 150,000 tonnes of black beans from Myanmar on 1 October.

At present, Myanmar exported only 100,000 tonnes of

black beans, according to the association.

Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black beans and pigeon peas. Myanmar has to export black beans and pigeon peas under a quota system and a limit period. Consequently, there is no guarantee that we could get the prevailing market price next year; the market observers shared their opinions.

Following the no assurance of black beans and pigeon peas in the markets, the association suggested on the end-October that the local farmers should grow black-eyed beans more.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## 18-wheel truck overturns in Kyaukdaga

A TRUCK carrying soft drink bottles lost control and overturned in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region yesterday, and there was no casualties in the accident.

According to the Penwagon Police Station, the accident occurred at 1:30 am on 21 November at Milepost 104/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Pyidaungsu Road when the 18-wheel truck was on its way to Yangon.

The 18-wheel vehicle lost

control and overturned while its driver Sai Kyi Lwin, 35, from Kyaukse Town was trying to avoid another truck, said police.

The driver and Ye Zaw, 28, who was onboard of the truck were transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

The driver was charged under Sections 279/337 of the Penal Code for failure to control. —Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

The overturned truck is seen on Yangon-Mandalay Pyidaungsu Road. **PHOTO: KHIN KO (KYAUKDAGA)**

# COVID-19 infection will decrease when public abides by and strictly follows all the statements of the Ministry of Health and Sports

Interviewed by Min Thit (MNA), Photos: Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/ Kyaw Zeya Win

**(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)**

The spread of COVID-19 has spiked since the second wave hit Yangon Region and the Ministry of Health and Sports has set action plans to mitigate the spread of the disease.

Myanmar News Agency has interviewed Dr Tun Myint, Deputy Director-General of Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department, and Dr Myint Myint Aye, Medical Superintendent of Yangon General Hospital, on the situation.

**[Dr Tun Myint]**

**Question:** Why has the number of cases and deaths increased in Yangon Region?

**Answer:** The number of cases started increasing after 17 August. We were able to handle the situation in the first wave because of the low infection rate. The majority of cases there were imported from returnees.

In the second wave, the infection rate went up after positive case no.375 on 17 August. We can estimate this is because of an influx of people from other states and regions, especially from the west, entering Yangon. We can guess how many people travelled to Yangon after a month and most of them live in Yangon Region as well.

There are also people passing through Yangon Region to get



YGH Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Myint Aye.



Pictures show outer and interior views of Yangon General Hospital during the second wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar.



Medical professionals wearing PPE are working at the Yangon General Hospital during the second wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar.

to other states and regions. We can see a rising number of cases there too, but the Yangon Region still has the highest infection rate due to its dense population. In here you have the situation with migrant workers, factories and markets which are particularly linked to different regions with Yangon. Since Yangon is accepting of everyone, it has the most number of COVID cases as well.

We also have to increase awareness among the public

and have them maintain distance, wear masks, wash hands and prevent large gatherings. COVID-19 cases will likely go down when everyone follows the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

**Question:** Can you tell us more about the social movement for COVID-19?

**Answer:** We can't put a stop to COVID by only giving medical treatments in hospitals. This is

where public health services and action plans have to be increased. They need to be carried out in the frontlines, and so we have drawn up a campaign for social activities in Yangon Region.

There are three categories. The first is the mandatory wearing of masks and face shields in dense public locations such as markets, shopping malls, highway terminals, jetties and airports. We are starting this in the markets and starting from

15 November; we've distributed face masks and shields to 120 markets of the 176 in Yangon. Both vendors and buyers have to wear them, and we will provide for them if they are not wearing any. MoHS has supplied us with 1 million face masks and 100,000 face shields, and we will distribute them at the markets.

The second category is incorporating educational activities during the distribution. We're using megaphones to spread in-

formation five times a day in the markets and wards. We provide daily updates, health guidelines and some famous artists will be entertaining with informative music. The third category is giving out pamphlets and we have printed 500,000 already. In addition to health guidelines, we are adding the do's and don'ts for vendors and buyers of Yangon Region's markets into the pamphlets this time.

**SEE PAGE-6**

## COVID-19 infection will decrease when public abides by and strictly follows all the statements of the Ministry of Health and Sports

### FROM PAGE-5

We have made the clearest notice to the public, and we hope these three categories will help cut the spread of COVID-19 and reduce related deaths.

[Dr Myint Myint Aye]

**Question:** Can you tell us the preparations Yangon General Hospital has made to treat COVID-19 patients.

**Answer:** The hospital was not treating COVID patients at first. We simply accepted people suspected to have COVID and transferred the positive patients to

designated hospitals. But there are more cases in the second wave, so we had to prepare the red ward to treat positive patients. We made preparations starting from the emergency ward to the waiting rooms and even near the entrance.

The emergency surgical ward was prepared for operating on COVID positive patients, and we had to make a new ward in case more patients arrived. The entire main red building was prepared for COVID patients with suspected patients put at the ground floor, and the orthopaedic

ward now has ICUs and HDUs for 30 patients.

We can now monitor those 30 patients from our control room. We've made preparations to accept more patients and we've prepared four kidney cleansing machines for positive patients with kidney ailments.

Those were the initial preparations. Later, we have positive patients coming to the hospital and they want treatment from Yangon General Hospital. More patients came in after we assembled more medical equipment and now we're building a new

ward in front of the main building. It's still in progress but it will house up to 80 patients once it's done.

We are using full medicine and equipment we have to treat our patients. We've installed a machine that produces liquid oxygen since it's the main necessity for these patients. We didn't have oxygen pipelines at each bed, but now we are doing our best to supply oxygen to everyone.

About 40 patients passed away per day before, and we've opened a special ward with 30

beds at the Yangon General Hospital and a 20-bedded ward in North Okkalapa Hospital. This has reduced the fatality rate and, it's also thanks to the physicians and anesthetists.

It's been tiring, but thanks to the professionalism and compassion of our medical personnel, we've had positive patients over 70 and 80 years of age discharged on the complete recovery. Our hospital is accepting patients with the most severe cases, so we are experiencing both recoveries and deaths.

## WFP donates food rations to Thabarwa Centre in Thanlyin



THE World Food Programme (WFP) donated food rations consisting of rice, cooking oil, salt and beans to Thabarwa Centre located in Phayar Gone Village of Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region on 20 November.

Thabarwa Centre Patron Sayadaw Uttamasara, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and party and the officials of WFP attended the donation ceremony.

Then, the Chief Minister donated the offertories of WFP to the Sayadaw while another four kinds of food aids (rice, cooking oil, salt, bean) to the elderly people at the centre.

The Chief Minister and Secretary U Win Myint of Centre presented a certificate of honour to a representative of WFP.

The Thabarwa Centre is not only a place for meditation and it also cares for abandoned elderly, physically and mentally disabled and older people.

