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One and only amazing Inn Lay

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Monday, 26 October 2020

Announcement for advance voting

1. The 2020 General Election will be held on 8 November, and the voting processes will be conducted in accordance with COVID-19 preventive measures.
2. We will arrange advance voting for voters who are eligible to cast their votes through advance voting scheme, voters who have been quarantined at quarantine centres, and voters who are over 60 years old to be able to vote at designated places or at home starting from 29-10-2020.
3. Those who will cast their advance votes at their relevant quarter/village-tract election sub-commission offices need to properly wear masks, follow social-distancing instructions, and receive temperature checks in accordance with COVID-19 preventive guidelines. Masks, face shields and hand sanitizer will be provided at quarter/village-tract election sub-commission offices.
4. Relevant election sub-commissions have already arranged COVID-19 protective equipment for those who will cast their advance votes at homes in accordance with guidelines for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.
5. Voters will need to adhere to the guidelines for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19. And we have already arranged that sub-commission officials involved in the advance voting processes to work in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines.
6. We have already made necessary arrangements for advance voting processes for 2020 General Election in accordance with the guidelines for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, so we would like to urge the voters to cooperate with us and to vote. We would like to inform that voters must not use/wear equipment or clothes bearing political party logo when they come to the relevant designated places for advance voting.

Union Election Commission

COVID-19 medical supplies imported from China arrive in Yangon



MEDICAL equipment for COVID-19 prevention imported from China and to be used in the 2020 General Election arrived at Yangon International Airport by six special flights yesterday. These equipment will be distributed to voters, polling station staff and volunteers.

Special flights for more stocks of COVID-19 medical supplies will land at Yangon and Mandalay international airports from 26 October to 3 November. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Workers unload the COVID-19 medical supplies imported from China at the Yangon International Airport on 25 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

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I want to request each of you to try to stay healthy as much as possible

Our country will be strong only if each individual citizen is strong. At this time as we have been able to achieve a certain degree of control, I don't want you to slacken your vigilance. From being able to achieve a certain degree of control to arrive at a situation when we have total control would indeed require a great deal of effort. However, this is a good start, and it gives us strength. I want you all to continue making strenuous efforts with the belief that we can do it if we really make serious efforts; and that we can really be successful if there is a will. From the part of the Union Government, as we have said repeatedly, we will do whatever we can. We are working as much as possible to take care of the health, economic and social needs of the people and also to give the people a feeling of comfort and security. From the side of the people, I want to request each of you to try to stay healthy as much as possible.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports on containment measures against COVID-19, on 17 October 2020)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports

Order 135/2020
9th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1382 ME
(25 October 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports is exercising the rights in Article 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law to issue this order.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is continuously working on prevention measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and amid the discovery of new positive cases including those who have not had contact with any positive cases and no travel history and the rapid increase of cases in a short period, the ministry issued Order 97/2020 dated 26-8-2020, Order 107/2020 dated 20-9-2020, Order 110/2020 dated 25-9-2020, and Order 129/2020 dated 19-10-2020 to announce all citizens in all townships in Rakhine State; all townships in Yangon Region (Excluding Cocogyun Township); Mawlamyine and Bilin townships in Mon State; Mahaaungmye, Chanayethazan and Amarapura townships in Mandalay Region; Kawa, Bago and Thanatpin townships in Bago Region; Pathein, Pyapon and Maubin townships in Ayeyawady Region; Phakant and Mohnyin townships in the Kachin State are included in the "stay-at-home" programme.
2. However, in order to hold the 2020 General Election successfully, the ministry has made an exception for the voters including advance voters in the above-mentioned townships, so the advance voters are allowed to go to the designated places for advance voting and the voters are allowed to go to the polling stations on the election day.

*Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports

Order 136/2020
9th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1382 ME
(25 October 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports is exercising the rights in Article 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law to issue this order.

1. To ensure success of the 2020 General Election by electoral process election campaigns in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention, containment and treatment guidelines, the Ministry of Health and Sports issued Order 101/2020 dated 6-9-2020 to add a provision, "Gatherings and election campaign activities may have a maximum of 50 people in line with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) depending on the location and space of the site, to the Order 88/2020 issued on 12-8-2020 which allowed public gatherings of a maximum of 30 people.
2. We would like to announce that the provision regarding the maximum number of people and locations allowed for election campaign activities, mentioned in the Order 101/2020 will be valid only until midnight of 6-11-2020 so that it will be in consistent with the Union Election Commission's Announcement 173/2020 dated on 6-9-2020.

*Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports

Order 137/2020
9th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1382 ME
(25 October 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports is exercising the rights in Article 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law to issue this order.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 88/2020 dated 12-8-2020 to prohibit from gathering 30 or more people in order to help control the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
2. In order to hold the 2020 General Election on 8 November successfully, we would like to announce that we now allow gathering of 30 or more people at polling stations so that polling station staff and voters can work or participate in the election process in accordance with the regulations and guidelines jointly issued by the Union Election Commission and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

*Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister*

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15.
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

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MoHS organizes weekly meeting over COVID-19 containment measures

THE Ministry of Health and Sports hosted a weekly virtual meeting to review prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said that 90 per cent of the COVID-19 death toll in the country were elderly men and those suffered from chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart and cardiovascular diseases.

Therefore, the elderly persons are necessary to stay apart from other persons at home and to eat and sleep separately. It is also important to conduct awareness programmes for that in the townships, said the Union Minister.

He continued that the ministry was making efforts to ensure patients of losing sense of smell with underlying non-communicable diseases in quarantine sites get their current-consuming medicines, saying that it is important to put them intensive care after making distinctive marks on them.

Although Non-Communicable Diseases Unit distributed



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attends weekly virtual meeting to review prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

medicines for the quarantine centres, it is necessary to check whether the medicines arrive at the centre or not, and whether the patients take the medicines or not, he added.

He expressed thanks to the teams that are making daily discussions for systematic accommodation of the patients, and urged them to record information and facts about the

processes in simple formats.

Central Epidemiology Unit was reviewing the facts daily. Treating COVID-19 patients at private hospitals was agreed, he said, calling for discussions about the said matters.

Deputy Director-General (Medical Services) Dr Thida Hla reported on the condition of COVID-19 patients and quarantine sites, and Director (Epi-

demiology) Dr Toe Thiri Aung reviewed laboratory testing, quarantining and public health and epidemiology.

Deputy Director-General (Epidemiology) Dr Tun Tin gave advices on containment of the disease and public health processes.

Director (Health Awareness) Dr Than Naing Soe discussed conducting of peer

education programmes at the markets, and Deputy Director-General (Disease Control) Dr Thandar Lwin reported on the cooperation with correctional department.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein discussed participation of municipal department while conducting health awareness programmes, and Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Khaing Win reported on testing COVID-19 at private laboratories and treatment of COVID patients at hospitals.

Director-General of Union Minister's Office Dr Thar Tun Kyaw detailed about prevention, control and treatment on COVID-19 in Yangon Region.

The meeting was concluded after the Union Minister delivered a speech saying that it is important to make preparation in cooperation with State/Region governments, relevant departments and social organizations and volunteers, and the ministry will provide necessary assistance.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

986 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 October, total figure rises to 44,774

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 44,774 after 986 new cases were reported on 25 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 44,774 confirmed cases, 1,095 died, 24,920 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 25 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 25-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

“People are the key”

Statement on adherence to healthcare guidelines in 2020 General Election

1. The Union Election Commission, in accordance with 2008 Constitution, already announced that the multiparty democracy general elections will be held nationwide on 8 November 2020 to elect MPs for third term of three Hluttaws.
2. The election process includes setting up of polling stations, coming of voters to the stations and voting at the stations. Similarly, it also includes preparations for voting in the general elections of those who are under quarantine due to COVID-19 infections, advance voting of those who are unable to come to polling stations on the election day at relevant ward/village-tract election sub-commissions on designated dates, counting votes at respective township election sub-commissions and polling stations, collecting of election results and announcing the names of elected candidates by region/state election sub-commissions.
3. Due to present COVID-19 situation, polling station heads, deputy heads and members who will perform duties at the polling stations of different levels of relevant election sub-commissions, those who will manage outside the polling stations and voters need to be careful of the successful holding of the general election not to be infected by COVID-19.
4. The Ministry of Health and Sports issued the standard operation procedure Part-I about campaigning in accordance with COVID-19 preventive and control measures for Hluttaw candidates, who will compete in the general election, on 7-9-2020.
5. Therefore, it is hereby announced that those who are involved in the election works according to paragraph-2 will have to abide by the directives included in standard operation procedure Part-II that is to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures during the general election and health guidelines issued by relevant officials depending on situations.
6. The standard operation procedure Part-II which is to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures in holding the general election can be viewed at the website of the Union Election Commission, www.uec.gov.mm, and UEC Facebook.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

257 Myanmar nationals abroad fly back home on 25 Oct

A total of 257 Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries because of suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flights yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Washington and Myanmar Embassy in Seoul jointly organized the relief flight of Myanmar Airways International, bringing a total of 114 Myanmar nationals – 28 from the United States, 14 from Panama and 72 from the Republic of Korea – from Incheon International Airport to the Yangon International Airport.

