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Tuesday, 27 October 2020

President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts Letters of Credence of Ambassador of Kingdom of Norway



President U Win Myint receives Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Myanmar Mrs Hilde Solbakken at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

MRS Hilde Solbakken, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented her Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and U Min Thein, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— MNA

State Counsellor updates COVID-19 situation amid containment measures



YESTERDAY, for one or two days, there was something to think about regarding COVID-19 disease for our people. The day before yesterday, the infection level went up. This was something to worry about. Yesterday, the infection level went down a bit. Because the level went down, we need to continue maintaining this level with the knowledge that we can make the level go down if we made efforts to contain the infection. We cannot become careless and carefree. However, this shows that we can contain COVID-19 disease if we abide by the rules and regulations. We need to continue our efforts. Not only at the region and state level; we need to keep up our efforts in each and every township. The reason is that we have been issuing news bulletins about new positive cases being discovered at various townships on a daily basis.

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1,426 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 October, total figure rises to 46,200

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 46,200 after 1,426 new cases were reported on 26 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 46,200 confirmed cases, 1,122 died, 26,007 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 26 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 26-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

C.P Livestock Company donates masks, PPEs for people in Rakhine

MYANMAR C.P Livestock Company officially donated COVID-19 preventive equipment for people

living in Rakhine State yesterday morning through the Royal Thai Embassy in Myanmar and the

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine.

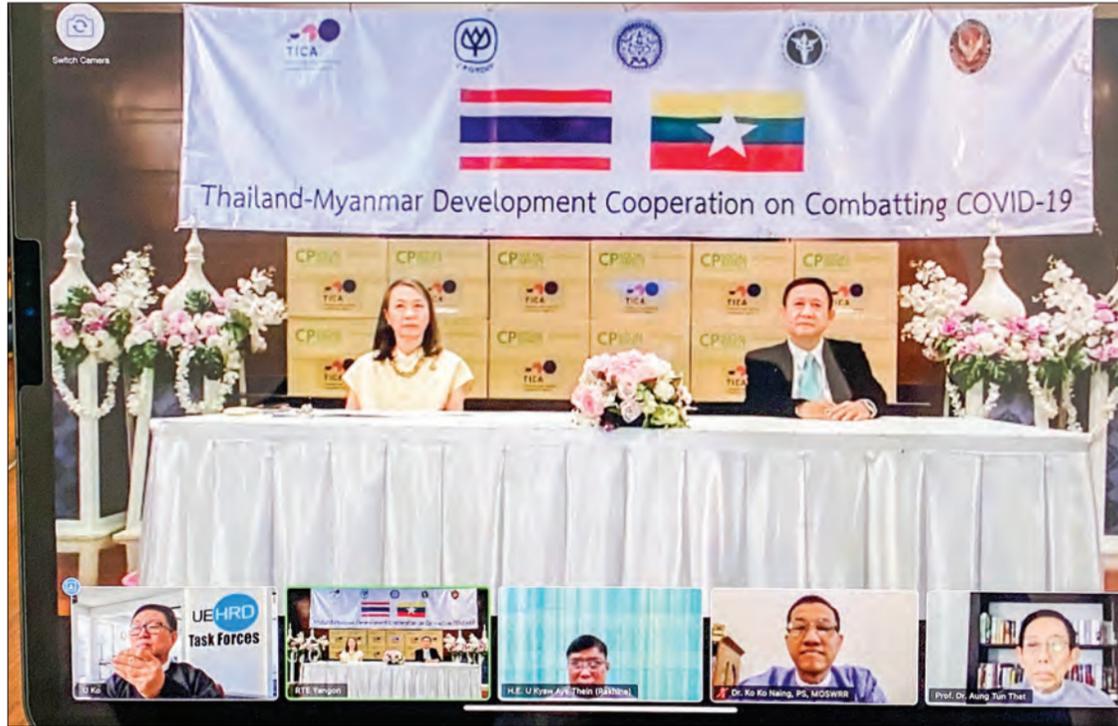
300,000 masks and 200 PPEs, worth USD 33,000, were handed over to “We Love Rakhine” group, which will transport the equipment to the Rakhine State.

Secretary Dr Ko Ko Naing (Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement), Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Myanmar C.P Livestock Company’s Senior Vice President Mr Prachya Pleanpakdee, UEHRD officials and members of “We Love Rakhine”.

The official online ceremony was participated by UEHRD committee members Dr Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator; U Toe Oung, Advisor to the Chairperson, Information and Communications Director U Kyaw Myaing, Chief Operation Officer U Nyi Nyein Aye, Rakhine State Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Economics U Kyaw Aye Thein, Permanent

During the ceremony, Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak explained the reason for the donation. Dr Aung Tun Thet expressed thanks to the donor.

It is learnt that “We Love Rakhine” is making arrangements to send the COVID-19 preventive equipment to Rakhine State immediately and that the UEHRD would be providing necessary assistance and support. —MNA



Donation ceremony of Myanmar C.P Livestock Company for COVID-19 preventive items is held online through the Royal Thai Embassy in Myanmar on 26 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Chinese companies donate aid for COVID-19 measures in Myanmar

CHINESE business companies in Myanmar donated cash and aid for COVID-19 measures to the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

The Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy talked about the donation of cash, CCTV sets and surgical masks at the donation ceremony held at the Department of Medical Research in Yangon.

The donation items from China-based companies included 150,000 surgical masks worth about US\$20,000 from Knitted Wear Co., Ltd, \$10,000 worth of CCTV sets and accessories from Digital Technology Co Ltd, and 50,000 surgical masks worth about K3 million from the Sun Grow Power Supply Co., Ltd.—Min Thit (MNA) *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*



Ministry of Health and Sports presents certificate of honour to a donor on 26 October 2020. **PHOTO: MIN THIT**

172 Myanmar returnees fly back home from Malaysia by relief flights

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday, carrying 172 nationals back home from Malaysia.

The returnees included migrant workers from 11 companies and the former detainees from detention centres.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 7-day quarantine at specific places or designat-

ed hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is cooperating with the relevant organizations in Malaysia for the repatriation of citizens after verifying the nationality.

Myanmar has organized a total of 17 relief flights to bring Myanmar back home until now.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar returnees line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 26 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

CAMPAIGN speech of New Society Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 27 October for the second time. — MNA

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c).
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list.
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts Letters of Credence of Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands

MRS Anne Elisabeth Luwema, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented her Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:30 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and U Min Thein, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



President U Win Myint accepts the Letters of Credence presented by Mrs Anne Elisabeth Luwema, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 October.

PHOTO: MNA

MoTC further extends international flight ban to end-Nov

The effective period of the Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel issued on 29 March 2020 by the Ministry of Health and Sports was extended up to 31 October 2020, 23:59 hours Myanmar Standard Time, in line with the approval of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

In order to continue to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar effectively, the existing period has been further extended, in accordance with the approval of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, until 30 November 2020, 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

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.



State Counsellor updates COVID-19 situation amid containment measures

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Therefore the people in respective townships need to control the way they go about their daily lives if the infection level has gone up for their township. Furthermore, the administrative officials for the townships need to understand that they need to be careful and take a proactive attitude. In some townships where the infection level has gone down, they should not become careless and indifferent; it is very important for them to realize that the infection level went down because of their vigilant efforts; they should continue to keep up their vigilance.

As the people know already, as we have experienced the second wave of the COVID-19 disease, the Ministry of Health and Sports has achieved a greater level of understanding as to how to confront, how to overcome this challenge, how to take care of the new positive cases and provide them with treatment. As their knowledge and understanding reach a higher level, they are now able to give more effective care and treatment. At this time, we are making arrangements for greater participation by private sector hospitals and medical clinics in the COVID-19 containment efforts. This is to make it possible for people to have a choice. If they wish to go to a private medical clinic or a private hospital, whether it is for COVID or any other underlying health problem or any other disease, they can do so according to their own choice. As they make their own choice, the Ministry of Health and Sports has prescribed rules and regulations

in coordination with the private medical clinics and hospitals for the safety and comfort of the people, hospitals and the general public. In this way, people can make their own choice, and this gives some relief to the government hospitals. We believe that this would help us in our efforts to confront the COVID-19 disease.

Another thing is what we have been saying repeatedly. The medical experts of the whole world have been saying again and again about basic health. It is very important to take care of our basic health. For our basic health to be good, sometimes we need to take a practical approach. It is easy to say; take care of your basic health. To take care of your basic health, what is generally accepted is to take exercise. They say that we need to take fresh air; however, because of the COVID disease situation, I fully understand that there may be difficulties in some cases. That's why I say as much as possible. Try to stay healthy according to your own situation. Try not to worry too much for impossible things. When you eat, try to eat as healthily as possible. Also, please take care of what you eat and the amount you eat.

As regards food supplies, the Union Government has been taking measures to ensure that our basic needs, such as rice will be available in all places without shortages. Apart from that, when we learnt that well-wishers are donating rice, oil and salt, we have been very much encouraged. We feel great pride in their efforts. This is a very fortunate habit that we have in our country. Our people unite in times of great need

and challenges. All our people cooperate and participate to help out in whatever way they can. I wish to express my appreciation to all the donors and well-wishers who have donated rice, oil and salt for our citizens who are less fortunate and are in need.