The WFP donated K44,845,000 worth of food rations for a total of 4,300 persons including monks, nuns, Yawgis (meditators) and the people with disabilities residing at the centre.—San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein attends the foods donation ceremony of World Food Programme to Thabarwa Centre in Thanlyin on 21 November 2020. **PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO (IPRD)**

## DDM grants compensation for families of victims of elephant attack in Mabein

DEPARTMENT of Disaster Management in Mabein Township provided compensation for the families of four victims killed by a musth elephant in Mabein Township, Momeik District in northern Shan State yesterday.

A ceremony to present the cash assistance was held at the house of a village in-charge of new Pin Kyein Village.

At the event, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Myint Shein made a remark, and Township Management Committee Chairperson and Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing and deputy staff officer of

Momeik Township Disaster Management Department U Ye Htut Naing explained the purpose of granting compensation.

The officials provided a total of K1.2 million, K300,000 per family, for the families of four victims killed by an elephant.

On 13 November, a musth elephant killed the four victims – mahout Naing, Win, 37, and villagers Ba Nyan, 27, Aung Kyi Soe, 28, and Khant Min Thet, 6, – at the Pin Kyein Ywarhaung Village in Mabein Township, Momeik District, northern Shan State.—Myo Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A family member of a victim of an elephant attack (R) accepts the compensation granted by Department of Disaster Management on 21 November 2020. **PHOTO: MYO MIN (IPRD)**

TIMELINE

# Covid-19 vaccine: the next steps

WITH US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech applying for an emergency use authorization in the United States for their coronavirus vaccine and US biotech company Moderna expected to do so soon, here are the next steps in the approval and distribution process.

### Evaluation begins right away

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will immediately begin evaluating the results of the Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials conducted by Pfizer/BioNTech.

They will concentrate on the safety of the vaccine and its effectiveness, which has been billed at 95 per cent by Pfizer/BioNTech.

FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn said the approval process will include a public meeting of the FDA's vaccine advisory committee, which includes experts in infectious diseases, pediatrics, biostatistics and industry representatives.

The committee's recommendations are not binding, however, and a final decision on whether or not to authorize the vaccine will be up to the scientists at the FDA.

### Green light: December

The FDA could provide emergency authorization as soon as the first two weeks of Decem-

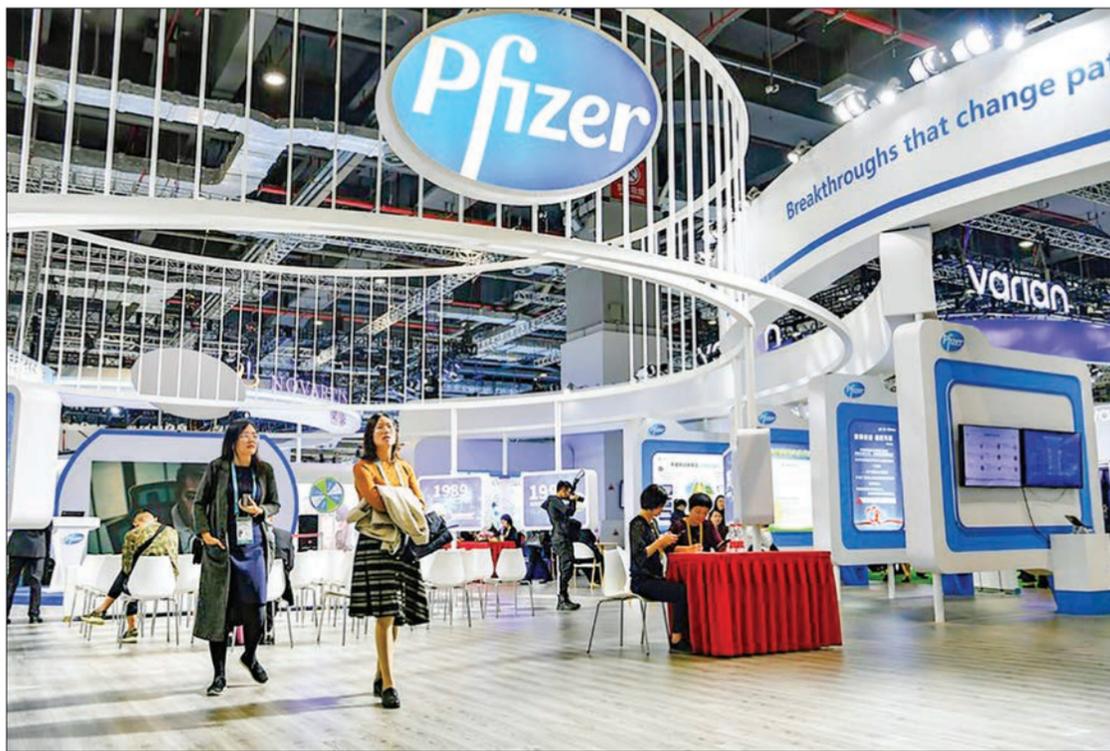


Photo taken on Nov. 7, 2019 shows the booth of Pfizer Inc. during the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China. PHOTO: XINHUA/FAN PEISHEN

ber, according to Moncef Slaoui, the chief scientist for "Operation Warp Speed," the US government initiative to develop a Covid-19 vaccine.

It would be a conditional approval in the context of the global health crisis and would restrict distribution of the vaccine to certain members of the population.

Children, for example, would not be included because Pfizer has not yet conducted wide-

spread testing of the vaccine among those under the age of 18.

Another US government agency, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), would determine the order of priority for distribution of the vaccine.

Front-line medical workers and elderly residents of nursing homes would probably be among the first to be inoculated.

In Europe, Britain, Canada,

Japan and Australia, the process is slightly different and regulators there have been constantly reviewing the data from clinical trials being conducted by several manufacturers.

The European Union could give a green light to a vaccine as early as the second half of December, according to European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.

**Distribution: late December**

Pfizer/BioNTech said doses of the vaccine would be ready for distribution "within hours" after US authorization, which could mean shipments beginning in the second half of December.

They would initially be provided by a US factory in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and a Belgian plant in Puurs.

The vaccine must be stored at -70 degrees Celsius (-94 degrees Fahrenheit), temperatures much colder than those of a standard freezer.

Pfizer would distribute the doses to vaccination centres in containers filled with dry ice which should keep the vaccine at the required temperature for 15 days.

### Next vaccines: early 2021

The Moderna Covid-19 vaccine could be ready for distribution soon after that of Pfizer/BioNTech and could be followed by February by that of Johnson & Johnson, according to Slaoui, with AstraZeneca/Oxford also expected in the next few months.

While high-risk groups will be the first vaccinated, the US government hopes that there will be enough vaccines by April 2021 to offer it to the broader population and provide high coverage by the summer.

SOURCE: AFP

### A 26 PERCENT INCREASE

## U.S. adds 1 mln COVID-19 cases in 7 days

THE United States reported more than one million new COVID-19 cases over the past week, a 26 per cent increase over the previous week, according to latest data of the COVID Tracking Project. This wave of cases came in a time when hospital systems across the country are already inundated with COVID-19 patients and are warning of staff shortages. Currently nearly 80,000 people in the United States are hospitalized with COVID-19, an all-time high since the pandemic began, according to the tracking project. This week, states across the country reported 8,461 deaths, the highest weekly death count since May, data showed. Fifteen states hit all-time records for new cases this week, five are in the Northeast. Nationally, the 7-day average for daily reported cases has almost doubled since Nov. 1.