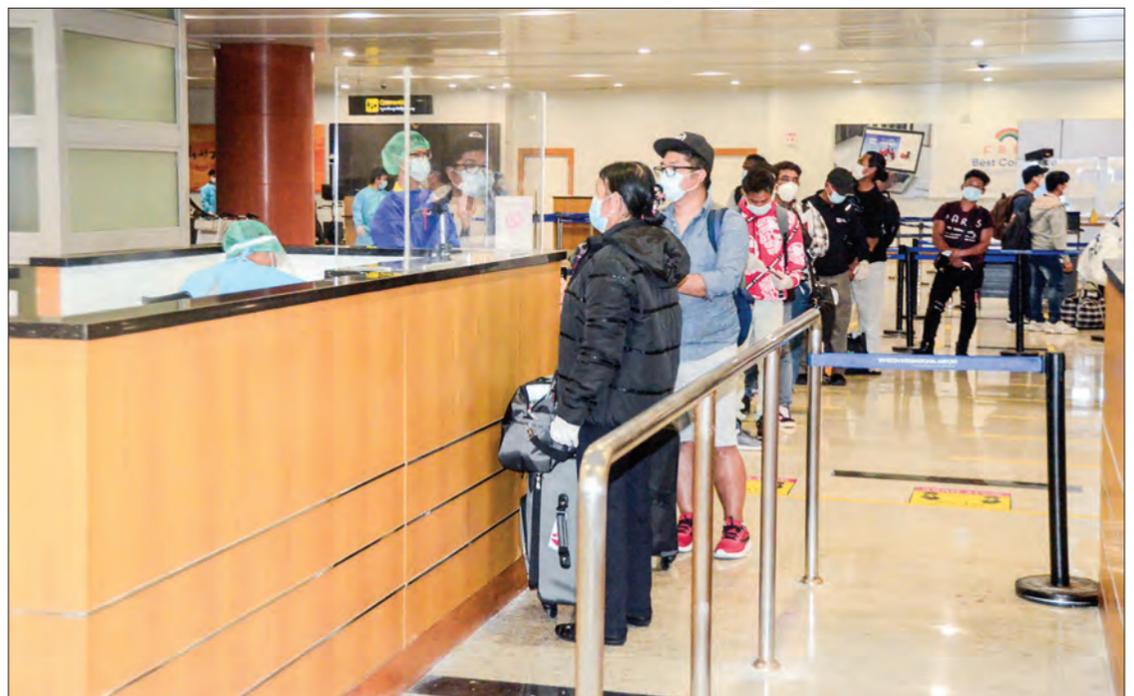
Similarly, Myanmar Embassy in Singapore and Myanmar Seamen's Federation jointly organized a relief flight bringing back 143 Myanmar seamen home from Changi Airport.

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, followed by 7-day home quarantine.

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

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar returnees line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 25 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Announcement for voters

- United Democratic Party has been dissolved.
- No need to vote for Hluttaw candidates of UDP party
- If voted the ballots would be cancelled.

Union Election Commission

Campaign speech of political party for 2020 General Election to be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speech of Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 26 October for the second time. — MNA

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



Mobile market starts in Yankin, North Dagon, Tamway townships

IN a bid to reduce the crowd at markets, bring fresh food to the consumers and contain the possible spread of the coronavirus in the region, the mobile market is planned to start in three townships today (26 October) on a trial basis, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) stated.

The affiliated associations start selling the food from 26 October, under the support of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce, the UMFCCI and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The mobile market trucks will be located at Shwe Ohn Pin Housing, Shwe Ingyin housing in Yankin Township, Mahamyaing Housing in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and Kyaukmyaung Ward, Arthawka, Kyarkwetthit, Aung Mingala and Thida streets in Tamway Township in the morning of 26 October and inside Kanbe YCDC staff housing, government personnel housing of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Yankin Township, Tamway and Bohmu Bahtoo Housing in Dagon Myothit



A woman wearing face masks buys vegetables and fruits from a mobile market in Yangon on 25 October 2020. **PHOTO: MFVP**

(North) and the roads in those townships under the guidance of the respective ward administrators and municipal officials in the evening. The mobile market will continue to run in Thakayta, Dawbon, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (East) and Mayangon townships on 27 October.

The UMFCCI will update the daily sales plans through their Facebook Page and YCDC offices in the respective townships.

The trucks will offer the pack-

aged CP chicken, pork, beef, mutton, fresh and saltwater fish, egg and vegetable at a fair price.

Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) planned to help support the smooth commodity flow and market stability amid the COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, the MFVP invited the retail business partners and affiliated association who want to work together with them in line with the regulations.

Six downtown areas such as

Latha, Lanmadaw, Pabendan, Kyauktada, Pazuntaung and Botahtaung townships are excluded in the plan since selling with mobile trucks are restricted in the downtown areas. However, door-to-door delivery service or other suitable methods will be made for those six townships.

Those affiliated associations and businesspersons who want to join this plan must have capital of K200,000 per truck, Hijet or any two-tonne truck with valid licence, licenced drivers, sales staff and

supply chain workers.

The management team of the mobile truck will accept the goods supplied by the registered farmers only. The team will also set the price in certain wards with low-income people. Good packaging is also required for the door to door delivery system. Those truck operators must strictly adhere to the traffic rules, the rules set by the municipal, and the health guidelines for the coronavirus, the MFVP stated.

Those interested business partners must present the name and registration number of companies, MSMEs, businesses and associations, and verification of the respective ward administrator or municipal officials for small shops and volunteer group. The copy of motor vehicle licence and photo of vehicle will be provided as well. For further inquiry, they can contact through phone number 01-218367 or email > mfvpea.office@gmail.com of the MFVP. During the Stay at Home period, they can also contact the officials of the MFVP via 09-5184756, 09-5250603 or secretary@mfvp.org, 09-5005269 (U Min Zaw), 09-43034894 (Daw Darli), 09-79654521 (Daw Ei Ei Soe). —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

China demand drives sesame prices up in Oct

THE prices of sesame seeds significantly rose in October on the back of China's strong demand, said traders from Mandalay market.

The price of white sesame increased from over K1.5 million to K1.66 million per tonne compared to September's rate, while brown sesame price also jumped to K1.45 million per tonne in October, which is nearly up by K200,000 per tonne against last month.

The price of black sesame seeds is flat at over K2.7 million per tonne for the two consecutive months.

Last year, sesame seeds were priced at K2.13 million per tonne for white sesame, K1.94 million per tonne for brown sesame and K3.6 million per tonne for black sesame, as per market data updated by Myantrade online.

This year, the sesame prices drop by over 20 per cent compared with the prices in the previous years due to the COVID-19 negative impacts. Consequently, the growers do not make a large profit this year, a trader from Mandalay market stressed.

Typically, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the leading buyer of Myanmar sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries. The EU markets prefer organ-

ic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Department.

Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. Meanwhile, China buys various coloured sesame seeds from the country. This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar's sesame yet.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the primary producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation. The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 tonnes, worth \$130 million, in the financial year 2015-2016; \$100,000 tonnes, worth \$145 million, in the 2016-2017FY; 120,000 tonnes, worth \$147 million, in the 2017-2018FY; 33,900 tonnes valued \$43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, and 125,800 tonnes, worth \$212.5 million in the 2018-2019FY, the trade data of Central Statistical Organization indicated.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Manufacturing sector attracts 188 foreign enterprises last FY

MAJORITY of foreign enterprises eye the manufacturing sector for investments in the past financial year 2019-2020, pulling in US\$1.128 billion from 188 projects, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics indicated.

Of 245 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by Myanmar Investment Commission and the respective investment committees between 1 October and 30 September of the last FY, 188 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector.

However, the quantum of investment in power is higher than in any other sectors. Power sector topped \$1.67 billion from eight enterprises.

The agricultural sector has attracted \$17.73 million from three projects. The livestock and fisheries sector has drawn five foreign investment projects worth \$138.48 million. Two projects worth \$300.454 million have been approved in the transport and communications sector. The hotels and tourism sector has pulled in the investment of \$53.342 million from five foreign enterprises.