I have frequently talked to the public about a long-term issue. Although our country is facing a great challenge, we are trying to control the situation as best we can. A certain degree of results has been produced from our efforts. We can say that in the foreign investment sector, our country is relatively better than in some neighbouring countries. Our FDI target adopted in 2016 has reached 98 per cent this year. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, we missed only 2 per cent of our target. By looking at it optimistically, the goal could be achieved in the remaining two months. Even if we could not fulfil the overall target, achieving 98 per cent is a considerable success amid the crisis. Most of the neighbouring countries have faced worse situations. I don't mean any disrespect to other countries. I just want our people to understand. Although our expectation was to achieve 100 per cent, since we achieved 98 per cent, we could say that this is quite a performance.

Another matter is that the General Elections in our country are coming nearer day by day. It will be organized in less than two weeks. Preparations have been made for it. Health protective items to be used in the elections are being imported from China by flights on a daily basis. These items will be distributed across

the country sufficiently.

We have studied elections in other countries to learn how they managed to organize their elections with safety measures for health. Although our country is not one of the world richest countries, we have studied the best practices in different places. While some protective measures are reliable, some others are not good enough for prevention. We are preparing for the most suitable plans for the country, depending on the needs and our possible resources. So, people can cast their votes in safety on Election Day and are encouraged to do so. I have frequently said that voting is the duty of our citizens, as well as their rights. Victory must be achieved in holding the elections and the fight against COVID-19. After all, the public might have known about COVID-19 thoroughly as I have frequently talked about it. However, don't relax your vigilance against this disease, and it is required to follow the health-care guidelines.

If you don't apply all the information and knowledge you have acquired about COVID in real life, the containment measures will not be effective. The daily confirmed rate increased in the past one or two weeks, reaching over 2,000; therefore, it was quite worrisome for all of us. Although the figures are fluctuating in recent days, the surge in cases is still under control. The number of positives yesterday was less than 1,000. However, it might increase tomorrow. We can never say. There might be some fluctuations. No need to have a serious worry about these varying num-

bers. The important thing is to be able to maintain the plateau and make sure the level of infections go down gradually.

The people can have the satisfaction that this declining trend is due to their self-control measures over the disease. It is also very important for them to remember that this wave could surge again if they failed to behave appropriately with self-control. Therefore, I send Metta and good wishes for the good health and well-being of all the people.

As Thadingyut is drawing nearer, I want to remind you that the Thadingyut festival should not be celebrated with crowds as usual in the previous years when they visit pagodas, monasteries and other religious sites. However, these things cannot be done at the present time. However, such practices must be avoided while celebrating the religious festival in some alternative ways for meritorious deeds which can also be done mentally. For example, cultivating Metta, doing meditation and saying prayers can be done at any place. Also, we can hang lanterns or lights at home; in this way, we can celebrate without encouraging crowds or spreading the COVID-19 disease. Therefore, I want all of you to start thinking about how you can celebrate the Thadingyut festival so as to gain merit as well as peace of mind. Thadingyut is coming soon. I want all of you to be happy and joyous during Thadingyut. I also want all of you to have good health and well-being.

I send Metta to all of you.

(Translated by
Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)



COVID-19 medical devices from China reach Yangon, Mandalay by 11 flights

MYANMAR is importing COVID-19 medical devices from China to be used in the upcoming 2020 General Election.

The devices were carried by 6 flights to Yangon and 5 flights to Mandalay yesterday as parts of the stock being imported from 27 October to 3 November by special flights. —MNA

COVID-19 medical devices imported from China arrive in Yangon and Mandalay airports on 26 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects development projects in Haka

VICE President U Henry Van Thio yesterday inspected upgrading of Wanthu Maung Stadium, as well as constructions of buildings in the High Court of Chin State, Government Technical Institute (Haka), Education College (Haka), and Haka University in Haka, Chin State.

The Vice President, accompanied by Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bawi, Chief Justice of Chin State U Win Myint Kyaw, regional ministers and other officials, yesterday morning inspected upgrading works of the Wanthu Maung Stadium in Haka. The Department of Sports and Physical Education Director U Than Aung explained the upgrading project. The Vice President told the officials to build hostels for athletes in the premises of the stadium.

The Vice President also inspected the construction works for the High Court of Chin State, where the Chief Justice of Chin State and other officials explained the construction project. The High Court building will be a three-storey building, and the project is worth K6.393 billion.

The Vice President also visited the Government Technical Institute (Haka). Principal Dr Salai Talun Za Htang explained the school and the construction project.

Then, the Vice President visited the Education Degree College (Haka) where the principal Daw Mi Nyo Nyo Shein explained the construction works for the buildings in the premises of the college.

The Vice President visited a site on Khosiloso Mountain where a garden will be built. He urged the officials to repair the roads on the mountain for the safety of the visitors.

When the Vice President arrived at Haka University, he inspected the construction of the convocation hall of the university. The Pro-Rector of Haka University explained the construction project, worth K9.331



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the upgrading of Wanthu Maung Stadium in Haka, Chin State on 26 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Construction of buildings in High Court of Chin State is underway. PHOTO: MNA



VP U Henry Van Thio visits Government Technical Institute (Haka) on 26 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Picture taken on 26 October 2020 shows the playground of Education Degree College in Haka, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA



Picture taken on 26 October 2020 shows constructing Convocation Hall of Haka University. PHOTO: MNA

billion. The construction project will be completed by December. The Vice President also in-

spected the land on which more library buildings of the Haka University will be built.

The construction works for Haka University Chapel were also inspected by the Vice Pres-

ident, who made a donation for the project.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe accepts donations for COVID-19 committee

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as Secretary (2) of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), received donations from donors yesterday afternoon at his office in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, officials and staff members of his ministry, officials and staff members of General Administration Department and other donors collectively donated K25 million, and the officials and staff members of the Ministry of Education collectively donated K16.7 million to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Min Thu explained about the reason for the collective donation. He said that he felt proud for the collective donations of his staff members.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that his ministry had already donated money and technical equipment such as robot trolleys, drones with speaker, and thermometers for COVID-19 response efforts. Officials, staff members and families from his ministry yesterday donated K16.7 million to the committee with their own consents, according to Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe expressed thanks to the two ministries. He said that not only the donations but also the various



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives the donation presented by Union Minister U Min Thu in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

supports and assistance provided by the General Administration Department under the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government are very significant in COVID-19 response efforts.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe pointed out that if the general public effectively cooperates with the officials and health workers, the length of COVID-19 pandemic will be short.

After receiving the donations, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe returned certificates of honour to the donors.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Mrs Anne Elisabeth Luwema, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Ambassador of Netherlands to Myanmar

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, received Mrs Anne Elisabeth Luwema, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 2:00 pm on 26 October 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Union Minister congratulated the Ambassador on her recent ap-

pointment as the Ambassador of Netherlands to Myanmar. They also cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further advancement of existing bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation in the fields of common interest including trade and investment, agriculture and water resources management between Myanmar and Netherlands, preparations made for the successful holding of forthcoming

Myanmar's General Elections to be held in November 2020 in accordance with COVID-19 prevention health guidelines, ongoing Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation processes, latest developments of Rakhine State and constructive support of development partners towards the Myanmar government's efforts for sustainable development and repatriation of displaced persons in Rakhine State.—MNA

Union Minister U Win Khaing joins Singapore International Energy Week 2020 event online

THE Singapore International Energy Week 2020 (SIEW 2020) is being held from 26 to 30 October and Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended the videoconference from his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, Singaporean Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Chan Chun Sing delivered an opening remark.

The first programme of

SIEW 2020 was held under the topic "Singapore Energy Summit: Transitioning to Our Low Carbon Energy Future" with the panelists as Singaporean Minister for the Prime Minister's Office Dr Tan See Leng, Indonesian Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mr Afrifin Tasrif, JERA Asia Pte Ltd CEO Mr Toshiro Kudama, ENGIE Asia-Pacific President & Regional CEO Mr

Paul Maguire, Shell Singapore Companies Chairman Ms Aw Kah Peng, SP PowerGrid Limited CEO Mr Jimmy Khoo, and Utilities Lead, Resources, Southeast Asia Accenture MD Mr Lim Chih Shoong. They discussed the unpredictable consequences of COVID-19 on energy requirement and the economy, choosing security and renewable energy to revitalize the global economy in the future, sustaining the drop in air pollution due to COVID-19, the importance of transboundary electric transmission lines for energy development in Asia and reducing carbon emissions, and the importance of governments, investors and the public collaborating to reduce carbon emissions.

Union Minister U Win Khaing said the use of natural gases is important for Asia-Pacific Region, Asia leading in solar panel production and energy stor-

age, how it develops Asia's clean and renewable energy, how electric consumption increases with Asia's economic development, aiming for solar and wind energy to count for 37% of renewable energy in Asia by 2040, and how renewable energy can contribute to remedying COVID-19 effects and create jobs for local people.