SOURCE: AFP



Residents wait in line outside a Costco Warehouse in Los Angeles, the United States, on Nov. 20, 2020. The United States reported more than one million new COVID-19 cases over the past week, a 26 per cent increase over the previous week, according to latest data of the COVID Tracking Project. PHOTO: XINHUA

### 500,000 DODGY TESTS

## Covid-19 tests imported from South Korea were 'flawed': WPost

CORONAVIRUS tests imported from South Korea by the governor of the US state of Maryland were flawed and ended up not being used, The Washington Post reported on Friday.

The newspaper said Maryland Governor Larry Hogan spent \$9.46 million in April to import 500,000 coronavirus tests from South Korea.

But the tests turned out to be flawed and the state "quietly" paid the same South Korean company an additional \$2.5 million for 500,000 replacement tests, the Post said.

It said a University of Maryland laboratory abandoned its use of the replacement tests after a



Coronavirus tests imported from South Korea by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan were flawed and ended up not being used, The Washington Post reported. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

spate of suspected false positives but a private lab continues to use them.

Around 370,000 of the

replacement tests have been used by the private lab, the Post said.

SOURCE: AFP

# Let's move forward with digitalization

**T**HE role of media and information cannot be underestimated in any given time period, but it is even more crucial now as we are forced to physically cut off from the real world due to COVID-19. But our smartphones and computers have provided us with a plethora of mediums to stay connected with the world and keep ourselves informed. COVID has brought us closer to TV and other digital media, but we must also be vigilant in keeping our digital literacy updated in realtime.

Hate speech and misinformation are the negative byproducts of our constant connectivity to the world, but it does not need to be the price we have to pay. Indeed, all supporters of truth and justice are doing their part to root them out, and this was evident in recent the general elections where individuals and organizations alike spread the word of incorrect and often times inflammatory content that served to create chaos among the people.

The media provides us with information and entertainment, recreation and opportunities for creators to share their innovations with the masses. The elections might not have gone so smoothly

during COVID if we had to rely on word of mouth or physically send campaign brochures and pamphlets to the people. The amount of manpower, national budget, time and resources (especially paper) would have been monumental.

And it is not just media, but digital transformations that will bring about greater benefits for the nation. The Central Bank of Myanmar recently upgraded their inter-bank payment network to cope with the rapid digitalization of banks and mobile wallets in the country. This will allow loans and cash relief to be distributed quicker, easier and farther to remote corners of

the nation.

However, there is still a lingering sense of scepticism and distrust surrounding banks and financial institutions in the minds of the citizens due in part to certain economic mishaps and centralized authority on the financial sector that perpetuated throughout the nation for decades.

But just like the stakeholders of the peace process, we must turn our mistrust into lessons of tact and understanding as we need to move forward with the world. The new government has their hands full trying to implement projects for national development in all sectors and as dutiful citizens, we must give private and public media, financial institutions and government entities the benefit of the doubt while providing constructive criticism.

After all, they are not mutually exclusive to our lives, and by improving them, we are improving lives and the nation as well.

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# RCEP opens up a New Chapter for Myanmar

BY U THAUNG TUN

**L**AST Sunday, I had the distinct privilege of representing Myanmar as our nation took yet another bold step forward in signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In doing so, 15 partner nations – the 10 ASEAN member states together with Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea – joined forces in forming the largest free trade agreement the world has ever seen.

“Clearly, the signing of the RCEP represents a milestone moment for Myanmar.

Eight years in the making, the RCEP represents an important milestone for Myanmar and the region. It is regarded as the most important trade agreement since the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1994.

Representing a consumer market of 2.2 billion people, with a combined GDP of US\$26.2 trillion – one-third of global economic output – over the coming decade this new mega-trade bloc is expected to add as much as US\$200 billion to the global economy and an additional 0.2 per cent to the GDP of member economies.

Clearly, the signing of the RCEP represents a milestone moment for Myanmar:

### WHAT IS THE RCEP?

With the RCEP, we have taken a range of existing Free Trade Agreements (FTA), some in place for more than a decade, including the ASEAN Free Trade Area to which Myanmar has been a party since the early years, and integrated these into a single, far-reaching economic pact. In doing so, our region has come together as a more unified economic zone under a single, coherent trading regime.



which Myanmar has been a party since the early years, and integrated these into a single, far-reaching economic pact. In doing so, our region has come together as a more unified economic zone under a single, coherent trading regime.

This new, mutually beneficial economic partnership includes a range of commitments, from expanding market access to enhancing economic and technical cooperation, to the progressive lowering of tariffs, together with provisions on the trade in goods and services, intellectual property, e-commerce, telecoms, and SMEs.

### HOW MIGHT MYANMAR BENEFIT?

For Myanmar, this landmark agreement will strengthen our country's commercial and trade ties, including granting us greater access to the dynamic regional markets of Japan and South Korea, while increasing flows of quality, responsible foreign investment. Often referred to as ASEAN's last frontier market, Myanmar is well-placed. I believe our participation in this new Partnership is entirely fitting given our enviable

geographic position – linking East and West – providing a strategic land bridge connecting two of the world's largest economies, those of India and China, with the dynamic and economically vibrant markets of East and South-East Asia.

Our participation in the RCEP is also entirely in keeping with our longer-term strategic development priorities outlined

“Just the strategic significance of this Agreement cannot be overstated, nor can its benefit to Myanmar and Myanmar business.”

Importantly, the RCEP has been drafted with sufficient flexibility to accommodate the varied and at times divergent interests of



partner countries at various stages of development – from Australia to Myanmar, from Singapore to Viet Nam.

### CONCESSIONS SECURED

Some have expressed hesitation as to whether Myanmar can truly benefit from such a trade pact. However, just as the strategic significance of this Agreement cannot be overstated, nor can its benefit to Myanmar and Myanmar business be minimized.

But we should not expect radical changes overnight. It will take several years for much of the RCEP to come into full effect following its ratification by the Hluttaw.

In addition, our negotiation team led by the Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department has secured special and differential treatment for Myanmar commensurate with our country's Least Developed Country (LDC) status. For example, while members have committed to removing tariffs on 65 per cent of trade in goods, when the Agreement enters into force, Myanmar need only remove tariffs on 30 per cent, placing Myanmar business in a strong and competitive position.

Furthermore, in areas such as intellectual property, competition policy and e-commerce, we have secured transition periods ranging from between 3 and 10 years during which time we can ensure we are fully ready to implement all provisions, including by building human and institutional capacities in both the public and private sectors, and by incorporating relevant international standards.