The real estate sector has also pulled 1.115 billion from eight foreign projects, while industrial estate sector received \$273.49 million from two enter-

prises. Over \$469 million of FDI has been pumped into the other services sector from 29 businesses.

At present, the labour-intensive enterprises are facing financial hardship, disputes between the employers and employees and the closure of factories. However, those cases in the industry did not hinder new investments.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need large labour force are prioritized. MIC is endeavouring to clear those kinds of projects so fast that they can start running in the post-COVID-19 period, the DICA official said.

Moreover, MIC has shown readiness to accept the projects regarding the production of mask, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, in responding to the activities of prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of more than US\$5.68 billion between 1 October and 30 September in FY2019-2020, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises and acquisitions in the Special Economic Zones, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Seventy per cent of Mon State gets access to electricity

Seventy percent of Mon State has got access to electricity, according to the Mon State government.

"Electricity is now available in Mudon, Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikhto and Paung townships. Sixty-five percent of households except Ye Township have access to the electricity in Mon State. More than 50 percent of country's electricity is available in other states and regions. But Mon State now has 70 percent." said Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan.

In addition, the maximum load capacity was increased from 51 MW in 2015-2016 to 134 MW in the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the Mon State's Electricity Supply Enterprise.

"Electricity is expected to reach a maximum capacity of 150 MW in Mon State in the 2020-2021 financial year, and full power is being planned", said Electrical Engineer U Win Bo from Mon State's Electricity Supply Enterprise.

In the last four years, 2,002 street lights were installed and 92,390 electric meter boxes were set up across the state.



Picture shows an electrical sub-station in Mon State. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

"There are a total of ten townships and 17 cities in Mon State. Cities in Thaton district already have access to electricity. We have separate plan to get electricity access of Ye Township, Kouzar Township and Lamine Township in Mawlamyaing District.

Efforts are also being made to provide electricity to Ye Township soon. Currently, 73.57% of households in Mon State have access to electricity. It is projected to grow to 79.11% by the next financial year", said Electrical Engineer U Win Bo.

With the help of the Mon

State Government and the Department of Rural Development, rural lighting services are being carried out in areas where the state power line has not yet been reached in Mon State.—Thi Thi Min

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Yangon Zoo celebrates 67th birthday of Elephant Mo Mo

YANGON Zoo, the first zoo in Myanmar, yesterday celebrated people's favourite elephant Mo Mo's 67th birthday party with the Zoo's staff members in line with Ministry of Health and Sports' instructions.

The Zoo threw her birthday every year with the community since 2010 but this year's birthday party was celebrated by only Yangon Zoo's employees and couldn't carry out the big plan due to COVID-19 outbreaks

Mo Mo's birthday was celebrated successfully by cutting cake, blowing the candles, enjoying her favorite vegetables and fruits together with her elephant-friends and the wishes from Yangon Zoo's representatives.

Mo Mo is now 67 years old which makes her in a list to become one of the oldest Asian elephants in the world.

Mo Mo's arrival to Yangon Zoo is at her age 7 years old and she has long been a Yangon's favorite elephant. She entertained to the visitors with her special talent and offered her effort in government affairs in all her life-long.

She retired from entertaining people at her age 60 and she is currently spending her life peacefully in Yangon Zoo by leading the role of protecting and caring

her junior elephants, Yangon Zoo started celebrating her birthday party since she was 60 years old and this year is her 8th celebration.

Mo Mo was originally from Loikaw, Kayah State. U Khun Sanda, her first owner, found her in 1961 going alone in the jungle without her guardians when she was a kid so he took her home because going alone at her age was very dangerous. Mo Mo was donated to Yangon Zoo by her owner in 1961 and the name, Mo Mo, was given by her mahout after the donation to Yangon Zoo.

Daw Kyi Phyu Zaw, CEO of Htoo Zoos and Gardens Business Unit, said "We celebrated Mo Mo's birthday party every year since 2010 by drawing a crowd but we are celebrating only with the members of Yangon Zoo this year because of current conditions but we conducted cutting cake, fruit buffets and giving wishes for her like we used to do every year.

She is now 67 years old and this year is her 8th birthday celebration and it is lucky for her that she is healthy at her age. Mo Mo is significant elephant among the city residents because of her amazing talents of entertaining them. Although she retired her performance to the public since she was 60 years old, her name



Yangon Zoo celebrates 67th birthday of elephant Mo Mo on 25 October 2020. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

is still in everyone's lips. We wish her to get a good health and to live long life with us", she added.

Currently, Mo Mo is undertaken the required daily and monthly health assessments. Moreover, Yangon Zoo provides her the meals and daily supple-

ments to be healthy. Due to the COVID-19 outbreaks, the community couldn't join her birthday party this year, therefore, Yangon Zoo streamed a broadcast of her celebration on their Facebook page.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

WFP launches humanitarian flight in Myanmar over COVID-19 response

THE World Food Program (WFP) launched a humanitarian flight in Myanmar to provide logistics support for COVID-19 response on Saturday.

A United Nations chartered flight, operated by the World Food Programme (WFP), departed from Yangon on Saturday transporting medical supplies and front-line aid workers to support the COVID-19 response and humanitarian operations in Rakhine State.

WFP arranged this humanitarian flight because domestic commercial air services have been temporarily suspended in Myanmar in September, as part of the Government's efforts to control COVID-19 transmissions. Moreover, access by road and sea between Yangon and Sittway is currently not practically feasible.

"WFP is proud to organize

these flights and support the logistics and common services response of the humanitarian community in Myanmar," said Mr Stephen Anderson, Representative and Country Director of WFP in Myanmar. "We plan to arrange additional flights as needed to facilitate the movement of critical staff providing front-line assistance to the COVID-19 response and humanitarian operations."

With support from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), passengers underwent COVID-19 testing prior to their travel and are required to strictly adhere to MoHS and other government measures related to air travel and quarantine.

The flight was made possible thanks to funding support from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and



Aid workers of World Food Program (WFP) are boarding the plane at Yangon airport for Rakhine State on 25 October 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

facilitation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Sports, the Department of Civil Aviation and other partners.

Meanwhile, WFP's flights connecting Yangon, Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur, which com-

menced in early May due to the temporary suspension of international commercial flights, continue to operate on a weekly basis, bringing into Myanmar medical supplies and aid workers. WFP's food assistance, as part of its COVID-19 response,

also remains ongoing at quarantine and treatment centers and border gates in various parts of the country.

The United Nations World Food Programme is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. —GNLM

WORLD: ROLLING UPDATES

50 COUNTRIES SIGN

Treaty banning nuclear weapons to enter into force

AN international treaty banning nuclear weapons has been ratified by a 50th country, the UN said, allowing the "historic" text to enter into force after 90 days.

While nuclear powers have not signed up to the treaty, activists who have pushed for its enactment hold out hope that it will nonetheless prove to be more than symbolic and have a gradual deterrent effect.

Honduras became the 50th country to ratify.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called it "the culmination of a worldwide movement to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons," according to a statement from his spokesman on Saturday.

"It represents a meaningful commitment towards the

total elimination of nuclear weapons, which remains the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations."

NGOs also welcomed the news, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a coalition that won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its key role in bringing the treaty to fruition.

"Honduras just ratified the Treaty as the 50th state, triggering entry into force and making history," ICAN said in a tweet.

Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said in a statement: "Today is a victory for humanity, and a promise of a safer future."

The 75th anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, marked in August, saw a wave of countries ratify the treaty, which will now to enter into force on January 22, 2021, the UN said.

SOURCE: AFP



People visit the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum in August 2020, at the 75th anniversary of the attack. PHOTO: AFP

8,769 IN 24 HOURS

Colombia surpasses one million Covid-19 cases: ministry



A health worker takes a blood sample from a woman during a Covid-19 test in Medellin, Colombia on October 24, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

COLOMBIA on Saturday surpassed the benchmark of one million cases of Covid-19 registered in the country since the beginning of the pandemic, the health ministry announced.

The last 24 hours saw 8,769 new infections, bringing the total to 1,007,711 since the first case was detected on March 6, the ministry said.

Deaths rose to 30,000 after authorities added 198 fatalities from the last 10 days.

With 50 million people, Co-

lombia is the eighth country to top a million infections, after the United States, India, Brazil, Russia, Argentina, Spain and France.

At an event in Chinchina, Caldas, President Ivan Duque stressed that Colombia has a relatively low death rate among Latin American countries on a per capita basis. "We did much better than other countries. But I do not say this so that we feel proud, I say it because we must protect ourselves better," the conservative said.—AFP

Respecting child rights in all circumstances is a must

MYANMAR ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – UNCRC on 15 August, 1991 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 27 September, 2019.