Myanmar gets 50% of its energy from hydropower and the other half from natural gas and energy requirement rises by 15% to 19% every year. The nation currently generates 55% of required energy and is aiming to generate 75% by 2025. LNG electric production of 3000MW was permitted in 2018 and Myanmar started LNG electric production in September 2020 with construction of the Minbu 40MW solar plant started in 2019.

Myanmar called auctions for tender for 1000MW solar power plant in 30 areas to take advan-

tage of its geographical location and continuing work with companies that won the tender. The nation is aiming to supply 14% of national electric production by 2021 and is discussing transboundary transmission lines with neighbouring countries to sell energy and inviting foreign companies to invest in the energy sector. Later in the evening, the Union Minister held a bilateral meeting with Dr Tan See Leng via video conferencing. They discussed the current Myanmar-Singapore bilateral electricity and energy sector and cooperation, increasing oil and natural gas production, investing in renewable energy, cooperating in the energy policy programme to develop human resources, the transboundary electric distribution, and support to approve ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase-2 (2021-2025).—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Win Khaing participates in the first day of the Singapore International Energy Week 2020 (SIEW 2020) via videoconference on 26 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

YGEA opens virtual gold market through Zoom

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) launched virtual trade through Zoom application on 26 October.

Yangon Region gold market, which has temporarily suspended amid the COVID-19 resurgences, was back into business on 26 October. The virtual trade is also available through the Zoom app.

The members of YGEA must adhere to the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and rules set by the YGEA while trading in the meantime.

At present, a gathering of not more than 30 people are

allowed. YGEA urged the traders, shop owners and customers to follow the rules.

Yangon gold market was temporarily closed on 15 September amid the coronavirus crisis, and the price of yellow metal stood at over K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) then. The gold was priced at over K1.3 million in early October as well.

The pure gold fetched K1,313,000 per tical on 26 October, while global gold was pegged at US\$1,897 per ounce.

Despite the closure of Yangon gold market, small shops, which are operated at their own houses, are still running in Yangon Region. They like to get selling rather than buying, U



Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) opens virtual gold market on 26 October 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Myo Myint, chair of YGEA said. There are more than 10,000 gold shops in the region, and

about 50 visses of gold were traded earlier. During the first wave of COVID-19, Yangon gold

market was closed between 29 March and 18 May. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 200 retailers join hands with MRF to resell reserved rice

MORE than 200 retailers across the country have worked together with Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) to resell the reserved rice at a much fairer price to the people, MRF stated.

“MRF aims to offer the rice at a fairer price to the people amid the COVID-19 crisis. Yangon rice depot is also opened three days per week”, said the president of MRF.

MRF is supporting the government’s plan with non-profit. The federation sells the rice to the registered retailers at K22,800 per 108-pound bag of

low-quality rice at the warehouses. The retailers in Yangon Region can also buy them at K23,200 per bag through the delivery system, and Pawsan rice variety is sold at K38,000-40,000 per bag, with a minimum order of 10 bags per batch, MRF stated.

Those reserved rice of low quality is also planned to be sold at K22,800 per 108-pound bag to the registered retail shops in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, with the maximum 200 bags per batch. The shops must resell the rice to the consumers not exceeding K1,000-

1,100 per pyi (2.3 kg) depending on the regions.

If retailers are found to hike the rice price more than the set price, they will be struck off from the list to resell the reserved rice, MRF stated.

A total of 100,100 bags (108 pounds per bag) from reserved rice have been sold between 10 July and 3 October 2020, according to MRF.

The retail sales are recorded the highest with 61,307 bags in Yangon Region, followed by Taninthayi Region with 11,520 bags.

Additionally, 8,273 bags are

sold in Mandalay Region, while 7,700 in Nay Pyi Taw, 4,400 in Mon State, 2,000 each in Chin and Kayah states, 1,300 in Bago Region, 800 in Magway Region, 700 in Ayeyawady Region and 100 in Sagaing Region.

Regarding the rice purchase at a much fairer price, those interested retailers and factories can contact through mobile numbers -- 09-694386994/5 of MRF and 09-694386996 of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association. For any enquiry, the retailers can call mobile numbers 09 780173960, 09 758227837

of MRF.

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April.

The state’s emergency rice reserve is to ensure food security, keep the price stable in the domestic market, continue to export them regularly and lessen the worries of the consumers during the COVID-19.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

ADVERTISEMENT

Myanmar POSCO C&C Co., Ltd. donates cash to National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

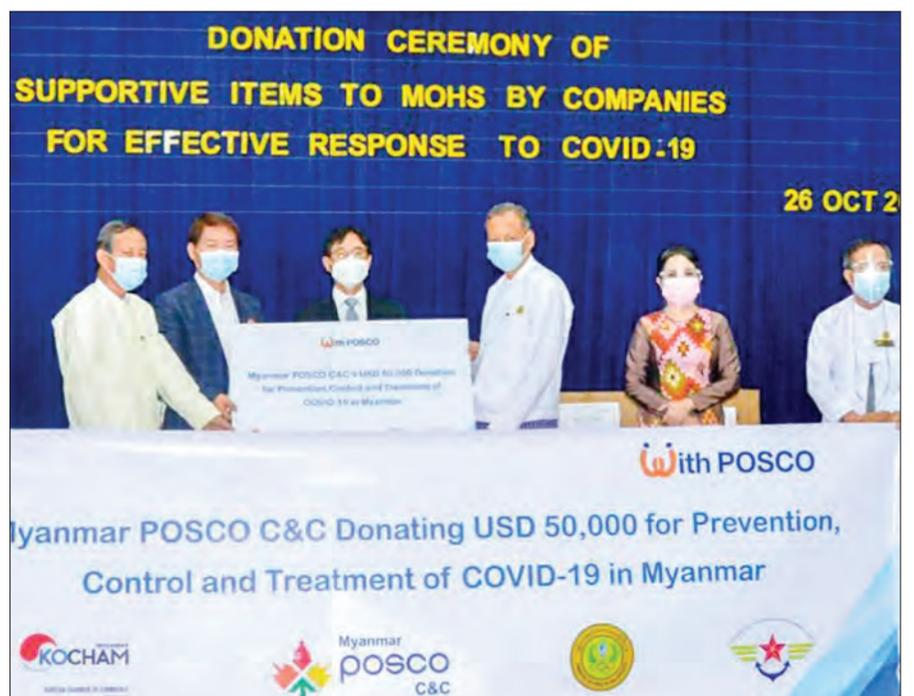
Myanmar POSCO C&C held a donation event to alleviate the 2nd pandemic of the Corona and donated USD50,000 (USD Fifty Thousand Only) to the National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at the Department of Medical Research in Yangon, hoping to return to normal daily routine as soon as possible.

Myanmar POSCO C&C Co., Ltd. Managing Director Mr Kang, Dong O donated USD50,000 to Director-General of the Department of Medical Research Dr Zaw

Than Tun.

Myanmar POSCO C&C, a joint venture with MEHL has been producing and selling plated/coloured steel sheets for the improvement and industrialization of Myanmar’s residential environment for over 20 years.

In addition to this corona donation, Myanmar POSCO C&C which has provided support for soccer event, replacing roofs and school facilities, plans to continue to carry out POSCO Group’s Corporate Citizenship activities in future.



FDI data shows positive signs of economy

OUR country's FDI - foreign direct investment target reached 98 per cent two months ahead of the end of the current fiscal year though the COVID-19 pandemic has hit our economy hard.

This shows that our country is one of the few countries that achieved positive growth during the pandemic.

Despite COVID-19 challenges, we could maintain the current growth trajectory thanks to the several advances the country has made including a new online Yangon Building Permit System and the recent transition to an online tax payment system.

Despite facing many challenges and uncertainties, we could manage to weather the economic storm.

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thauang Tun pledged recently that Myanmar would continue taking bold steps to ensure that investors can secure an even greater number of permits and approvals online, via single-digital-windows.

This is just a small indication of what the country has planned. The country is considering other ambitious initiatives.

Reaching Ninety-eight per cent of the FDI target two months ahead of the end of the fiscal year shows positive signs for our economy amidst COVID-19.

It also shows that many foreign investors still have a strong interest in investment opportunities in our country despite the pandemic-induced challenges.

The IMF forecasts Myanmar's growth at closer to 2 per cent - still placing us amongst a small handful of nations who will post positive growth this year. Thankfully, most forecasts suggest our rapid return to pre-crisis growth of 6 per cent plus in 2021.

To help our country's economy regain its momentum as soon as possible, business activities need to be able to resume normal operations, and it depends on our efforts

for mitigating the impacts of COVID-19.

Searching for innovative ways and new business strategies consistent with the COVID-19 health guidelines is a must to stay afloat during difficult times.

Disruptions to global economic activity that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic have negatively impacted foreign direct investment of the world's countries.

We are confident that the Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP) will ensure that we remain on track towards achieving the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Myanmar welcomes responsible, quality investment from wherever it may come and remains committed to providing a level playing field for all responsible investors seeking to do business, or to explore greener pastures in Myanmar.