Through our participation in the RCEP, our businesses will also gain greater market access for a growing range of unique and



in-demand Myanmar exports. Unified rules of origin regulations, including covering goods requiring labour-intensive attention to detail such as garment finishing, are expected to encourage greater foreign investment into our country's expanding manufacturing sector.

The Agreement also complements our efforts to facilitate more efficient border trade via streamlined, consistently applied customs procedures.

Importantly, the RCEP also opens the door to a range of opportunities to forge closer ties with our development partner community.

### WHAT OF INDIA?

Some have asked why India has held off on joining the Agreement for now. Whereas ASEAN members have already agreed to a raft of FTAs, including with China, India has yet to do so. As such, India has opted to delay participation in the RCEP until those negotiations have been concluded. The Joint Leaders' Statement adopted at the 4th RCEP Summit last Sunday leaves the door open to India if it wishes to join at some future date.

### RCEP AND COVID-19 RECOVERY

I believe that signing the RCEP this month, despite the current pandemic, demonstrates our strong, shared and continuing commitment to accelerating our region's economic recovery while creating further opportunities for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

As we turn our heads toward a post-COVID-19 future, now is not the time for cynicism. Instead, we must come together to revitalise our nations and rebuild our re-

“While free trade was not a cause of this pandemic, it must represent a vital part of our economic recovery.”

gion's economy. While free trade was not a cause of this pandemic, it must represent a vital part of our economic recovery.

### TO CONCLUDE

I do believe that Myanmar's signing of the RCEP sends a clear signal to the world that we remain committed to maintaining the credibility of our region's economic cooperation architecture while retaining the trust of our nation's private sector.

I also believe the RCEP should be viewed as a political achievement – a much-needed victory for all those who still hold to the promise of a stable, well-functioning multilateral trading system and accompanying institutions.

“...a much-needed victory for all those who still hold to the promise of a stable, well-functioning multilateral trading system and accompanying institutions.”

Indeed, our State Counsellor has described the RCEP as providing a new driving force that will accelerate the facilitation of trade and investment as part of a well-functioning, highly efficient, rules-based multilateral trading system. Myanmar's participation in the RCEP demonstrates our commitment to such a system.

In sum, the RCEP is good for Myanmar and good for our region. I firmly believe this partnership represents the future of trade in the Asia-Pacific region and am proud that Myanmar is now a part of it.

U Thaung Tun is Myanmar's Union Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Saturday 21 November 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (13:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over near the Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining South Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (48) hours. Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 22 November 2020:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Mon states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago and Yangon regions and generally fair 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 light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 November 2020:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 November 2020:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 November 2020:** Generally fair weather.

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## MOTLEY CREW

Germany's anti-mask movement  
draws strange bedfellows

Police use a water cannon to disperse protesters demonstrating against coronavirus restrictions **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A dancer in harem pants moves down a Berlin street next to a skinhead wearing a "Reich" flag: Germany's escalating anti-mask protests in the coronavirus pandemic draw from a wide, seemingly contradictory range of political camps.

A rally of nearly 10,000 opponents of government-imposed social restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 in Berlin this week brought together a motley band of demonstrators with ostensibly little in common -- apart from crumbling faith in

institutions and representative democracy.

On Saturday, another demonstration is set to take place in the eastern city of Leipzig. The protest in the German capital, which led to 365 police detentions, gives a taste of what could be expected.

The scene in front of the Brandenburg Gate Wednesday marked a dizzying confluence of LGBT rainbow flags and Gandhi banners intermingled with posters for the increasingly international QAnon conspiracy movement.

Marchers wearing red Trump "MAGA" hats could be spotted in the crowd next to evangelicals, climate activists and "peace"-shouting hippies.

Most of the protesters remained peaceful while they railed against vaccines and dismissed the dangers of the virus, but a violent hard core attacked police.

Some 77 officers were injured at the demonstration, with Berlin police chief Barbara Slowik saying that "the brutality of the violence was immense."

**SOURCE: AFP**

## AFTER EIGHT-MONTH SHUTDOWN

## Cuba reopens but faces challenge wooing back tourists



A receptionist sanitizes her hands at the Melia Habana Hotel in Havana -- Cuba is reopening its doors to foreign tourists after months of coronavirus-related closures, but will travellers return? **PHOTO: AFP**

CUBA is reopening its doors to foreign tourists after an eight-month shutdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the cash-strapped country faces an uphill struggle to woo back wary travelers.

Tourism chiefs are banking on the island's track record of keeping the virus in check to win back holidaymakers.

"This is a major challenge,"

said Francisco Camps, deputy general manager of Melia, a Spanish hotel chain that currently is operating only 10 of its 34 locations in Cuba.

The industry is pinning its hopes for the November-April high season on the capital Havana, the country's main tourist draw, which opened its international airport last weekend.

With its old fashioned Carib-

bean charm, the UNESCO World Heritage city attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

"Havana is important because it has regular flights, which allows connections with Europe," says Camps.

"It also allows a flow of visitors who do not only come to see the city but also do tours" -- bringing more tourist dollars than mere beachgoers.

The rest of the country's six international airports reopened last month to charter flights.

Tourism was worth \$2.6 billion to Cuba in 2019. Deprived of that revenue this year, the island had to drastically reduce imports -- the source of 80 per cent of its food.

Across the country, lines outside supermarkets are getting longer, with shortages of basics like coffee, milk and even toilet paper increasingly common.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## NEWS IN BRIEFS

## 100,000 DEATHS

## Mexico City restricts alcohol sales to tackle virus

MEXICO City authorities on Friday announced restrictions on alcohol sales to discourage parties and warned the city was close to another lockdown after nationwide coronavirus deaths soared past 100,000. Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said that the capital was "at the limit" of its current status of orange under a traffic-light system introduced in response to the pandemic. A return to red would see non-essential activities suspended again in the city of nine million people. Sheinbaum appealed for "urgent" cooperation from the capital's residents to reduce hospitalizations.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## CANADA

## Toronto ordered into Covid-19 lockdown starting Monday

Canada's largest city Toronto and much of its suburbs will be placed under lockdown beginning Monday due to the spread of Covid-19, Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced. "I've been clear on this: the situation is extremely serious and further action is required," Ford told journalists on Friday. "Effective Monday, November 23 at 12:01 am, Toronto and Peel will be moved into lockdown." The lockdown, whose restrictions include a ban on indoor private gatherings, will last at least 28 days and violators can be fined CAN\$750 (\$570).

**SOURCE: AFP**

## WHITE HOUSE OUTBREAK

## Trump's son Don Jr positive for Covid-19: spokesman



Donald Trump Jr with girlfriend Kimberly Guilfoyle in February 2020. **PHOTO: AFP ARCHIVES**

US President Donald Trump's eldest son Donald Trump Jr has tested positive for Covid-19 and is quarantining without symptoms, the latest in a long list of infections among those with links to the White House.

"Don tested positive at the start of the week and has been quarantining out at his cabin since the result," his spokesman said.

"He's been completely asymptomatic so far and is following all medically recommended COVID-19 guidelines," the spokesman said of the 42-year-old.