To protect and promote the rights of children in Myanmar, the Child Rights Law was enacted on 23 July 2019 after years of discussion and debate.

While working at most for promoting child rights and for ensuring that every child can enjoy their rights, we all should know the importance of giving protection effectively to children in all circumstances.

We must pay attention to the children who are caught up in armed conflicts in our country. How can we protect them from the worst consequences of civil war, from grave violations against children during armed conflicts, how can we conduct reintegration of child victims of the armed conflicts to their respective communities and how can we stop the armed conflicts in our country?

Kayin State seriously suffered the consequences of civil war for many years. However, the local people have realized the essence of peace after ceasefire, comparing with the situations while the area was ravaged by armed conflicts. It is very important for our country.

All warring parties in our country need to understand that achieving eternal peace, which can quench the fires of more than seven decades of armed conflicts is important for the future of the country's children.

They can easily judge which actions improve their lives, their children and which worsen them.

Every child must have equal opportunities before the law. Therefore, the rules

which is being written must guarantee equal rights and benefits for every child in different areas.

Besides, it is also necessary to have clear tasks for implementing the rules of the new Child Rights Law, which sets higher standards for safeguarding the rights of children in all circumstances, and to implement the child rights policy which is envisaged a national-level one meeting international standards and adaptable to changing situation in our country.

Hence, cooperation from the civil society organizations is required in writing the rules of the Child Rights Law and the policy on child rights.

We are confident that the ability of experts who make up the committee for writing the rules of the law would overcome possible challenges in their work through negotiation and coordination.

We all have a duty to respect the rights of children, to protect their welfare and their lives.

GLOBAL UNITY AND SOLIDARITY IN FIGHTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Science, unity and solidarity, key to defeating COVID: UN chief

Better preparation, listening to the science and acting together in solidarity, are some of the main ways that countries across the world can overcome the on-going COVID-19 crisis, the UN chief told the World Health Summit on Sunday.

THE Berlin-based summit is backed by the UN World Health Organization (WHO), involving 300 countries, and around 2,500 participants, geared towards improving health worldwide and respond to global health challenges.

Secretary-General António Guterres in his video message, ran through the many disruptive effects of the coronavirus pandemic beyond the loss of more than 1,147,000 lives as of Sunday, and 42.5 million cases.

Around 500 million jobs have disappeared, with a monthly loss to the global economy of around \$375 billion. Gender-based violence has skyrocketed, and mental illness “is a crisis within a crisis”. Some 24 million children could drop out of school, “with lifelong impact.”

“COVID-19 is driving us even

farther off-course from achieving the vision and promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, said the UN chief, who said the first hard lesson of the crisis was that “we were not prepared.”

“Global health and emergency response systems have been tested and found wanting. Access to health is a human right denied to billions of people around the world. Universal Health Coverage is the path to high-quality, equitable, affordable healthcare. Strong public health systems and emergency preparedness are essential steps to greater resilience.”

‘Follow the science’

He added that “if we follow the science, and demonstrate unity and solidarity, we can overcome the pandemic. Public health measures including masks, physical distancing and hand washing, are proven means of keeping the



Around 500 million jobs have disappeared, with a monthly loss to the global economy of around \$375 billion. Young factory workers producing shirts in Accra, Ghana. **PHOTO: WORLD BANK/DOMINIC CHAVEZ**

virus at bay.”

Protecting the vulnerable is key, and staying away from events that simply spread the virus. Governments need to work with communities everywhere to share reliable information and

build trust.

“Third, we need global solidarity every step of the way. Developed countries must support health systems in countries that are short of resources”, said Mr. Guterres, prioritizing the devel-

opment of vaccines for everyone, everyone, as a public good.

“More than lifesavers”

“Vaccines, tests and therapies are more than lifesavers. They are economy savers and society savers”, he said. “Relief

will come not through one single step, but through smartly combining cutting-edge research with basic public health.”

The fourth lesson, he told delegates, was that misinformation and disinformation are “deadly allies of the virus. They are contributing to deaths and infections, and to social tensions that have led to violence.

“Unless we counter rumours, conspiracy theories and lies, they will negate our other efforts.”

He highlighted the UN’s Verified campaign, to ensure people have access to accurate advice that protects and promotes health.

“Let us use this opportunity to confront the COVID-19 crisis together, with the urgency and integrity it requires”, the Secretary-General concluded.

SOURCE: UN News

FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD QUALITY AMIDST COVID-19

Safe Freight Handling and Distribution of Food and Food Products

Food quality needs to be monitored through sample testing of food items, whether in its raw state in the various food markets or “cooked/prepared” state at the various food shops.

By Lokethar

FREIGHT handlers of food and food products include workers who load and unload food and food products all along the food chain. The food and food products may be related to agriculture, fishery, livestock breeding etc. and comprise of “wet” and “dry” food and food products both preserved or perishable. On the other hand it could also be cooked or fast food ordered on-line. The safety of the food chain is tied to the hygienic handling and transporting of food and food products. The workers performing the handling and transporting process must be free from communicable diseases and provided with the necessary protective gear to prevent the spread of harmful diseases among their buyers/sellers or customers.

We occasionally see on TV, workers loading food and food products at the various storage facilities of the industrial establishments or the “godowns” of the trading establishments in the major market places. For the sake of food safety, they should be provided



“Food deliverers” in the Corona Virus-19 pandemic period should be allowed to do food delivery only if they test negative to Covid-19 Virus. **PHOTO: MDN**

with “work clothes” as well as the necessary personnel protective equipment like face masks at least, while performing their work. In addition they should be provided with suitable footwear when their freight handling operations require them to climb over heaps of “sacks” or “boxes” to reach the top tiers for retrieving or placing the last layers of the sacks or boxes

or whatever.

It may not be feasible at the present time to require all food freight handlers to wear “work clothes” (like pants and probably T shirts). However for the “food freight handlers” who are employed on a more or less regular basis, the “work clothes” could be subsidised by their employers. Such “work clothes” would be saf-

er and more hygienic to work in compared to working in their daily wear “longyis”, often bare-backed and bare-footed.

Loading and unloading of food products, including rice/grain sacks should preferably be done by “freight handlers” who are certified to be free from communicable diseases and perform the loading/unloading operations wearing “work

clothes” and personnel protective equipment where needed. After all there has been instances where “freight handlers of food” loading bulk containers without protective gear, having been suffocated by accumulation of harmful gases like in the holds of ships, in grain silos and other confined spaces. As far as lifting and transporting heavy loads like rice/grain sacks etc. is concerned, the maximum permissible weight to be carried by a worker should be observed.

Food transporting should also not be undertaken by “food deliverers” with communicable diseases and of course in these times of the Corona Virus-19 pandemic, those testing positive for the Corona Virus-19. “Food deliverers” in the Corona Virus-19 pandemic period should be allowed to do food delivery only if they test negative to Covid-19 Virus. Such food deliverers would include the bicycle food deliverers, drivers of food delivery vans as well as “truckers” who deliver food cross long distances either for consumption in-country or for export. However in this period of the Covid-19 pandemic,

the smooth flow of food delivery vans and trucks, should not, as far as possible, be held up for long periods to check on the drivers health viz-a-viz Covid-19 infection. If due to the delays in transportation, the food items deteriorate, it will cause financial loss to the food item supplier as well as the buyers and also lead to shortage of the food items in the market probably causing their prices to rise. Worse still, selling of “not so fresh” foods like fish, meat and vegetables by unscrupulous sellers could cause food poisoning or acute gastro intestinal diseases among the public.

Food quality needs to be monitored through sample testing of food items, whether in its raw state in the various food markets or “cooked/prepared” state at the various food shops. It’s for the the concerned authorities to control food freight handling and to maintain food quality so that Myanmar people can eat safe food by which their “healthy lifespan” can be substantially increased.

With charity to all and malice to none.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 25 October, 2020)

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Tropical Storm “Saudel” over the South China Sea, is centered at about (65) miles East-Northeast of Dong Hoi (Vietnam). It is forecast to move westwards and cross the upper Vietnam tonight.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26 October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Southern Shan, Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas 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 fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 October, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 October, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 25-10-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has reached its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (3) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying area in Homalin Township, to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 25-10-2020)

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kalewa is observed as about (5½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Minkin is observed as about (5) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kani is observed as about (9½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Monywa is observed as about (6) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Kalewa, Minkin, Kani and Monywa townships to take precaution measure.

A STRONG PUBLIC BACKLASH

Malaysian king rejects PM's proposal for emergency declaration

MALAYSIAN King Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin has rejected Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's proposal to declare a state of emergency to deal with a surge in coronavirus cases, the palace said Sunday.

"Al-Sultan Abdullah is of the opinion that there is no need at this moment for His Majesty to declare an emergency in the country or any part of Malaysia," Ahmad Fadil Shamsudin, comptroller of the royal household, said in a statement.

The decision was made after the king held a meeting with Malay hereditary rulers earlier Sunday to consider the proposal

submitted by Muhyiddin to the monarch last Friday after his Cabinet had endorsed the move.

Since word leaked Friday that the prime minister was considering implementing a state of emergency, there has been a strong public backlash.

Detractors of the prime minister believed he was using the pandemic as an excuse to hold on to power as he could potentially face a no-confidence vote in the lower house of the parliament when it begins its year-end meeting on Nov. 2.

Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Ali Biju indicated in a statement Sunday

that the government's emergency plan would not involve military rule or curfews, but only the suspension of parliament.

"Only parliament would be suspended, political activities limited and wannabe superheroes cannot get to spook anyone with their strong, convincing and formidable superpowers," he said.

He was alluding to opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's claim that there has been a shift in allegiance among lawmakers, and he now has "formidable and convincing" backing to form a new government.

SOURCE: KYODO



File photo shows Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin. PHOTO: KYODO

Thai protesters resume rally as their deadline for PM to quit passes

THAI pro-democracy protesters headed back to the streets of Bangkok on Sunday after Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha ignored a Saturday deadline they had given him to step down.

Protesters had promised to stage another rally if Prayut did not resign by 10 p.m. on Saturday. Police estimate that as many as 4,000 people gathered at a major

intersection in a shopping district in the capital, repeating the demands of the movement, in particular, that Prayut quit.

The prime minister had already indicated to his supporters on Saturday night that he has no intention of resigning.

With the rallies continuing, the Parliament is set to convene a special session Monday to dis-

cuss the political turmoil involving the protests. The legislative body will spend 23 hours on the debate aimed at finding a solution to the crisis.

The government had imposed a state of emergency on Oct. 15 to quell the protesters, but the prime minister lifted it on Thursday as a gesture of goodwill to the protesters but with a

provision that there be no more violence. Meanwhile, protesters, who are also calling for reform of the country's monarchy, are planning to march to the German embassy in Bangkok's business area on Monday to express their opposition to Germany allowing long visits to the country by King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

SOURCE: KYODO

Afghan forces kill Abu Muhsin al-Masri, Al-Qaeda's number-two on USA's most wanted list

AFGHAN forces have killed a top al Qaeda militant wanted by the United States, as the government on Sunday accused the Taliban of still keeping close ties with the Islamist militant group.

Abu Muhsin al-Masri, an Egyptian national believed to be the group's number-two in the Indian subcontinent, was targeted in eastern Ghazni province, Afghanistan's intelligence

agency said in a statement.

The National Directorate of Security did not provide further details about the operation or when it was carried out.

Masri's killing was an in-

dication of the relationship between the Taliban and al Qaeda, Afghanistan's Interior Minister Masoud Andarabi claimed on Sunday without providing details.

"The killing of one of the key Al-Qaeda member, al-Masri by the National Directorate of Security demonstrates close ties of the Taliban with the terrorist groups that are operating against the Afghan government and its people," he tweeted.

"They still keep close relations with the terrorist groups and they are lying to different sides."

The Taliban government's sheltering of al Qaeda was the original reason for the US invasion of Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

SOURCE: AFP



In this picture taken on July 26, 2020, Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers walk in a US military base, which was recently handed over to Afghan forces in Achin district of Nangarhar province. PHOTO: AFP

CHANG'E-4

China's lunar rover travels 565.9 meters on moon

THE lander and the rover of the Chang'e-4 probe have been switched to the dormant mode for the lunar night after working stably for the 23rd lunar day, according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration.

The lander was switched to dormant mode at 9:40 p.m. Friday (Beijing Time) as scheduled, and the rover, Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit-2), at 12 noon Friday, said the center. A lunar day is equal to 14 days on Earth, and a lunar night is the same length. The Chang'e-4 probe, which switched to dormant mode during the lunar night due to the lack of solar power, had been on the far side of the moon for 660 Earth days as of Saturday, and the rover has traveled 565.9 meters.

During the 23rd lunar day, Yutu-2 went northwest, traveling toward an area with basalt and an impact crater area with high reflectivity. En route to the destination, the near-infrared spectrometer on the rover was used to detect a rock about 30 cm in diameter. The research team is analyzing the transmitted data.

SOURCE: XINHUA

CHILE DECIDES

Polls open as Chile votes in referendum for change



Voting in Santiago, Chile in a referendum on the dictatorship-era constitution. PHOTO: AFP

POLLING stations opened in Chile on Sunday for a historic referendum on whether to change a dictatorship-era constitution seen as underpinning the nation's glaring inequalities.

The vote comes a year to the day after more than one million people thronged downtown Santiago at the start of a mass wave of social unrest that left 30 people dead and thousands wounded.

"I am full of hope that things will change and that we will bring a radical turnaround in this country," said Romina Nunez, 42, a poll organizer at the National Stadium in Santiago, the

country's biggest polling center.

More than 300,000 people are registered to vote at the Stadium, which achieved infamy as torture center during Augusto Pinochet's 1973-1990 dictatorship.

We have been waiting for much more than a year for this," an emotional Elias Perez, a 39-year-old psychologist who wanted to be among the first to vote at the Stadium, told AFP.

President Sebastian Pinera called on Chileans to turn out in numbers to vote after he cast his ballot early in an upmarket area of the capital.

"Tonight when we learn the results, whatever the outcome may be, let's respect people's choice and make a firm and clear stand for democracy and not anarchy, for peace and not violence, for unity and not division."

Covid measures

Chile's billionaire leader has not come out publicly for either side in the referendum

campaign, and his conservative political grouping is divided on the issue.

More than 14 million Chileans are eligible to vote and are expected to turn out in numbers, although the coronavirus pandemic, which has hit Chile hard, has added uncertainty to the likely turnout.

Tables, chairs and other furniture have been disinfected in all voting centers, which will stay open two hours longer than usual to allow voters enough time and avoid overcrowding.

Chile surpassed 500,000 Covid-19 cases on Saturday, with nearly 14,000 deaths.

Demand for a new constitution had been a recurring theme of the protests, set off by a hike in public transport fares. They rapidly turned into widespread demonstrations against social and economic inequalities -- encompassing health, education and pensions -- inherited from Pinochet's rule.

SOURCE: AFP

DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

Belarusians protest Lukashenko ahead of strike ultimatum

BELARUSIAN demonstrators flooded the streets of the capital Minsk on Sunday, the final day of an ultimatum set by the opposition for the embattled strongman leader to resign after months of mass protests.

Videos taken by bystanders that were circulated by local media showed a convoy of buses carrying security personnel to the city centre along with metal cordons.

A dozen metro stations in the centre of Minsk were closed to deter demonstrators from gathering and mobile internet

was restricted.

Exiled opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya this month gave President Alexander Lukashenko a deadline of two weeks to resign, halt violence and release political prisoners, warning he would otherwise face a crippling general strike.

The 38-year-old political newcomer fled Belarus after claiming victory in an August presidential election that handed Lukashenko, 66, a sixth term and she has been rallying support from European leaders and

calling for new elections.

During a visit to Copenhagen on Friday to meet Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod she called for a repeat ballot "as soon as possible," and in separate statement said a date for the vote must be decided by the end of the year.

Yet she also conceded that it was unclear how many Belarusians would answer the call for a general strike Monday, with many people anxious about government intimidation and dismissal from positions at state-run enterprises.



Opposition demonstrations have been taking place in Belarus since a disputed August election. PHOTO: AFP

"I know a lot of people are afraid to lose their jobs," she told AFP.

"We're not organising the

strikes ourselves, it's people themselves who decide if they're ready or not."

SOURCE: AFP

ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE

Local elections in Ukraine test Zelensky's popularity

UKRAINIANS were voting on Sunday in local elections seen as a test for President Volodymyr Zelensky, whose popularity has suffered in the year and a half since he came unexpectedly to power.

Zelensky, a former commedi-

an with no political experience, won a landslide victory in a 2019 presidential election promising to root out corruption and end a war with Russian-backed separatists in the east. His newly created Servant of the People party won an outright majority in a parlia-

ment election last year, a record win in the former Soviet republic of around 40 million people.

But in the absence of tangible results, Zelensky's popularity and that of his party has been on the decline. The vote to elect mayors, local and regional councils is

not being held on the Crimea peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014 or in the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics in eastern Ukraine. A poll published this month showed that just 17 percent of voters planned to cast ballots for the Servant of

the People party. In close second was a pro-Russian party, Opposition Platform - For Life, with 14 percent, followed by the pro-Western European Solidarity aligned with former leader Petro Poroshenko with 13 percent.

SOURCE: AFP

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Dated 26th October 2020

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M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (040S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (040S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMT** 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

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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.

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THE DECLINE IN AIR TRAVEL DEMAND

ANA group to cut 3,500 jobs from 45,000 workforce by FY 2022



An All Nippon Airways Co. plane. PHOTO: KYODO

ANA Holdings Inc. is planning to slash around 3,500 jobs from its current group workforce of about 46,000 by the 2022 business year, with the hit to travel demand from the coronavi-

rus pandemic expected to be prolonged, company sources said Sunday.

The parent of major Japanese airline All Nippon Airways Co. intends to cut its head count by

reducing new hiring for fiscal 2021 starting April to around 600 from the initially planned 3,200, offering early retirement and not replacing retirees, the sources said.

It began offering early retirement with increased severance pay from Oct. 14 and is also considering temporarily reducing payrolls by transferring employees to other companies, they said.

It expects to cut around 75 billion yen (\$716 million) of fixed cost in fiscal 2021 by implementing measures such as temporary leave for all employees, cuts to executive remuneration and scrapping winter bonuses.

For the current business year through March, ANA Holdings is expecting to book a record annual net loss of around 530 billion yen, compared with a profit of 27.6 billion yen in the previous year, company sources said earlier.

SOURCE: KYODO

UPS AND DOWNS

Big week for Big Tech as earnings, hearings loom

BIG Tech is bracing for a tumultuous week marked by quarterly results likely to show resilience despite the pandemic, and fresh attacks from lawmakers ahead of the November 3 election.

With backlash against Silicon Valley intensifying, the companies will seek to reassure investors while at the same time fend off regulators and activists who claim these firms have become too dominant and powerful.

Earnings reports are due this week from Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and Google-

parent Alphabet, whose combined value has grown to more than \$7 trillion dollars. They have also woven themselves into the very fabric of modern life, from how people share views and get news to shopping, working, and playing.

Robust quarterly earnings results expected from Big Tech will "highlight the outsized strength these tech behemoths are seeing" but "ultimately add fuel to the fire in the Beltway around breakup momentum," Wedbush analyst Dan Ives said in a note to investors. The results come amid heightened



Apple has seen its value hover near \$2 trillion as it has upgraded its iPhones and ramped up services during the global pandemic. PHOTO: APPLE INC./AFP

scrutiny in Washington of tech platforms and follow a landmark antitrust suit filed against Google which could potentially lead to

the breakup of the internet giant, illustrative of the "techlash" in political circles.

SOURCE: AFP

REST IN PEACE

Lee Kun-hee: 'Hermit king' of the Samsung empire

SOUTH Korea's richest and most powerful industrialist, Lee Kun-hee, turned Samsung Electronics into one of the world's biggest tech companies but lived a reclusive existence.

Still, occasional pronouncements on business

by the tycoon, who died at 78 on Sunday, reverberated through the country.

When he inherited the chairmanship of the Samsung group in 1987 -- founded by his father as a fish and fruit exporter -- it was already the country's

largest conglomerate, with operations ranging from consumer electronics to construction.

But Lee transformed it into a global power -- by the time he was left bedridden by a heart attack in 2014, it was the world's biggest

maker of smartphones and memory chips. He seldom ventured out from the high walls of his private compound in central Seoul to visit the company headquarters, earning him the nickname "hermit king".

SOURCE: AFP

A STEEP DECLINE

Airlines suffering from business class blues in age of COVID-19

THE COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in the era of video meetings. But can Zoom really replace in-person meetings that require business executives to travel?

US airlines have suffered a steep decline in this lucrative category of travel. They do expect a rebound — just not right away.

“I suddenly stopped

travelling in March because of the concerns around COVID,” JJ Kinahan, market strategist at TD AmeriTrade, told AFP.

The halt was a bit of a shock for someone who typically spent about 75 nights a year away from home for work. Now his company only authorises travel on a case-by-case basis.



The disappearance of business travellers is a big problem for airlines. PHOTO:AFP/DANIEL ROLAND/FILE

While Kinahan says he does not miss the flights, he does miss the personal connection with hotel doormen and receptionists he would encounter regularly in his travels.

As for Zoom meetings, he said, “you don’t have the

same back and forth”.

Airlines are really feeling the pain: The four largest US carriers — American, United, Delta and Southwest — together lost nearly US\$11 billion in the third quarter.

SOURCE: AFP

CAPITAL MARKET

China deepens capital market reform with expansion of registration-based IPO

WITH the registration-based initial public offerings (IPOs) system to be further expanded, China has cranked up reform in its capital market system amid efforts to promote high-quality economic development.

The registration-based reform will be deemed the bellwether of the broader capital market revamp, and is bound to bring about major institutional improvements in the sector, said Yi Hu-

iman, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), at the just-concluded Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2020.

The country will gradually roll out the new IPO system in all parts of its capital market as conditions have gradually matured after a pilot program, the commission announced in a sub-forum of the conference lasting from Oct. 21 to 23.

SOURCE: XINHUA

CORONA EMERGENCY BRAKE

Frankfurt cancels Christmas market over virus spike



Lights out for Frankfurt’s popular Christmas market this year. PHOTO: DANIEL ROLAND AFP/FILE

THE German city of Frankfurt has become the latest to cancel its traditional Christmas market as the nation struggles to halt an alarming rise in coronavirus infections.

“Frankfurt is pulling the corona emergency brake,” the bestselling Bild daily wrote after city officials made the decision in emergency talks late Saturday.

The Frankfurt “Weihnachtsmarkt” is one of Germany’s most popular Christmas markets and usually attracts more than two million visitors who come to sip mulled wine, nibble on roasted chestnuts and shop for seasonal trinkets among a cluster of

wooden chalets.

“Our goal remains to avoid another lockdown,” Frankfurt mayor Peter Feldmann said in a statement.

The worsening pandemic has already forced a slew of other German cities, including Berlin, Dusseldorf and Cologne, to announce they are scrapping or severely curtailing their Christmas markets, although major ones are still going ahead in Munich and Nuremberg.

Germany is home to some 2,500 Christmas markets each year that kick off the festive season in late November and are much loved by locals and tourists alike.

They draw about 160 million domestic and international visitors annually who bring in revenues of three to five billion euros (\$3.6-5.9 billion), according to the BSM stallkeepers’ industry association.

Building attacked

Although Germany coped relatively well with the first wave of coronavirus, case numbers have risen rapidly in recent weeks, as they have across Europe. The country on Sunday reported more than 11,000 new cases over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number since the start of the pandemic to 429,181.

SOURCE: AFP

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,
Department of Rural Development
National Electrification Project

Assignment Title: Solar PV Inspection and Verification Agent (for ICB-S&I-NEP-IT-1)
Reference No: NEP-IT-CS2

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the Government of the Italian Republic toward the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP)-Component-2: Off-grid Electrification, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services of independent Inspection and Verification Agents.

The Myanmar NEP Off-Grid Programme co-financed by the World Bank, the Government of Italy and Republic of the Union of Myanmar over 5 years shall electrify close to one million households and several thousand facilities and building using solar PV off-grid technologies, targeting the rural and remote regions of the country. The initial procurement in 2016, was one of the first large scale international procurements in Myanmar, and is intended to establish modalities for future NEP roll-out. WB Procurement Guidelines shall be followed for supply and installation of the solar equipment, and the disbursement of payments for the solar installations equipment shall be subject to corresponding supporting verification of the installations and quality of equipment and works, by an Inspection and Verification Agent’s Consulting Firm. The Consulting Firm shall be required to manage the entire inspection, verification and reporting process on a sampling basis.

The Italian Soft Loan administered by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti S.p.A. (CDP) on behalf of Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic will provide Euro 30,000,000 allocated mainly for supply and installation of Solar Home System through International Competitive Bidding process. The fund will also provide for Consultant Services related to supply procurement under ICB such as Inspection and Verification Agent (IVA) and Financial Auditing Firm.

The Department of Rural Development invites expression of interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced Local and/or International Consulting Firm (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services as per the short-listing criteria and the EOI should not be more than 30 pages. The short-listing criteria are:

- At least 2 years of experience working in rural areas in Myanmar or similar conditions;
- At least 2 years of experience in installation and/or inspection of solar systems in countries with similar conditions with Myanmar;
- At least 2 permanent professional staff with relevant expertise in energy, renewable energy, electrification, and/or project management;
- At least three contracts in relevant areas, each with a value of at least USD10,000 over the past five years;
- Demonstrated ability to use app-based MIS software or related programs developed for monitoring and evaluation of project activities

The Consultant shall express interest to provide inspection and verification services for Solar System under International Competitive Bidding packages no. ICB S&I-NEP-IT1 as listed below:

| IVA-IT1 | ICB NEP-IT1 - Lot 1 | Tentative no. of samples |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Ref. no. NEP-IT-CS2 | NEP Solar PV Packages in Chin (5), Sagaing (6) and Rakhine (5) | 1,550 |

The tentative starting period for the assignment is November 2020

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) dated January 2011 (revised July 2014) (“Consultant Guidelines”) setting forth the World Bank on conflict of interest and Annex 2 of the MAECI-AICS – Ethical Clauses and General Principles for Procurement and Execution of Contracts.

Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Based on the Consultants’ Qualification (CQS) method set out in the World Bank Consultant Guidelines.

For information, the maximum available budget for the assignment is Euro 55,000 and according to the Annex 2 of the Italian Fund, a proposal exceeding the available budget will be rejected. However, at this stage, the interested consultants are required to submit only Expression of Interest (technical information as required above only). No financial proposal is accepted at this stage.

International consulting firms are encouraged to associate with local firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Further information and initial Terms of Reference can be obtained at the address below during office hours: 09.30 to 16.00 hours or direct request through e-mail address below. DRD will provide prompt and consistent responses to all interested parties, should there be any questions. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by November 9, 2020.

Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Attention: Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Project Manager, National Electrification Project (NEP)

Office No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Tel/FAX: +95 673 418635, 418636,

E-mail: dr.soesoehn@gmail.com, drdnep.procurement@gmail.com, ksaung@gmail.com

THERE are some floating houses in the world, like in Inn Lay. Mainly, it is more common in neighbouring countries. I've been to places like this before, but I came back with a different feeling than Inn Lay because I suppose that the residents are not friendly like Innthas, they don't row the boat by foot to catch the fish, and there are no authentic traditional cultures like in Inn Lay.

That is why I love Inn Lay. I am afraid that Inn Lay Lake will disappear. I am terrified that the way of life and culture of the Innthas will change.

Among other things, friendliness could not be matched by even the best neighbours in terms of tourism revenue.

If you smile at an Inntha in Inn Lay, he or she will smile at you friendly. I noticed it from this trip to Inn Lay.

Places to visit in Inn Lay

As Inn Lay can be visited through Nyaungshwe, most people usually stay in Nyaungshwe and visit Inn Lay by boat. It takes quite some time to get to Inn Lay from Nyaungshwe. We need to be more careful if the weather is not okay. The best way to enjoy the true natural beauty of Inn Lay is to stay at the nearest place to the Inn Lay Lake. It also saves time, and we can visit many more places.

Here are some must-see places in Inn Lay

Phaung Taw Oo Pagoda

Phaung Taw Oo Pagoda was made of sandalwood given by the Sakka to King Alaung Sithu. The King received the wood from the Ogress and made five pieces of Buddha statues. People also say four parts are Buddha statues, and one is an Arhat statue. On the way to bringing the statues to Taung Nyo mountain ranges to be worshipped by the King, the elephants carrying them stopped at Than Taung place. The King, then, built the pagoda at that place.

In 1359, during the reign of Saopha Si Hsai Pha in Nyaungshwe, the villagers found the statues by the time

By Thiha Lu Lin (Thiha, The Traveller)
PHOTO : MIN HSANN, THIHA LU LIN



I like the artworks of that pagoda at Takhaung Mwetaw Pagoda

One and only amazing Inn Lay

they saw lighting ray while clearing the bushes near the cave. Afterwards, they were brought to the Haw Nan, the palace of the Saopha and worshipped.

In 1515, during the reign of Saopha Sao Nan Phe, the statues were placed to Indein Ywa Ma monastery and taken to the Haw Nan on every 7th day of the Waxing Thadingyut. While doing so on one day, the boat carrying the statues sank due to the strong wind, and only four statues were recovered. The last one was found extraordinarily surrounded by algae in the Gandhakuti Temple. Since then, only four statues were taken around for being paid homage.

When the two previous places were burnt down, the statues were brought here. That is, indeed, a must-visit place in Inn Lay.

Historically renowned Alo Taw Paut Pagoda

This pagoda is also renowned as Alo Taw Pyay Pagoda located in Nan Pan village.

Nga Phe Chaung Monastery

Nga Phe Chaung Monastery, also known as Cat Jump Monastery, still has many cats as before. But after the death of the monk, who used to train the cats to jump, there is no trainer anymore and the monastery has become just a pilgrim site.

Shwe Indein Pagodas

One unique thing about the way to Indein village is that there are narrow paths which allow only one boat to cross, and by the time the boat passes it, it feels like riding a roller

coaster. In some parts of the waterway, the path becomes smaller, but some are wide as well. The pagodas are situated near Indein village on the west part of the Shwe U Daung mountain's foot.

The pagodas can be reached through the passage or by motorbike. Since the government has allowed to renovate or rebuild the pagodas there, you can see many new pagodas. There were altogether 1,054 ancient stupas before the renovation.

Mine Thout Bridge

This bridge is, indeed, a perfect place to watch the sunset. It can be even said as the U Bein Bridge of Inn Lay. During the festival times, the bridge is usually alive with many people and shops.



Don't think like that there is no trekking tour at Inn Lay. You can make trekking to enjoy the different soil condition, agricultural system and living standards, including the beautiful nature.



Nam Pan market day in Nam Pan village which is located close to Amata Garden Resort, Inn Lay Lake Hotel

Boat trip to Inn Villages

It is absolute fun to take a boat trip to the floating villages in Inn Lay as it provides the scenes of the people of Inn Lay, their lifestyle, changing water system of the lake as well as the socio-economy of the residents.

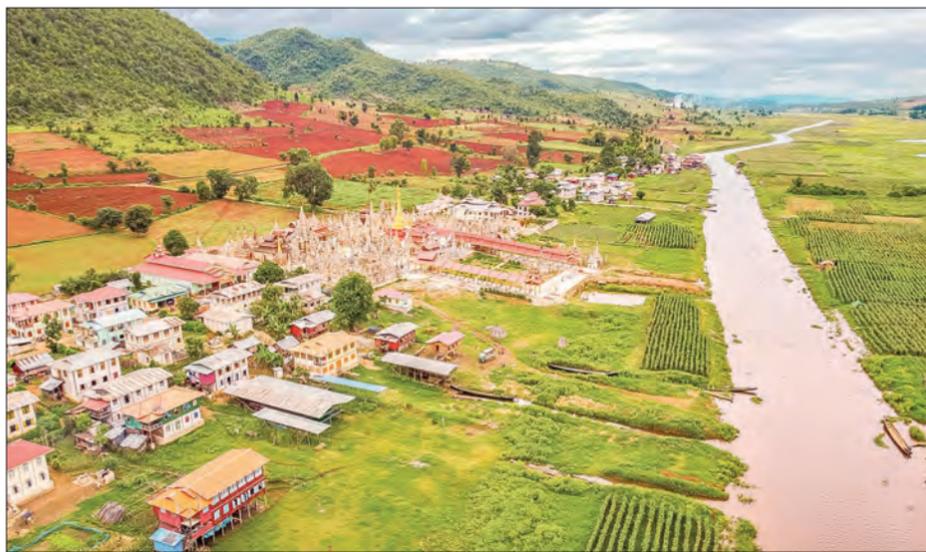
People say Inn Lay was called this name because there were four villages in the lake. One more exciting things about visiting these floating villages is that they have interesting workshops of the beautiful authentic handicrafts. People can thoroughly study the traditional textile and weaving industry where visitors can buy traditional clothes, scarves and longyi as souvenirs. Also, the silversmith in Inn Lay Lake is worth exploring.

Sankar Mway Taw and Tarkhaung Mway Taw

Sankar Mway Taw and Tarkhaung Mway Taw are located near the San Kar



You can see a giant sitting Buddha statue surrounded by many stupas.



Takhaung Mwetaw and Takhaung Village



You see ancient pagodas surrounded by water in Sagar

lake, just one-hour drive from Inn Lay where the lake is connected with the Inn Lay Lake by Belu creek. For those who go by car will need to retake the boat to get to the pagodas.

Sankar Mway Taw pagodas are also called as Taw Mway Khaung pagoda. When the tide is up, the pagodas can be seen distinctly in the water. When there is no water, people can go around from one pagoda to another and pay homage to them. San Kar place was once alive as a big city with nine monasteries, but there is only one monastery now.

I personally like Tarkhaung Mway very much. The pagoda has been worshiped and expanded for generations from the King Alaung Sithu to Shan Saophas, monks and their people. There are 76 giant stupas, 54 small stupas and 106 pagoda stumps. Some are still standing tall as before, but most are restored in original forms.

It's significant to know that most of the donors to restore the pagodas there are foreigners. The names of Singaporeans can be seen on the donor records. I suppose they are the donors of the Shwe Kyaung monk.

I will write separately about the visit to San Kar Mway Taw and Tar Khaung Mway Taw.

Riding horse at Inn Lay

One another thing to do when you get to Inn Lay is to learn how to ride a horse. It can be done at Inn Lay Horse Club. You might not want to go home as hotels offer various kinds of services.

If you do not want to go somewhere at Inn Lay, there are many spaces for you to play with your friends or take photos.

I would like to say some pleasant things that I encountered when I stayed at Amata Garden Resort, Inn Lay Lake Hotel. The Amata Garden Resort, Inn Lay Lake Hotel is the closest to Inn Lay Lake, and we can see Alodaw Pauk pagoda. It would be best if you chose these hotels as they are the closest to Alodaw Pauk and Phaung Taw Oo pagodas. It can be reached to Shwe Inn Dein and Sagar in a short time. So, I chose these hotels.

The hotels currently reduce their prices to lure travellers. They offer Inn Lay Lake View Villas. It costs K75,000 (for two persons, including breakfast). The next one is Deluxe that costs K59,000 (for two persons, including breakfast). They offer transport services to the airport and bus stations cheaper than the others. Then, you can pay a visit to Organic Farm free of charge, and you can take photos, ride canoes or

paddle boats there. There is a beautiful swimming pool, and you can explore the surrounding areas by renting a bicycle. I visited Maing Thouk bridge by a bike and went to Nampang market to take photos.

The market is open under the health guidelines of the government. So, we can stay at the hotels at low prices. You can enjoy your vacation just in the hotel areas. What I like most is that they have 'happy hour'. You can enjoy the food or beverages whatever you want as they offer a Buy-1-Get-1 promotion. They reduce the prices of food to 15pc and 20pc for the spa. The photos will prove their services.

Does Inn Lay offer trekking?

Of course, you can make trekking there. It is enjoyable while walking in the fields and village roads. You can get a new feeling from eating food at a hut in the area. The Amata Garden Resort and Inn Lay Lake Hotel create a new spot for those like trekking. The well-experienced local tour guides will take you to near the vicinity areas to enjoy the nature and living styles of the local populace. The tour starts with four persons at least. It will cost K35000 per person, including lunch. It is such a fair price. You can choose your tour

destination depending on your walking capacity. I enjoy such tour as it needs to make more efforts than others and I have much experience for trekking. Some are worried about it as they have no experience in trekking before. But now, you can choose the type of tour that you prefer most.

As I mentioned above, the Inn Lay Lake is such a very rare lake in the world, and we should conserve it as a heritage. We need to value it by considering that what would happen if the lake is not in existence any more. Now is the best time to visit Inn Lay Lake to enjoy the most beautiful scene. The water level is high during the rainy season. But, it is a drought this year, and so it is such a good time to pay a visit there. I want the visitors there to choose Amata Garden Resort and Inn Lay Lake Hotel as they offer the best services at low prices. Although I haven't stayed at there for high prices before, I now stay at these places during the promotion period. It would be best if you did not miss such hotels as you can do many fun activities at the hotels and it also offers trekking series. Don't miss them when you pay a visit to Inn Lay.

May all you have a safe trip!
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)

Lethwei star Dave Leduc to fight Cyrus Washington on 7 November

CANADIAN Lethwei fighter Dave Leduc, who is representing Myanmar, will fight against American Muay Thai and Lethwei fighter Cyrus Washington in Wyoming, USA on 7 November, according to the official statement with the Lethwei authorities.

The 28-years-old Dave has won Myanmar's former Lethwei Champion Tun Tun Min to claim the Cruiserweight World Champion in Air KBZ Aung Lan Championship in 2016 and also possessed undefeated

record in the Myanmar Lethwei history.

Upon the upcoming thrilling fight, Dave Leduc said, "I am very excited to fight traditional Lethwei rules, on 7 November in the USA against Cyrus Washington and as you know, our match will be done inside a cage. I hold two Lethwei world titles: WLC Cruiserweight Championship and Traditional Lethwei Openweight Golden Belt."

My rematch with Cyrus Washington is one of the most important fights of my career.

When we fought in 2017, he had over 100 fights, while I was still a young champion with 20 fights. He ended bloody and running away from me, and I could have finished him, but I didn't properly cut the ring. I dominated the rounds, but with no stoppage, it ended in a draw according to traditional Lethwei rules. He's been asking about a rematch ever since, and I have been passed about my performance ever since.

This fight is for my legacy, Cyrus Washington is the only other fighter to

have finished Burmese Lethwei legend Tun Tun Min, so I need to finish him in a clear, decisive matter to solidify my status as best non-Burmese Lethwei fighter of all time, Dave added.

On the other side, Cyrus Washington is a former Muay Thai World Champion, as well as former WBC US National Champion. The American fighter Cyrus received worldwide attention for being one of the first successful foreigners to compete in Lethwei in Myanmar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Defending Cruiserweight Lethwei World Champion Dave Leduc who is ready for his next bout against American fighter Cyprus Washington on 7 November in Wyoming, USA. **PHOTO: DAVE LEDUC'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Football: Bayern teen star Alphonso Davies out for up to two months



BERLIN — Bayern Munich expect to be without rising star Alphonso Davies for up to eight weeks after he tore ankle ligaments early in Saturday's (Oct 24) 5-0 rout of Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga.

The teenager twisted his right ankle with barely a minute gone at the Allianz Arena.

Davies was in clear distress as he was helped off and replaced at left-back by Lucas Hernandez as Robert Lewandowski netted a hat-trick in the rout.

Alphonso Davies is helped off after tearing ankle ligaments on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP/CHRISTOF STACHE**

"He has injured ligaments - one is torn, one is partially torn. We expect him to be out for six to eight weeks," said Bayern head coach Hansi Flick.

"If a player of this quality drops out, it hurts."

Davies broke into the Bayern first-team last season and made the left-back berth his own - keeping out Bayern's record-signing Hernandez - as they won the treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup titles.

However, Hernandez started ahead of Davies at left-back in last weekend's 4-1 romp at Bielefeld and Wednesday's 4-0 rout of Atletico Madrid in the Champions League.—AFP

Tennis: Zverev on course for Cologne double after downing Sinner

BERLIN — Alexander Zverev remains on course to win his second ATP title in Cologne within a week after sealing a straight sets win over Italian teenager Jannik Sinner in Saturday's semi-final.

Zverev, 23, avenged his defeat earlier this month in the last 16 of the French Open against 19-year-old Sinner when he claimed a 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 win over the wildcard entry in Cologne.—AFP

No. 3 Thomas grabs one-stroke PGA Zozo lead over No. 2 Rahm

WASHINGTON — World number three Justin Thomas birdied two of the last three holes to overtake second-ranked Jon Rahm for the lead after Saturday's third round of the US PGA Zozo Championship.

Thomas fired a five-under par 67 to stand on 19-under 197 after 54 holes at Sherwood Country Club, edging ahead of Spain's Rahm, who fired a 63 to stand on 198, with fellow American Lanto Griffin third on 199 after a 68.

"I can't exactly go out and try to protect a lead," Thomas said. "I've got to go out and build it. I need to play my game. I can't do anything about everyone else."

Colombia's Sebastian Munoz



World number three Justin Thomas fired a five-under par 67 Saturday to seize a one-stroke lead at the US PGA Zozo Championship. **PHOTO: AFP**

and Americans Ryan Palmer and Patrick Cantlay shared fourth

Thomas, the 2017 PGA Championship winner, is chasing his 14th career tour title and his third of the year after the Tournament of Champions in Hawaii in January and the WGC St. Jude Invitational in August.

"I've been here a couple times and I have been successful," Thomas said. "I'll be able to draw on those past experiences tomorrow." Thomas opened with back-to-back birdies, followed a birdie at the par-4 seventh with a bogey at the par-3 eighth. He added birdies at the par-5 11th and 16th holes and curled in a birdie putt from just inside 28 feet at the par-3 17th to seize the lead alone.—AFP

on 200, with Cantlay bogey-free through three days.