Impacts of climate change on human health

By Khin Maung Myint

IN the articles related to the climate change written a few years back, I had discussed mainly, the factors that led to the deteriorations of the climatic conditions and their effects on the ecosystem and the Earth. After the recent collision of the climate change and the COVID-19, which sounded the warning siren of the dangers, risks and challenges due to this unholy association, I will be turning my attentions to the impacts of the climate change on human health and diseases.

In the case of the collision mentioned above, the climate change exacerbated the spread of the disease and increased its lethality. Here, I will be focusing on how the climate change is causing health problems on human beings. In the collision, the climate change played the role of the enabler, accelerator and multi-pathway crisis engine or just a supporting role. However, what will be discussed here will portray the climate change as the main instigator or the culprit behind the long term illnesses and seasonal health problems that humans are exposed to.

As widely acknowledged, the climate change, which is the result of the global warming, is causing extreme weather conditions. The most common are - extreme hot and cold weathers, droughts, extensive rain and snow falls, serious flooding, stronger and more devastating storms. Associated with these adverse weather conditions are a variety of diseases that usually follow in their wakes.

The climate change, together

with other natural and human-made health stressors, influences human healths and diseases. Some existing health threats will intensify and new health threats will emerge. Not everyone is equally at risk though. Important considerations should be placed on age, economic resources, and location.

Being in the tropics, our country is at much risks. From prolonged droughts to dangerous sun exposures, the weather affects human health in numerous ways. The climate change has already raised environmental health threats up a notch. Disease-carrying bugs have expanded their range, hotter heat waves last longer, and storms have gotten more extreme, giving way to many serious illness. The most common diseases that can be caused by extreme heat and drought are listed below.

Heat-aggravated illnesses

As global temperatures warm, hot days are expected to become more common and severe. Heat stroke and exhaustion are some of the most directly heat-related illnesses. The heat stress can also cause or exacerbate cardiovascular and kidney problems. Extreme heat events can be dangerous to health - even fatal. These events result in increased hospital admissions for heat related illness, as well as cardiovascular and respiratory disorders. Heat stroke and exhaustion are some of the most directly heat-related illnesses, but heat stress can also cause or exacerbate other related health problems.

Respiratory illnesses

Without reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric concentrations, climate change is expected to make air

quality worse. More and larger wildfires linked to climate change are significantly reducing air quality and affect peoples' health in a number of ways. Exposure to smoke increases acute respiratory illness, respiratory and cardiovascular hospitalizations, and hospital visits for lung illnesses. Today, the frequency of wildfires is expected to get high as droughts become more prevalent.

According to some studies climate change will affect human health by increasing ground-level ozone and/or particulate matter air pollution in some locations. Ground-level ozone, a key component of smog is associated with many health problems, including diminished lung function, increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for asthma, and increases in premature deaths. Warmer days lead to an increased amount of ground-level ozone, wildfires are burning bigger and more frequently, unleashing dangerous particles and gases into the air; and allergy seasons are lengthening and intensifying.

Diseases transmitted by insects and arachnids

As our planet warms up and frost-free seasons lengthen, disease-carrying creatures like mosquitoes and ticks are expected to expand their range and activity. Already, a certain type of mosquito, which thrives in warm climates and can be a vector for a variety of virus, of which dengue is one, has been expanding its range. This expansion of range can accelerate the spread of the disease far and wide.

Tick-borne diseases are also accelerated by climate change. In particular, warmer winters are

likely to increase the number of ticks that survive and lengthen their active season. It should also be noted that because ticks have long life cycles and are less mobile than flying insects, tick-borne diseases are likely to expand to other areas more slowly than mosquito-borne diseases. So, animal lovers should be more careful.

Access to safe food and water

The climate change is expected to affect, negatively in many cases, especially the crop yields and food security, as floods, droughts, and storms can wipe out farms and fields. Warmer summer temperatures may make growing some crops, for example corn, more difficult. The elevated levels of carbon dioxide will reduce the nutritional value of some crops like wheat and rice. Heat has also been known to reduce milk productions. Animals, both domesticated and wild, are dying from lack of foods and water. These situations supplement the shortage of nutritious food for human consumptions. Unavailability of sufficient safe food and water can be very concerning to human health and survival. Starvations and thirsts can lead to malnutritions and result in premature deaths.

Safety and well-being during extreme weather

From hurricanes to wildfires, the extreme weathers also pose health hazards - primary impacts include death, injury, or illness; worsening underlying medical conditions and adverse effects on mental health. Extreme weather can also exert pressures on healthcare infrastructures, making it more difficult for people to receive the care they need.

After the extreme weather

has passed, mental health challenges can linger. The most common mental health impacts after disasters are post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and general anxiety. Extreme weather isn't the only climate challenge condition expected to cause mental health. Conventional air pollutants also have been linked to anxiety and depression, and heat can cause mood changes and can fuel aggressive behaviour. Additionally, the very threat of climate change and uncertainty about the future can cause or contribute to anxiety and depression.

There are also other hazards that can appear after a storm has passed. For example, a damp or flooded building can develop mold. Mold affects indoor air quality. Living with poor air quality and in damp conditions has been shown to increase health problems. These health problems include aggravation of asthma and other symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and pneumonia due to mold exposure.

People living in drought conditions may be more likely to encounter certain dangerous situations. These can range from dust storms to flash floods. Wildfires associated with drought conditions greatly reduce air quality. This poor air quality affects people's health in a number of ways. Wildfire smoke exposure increases respiratory and cardiovascular hospitalizations and medical visits for lung illnesses. It also increases the need for treatments for asthma, bronchitis, and other breathing problems.

Conclusion

Although global warming may bring some localized benefits, such as fewer winter deaths in temperate climates and increased food

production in certain areas, the overall health effects of a changing climate are overwhelmingly negative. The climate change affects many of the social and environmental determinants of health - clean air; safe drinking water; sufficient safe food and secure shelter.

It is quite apparent that climate change is exacerbating the adverse health effects, but with every degree of warming that's avoided, lives can be saved. While the hospitals and medical professionals and volunteers are stretched to their limits coping with the numbers of COVID-19 cases, increase of patients from other diseases due to the climate change will be a double jeopardy.

Taking effective actions on the climate, both to reduce warming and to prepare communities to manage and treat associated health risks, is something that we should focus on. The controlling of the climate is not only the responsibility of the government, but also the public participations are of utmost necessity. No one is sure when this COVID-19 pandemic will come to an end. As we are destined to live with this pandemic for some time to come, let us try and keep the climate under control, as much as we can, and create a bright future in line with the new normal way of life.

Reference: -

1. *How Climate Change threatens Public Health* by Samantha Harrington - Yale Climate Connections.
2. *Climate Change and Public Health* - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



WHO chief warns against 'vaccine-nationalism'

THE head of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday called for global solidarity in the rollout of any future coronavirus vaccine, as the number of cases soared across the world.

In a video address at the opening of the three-day World Health Summit in Berlin, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the only way to recover from the pandemic was together and by making sure poorer countries had fair access to a vaccine.

"It is natural that countries

want to protect their own citizens first but if and when we have an effective vaccine, we must also use it effectively. And the best way to do that is to vaccinate some people in all countries rather than all people in some countries," he said.

"Let me be clear: vaccine nationalism will prolong the pandemic, not shorten it."

Scientists around the world are racing to develop a vaccine against Covid-19, which has killed over 1.1 million people.

Several dozen vaccine candi-

dates are currently being tested in clinical trials, ten of which are in the most advanced "phase 3" stage involving tens of thousands of volunteers.

The European Union, the United States, Britain, Japan and a slew of other nations have already placed large orders with the companies involved in developing the most promising vaccines.

But concerns are growing that countries with smaller wallets could be left at the back of the queue.

The WHO has launched an international scheme known as Covax to help ensure equitable access to jabs, but it has struggled to raise the funds needed.

'Greatest crisis'

The WHO on Sunday reported a third straight day of record new infections across the world, calling on countries to take further action to curb the spread of the disease.

The agency's figures showed that 465,319 cases were declared for Saturday alone, half of them in Europe.

"This is a dangerous moment for many countries in the northern hemisphere as cases spike," Tedros said.

But he added that people weren't powerless against the virus, stressing the importance of social distancing, hand washing, and meeting outdoors instead of inside.

"Again and again we have seen that taking the right actions quickly means the outbreak can be managed."

Speaking at the same summit, which is being held online this year;

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his video message called the pandemic "the greatest crisis of our times".

"We need global solidarity every step of the way," he said, echoing the plea for developed countries to support those with fewer resources.

"A vaccine must be global public good," Guterres said.

"Vaccines, tests and therapies are more than life savers. They are economy savers and society savers." —AFP

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 38 /2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 24 October.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 24 October. The full text of the press release will be reported in the 28 October issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 26 October, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 27 October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin and Shan(North and East) States, scattered in Bago Region, Southern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and fairly widespread 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 Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 October, 2020: Likelihood of Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 26-10-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded by about (3) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has reached its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (1) day.

Advisory

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

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New plane delivered to MAI

New plane of Myanmar Airways International for domestic flights arrives at Yangon International Airport on 26 Oct. **PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN**

THE new Embraer E 190-100 for Myanmar Airways International for domestic flights arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

MAI had planned to expand into domestic flights and ordered

four Embraer E 190 planes before COVID-19. The new plane is the first to arrive and reached Yangon from Guangzhou, China, with the MAI logo and paint job.

MAI plans to use the new planes to fly travellers to remote

areas of Myanmar that are hard to reach by car, train or boat. They plan to schedule flights to Putao, Myitkyina, Kawthoung, Myeik, Dawei, Kengtung, Heho, Sittway, NyaungU, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.

The new domestic flights will have MAI pilots, cabin crews and staff set to international standard services with the safety of the Embraer E 190 planes. —Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Perishable food carriers to be prioritized for COVID-19 test

THE drivers of perishable food trucks will be prioritized to carry out antigen rapid test kits so that they can pass Mandalay Region as the soonest, said U Okkar Kyaw, general secretary of Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRC-CI).

The truck drivers and assistants have to take COVID-19

tests with test kits at the inspection checkpoint before entering the region. The move is aimed at ensuring those carriers of foods are free from the coronavirus, yet it causes trade delay and harms the quality of the foods.

As a result of this, the traders and drivers called for Mandalay Region government and the relevant organizations to deal

with that problem. Consequently, those carriers of perishable foods are to be favoured during the COVID-19 testing.

Those perishable foods are fish, prawn, crab, chick, pork, mutton, beef, flower and vegetable.

There are ten checkpoints to test the drivers of the trucks before entering the Mandalay

Region. The expansion of checkpoints is now from 10 to 12. The COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee of the Mandalay Region have informed the respective health departments to do a favour on the drivers of perishable food trucks. —Aung Thura

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MIC receives over \$3 bln worth 24 FDI proposals for current FY

By Nyein Nyein

TWENTY-FOUR foreign investment proposals, with an estimated capital of over US\$3 billion, have been so far submitted to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) for the current financial year 2020-2021, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"For the current FY, MIC is reviewing 24 proposals and discussions are ongoing.

The FDI proposals are worth \$3.5 billion", said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Those businesses were submitted to MIC in the last FY2019-2020. However, those project proposals required MIC permit as they have large capital investments. We need to assess the projects which are strategic to the government, he continued.

"Some enterprises might bring benefits to the country, but some requires to pass the assessment of the commission as they are strategic to the Union. The project propos-

als are also to be forwarded to the ministry concerned and the relevant committee to assess. Those businesses, with large capitals, possible impacts on the environment and the local community, vast areas of land, are designated by the government to need MIC permit," the DICA director-general said.

MIC intends to reach the FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the current FY2020-2021.

The country fell short of the FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the 2019-2020 financial year due to

the COVID-19 impacts, registering FDI inflows of only \$5.68 billion, according to data from the DICA.

Therefore, MIC will critique the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP). The commission and Japan International Cooperation Agency will jointly review the MIPP due to the coronavirus crisis, to boost the agricultural, health, industrial and digitization sectors for the post-coronavirus era, he confirmed.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CARBON NEUTRALITY

Japan PM Suga vows goal of net zero emissions by 2050

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Monday pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions in Japan to net zero by 2050 in his first policy speech in parliament.

In his address at the start of the 41-day extraordinary Diet session through Dec. 5, Suga also called for balancing measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus with the promotion of economic growth, while reiterating his resolve to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics next summer.

“Response to global warming is no longer a constraint on economic growth,” Suga said. “We need to change our mindset that proactively taking measures against global warming will bring about changes to industrial structures, as well as the economy and society, and lead to major growth.”

Suga’s new goal on greenhouse gas emissions is a step forward from the government’s previous target of reducing emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.

His pledge came as more countries seek to go carbon-free. China, the world’s largest con-

sumer of coal, announced its plan to become carbon-neutral by 2060 at the UN General Assembly last month. To work toward the new emissions target, Suga said Japan will try to introduce renewable energy sources as much as possible and push forward its nuclear power policy.

Suga also said he will continue pursuing “Abenomics,” the economic policies of his predecessor Shinzo Abe marked by bold monetary easing by the central bank, fiscal stimulus and structural reforms to spur growth.

As the coronavirus pandemic has battered the country’s economy to its worst level in the postwar era, Suga said, “We will absolutely prevent the explosive spread of infections and protect the lives and health of the people, and resume social and economic activities to revive the economy.”

The 71-year-old leader said the government will secure enough COVID-19 vaccines for all people in Japan in the first half of next year after confirming its safety and effectiveness.

At the same time, the premier said Japan will aim to make online medical examinations a

permanent system and diversify supply chains, to ensure there is no repeat of the country suffering shortages of face masks and protective gowns as it did in the first few months of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

Suga said he is “determined” to hold the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics next summer after the sporting event was postponed for one year due to the pandemic.

He reiterated that holding the games would be “proof that humanity has defeated the virus.”

During the extraordinary Diet session, the government will submit a total of nine bills, including one for revising a law on vaccination to make the state cover compensation to be paid by drugmakers in case their vaccines for the novel coronavirus causes health damage.

It will also submit the economic partnership agreement with the United Kingdom for approval to pave the way for its implementation on Jan. 1 next year and ensure continuity in trade and investment beyond the end of London’s transition period out of the European Union.

On foreign affairs, Suga said,



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Oct. 26, 2020.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

like Abe, that he will place priority on resolving the long-standing issue of North Korea’s abductions of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s, and that he is ready to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un without preconditions to that end.

While describing the Japan-U.S. security alliance as the cornerstone of Tokyo’s diplomacy, Suga said he will work on reducing the burden on the southern island prefecture of Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of U.S. forces in the country.—Kyodo News ■

TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS

Ukraine local elections ‘transparent’: observers

KIEV (Ukraine) — International observers said Monday that local elections in Ukraine — which exit polls predict to be a setback for President Volodymyr Zelensky — were “well-organized and transparent”.

On Sunday, the ex-Soviet state of some 40 million people voted to elect mayors and local councils, with no polls in Russia-annexed Crimea and eastern

regions controlled by pro-Russian separatists.

“In the limited number of polling stations visited, the voting process was generally calm, well-organized and transparent,” observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said in a statement.

The mission with 66 observers across the country noted

that “party observers interfered with or participated in the (vote) counting process in several cases”.

Exit polls showed that in nine major cities and regional centres no candidate from the president’s Servant of the People party was elected mayor — not even in Zelensky’s hometown.

The local elections were seen as a test for former comedian Zelensky, whose popularity has suffered in the year-and-a-half since he came to power with a landslide victory.

“Contestants were able to campaign freely, but cases of abuse of state resources and of office, as well as widespread allegations of vote-buying, were of concern,” observers from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights said.

“The elections were administered professionally and efficiently despite challenges posed by the pandemic and remaining shortcomings in the election laws,” they added.—AFP ■



A handout picture taken and released by Ukrainian Presidential press office on October 25, 2020 shows Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky receiving his ballot to cast in a polling station in Kiev during local elections in Ukraine on October 25, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

CEASEFIRE FAILED

Third attempt at Karabakh ceasefire quickly collapses

STEPANAKERT (Azerbaijan) — A third attempt at halting weeks of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh collapsed quickly on Monday with Armenia and Azerbaijan trading accusations of violating the US-brokered ceasefire within minutes.

As fighting over the disputed region enters its second month, international mediators are scrambling to bring a stop to frontline clashes and shelling of civilian areas that have left hundreds dead.

The latest “humanitarian ceasefire” was announced by Washington on Sunday, after truces brokered by Russia and France fell apart over previous weekends.

It took less than an hour after the ceasefire was due to begin at 8:00 am (0400 GMT) for the first accusations to be made.

Azerbaijan’s foreign min-

istry said Armenian forces had shelled the town of Terter and nearby villages in “gross violation” of the truce.

Armenia’s defence ministry said Azerbaijani forces had violated the truce with artillery fire on combat positions in various parts of the frontline.

Karabakh’s rights ombudsman said a missile strike had hit a village in the region, killing one civilian and wounding two others.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been locked in a bitter conflict over Karabakh since Armenian separatists backed by Yerevan seized control of the mountainous province in a 1990s war that left 30,000 people dead.

Karabakh’s self-declared independence has not been recognised internationally, even by Armenia, and it remains a part of Azerbaijan under international law.—AFP ■

Coronavirus: latest global developments

ARIS (France) — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

European cases soar

Europe confronts a surge in coronavirus cases, with Spain announcing a national state of emergency and overnight curfews across the country except the Canary Islands and France setting a daily record of more than 50,000 infections.

Hugely unpopular new restrictions also come into force in Italy, including the closure of theatres, cinemas and gyms and earlier last orders for bars and restaurants. Stock markets are lower in European afternoon trading as traders worry about the economic impact of new containment measures.

Trump 'ignored' Covid 19: Biden

With nine days to go to the US presidential election, Democratic challenger Joe Biden accuses Donald Trump of giving up in the fight against Covid-19.



A man wearing a face mask as a precaution against the transmission of the novel coronavirus walks past a mural in Dublin on October 21, 2020 as Ireland prepares to enter a second national lockdown to stem the spread of the virus that causes Covid-19. PHOTO: AFP

Trump's strategy has been "to wave the white flag of defeat and hope that by ignoring it, the virus would simply go away," Biden says in a statement. "It hasn't, and it won't."

More than 1.1 million dead

The virus has claimed at least 1,155,301 lives worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT on Monday based on official sources.

At least 43,080,506 cases have been registered across the globe.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 225,239 deaths, followed by Brazil with 157,134, India with 119,014, Mexico with 88,924 and Britain with 44,896.

Melbourne lockdown lifted

Australia's second-biggest city Melbourne will midnight Tuesday into Wednesday exit its coronavirus lockdown following

more than three months under onerous restrictions. The easing comes after Melbourne and the surrounding Victoria state recorded the first 24-hour period without any new Covid-19 cases since June 8, ahead of a major outbreak in July. It is good news for the city's big-ticket sporting events, with fans expected to be allowed into the blockbuster Boxing Day cricket Test between Australia and India, while the tennis Australian Open is expected to take place in January.

Merkel party postpones leadership congress

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU party says it will push back a congress planned for early December to elect a new leader due to a surge in coronavirus infections. The conservative party's top brass will reexamine the situation in mid-December to determine its next steps, general secretary Paul Ziemiak says.

Lufthansa could shed 30,000 jobs

Europe's largest airline Lufthansa warns that 30,000 jobs are under threat as it scales down its winter schedule to levels not seen since the 1970s as demand for travel collapses because of the pandemic.

The executive board of the German flag carrier says in a letter to employees that it is now "harder than ever" to predict how the aviation industry will develop given there is little clarity over how long travel warnings would be applied or how quickly any recovery could come.

Israel to begin vaccinetrial

Israel will begin its first clinical trials of a novel coronavirus vaccine next month as the country grapples with a second wave of infections. "Our final goal is 15 million rations for the residents of the state of Israel and for our close neighbours," says the Institute for Biological Research (IBR), which has been tasked by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with developing a vaccine.—AFP ■

Anger over Italy virus rules as curfews enforced around Europe

ROME (Italy) — Anger was growing in Italy Monday over harsh new coronavirus restrictions brought in to "save Christmas", while other hard-hit countries enforced curfews in a bid to avoid fresh national lockdowns.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's decision to close restaurants and bars from 6:00 pm and shut all theatres, cinemas and gyms for a month was widely criticized, even as scientists questioned whether it would be enough to stop the virus.

"These restrictions will be the end of us," said Giuseppe Tonon, 70, the owner of a restaurant in Oderzo, a small village in northeastern Italy.

"We're not in a city centre, we're in the provinces. Our customers come in the evening or during the weekend," he told AFP after a photograph of him, slumped in despair at the news, went viral on social media.

Countries across Europe are seeing dramatic spikes in cases, and governments are taking drastic action.

Spain imposed a new national state of emergency and overnight curfews, while France set a daily record of more than 50,000 cases and extended an overnight curfew to cover areas home to around 46 million people.

Covid-19 has now claimed the lives of 1.1 million people and infected more than 43 million globally.

The United States — still the worst-hit country — smashed its own record for new daily cases this weekend, pushing the issue up the agenda in the nation's presidential election campaign.

Challenger Joe Biden accused President Donald Trump's administration of waving "the white flag of defeat" after a senior official conceded the government was not going to control the pandemic.

But the battle was being won elsewhere: Australia's second biggest city Melbourne registered no new cases on Monday, and was set to exit lockdown this week after nearly four months of onerous restrictions.—AFP ■

"Healing robots" help ease COVID-19 isolation

NAGOYA — While many people have learned to stay in touch with loved ones, friends, and colleagues through videoconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the reduction of face-to-face interaction has boosted a market for robots providing substitutes for physical human contact.

"Healing robots", such as the cuddly humanoid Lovot developed by Groove X Inc., Sony Corp.'s Aibo robotic dog, and Qoobo, a furry cushion with a tail that moves in reaction to strokes developed by Yukai Engineering Inc., are seeing sharp sales rises, the companies say.

Lovot and Aibo can gather data on the well-being of their owners and report it remotely, which is why some people are gifting the automatons to their elderly parents living far away whom they are refraining from visiting due to infection risks.

"When people feel uneasy or lonely, they tend to yearn for a sense of physical touch," Hiroshi Ishiguro, a professor of intelligent robotics at Osaka University, said in explaining the reason behind the trend.

"Through healing robots, they must be trying to confirm the actual existence of others, which is hard to really feel on the



People look at Japanese tech venture Groove X Inc.'s LOVOT home robots, designed to "enhance levels of comfort and feelings of love," on sale at the Takashimaya department store adjacent to JR Nagoya Station in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on Oct. 2, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

telephone or through videoconferencing," he said.

Lovot, a mascot-like robot with round eyes that stands 43 centimetres tall, has even found

its way into a kindergarten in Nagoya, central Japan, to help young children who may be affected by the emotional stresses created by the pandemic.—AFP ■

JAL mulls raising up to 300 billion yen in capital

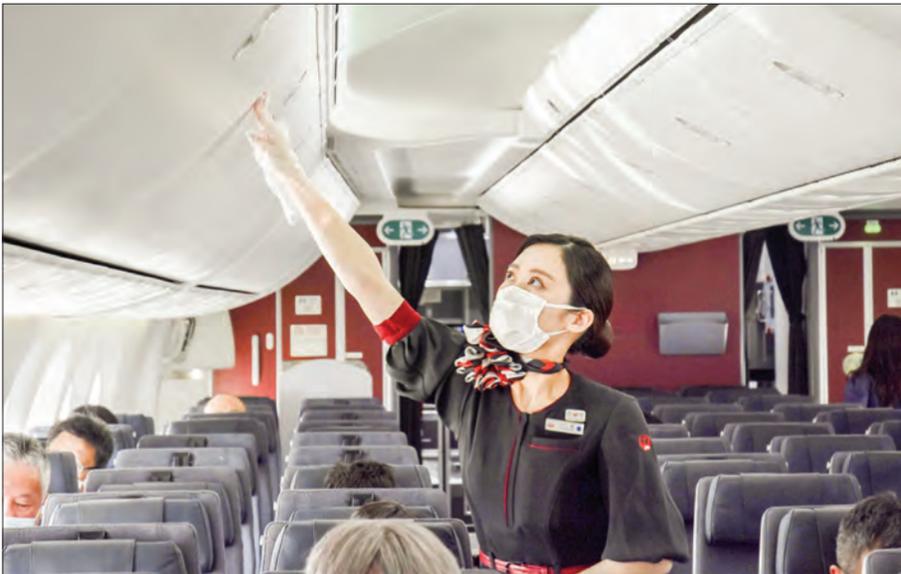
TOKYO — Japan Airlines Co. is considering raising up to 300 billion yen (\$2.9 billion) in capital while expecting to post an operating loss of around 85 billion yen for the three months through September, hit by a sharp fall in the number of international passengers due to the coronavirus pandemic, sources close to the matter said Monday.

JAL could take out subordinated loans, which would allow the airline to count part of the debt as capital, as the impact of the novel coronavirus continues to gut demand for air travel, according to the sources.

Seeing the need to strengthen its financial standing by next spring, JAL is hoping to begin full-blown negotiations on its capital-raising plan with a group of banks by the year-end, the sources said.

JAL has already informally informed its lenders of such a view, the sources said, adding possible options to raise capital also include the issuance of subordinated corporate bonds and a public offering.

Another major Japanese carrier, ANA Holdings Inc., the parent of All Nippon Airways Co., is also expected to unveil a plan on Tuesday to secure 400



A Japan Airlines Co. flight attendant checks overhead bins ahead of a flight from Tokyo's Haneda airport on June 17, 2020. Airlines are stepping up hygiene measures amid continued worries about the novel coronavirus. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

billion yen from Japanese banks in subordinated loans, which will be paid off after other primary corporate debts are repaid, company sources said earlier this month.

JAL's estimated red ink for the July-September period would mark an improvement from its operating loss of 131.01 billion yen in the previous quarter, as it has implemented cost-cutting measures and benefited from a government program launched in late July that subsidizes 35 per cent of domestic travel expenses.

JAL filed for bankruptcy in 2010, which emptied it from repaying remaining loans of over 500 billion yen following

restructuring efforts, eventually enabling the company to have a higher capital adequacy ratio than rival ANA.

JAL relisted in 2012 after cutting over 100 aircraft and about 16,000 employees.

JAL is scheduled to release its first-half earnings report on Friday. So far, the airline has withheld earnings projections for the current business year through March, citing uncertainty due to the pandemic.

According to JAL data, its international passengers plunged 97.5 per cent in July and 96.9 per cent in August from a year earlier, while its domestic passengers dropped 64.7

per cent in July and 71.7 per cent in August.

Despite the business challenges, JAL's capital adequacy ratio has remained more stable than that of many foreign carriers, at 45.9 per cent as of the end of June.

Meanwhile, ANA is expecting to book a record annual net loss of around 530 billion yen, company sources said last week, ahead of the release on Tuesday of its earnings results for the April-September period.

As part of restructuring efforts, ANA plans to slash up to 30 large jets and around 3,500 jobs from its current group workforce of about 46,000 by fiscal 2022.—Kyodo News ■

Asian markets drop as US stimulus remains elusive

HONG KONG (China) — Asian markets mostly fell Monday with traders increasingly pessimistic that US lawmakers will pass a new stimulus package before next week's election, while spiking virus cases fanned worries about the economic impact of new containment measures.

Despite months of arduous talks in Washington, there appears to be little chance Republicans and Democrats will hammer out a rescue deal to help hard-strapped Americans, with both sides blaming each other for the impasse.

Analysts said investors had essentially given up hope of an agreement being made any time soon,

and were now betting on Joe Biden and a Democratic sweep of Congress that would open the way for an even bigger spending package in the new year.

"There is very limited incentive on both sides to get a deal done," Joseph Shaposhnik, a portfolio manager at TCW, told Bloomberg TV.

"The market has baked that in, has baked in the election and is looking out six months and thinking what are the odds life begins to normalise, a vaccine is introduced."

Adding to the negative sentiment is a surge of coronavirus cases across the United States and

Europe, with the World Health Organization on Sunday reporting a third straight day of record new infections globally.

The virus has now claimed the lives of 1.1 million people and infected more than 42 million around the world.

The new wave has already forced governments in several countries including Britain, Germany and France to reimpose tough restrictions to prevent the disease from spreading.

"The US stimulus stalemate is now getting amplified through concerns about rising virus cases that could ultimately result in more stringent mobility restrictions and

could even force additional business closures, which will most certainly put the economic recovery on the back foot into year-end," said Axi strategist Stephen Innes.

Tokyo, Shanghai, Sydney, Mumbai, Seoul and Singapore all fell, though there were gains in Taipei, Manila and Jakarta.

Hong Kong was closed for a holiday.

Traders are also keeping tabs on a key policy-setting meeting of China's Communist Party this week, which is expected set the course for the world's second-biggest economy for the next several years with an eye on US relations.—AFP ■

WTO members greenlight EU sanctions against US over Boeing aid

GENEVA (Switzerland) — World Trade Organization members gave the green light Monday for Brussels to slap tariffs on \$4.0 billion in US imports annually in retaliation for illegal American aid to plane maker Boeing.

A WTO arbitrator had ruled on October 13 that the retaliatory sanctions were warranted, but the move needed to be approved by the organiza-

tion's 164 member states before the European Union could go ahead.

During a meeting in Geneva on Monday, "WTO members approved the European Union's request for authorization to impose retaliatory measures against the United States for its failure to comply with the WTO ruling regarding US government subsidies for Boeing," a WTO official said.—AFP ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° 56870. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Lot	Description	Types
G-164	1	Supply of Palintest REAGENTS for the water quality testing kits currently in use in about fifty townships	12

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the full coordinates of the interested supplier and one or more of the reference number(s) here above.

Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ) including all useful information to prepare the Quotation(s). Only electronic copies of the ITQ will be sent to the e-mail address(es) indicated in the Expressions of Interest. Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline date and time indicated in each of the ITQ listed above, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

For the ITQ comprising different Lots, Quotations will be evaluated on a Lot by Lot basis and the contracts awarded to the quotation with the lowest evaluated price per Lot.

Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: Project Director Daw Nyo Nyo Win, NCDD Project Secretariat, Department of Rural Development, Office N°36, Nay Pyi Taw. Telephone (95-67) 418604. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067418633, Email: procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org.

For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ZHE HAI 520 V.2008

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ZHE HAI 520 VOY. NO. (2008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-10-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MKH 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE (S) PTE LTD

CONSPIRACY THEORY



Early voting signs are seen during Democratic Vice Presidential Nominee Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) campaign stop at the Troy Community Centre on October 25, 2020 in Troy, Michigan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Early US voting surpasses 2016, nine days before election

WASHINGTON (United States) — Early voting in the 2020 US election has surpassed all the pre-election ballots from four years earlier, an independent vote monitor said Sunday, with nine days still to go before the November 3 poll.

Millions of Americans wary of crowded polling booths during the coronavirus pandemic and energized by an election fight that both President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden have framed as existential are smashing records for casting ballots, whether by mail or in person.

The tally by the independent US Election Project, run by the University of Florida, said that as of Sunday more than 59 million people had voted so far.

That is higher than the 57 million who voted early or by mail in 2016, according to the

US Election Assistance Commission website.

So far, Democrats -- who have encouraged early voting -- have been leading the way, but whether that means Biden can breathe easy remains to be seen.

Trump for months has been claiming, without evidence, that mail-in ballots lead to fraud, and many Republicans are expected to vote on Election Day.

With coronavirus cases spiking across the country, however, Michael McDonald -- a political science professor at the University of Florida who administers the Election Project -- warned that the strategy "looks all the more risky."

"What if at least some of his voters decide not to vote? What if a polling place becomes unavailable or an election office shuts down?" he tweeted.

The Election Project has predicted that turnout this year could top 150 million in total. Some 137 million ballots were cast in the 2016 election.

Some states key to the 2020 outcome were also firmly on the path to breaking records, such as Texas, where the Election Project said Sunday that 80 per cent of the early 2016 vote had already turned out.

"Folks, Texas still has in-person early voting until Friday, plus Election Day. No doubt Texas turnout will be above 2016. Question is, how much?" McDonald tweeted.

The election in Texas, traditionally a conservative bastion which has backed Republican candidates since 1980, is under close scrutiny, with some polls showing Biden in a position to edge out Trump.—AFP ■

SYRIAN AIRSTRIKES INTENSIFY

Russia strikes kill 56 Turkey-backed rebels in Syria: monitor

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Air strikes by Syrian regime ally Russia killed 56 fighters from a Turkey-backed rebel group in northwest Syria on Monday, a Britain-based war monitor said.

Russian warplanes also wounded 100 people when they targeted a training camp of the Faylaq al-Sham faction in the Jabal Duwayli area in Idlib province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

In March, a fragile truce brokered between Moscow and Ankara stemmed a deadly months-long Russia-backed regime military offensive on the country's last major rebel stronghold in Idlib that displaced almost a million people from their homes.

The National Liberation Front, an umbrella group of Ankara-backed rebels, told AFP that Russian strikes on Monday

had hit one of its positions and caused casualties, but did not give an exact death toll.

NLF spokesman Sayf Raad denounced the "Russian aircraft and regime forces continuously violating the Turkish-Russian deal in targeting military positions, villages and towns".

The March truce has largely held with the exception of some bombardment and intermittent air strikes on the area, including a US drone strike on Thursday that killed 17 jihadists, according to the Observatory.

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, and allied rebels dominate the region of some three million people, many living in camps after being displaced by the nine-year war.

After a string of military victories backed by Russia, the Syrian government has regained



Syrians take part in the funeral of 10 fighters with the Turkey-backed Faylaq al-Sham rebel faction in Syria, in the northwestern city of Idlib, on October 26, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

control of around 70 per cent of the country, the Observatory says.

The war, which broke out after the brutal suppression of anti-government protests in

2011, has killed more than 380,000 people and displaced millions from their homes.—AFP ■

CHILEANS ON REFERENDUM

Chileans vote overwhelmingly for new constitution: partial results

SANTIAGO (Chile) — Chileans voted overwhelmingly to replace their dictatorship-era constitution in a referendum Sunday, partial results showed, setting

off celebrations in the capital.

The "Approve" vote to throw-out a constitution seen as underpinning the nation's glaring inequalities led by 77.50 per

cent to 22.50 per cent, with over 19 per cent of the votes counted.

Horn-blasting cars circulated in the center of the capital celebrating victory for the "Approve"

campaign within minutes of the polls closing.

Crowds gathered near Plaza Italia, the epicenter of months of protests, where the word "Re-

birth" was projected onto the city's Telefonica telecommunications tower.

Full results were expected later Sunday.—AFP ■

STUDENT-LED RALLIES DEMAND A REWRITE OF CONSTITUTION

Thai PM says 'illegal protests' must be controlled as parliament opens



Pro-democracy protesters wearing protective gear march on the way to the German embassy during an anti-government rally in Bangkok on October 26, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha said Thailand needs to bring “illegal protests” under control on Monday as he opened a special parliamentary session to address months of pro-democracy rallies.

Prayut, the former military chief who staged the 2014 coup, has faced increasing pressure in recent weeks from tens of thousands of protesters demanding his resignation.

The student-led rallies are also calling for a rewrite of the

military-scripted constitution and an end to alleged government harassment of political opponents, as well as reform of the once-unassailable monarchy.

“Though the people have the freedom to protest based on the constitution, authorities need to

control the illegal protests,” said Prayut, who recalled parliament from recess last week.

“We do not want to see clashes or riots in the country,” he said, accusing some protesters of “inappropriate actions”.

While Prayut acknowledged the protesters’ demands in his opening speech, the two-day parliamentary session has not listed them on its agenda.

But parliament will discuss an incident this month when protesters flashed three-finger salutes -- a symbol of their movement -- at Queen Suthida’s motorcade.

Such an overt challenge is unprecedented in Thailand, where the royal family is protected under harsh anti-defamation laws and criticism of them is taboo.

“The protesters say it was not in the plan for the Queen to pass that way, but the government says she can go anywhere,” said Tankhun Jittitsara, one of the secretaries of House Speaker Chuan Leekpai.

“No one knows the truth so we’ll talk about that.” —AFP ■

Philippines’ ambassador to Brazil ordered home after ‘mistreating’ employee

MANILA (Philippines) — The Philippines ordered its ambassador to Brazil to return home Monday after video footage showed her “mistreating” a Filipino domestic helper.

Marichu Mauro, who was posted to Brazil in 2018 and also had jurisdiction over Colombia, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela, was under investigation, the foreign ministry said. —AFP ■

Malaysia to host APEC summit virtually on Nov. 20

KUALA LUMPUR — The annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum will be held virtually on Nov. 20 due to the coronavirus pandemic, host Malaysia announced Monday.

The summit that brings together leaders from 21 member economies was originally set to take place in Kuala Lumpur as an in-person meeting on Nov. 12. —AFP ■

A HIGH-PROFILE FIGURE WHO TESTED COVID POSITIVE

India’s central bank governor tests positive for Covid-19

MUMBAI (India) — India’s central bank Shaktikanta Das on Sunday said he has tested positive for the novel coronavirus, one of the most high-profile figures in the world’s second most-infection nation to contract the infectious disease.

“I have tested COVID-19 positive. Asymptomatic. Feeling very much alright,” the 63-year-old tweeted.

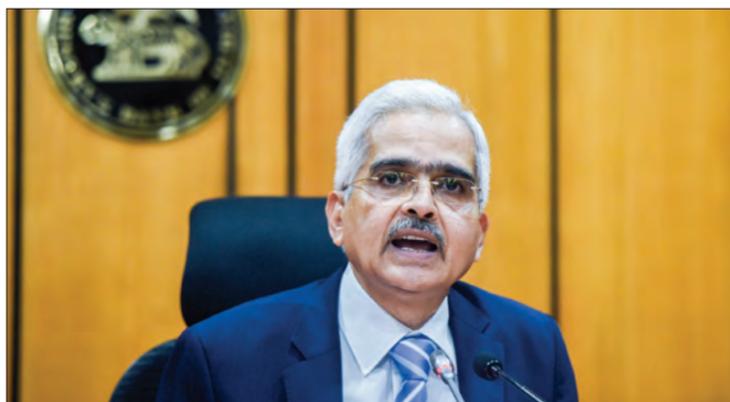
“Have alerted those who came in contact in recent days. Will continue to work from isolation. Work in RBI (Reserve Bank of India) will go on normally.”

India has recorded more than 7.8 million infections, second only to the United States, and

more than 118,000 deaths.

The outbreak has spread in the vast nation of 1.3 billion people from major cities like the capital New Delhi and financial hub Mumbai to regional and rural areas. Other major public figures who contracted the pathogen in the South Asian nation include Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan and powerful Indian Home Minister Amit Shah.

Das, as RBI governor, has been part of efforts to shore up India’s faltering economy, which was already faltering before the pandemic hit and has been slumping further following the months-long strict virus lockdown. The government has eased



Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Shaktikanta Das speaks during a press conference in Mumbai on March 16, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

restrictions to revive economic activity even as an average of 50,000 new infections are detected each day. India’s economic growth shrunk by 23.9 per cent

between April and June and the International Monetary Fund said earlier this month that it would contract by 10.3 per cent for the year. —AFP ■

Pakistan opens first metro line after years of delays

LAHORE (Pakistan) — Pakistan’s first metro line began operations Monday in the eastern city of Lahore following years of delays, in a country severely lacking public transport or modern infrastructure.

Stretching 27 kilometres and dotted with more than two dozen stations, the Chinese-backed “Orange Line” will cut travel time across the perennially congested city in Punjab province from two-and-a-half hours by bus to 45 minutes on the metro.

—AFP ■

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FORCED INTO EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Seven fishermen missing as Typhoon Molave drenches Philippines

POLA (Philippines) — Searches were under way Monday for seven fishermen in the Philippines as a typhoon swept across the archipelago, flooding low-lying areas and forcing thousands of people into emergency shelters.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 130 kilometres (80 miles) per hour, Typhoon Molave made landfall Sunday on the southern end of the main island of Luzon before moving west across the country.

Villages and farmland in the typhoon’s path were flooded while powerful winds toppled trees and power lines.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said no deaths had been

recorded.

More than 70,000 people had sought shelter in evacuation centres in the Bicol region, Civil Defense said.

Search operations for 12 fishermen reported missing across

three areas in Bicol have so far located five of them alive, it added.

And at least two people were injured by a falling tree in Oriental Mindoro province, its governor told local broadcaster Teleradyo. —AFP ■

AFC invites fans to vote favourite MNL football teams

THE Asian Football Confederation has recently invited football fans to vote their favourite Myanmar National League football clubs to select the most popular football club in Myanmar, according to the statement with the AFC.

There are four Myanmar National League teams running in the AFC vote list, and they are Yangon United in the first place, MNL defending champions Shan United in the second place, Yadanarbon FC in the third and Ayeyarwady United in the fourth place respectively.

Fans can vote their favourite Myanmar teams on the official website of the AFC named www.the-AFC.com.

The poll will end on 30 October, according to the AFC.

“As AFC continues its series looking at the most popular clubs across the Continent, we stay in ASEAN to focus on Myanmar and ask you, the fans, to vote for your number one team.

The Myanmar National League in its current guise is among the newer leagues in Southeast Asia having only launched in 2009 since when three sides have shared the title and a total of six teams have appeared in the AFC Cup.

Based on both success domestically and abroad, as well as a fanbase, we’ve selected four sides as Myanmar’s most popular clubs. Review the candidates and tell us your favourite”, AFC authorities said.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Yangon United football stars are seen after a previous Myanmar National League match. PHOTO: AFC

Ronaldinho tests positive for Covid-19

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil) — Former Brazil playmaker Ronaldinho said on Sunday he had contracted coronavirus but had no symptoms.

The 40-year-old ex-Barcelona and AC Milan midfielder, who won the Champions League and World Cup in an illustrious career, will remain in isolation in a Belo Horizonte hotel.

“Hi friends, family, fans, I took a Covid-19 test and the result was positive, I’m doing well, I’m asymptomatic for now,” he

said in a video posted on Instagram.

In August, Ronaldinho returned to Brazil following more than five months in detention in Paraguay over a fake passport scandal.

The former Ballon d’Or winner and his brother had both been held for a month in jail and another four months under house arrest in a hotel in Asuncion. Brazil has registered more than 156,000 deaths from coronavirus, behind only the US in terms of fatalities. —AFP ■



(FILES) In this file photo taken on August 25, 2020 Former football star Ronaldinho (C) is pictured upon arriving on a private jet at El Galeao airport in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, following more than five months in detention in Paraguay over a fake passport scandal. PHOTO: AFP

Crisis never far away for Zidane as Real Madrid doubts linger

MADRID (Spain) — Real Madrid have released the pressure on Zinedine Zidane temporarily, with the next job to fix their dismal start in the Champions League.

Madrid’s 3-1 victory over Barcelona in the Clasico on Saturday swerved a third consecutive defeat after losses to Cadiz in La Liga and Shakhtar Donetsk.

“There are always bad spells,” said Sergio Ramos. “Hopefully this one has only lasted a week.”

But the effects of the implosion against Shakhtar, who had 10 first team players missing due to coronavirus infections, still linger, with Madrid sitting bottom of Group B.

A win away to Borussia Monchengladbach on Tuesday would limit the damage, especially after Monchengladbach’s draw with Inter Milan kept the group tight.

And Zidane will know a convincing performance in Germany should suspend talk of a crisis and dispel doubts about his future, at least for now.

Even for Real Madrid, two defeats seemed scant ammunition for the uncertainty around their coach that followed.

Some reports in the Spanish press were even discussing the arrival of Mauricio Pochettino if



Real Madrid’s French coach Zinedine Zidane reacts during the UEFA Champions League group B football match between Real Madrid and Shakhtar Donetsk at the Alfredo di Stefano stadium in Valdebebas on the outskirts of Madrid on October 21, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

mistakes were not rectified at Camp Nou.

“I have always been critical of myself, it is what drives you to improve,” said Zidane. “After a loss, as a coach, most of the criticism comes at me and that’s normal.”

The quickness to question the Frenchman has become a regular feature of his tenure, even while the players sing his praises and the trophies have poured in.

It was only three months ago Real Madrid were winning their second La Liga title of his three full seasons in charge, to go with three triumphs in the Champions League.

Success, though, has never been enough for Zidane. His reputation as a man-manager has always been a back-handed compliment, even if getting the best out of good players is surely the key to being the coach of a team like Real Madrid.

Barcelona wanted a return to the club’s DNA by putting Quique Setien and now Ronald Koeman in charge - but few could argue they are not worse off now than under the more pragmatic Ernesto Valverde.

The decision to sack Valverde was “not coherent or logical”, Gerard Pique told Catalan newspaper La Vanguardia on Friday.—AFP ■