Trump Jr's positive test follows infections for a string of others connected to the

White House, including his father, who was hospitalized, the president's wife Melania and Trump's youngest son Barron.

Donald Jr's girlfriend, former Fox News host Kimberly Guilfoyle, also tested positive in July.

Earlier Friday, Andrew Giuliani, a White House aide and son of the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, announced he had tested positive.

Trump Jr is one of the most outspoken and aggressive defenders of his father, who is still refusing to recognize his defeat to Democrat Joe Biden in the November 3 presidential election.

**SOURCE: AFP**

WARSAW

## Polish PM urges no travel over Christmas

POLISH Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Saturday warned Poles against any travel over the Christmas period, as he announced that most coronavirus restrictions would be extended but shops would re-open.

“Please do not plan any trips,” Morawiecki said at a press conference, adding that the government was looking at ways of imposing movement restrictions.

He said Poles should spend Christmas only with their immediate families and not move between cities.

Morawiecki also said that theatres, bars and restaurants would remain closed until after Christmas, and schools would continue to be on distance learning.

“The situation is still very serious,” he said, voicing con-



Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Saturday warned Poles against any travel over the Christmas period, as he announced that most coronavirus restrictions would be extended but shops would re-open. PHOTO: AFP

cern about Poland’s high death rate but pointing out that the number of new cases had stabilised. The health ministry on Saturday reported 574 deaths

over 24 hours, bringing the total toll to 13,288.

The number of new daily infections in Poland was 24,213.

The number of coronavi-

rus-related deaths in Poland over the past week has been the third highest in the EU after Italy and France, according to an AFP tally. SOURCE: AFP

LAHORE

## Huge crowd gathers for Pakistani firebrand cleric’s funeral



Pakistani hardline cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi gained mass support and rose to become one of the country’s most feared figures. PHOTO: AFP

TENS of thousands of maskless mourners gathered in Lahore on Saturday for the funeral of hardline Pakistani cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi, who for years terrorized the country’s religious minorities, incited riots and advocated the destruction of European nations.

Vast crowds of men were seen thronging the centre of the eastern city ahead of Rizvi’s funeral, chanting in unison and for the most part flouting mask-wearing rules even with the country on the cusp of a second wave of the coronavirus outbreak. No cause of death has been announced for the 54-year-old Rizvi, who died Thursday after suffering a high fever and difficulties breathing, and no Covid-19 test or autopsy were conducted on the long-time wheelchair user. While Pakistan has dodged the worst of the coronavirus pandemic so far, case numbers have been rising sharply in recent weeks.

In life, Rizvi acted as a lightning rod for Pakistan’s religious right, and was adept at stirring sectarian resentments and mobilizing thousands of fanatical supporters at a moment’s notice.

SOURCE: AFP

SINOPHARM

## Almost a million people inoculated with Chinese Covid-19 vaccine: firm

NEARLY a million people have taken an experimental coronavirus vaccine developed by Chinese company Sinopharm, the firm said, although it has not yet provided any clear clinical evidence of efficacy.

China has been giving experimental Covid-19 vaccines to people including state employees, international students and essential workers heading abroad since July.

Sinopharm’s chairman told media this week that nearly a million people have now received their vaccine for emergency use, though he did not provide a specific figure.

“We have not received a sin-

gle report of severe adverse reaction, and only a few had some mild symptoms,” Liu Jingzhen said in an interview re-published by the state-owned firm on Wednesday.

China has been bullish about the development of its vaccine for the new virus -- which first emerged in the centre of the country late last year -- with four vaccines now in late-stage testing.

Many of the trials are taking place overseas, as China has largely brought the virus under control within its borders.

SOURCE: AFP



A staff member tests samples of the COVID-19 inactivated vaccine at a vaccine production plant of China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) in Beijing, capital of China, April 11, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

### NEWS IN BRIEF

END OF THE ROAD

#### Taxi to nowhere: virus measures hit London black cab business

TONY Georgiou sighed as he stood in front of a field full of parked taxi cabs, admitting he has lost count of how many are there. Many London taxi drivers rent their instantly-recognizable black cabs from fleet companies such as GB Taxi Services, where Georgiou is one of the owners.

But with London’s streets emptied by the coronavirus lockdown, many drivers are unable to keep paying for their vehicles and are handing them back in droves.

SOURCE: AFP

MOSCOW

#### Russia virus toll, deaths, hit new highs

RUSSIA on Saturday registered record numbers for daily infections and deaths from the coronavirus, two days after having passed two million cases. Health officials reported 24,822 new infections and 476 deaths, bringing the national total to 2,064,748 million cases and 35,778 fatalities since the beginning of the year. While those figures suggest a lower death rate than elsewhere in the world, they need to be treated with caution. The official Russian death toll only includes those in which Covid has been established as the primary cause of death after an autopsy.

SOURCE: AFP

## IT'S OFFICIAL

## Twitter to hand @POTUS account to Biden on inauguration day



In this photo illustration, the Twitter account of US President Donald is displayed on a mobile phone. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TWITTER will hand control of the presidential @POTUS account to Joe Biden when he is sworn in on inauguration day, even if President Donald Trump has not conceded his election loss, US media reported Friday.

The social media giant is “actively preparing to support the transition of White House institutional Twitter accounts on January 20th, 2021,” Twitter spokesperson Nick Pacilio told Politico in an email. The process is being done in consultation with the National Archives, as it was in 2017, he said. The handover will see all existing tweets on @POTUS, as well as @FLOTUS, @VP and other official accounts, archived.

The accounts will then be reset to zero tweets and transferred to the incoming Biden White House that day. Trump, who still has not conceded his November 3 loss, used Twitter to help build his political brand and, later, wield the power of the presidency – though he mainly uses his personal account, @realDonaldTrump, whose 88 million followers dwarf @POTUS’s 32 million. The @POTUS account is largely used to retweet Trump’s personal account as well as the White House and other accounts. **SOURCE: AFP**

## THE BORDER DISPUTE

## Israel accuses Lebanon of changing stance on maritime border

ISRAEL has accused Lebanon of changing its position in talks on their disputed maritime border and warned it could lead to a “dead end” that would be damaging for the whole region.

The two countries, which remain technically at war, opened negotiations on the border dispute under US and UN auspices last month to clear the way for offshore oil and gas exploration.

“Lebanon has changed its stance on its maritime border with Israel seven times,” Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz tweeted late Thursday.

“Its current position contradicts not only its previous one, but also Lebanon’s stance on its maritime border with Syria, which takes into account Lebanese islands close to the border,” Steinitz said.

Earlier on Thursday, Lebanese President Michel Aoun had set out his country’s position on the maritime border, which he said should be “based on the line that departs on land from the point of Ras Naqoura”.

The demarcation should be “according to the general principle known as the median

line, without taking into account any impact of the occupied Palestinian coastal islands,” Aoun tweeted, referring to the Israeli coastline. On Friday, the Lebanese presidency dismissed the Israeli accusations of Lebanon changing its position seven times as “unfounded”.

“Lebanon’s stance is firm on the maritime demarcation of the southern borders, in accordance with President Aoun’s directives to the Lebanon delegation” at the talks, it said.

Israel and Lebanon have been negotiating based on a

map registered with the United Nations in 2011, which shows an 860-square-kilometre (330-square-mile) patch of sea as being disputed.

But Lebanon considers that map to have been based on wrong estimates.

Aoun’s tweet on Thursday confirms that Lebanon is now demanding an additional 1,430 square kilometres (552 square miles) of sea further south, which includes part of Israel’s Karish gas field, said Lebanese energy expert Laury Haytayan.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## AFTER KARABAKH CONFLICT

## Armenia PM urges stronger military links with Russia

ARMENIAN Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called Saturday for greater military cooperation with Russia, a day after Azerbaijani troops began moving into disputed territory previously held by Armenian separatist forces.

“We hope we can reinforce cooperation with Russia not only in the security sector but also military and technical cooperation,” he said, according to his press service.

“Of course, there were hard times before the war, but the situation today is even more difficult.”

Pashinyan was speaking during a meeting in Yerevan with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, after Azerbaijani troops Friday moved into the Aghdam district bordering Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed a Russian-brokered ceasefire on November 9 after six weeks of fighting over the



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called Saturday for greater military cooperation with Russia, a day after Azerbaijani troops began moving into disputed territory previously held by Armenian separatist forces. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV / AFP**

self-proclaimed republic. Under the agreement, Azerbaijan will regain control of three districts that have been controlled by the separatists since the 1990s.

Around 2,000 Russian peacekeepers have deployed in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh under the terms of the deal and Shoigu said Saturday the

troops had secured the return of 7,000 refugees back into the disputed territory who were displaced during the recent fighting.

**SOURCE: AFP**

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

## PROGRESS IN TALKS

## Pompeo to meet Taliban negotiators in Qatar

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Doha Saturday to meet negotiators from the Afghan government and Taliban, amid signs of progress in their talks as Washington speeds up its withdrawal.

Pompeo’s visit comes in the wake of a rocket attack which struck densely populated areas of Kabul, killing at least eight people in the latest outbreak of violence in the Afghan capital. The Taliban have denied responsibility and no group has claimed the strike.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## UNFRIENDLY ACTIONS

## Russia imposes reciprocal sanctions on 25 UK officials

RUSSIA on Saturday imposed sanctions on 25 British officials, responding to penalties Britain imposed in July against the same number of Russians over human rights violations.

“In response to unfriendly actions by the British authorities and on the basis of reciprocity, the Russian side made a decision to impose personal sanctions on 25 representatives of Great Britain who are now banned from entering Russian territory,” said a foreign ministry statement.

In July, Britain sanctioned 25 Russian officials for their alleged involvement in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, barring them from travelling to the UK and freezing their British assets.

Those targeted include Alexander Bastrykin, the head of the powerful Investigative Committee that reports directly to President Vladimir Putin.

Magnitsky, a tax consultant for British financier William Browder, died in prison of untreated illness in 2009 after accusing Russian officials of a \$230-million tax fraud.

Russia rejected the claims and convicted Magnitsky of fraud, having put him on trial posthumously.

**SOURCE: AFP**

APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING

# APEC leaders call for closer cooperation for post-pandemic recovery

THE leaders of the 21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members vowed to strengthen cooperation during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, as they tele-met on Friday during the 27<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Under the theme of "Optimizing Human potential toward a Resilient Future of shared Prosperity. Pivot. Prioritize. Progress.", the leaders discussed collective regional actions to accelerate economic recovery, with one focus on boosting more inclusive economic growth.

"As a grouping whose economies constitute about 60 per cent of the

global economy, APEC assumes a central role in spearheading post-pandemic economic recovery," Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin of Malaysia, the host of this year's APEC meetings, said during his opening remarks at the virtual meeting. "It goes without saying that our priority is to pool efforts in countering the coronavirus," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his speech.

"Russia is ready to cooperate with all the interested countries, including, of course, its APEC partners, as closely as possible," he added. Chilean President Sebastian Pinera on Friday called on the APEC economies

to continue to cooperate and work closely with international organizations, the private sector and civil society. He highlighted the importance of jointly fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and underscored the importance of a multilateral trading system, reaffirming his country's commitment to carrying out necessary reforms of the World Trade Organization. Peruvian Interim President Francisco Sagasti proposed universal, timely and balanced access to treatments and vaccines against COVID-19 at the conference. He also underscored the necessity of promoting structural economic reforms to benefit all



A monitor shows US President Donald Trump next to Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha at the start of the online Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

economic agents, in order to facilitate access to credit, technology and training. At the end of the meeting, Muhyiddin handed over the APEC chairmanship to Jacinda Ardern, prime

minister of New Zealand, which holds the next year's chairmanship.

In a brief address, Ardern said New Zealand as the host is committed to fostering an inclusive,

sustainable and innovative future for the Asia-Pacific region.

In a declaration issued after the virtually-held meeting, APEC leaders announced their commitment to combatting and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19, improving the narrative of trade and investment, inclusive economic participation through the digital economy and technology, driving innovative and inclusive sustainability, and strengthening stakeholder engagement, during "one of the most challenging health and economic crises of our times."

Source: Xinhua

## Hong Kong, Singapore travel bubble popped by virus spike



Hong Kong's tourist industry has been hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic, with travel restrictions severely limiting arrivals. Photo taken on Nov. 14, 2019, shows tourists visit a scenic spot at Tsim Sha Tsui in Hong Kong, south China. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHU XIANG

A planned travel bubble between Hong Kong and Singapore was scrapped a day before its launch on Saturday

after the southern Chinese city announced a sudden spike in coronavirus cases. The decision

is both a blow to the two cities' battered tourist industries but also for other countries who had been hoping the scheme might be a model to replicate during the pandemic.

The two financial hubs have both suffered comparatively mild outbreaks with strict social distancing and border measures imposed soon after the pandemic first emerged. But with small populations and a heavy dependence on links to the outside world they have been hard hit as the global economy collapsed.

SOURCE: AFP

PRIORITY POLICIES

## G-20 leaders hold virtual summit amid global virus resurgence

Leaders of the Group of 20 major economies began a teleconference on Saturday to discuss ways to deal with the coronavirus pandemic and restore growth amid a resurgence in infections in various parts of the world.

During the two-day talks through Sunday, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is expected to stress the importance of ensuring all countries having fair access to COVID-19 vaccines when they are ready and pledge that Japan will continue to

play an active role in the international community through its key policies, according to government officials. His government's major policies expected to be explained at the virtual meeting include digitalization, promoting multilateral free trade frameworks, and reducing ocean plastic waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

The G-20 leaders plan to issue a joint statement following the meeting, possibly with a pledge to do all they can to tackle the pandemic and prevent

the global economy from spiraling into depression.

Even if issued, their statement, however, is expected to refrain from vowing to fight protectionism, sources involved in preparations for the summit said earlier this month.

The G-20 countries have done so at their summits since 2018 after opposition from the United States, which has implemented protectionist trade measures under President Donald Trump's "America First" policy.

SOURCE: Kyodo

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (107N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (107N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2020** 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 NEWS GOLDEN SEA LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1086)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1086)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2020** 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 INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS  
SDN BHD LINE

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (203 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (203 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

# New condominium developments and housing going to materialize in Yangon

BY SWE OO WAI

**A** HOST of high-rise buildings can be found when taking an overall look at Yangon, the nation's commercial city. Some tall buildings are under construction, and some are found to have been already completed. In addition, new condominium developments and housing are going to materialize across Yangon in a little while.

The construction of the condominiums is underway in most townships of Yangon, and some 15,000 new condominium apartments are going to appear. The working class and the middle-class people from Yangon still need apartments.

## Those who can spend well trying to live at condominiums

The people who can spend well are trying to afford to buy a condo which is appropriate for their lifestyle. Most of the buyers

like the payment in instalments when reviewing the sales of the condos in Yangon and some like cash down payment. However, the number of those who are paying for condos cash down still remains quite a few.

The selling and buying activities have not been brisk in the current real estate market in Yangon. The real estate developers will have to continue striving for the sales when the new condos emerge. The condo market in Yangon is currently livelier than that of the previous months as health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sport are gradually relaxed.

But in the real estate market, the buying and the selling of condos worth of K100 million and K150 million are going well now. Regarding this condo trading, different forms of payment have been seen between the buyers and the sellers and payment forms are also appropriate between them.

## Sluggish trade in the real estate market

The sales of the condos that are going to appear soon are mainly targeted at foreigners rather than the citizens. Now the real estate market remains silent and cold without any sales and purchases as the Covid-19 pandemic taking place around the world severely hit the businesses like trade, travel, tourism and investment. The real estate developers are predicting that their business would return to almost normal in the next three to four months.

Myanmar already enacted the Condominium Law in 2016, and its by-law came out in 2018. The construction entrepreneurs will be able to hope to get the foreign exchange if they sell the condos to foreign businessmen and those abroad working and living here at the price of K250 million.



The photo shows the scale model of a housing project.

## Foreigners have right to buy condos according to Condominium Law

Yangon's condo sales have to rely much on domestic instalment purchaser market. According to the Condominium Law, the foreigners have the right to purchase 40 % of all the apartments of the whole condo building. For that reason, the owners of the condos are hoping foreign buyers.

The construction and the sales of the condos have come to a halt since April and May of this year, thereby leading to a sluggish run of condo trading, but returning to restart gradually in June and July. Most condos of Myanmar are concentrated in Yangon, and it is the most interesting city for local and foreign buyers as well.

The construction entrepreneurs are hoping that the demands for the purchase of condos in Yangon would grow more. The condos worth of K100 million and K150 million are currently in demand, and new condos are going to appear

## 3% tax reduction

Condo trading is back to go well now because the Central Bank of Myanmar reduced the interest rate of the housing loan to a three per cent. Most of the condos are concentrated in Bahan, Sangyoung, Kyimyindine

and Mayangon townships in Yangon, and these places are the major ones in Yangon because of the advantage of the easy transport. These key places are drawing the attention of local and foreign buyers.

## Changes in lifestyles

With job opportunities for better pay and gradual changes in the way of life, the youths of today like to buy and live at the condos. Especially, the educated couples of well-paid jobs and young pairs with good businesses are trying to meet the hope of being able to live at the condos. It is predicted that condo trading would recover in the post period of Covid-19. Some 15,000 new condo apartments are going to appear in Yangon almost immediately.

## Housing project with a cost of K178 billion

Gyogone housing in Insein, Yangon is to be rebuilt at the cost of K178 billion, and it will appear in a new design.

## Implementation of rental housing

Now is the time the old images in Yangon are being substituted with new developing ones. For that reason, the old state-owned housing is now being rebuilt with new designs. In 1952, U Wizara housing, Phasapala housing,



The photo shows the front view of a new condominium.



Yankin Hset-hnit-lone-tan housing and Gyogone housing were implemented in Yangon.

Firstly, tenders for Gyogone housing were invited on 13 November in 2019, and the MTSH appeared as the winner following the in-depth scrutiny of the tenders. The tender scrutiny was carried out by Yangon Metropolitan Development.

### Reconstruction of the housing project

The housing projects are being jointly implemented by the Yangon Region government and the Ministry of Construction. Now Pyitawthit housing project in Pazuntaung township and Lanthit housing project in Lanmadaw township are under implementation.

Gyogone housing project is situated beside Insein road and Baho road, and it is in the area of West Gyogyone. The MTSH is going to build Gyogone housing project on the land of 17 acres at the cost of K178 billion. Chairman U Win Aung of the MTSH said, "The MTSH was chosen as the preferred developer, and it won the tender as well."

The officials of the tender selection committee said the MTSH has gained proper experience in the implementation of the urban housing project in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, its finance is basically sound and strong and

its governance is also good. For these reasons, the MTSH was chosen as the tender winner.

### Emphasis to be placed on the implementation of Gyogone housing project

Emphasis will have to be placed on the relocation of those living at Gyogone housing now, and the emergence of low-cost and affordable apartments once Gyogone housing is completed. Quality and endurance will be scrutinized.

The newly-implemented Gyogone housing will have low-cost and affordable apartments, the shopping centre, the commercial buildings, the recreation centre and health fitness centres.

The company, the regional government and the Myanmar Investment Commission will have to sign the contract in order to begin the project. The old rental housing will have to be demolished if they are to be implemented and those currently living are to be removed from the old housing. Once completed, they will have to be relocated through a draw system. The transfer and residence costs during the implementation of the project will be taken responsibility by the regional government.

### Functions with least effect

Those who are living in state-owned rental housing in Yangon

are worried about the reconstruction of some old state-owned rental housing by Yangon regional government. But these housing will have to be demolished, and new high-rise apartments will be substituted in the place of old ones. Least effect will have to be taken into consideration when the implementation begins.

There has been a gradual increase in the number of new town project, housing project, industrial park project and town extension project in Yangon. It is important not only for residence but also for the development of Yangon, including businesses.

### Collaborative efforts with companies

Systematic plans are underway to reconstruct the 70-year-old Gyogone housing, and the implementation of the construction of the housing will begin soon. It is aimed at enjoying a better living standard. It is impossible for the government to spend a large sum of money on the reconstruction of the housing and the government, therefore, planned to do it in cooperation with the company capable of making investment. Once completed, Gyogone housing will add developing images to Yangon city, thereby raising the standard of living for those living there.

[Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)]

## Useful Information

### JAPANESE CUISINE

#### AJISHIN

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

#### ANAIMO

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

#### BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

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

#### BUSHIDO

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

#### CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

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

#### DINNING FUKUROU

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

#### EDOZUSHI

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

#### (3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

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

#### FUJINOBO

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

#### FURUSATO

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

#### GEKKO

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

#### HIMARI MYANMAR

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

#### HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

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

#### HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ

##### Buffet Restaurant

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

##### Hot Pot City 8 Miles

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

##### 101 Hot Pot & Sushi

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

### Get Directions

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

#### Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

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

### HOTEL

#### BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

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

#### CHATRIUM

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

#### CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

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

#### HOTLE 51

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

#### HOTEL KAN KAW

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

#### HOTLE SIDNEY

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

#### INYA LAKE HOTEL

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

#### LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

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

#### MERCURE HOTEL

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

#### NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

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

#### PAN PACIFIC YANGON

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

#### PARK ROYAL

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

#### PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

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

#### ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

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

#### SAVOY HOTEL

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

#### SEDONA HOTEL

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

#### SULE SHANGRI-LA

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

#### SUMMIT PARKVIEW HOTEL

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

#### SUPER HOTEL

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

## ONE Inside The Matrix IV: Zikreev edges Junguang via split decision

Russian fighter Aslanbek Zikreev defeated Chinese fighter Wang Junguang by split decision in the main clash of the ONE Championship's Inside The Matrix IV event at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 20 November.

Their fight was categorized as a Kickboxing type and combatting styles of boxing, punching and striking are mixed with low and high kicks in the game.

Zikreev was too good with his accurate punching throughout the match.

Chinese fighter Junguang stayed with defensive plus counter-attacks as Zikreev

started with aggressive action.

In the second round, Junguang fought better with a well-placed left hook and that made it painful to the Russian fighter.

Amidst the hard situation, Russian Zikreev stood strong till the second round end.

The third round is the best part of the game with continuous punches and strikes of both fighters.

Zikreev got a victory with a split decision announced by ONE Championship judges after the round of solid ONE Super Series kickboxing action.

In the Catch Weight (59KG) Muay Thai Fight, Jo-

seph Lasiri (alias) "The Hurricane" made a win over Rocky Ogden via split decision.

In the Bantamweight fight, Kwon Won IL (alias) "Pretty Boy" beat Bruno Pucci (alias) "Puccibull" via Technical Knockout decision at 2:00 minute mark of round one.

In the Featherweight fight, Ryogo Takahashi (or) "Kaitai" defeated Yoon Chang Min (or) "The Big Heart" via knockout at 2:52 minutes of round two.

In the Catch Weight (61.3KG) women fight, Maira Mazar beat Choi Jeong Yun via Technical Knockout decision at 4:26 minute marks of round three.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Russian fighter Aslanbek Zikreev celebrates the victory after the split decision announcement made by the ONE Championship judges. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

## Nashville send Beckham's Miami packing 3-0

NASHVILLE—David Beckham's Inter Miami saw their Major League Soccer play-off hopes destroyed as fellow newcomers Nashville deservedly sealed a place in the next round with a resounding 3-0 triumph at Nissan Stadium.

Nashville were in control after an early wonder goal from Randall Leal before a penalty from Hany Mukhtar and a second-half Dax McCarty effort helped the team from Music City hit all the right notes as Miami were easily dispatched.

Gary Smith's team, who

were great value for this triumph in the first ever post-season game to feature two expansion clubs, face Toronto next Tuesday for a place in the Eastern Conference semi-finals.

"It was a fabulous performance," Smith said. "Toronto are a top side with a lot of experience but we'll have a plan and make life difficult for them."

It was a sorry end to a difficult first campaign for the team co-owned by former England captain Beckham, who were forced to take the field without star striker Gonzalo Higuain and

key defender Leandro Gonzalez Pirez after the Argentine pair, as well as Higuain's older brother Federico, tested positive for Covid-19 and didn't travel.

Losing such important performers was a hammer blow for Inter Miami coach Diego Alonso, who needed all the help available to him after winning just seven matches from 23 in the pandemic-disrupted regular season.

The Uruguayan now has to plan for the 2021 campaign and will need to mount a better showing than this inaugural effort.—AFP ■



FIFA's The Best awards ceremony is now slated to take place December 17, where the successors to Lionel Messi and Megan Rapinoe will be announced. **PHOTO: AFP**

## FIFA's The Best awards rescheduled for Dec 17

ZURICH—FIFA's The Best awards ceremony is now slated to take place December 17, where the successors to Lionel Messi and Megan Rapinoe will be announced. The winners are voted for by the national team captains and coaches, 200 journalists as well as an online ballot of fans. There are prizes for the best men's and women's player, coach, goalkeeper, best 11, best goal and best fans. The original awards ceremony was postponed in September due to coronavirus and the new ceremony will be a 'virtual' event.—AFP ■

## Kim goes one clear at Pelican Championship

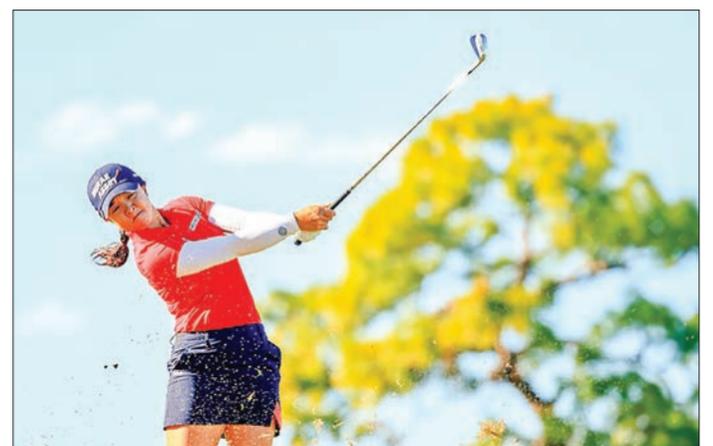
MIAMI—Kim Sei-young fired a five-under-par 65 to take a one-shot lead at the halfway stage of the LPGA Tour's Pelican Women's Championship in Florida on Friday.

The 27-year-old world number two from South Korea produced a bogey-free round at the Pelican Golf Club layout, notching five birdies and 13 pars to head into the weekend on eight under for the tournament. Kim, brimming with confidence after her maiden major triumph at the Women's PGA Championship last month, was in the groove from the first tee, bagging back-to-back birdies on the opening two holes.

Another pair of birdies on the sixth and seventh holes

took her to seven under at the turn before her fifth and final birdie of the day on the 14th hole. Ally McDonald of the United States is one behind Kim in second place after shooting a four-under-par 66.

McDonald, who is chasing her second tour victory after winning the LPGA Drive On Championship in October, teed off on the back nine and reeled off consecutive birdies on her eighth, ninth and 10th holes to move to seven under. There was a brief stumble with a bogey five on the par-four second, McDonald's 11th hole, but the 28-year-old from Mississippi recovered to pick up her fifth birdie on the par-five seventh.—AFP ■



Kim Sei-young is one shot clear at the halfway stage of the Pelican Women's Championship in Florida after shooting a five-under-par 65 on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP**