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Thursday, 19 November 2020

Prime Ministers of Cambodia and Bangladesh send Congratulatory messages to State Counsellor

The following are the congratulatory messages from Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Mrs Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh sent to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for the successful General Election held on 8 November 2020.

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen congratulates the State Counsellor

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency on leading the National League for Democracy (NLD) to another landslide victory in Myanmar's General Elections on 8 November 2020. The results have shown the trust and overwhelm support of the people of Myanmar to Your Excellency's leadership and NLD's rightful policy.

Under Your Excellency's stewardship, Myanmar has achieved remarkable progress in her national development. I am confident that with the new mandate of the NLD, Myanmar will continue to further promote democratic values, paving the way for inclusive and durable peace, stability and prosperity in the country.

I look forward to continue working closely with Your Excellency to further advance the existing good

relations and fruitful cooperation between Cambodia and Myanmar for mutual benefits of our two peoples and the ASEAN Community as a whole.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for your good health, happiness and greater success in your noble tasks.

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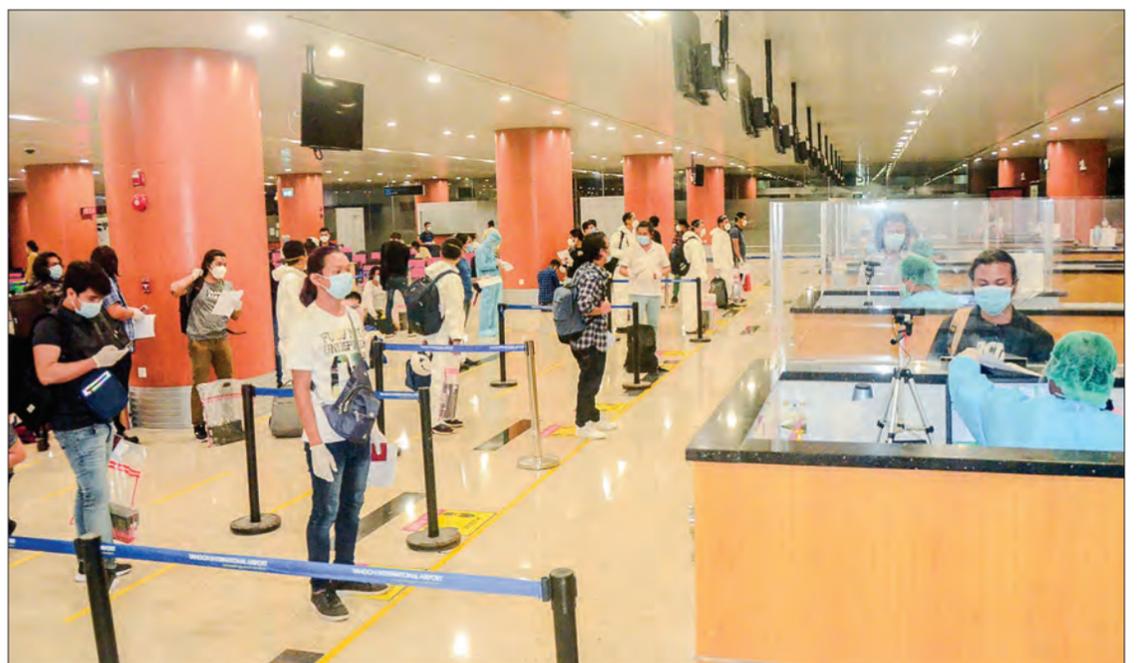
302 Myanmar seamen arrive back home by relief flights

ONE hundred and sixty-three Myanmar seamen stranded in Viet Nam due to the suspension of international flights returned home yesterday evening by a chartered flight of Myanmar Airways International, organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi, the Myanmar Seamen's Federation and respective shipping companies.

Another group of 139 Myanmar seamen who were stranded in South Africa and Brazil also arrived back home in the same evening by an MAI relief flight organized by Myanmar embassies in Pretoria, Brasilia and Riyadh through Dubai of the United Arab Emirates.

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

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



Myanmar nationals arrive at Yangon International Airport on 18 November. PHOTO:MNA

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Mrs Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, sends congratulatory message to the State Counsellor

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In the Prime Minister's congratulatory message she conveyed her immense pleasure and congratulated the State Counsellor on the landslide victory of the National League for Democracy (NLD) under her able stewardship in the recent general election of Myanmar. She also expressed her belief that the

overwhelming majority in the parliament for consecutive terms will undoubtedly further embolden the State Counsellor's position to strive for meaningful democracy and the fulfillment of the aspirations of the peoples of Myanmar, including the minorities.

The Prime Minister also expressed that Bangladesh's foreign policy is guided by the dictum of the Father of the Nation -- friendship to all and malice

towards none and therefore, courteous relations with immediate neighbours remain important. She also reaffirmed inter alia the Bangladeshi Government readiness to engage in deeper cooperation with Myanmar for better understandings and prosperity of both peoples and to work together with all neighbours, including Myanmar to achieve peace, stability, and progress in the region.



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives K300 million donation of National League for Democracy on 18 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

NLD donates K300 mln to national COVID committee

THE National League of Democracy contributed K300 million to the National-Level Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 yesterday.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe received the cash donation presented by U Win Htein, the member of party's leading body, and Dr Myo Nyunt, the member of Central Executive Committee of the party.

At the ceremony, U Win Htein explained the donation. Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe,

in his capacity as the Secretary (2) of the committee, expressed thanks for the cash contribution and requested for the participation of the elected Hluttaw representatives from NLD in the fight against COVID-19 as the ministry is cooperating with relevant ministries and organizations in health awareness campaigns for the public and immediate recovery in economic, education and social sectors after effective containment measures against the pandemic.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoHS receives donation of COVID-19 test kits from Korean financial organizations

THE Ministry of Health and Sports accepted the donation of COVID-19 test kits from the KB Financial Group and the Industrial Bank of Korea, the financial organizations of the Republic of Korea, yesterday afternoon.

At the headquarters of Department of Medical Research in Yangon, Director-General Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun received the donation items from Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Counsellor Mr Hahm

Jeonghan and officials from the financial organizations.

The KB Financial Group contributed US\$12,425 worth of 2,500 test kits, and the Industrial Bank of Korea presented 1,000 test kits worth about \$6,794 at the ceremony.—Min Thit (MNA)

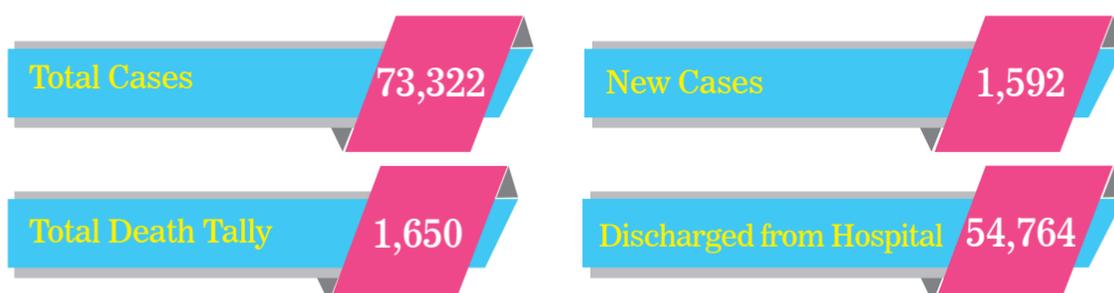
KB Financial Group and Industrial Bank of Korea donate test kits to MoHS on 18 November. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



1,592 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 November, total figure rises to 73,322

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 73,322 after 1,592 new cases were reported on 18 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 73,322 confirmed cases, 1,650 died, 54,764 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 18 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 18-11-2020

25

Ministry of Health and Sports

“People are the key”

Announcement on legal actions against electoral frauds

(18 - 11-2020)

1. Daw Myint Myint Kyi, who lives in Ward-A, Thingangyun Township, Yangon (Eastern District), Yangon Region, voted in her name, and she voted again in the name of her daughter Thida Soe at Polling Station No 5. So, she voted twice.
2. Daw Ni Ni Myint, who lives in Bilin Village, Bilin Village-tract, Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, voted in her name at Polling Station No 1 and voted again in the name of her sister-in-law Ma Aye Yu Maw. It was found that she voted twice.
3. In Watawzu Village in Agatlakpan Village-tract, Wakema Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Region, six people -- Daw Mya San Tin (a) A Htwe Lay, Daw Aung Htay Myint (a) Daw Htay, Daw Aye Aye, Daw Thin Wai Khaing, Village-tract Election Sub-commission chairperson U Saw Myaing and member U Min Aung -- voted on behalf of others in the advance voting process.
4. At polling station No 5 in Nyaungwine Village-tract, Myanaung Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, it is found that Ma Khin Moe Htay voted in the name of another person.
5. At polling station No 4 in Taputtanaung Village, Malatto Village-tract, Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, the name of Aung Aung (a) Aung Gyi (a) Gaung Gyi was not in the eligible voters' list. But, he cast his vote by using the voter ID card of U Ko Ko Aung (temporarily in Malaysia) issued by Village-tract Election Sub-commission member U Kyaw Lwin.
6. So, Daw Myint Myint Kyi, Daw Ni Ni Myint, Daw Mya San Tin (a) A Htwe Lay, Daw Aung Htay Myint (a) Daw Htay, Daw Aye Aye, Daw Thin Wai Khaing, Village-tract Election Sub-commission chairperson U Saw Myaing, the Sub-commission member U Min Aung, Ma Khin Moe Htay, Malatto Village-tract Election Sub-commission member U Kyaw Lwin, and Aung Aung (a) Aung Gyi (a) Gaung Gyi have been charged under Section 59 of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law.

Union Election Commission

MoE, UNESCO-Myanmar jointly organize meeting on Education Sector Analysis



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi takes part in Education Sector Analysis meeting on 18 November. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Education and the UNESCO-Myanmar jointly organized a virtual meeting on Education Sector Analysis yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Union

Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi expressed thanks to officials from relevant ministries and UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (UNESCO IIEP) for

their contribution to develop the report on education sector review.

The Union Minister said that the education sector needs to be able to contribute to the

Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) (2018-2030) and Sustainable Development Goals (2030).

The Union Minister said that the National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030) had been drafted based on recommendations from the Myanmar Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) and mid-year review report of National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021. The Ministry is working hard to create high-quality learning environments, according to the Union Minister.

He continued that the Ministry is taking into account suggestions made by all stakeholders in drafting the National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030). He said that the key findings of the Education

Sector Analysis would assist in educational strategic plans and implementations.

UNESCO-Myanmar's Head of Office Ms Kim Min Jeong also delivered a speech in the virtual meeting. An official of the UNESCO-IIEP presented the key findings of the Education Sector Analysis. Then, the participants discussed matters related to Myanmar's education sector.

The virtual meeting was also participated by Permanent Secretaries and officials of relevant ministries, officials of National Education Policy Commission, Rectors' Committee, development partners and local and foreign experts.—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

To be read as follows

Please read ‘... allowing visits to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other regions and states; members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Region/State governments, diplomats from foreign missions in Yangon and staff members of UN agencies and International Organizations who need to travel to these places, need to have themselves tested at the health departments; they would be permitted to travel if they are tested negative; they are to show their “negative” health certificate at the respective inspection gates; and to allow them to proceed on their journey without the need for further health tests or quarantine,’ instead of ‘... allowing visits to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other regions and states; those who have to travel to these places need to have themselves tested at the health departments; they would be permitted to travel if they are tested negative; they are to show their “negative” health certificate at the respective inspection gates; and to allow them to proceed on their journey without the need for further health tests or quarantine.’ in the 4th and 5th columns on page 3 of *Global New Light of Myanmar* issued on 18 October 2020. — MNA

You can make complaints to the centre if your family did not receive financial assistance

As the COVID-19 crisis lasts much longer, the global economy suffers huge impacts. But Myanmar is not the only country that suffers economic impacts. We are trying our best to cope with the financial and economic difficulties of our citizens.

As we all know, this is the fourth time that we provided financial assistance to the grassroots people. Everything went smoothly during the first, second and third times. As for the fourth time, we have seen that there were some disputes among the crowds in some places. These disputes are not necessary. This is because we have no intention of leaving anyone behind. We are not going to leave anyone behind. If you have been left behind for any reason, we now have a Centre for Complaints. You can make complaints to the centre if your family did not receive financial assistance. If you did not get your entitlement because you are a single person, you could make a complaint. So, just calm down and make a complaint at the complaint centre. Just inform us about the situation. No one will be excluded intentionally. We will provide financial support again to the needy people who were left behind. So, we want all our citizens who are very dutiful, to help resolve this issue smoothly. We would like to complete the fourth round of financial assistance fully and quickly.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 situation amid containment measures, on 17 November 2020)



17th M-HSCC meeting held virtually



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presides over 17th Myanmar Health Sector Coordination Committee meeting on 17 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Health and Sports presided over the 17th Myanmar Health Sector Coordination Committee (M-HSCC) meeting via videoconferencing on 17 November.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as the chairman of M-HSCC, discussed the ongoing healthcare activities especially in immunization campaign, preventive measures for non-communicable disease and health awareness campaigns together with COVID-19 containment measures, further plans and strategy of ministry, completion of the plans and the key role of basis healthcare workers in conducting public health campaigns.

He also stressed the practical procedures including different

opinions of UN organizations and NGOs, distribution of procedures, policies, strategies and reports of the ministry to the committee members, funds of UN organizations and allocation of budgets in healthcare services.

The attendees to the meeting made their discussions, and officials presented the update news regarding the funds of Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance, World Bank, Access to health, USAID, ADB, JICA and UNOPS to Myanmar.

The Union Minister appreciated the participation of the committee members and other relevant organizations in COVID-19 measures of the ministry and then he concluded the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Khaing Thazin Han)

Construction ministry discusses announcement of preferred bidder for elevated expressways project in Yangon

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw presided over the 4th meeting of the leading committee on construction of elevated expressways and outer ring road in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The Zoom meeting was also participated by the committee members and Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, U Soe Win, its secretary Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin, departmental heads and officials from Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Regional Minister for Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communication Daw Nilar Kyaw

from Yangon.

The phase (1) of elevated expressway project will have a total length of 27.5 kilometre at an estimated cost of US\$800 million.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the member of the World Bank, is working as the consultant group for the project.

The IFC has evaluated the technical and financial proposals from the 10 companies which passed preliminary tests for the project.

The meeting discussed cooperation of relevant ministries in the project.

The elevated expressway



Announcement on preferred bidder for elevated expressway project in Yangon discussed via Zoom meeting on 18 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

project will be implemented by the Ministry of Construction and the Yangon Region Government under the public-private partnership system.

The phase (1) of the 27.5-km long project will include a 19-km long four-lane way in the eastern part of the city, 6-km long four-lane way from east to west

and 2.5-km long two-lane way connecting to Yangon International Airport to reduce traffic congestion in the city.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses COVID-19 preventive measures at social welfare training schools



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses preventive measures against COVID-19 at training schools and departments of social welfare on 18 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye attended the coordi-

nation meeting on prevention of COVID-19 for children, women and staff cared in the training

schools and sub-departments of the Social Welfare Department yesterday afternoon through

videoconferencing.

The coordination meeting was also attended by officers from respective states and regions and school principals.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said his ministry has been doing effective prevention in the training schools and sub-departments since the first wave of the COVID-19 outbreak with the rules and standard procedures to follow by the students and staff systematically. He continued there were 11 staff and 29 children who were affected by the disease in Kyite Wine youth training school since 17 November, and the COVID-19 test is still going on for other students and staff.

He added that it is necessary for children, staff and family to follow the set guidelines and procedures to stop the infection, to receive health care

and to have nutritious foods as well as to provide encouragement and comfort.

The Union Minister urged to take special precaution to prevent the disease in training schools and sub-departments in other regions and states. He called for the continuous improvement of health education to families and staff in the training schools. He said to report in a timely manner, and the Union Minister's office will provide the requirements without delay.

The Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the Director-General of the Social Welfare Department coordinated the discussions of heads of respective regions and states and school principals.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

UCSB Chairman joins 20th ACCSM, 5th Heads of ACCSM Plus Three Civil Service meetings online

THE Heads of Civil Service for the 20th ACCSM and the 5th Heads of Meeting for ACCSM Plus Three organised by Office of Civil Service Commission, Thailand as the 2019-2020 rotated chair of ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) have been held via videoconferencing yesterday morning and afternoon.

U Win Thein, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, alongside all Heads of Civil Service Matters from ASEAN Member States, attended these meetings. At the Opening Session, Mr M.L.Patcharapakorn, Secretary-General of Office of the Civil Service Commission, Thailand delivered Opening Remarks.

During the meetings, the Heads of Civil Service discussed matters regarding the Civil Service Affairs particularly the consultations arising from the results of the Senior Officials Meeting for 20th ACCSM held on 17 November 2020; giving suggestions and recommendations for next five years for the effective implementation based on assessing the working activities under the ACCSM Work Plan (2016-2020); adopting the progress of ACCSM deliverables achieved during the Thailand's

ACCSM Chairmanship such as ACCSM Work Plan (2021-2025) and ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan (2021-2025); and considering on confirmed decisions from ACCSM sector and other relevant decisions from sectoral bodies' meetings and ASEAN Summits.

In sharing experiences concerning leadership roles to achieve good healthcare system under COVID-19 outbreak situations, Chairman U Win Thein highlighted such Myanmar's experiences that Myanmar has comprised of National Central Committee on COVID-19 Prevention; Control and Treatment, and under the guidance of this Committee COVID-19 Prevention; Control and Emergency Response is monitoring and caring those people infected by coronavirus and relating contact persons; controlling processes on community quarantine if necessary, providing food; health care and motivation processes, outlining COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) and its Action Plan to solve inadequate food and shelter issues; and implementing cooperation in ASEAN region grounded on the type of e-development form. And, there have success-

fully launched on "Training and Development in the Age of COVID-19 Challenges and Opportunities" and the "Building ASEAN Public Service Capabilities for the Future" through ASEAN Network of Public Service Training Institutes (PSTIs). He also shared the UCSB's experiences on conducting the Basic Course for Junior Civil Service Officers

delivering the lectures to 100 trainees at each Central Institute of Civil Service via online.

As the incoming 21st ACCSM chair is assigned to Viet Nam, Viet Nam has discussed its preparation on its Chairmanship and related activities including the proposed theme, calendar of activities and venue.

Together with the Chairman

of the Union Civil Service Board, six delegates were presented to the above-mentioned Meetings and prior to these Meetings, Senior Officials Meeting for the 20th ACCSM and the 5th Senior Officials Meeting for ASEAN Plus Three had also been conducted through videoconferencing on 17th November 2020. — MNA



Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board U Win Thein takes part in the 20th ACCSM and the 5th Heads of Meeting for ACCSM Plus Three via videoconferencing on 18 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Electrofishing users arrested in central Myanmar to prevent Ayeyawady dolphins from extinction

By Nyein Nyein

A combined team arrested the fishermen who did illegal electrofishing to prevent the Ayeyawady dolphins from extinction, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Myanmar.

Under the one-year Ayeyawady dolphin conservation patrolling plan, the joint team conducted the patrolling from 1 to 15 November.

The patrolling was conducted near Nyaung Bin Thar village in Singu Township, Mandalay Region on 3 November; near Pauk Gone village on 10 November and near Sei Thae Taung village on 12 November. The team confiscated the illegal electrofishing equipment and the accessories as well as



Patrolling team is checking fishers as part of efforts to prevent Ayeyawady dolphins from extinction. **PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR**

three motored fishing boats and handed them all over to the Singu Township Fisheries Department. Besides, the team has also confiscated the illegal electrofishing

equipment and the accessories as well as one motored fishing boat near Nga Pak Chaung village in Wetlet Township on 13 November and handed them all over to

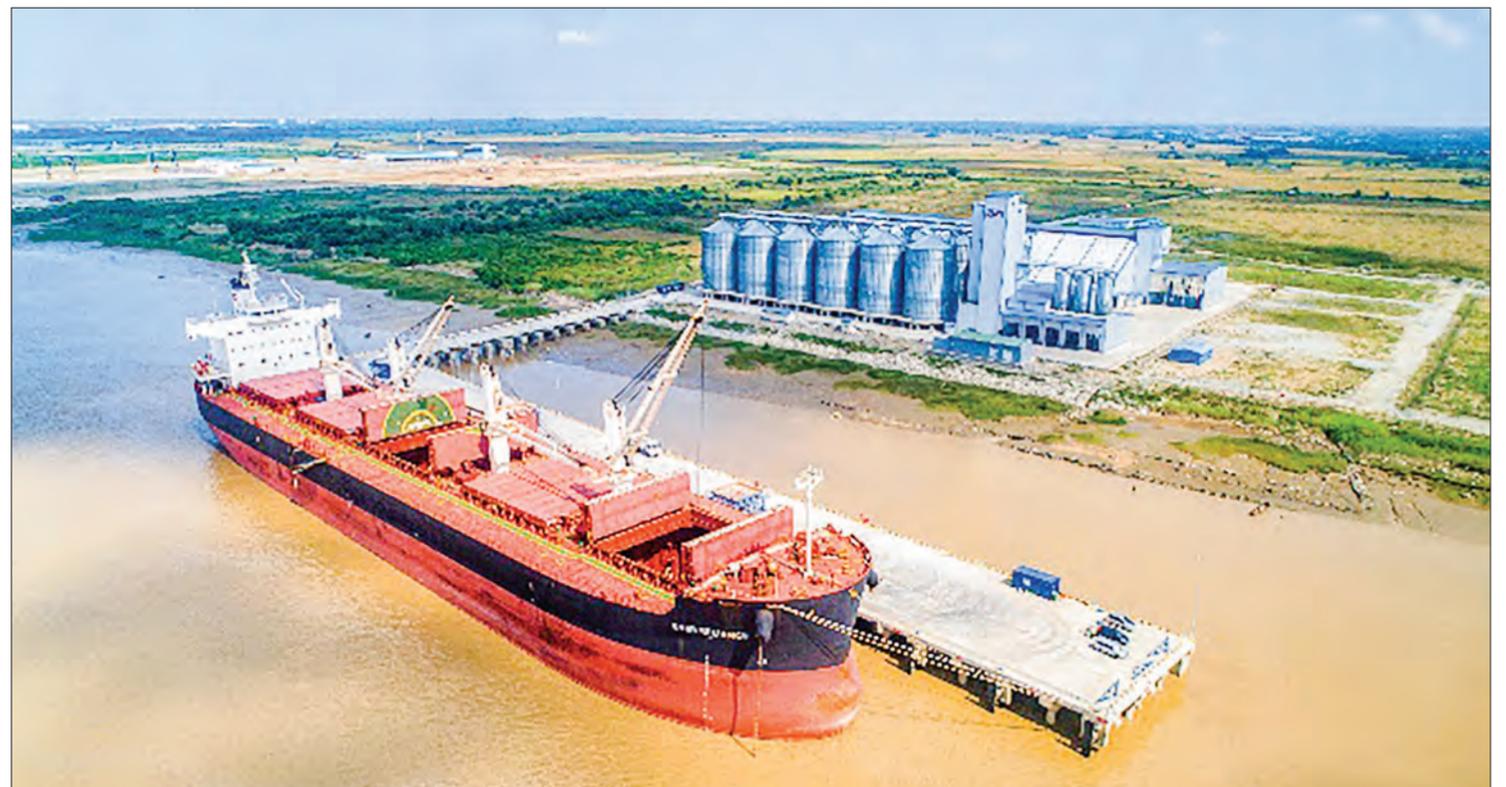
the Shwebo District Fisheries Department.

The electrofishing equipment and the accessories, four motored fishing boats, and four batteries were seized on the first 15 days of the third month under annual Ayeyawady dolphin conservation patrolling plan.

The combined team comprised of the employees from the Fisheries Department, Environment and Endangered Aquatic Species Conservation Department, Madaya Township Fisheries Department, Singu Township Fisheries Department, Kanbalu Township Fisheries Department, No. 1 Mandalay Region's Marine Administration Department and the local Ayeyawady Dolphin Conservation Team.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MPA: Yangon has seen 9 new jetties in 4 years



International Bulk Terminal Thilawa (IBTT). **PHOTO: MDN**

A total of nine new jetties, which can dock the international ships, were built in four years in Yangon, including Thilawa area. There are now a total of 42 jetties in Yangon Port, according to the official statistics of Myanmar Port Authority (MPA).

Yangon Port plays a vital role because it is handling more than 90 per cent of the country's international maritime trade.

Myanmar with 1,385-mile-long coastline has nine sea-

ports. Among them, Yangon Port is the principal port, and it is handling more than 90 per cent of the country's international maritime trade.

Earlier, there were only 33 jetties in Yangon Port, which can dock the international ships. Then, nine new jetties have been developed in the four-year time under Yangon Port development project.

With the completion of these new jetties, Myanmar Port Authority can now handle more than five million contain-

ers and over 74 million tons of cargoes during this period. The number of jetties in Yangon has increased to 42, up from 33.

The 41st international jetty at Yangon Port including Thilawa Port and International Bulk Terminal Thilawa (IBTT) was opened on 7th September offering the handling of the bulk cargoes (grain, feed, agro-inputs, construction materials and other any possible bulk cargoes) in Thilawa Port Area. IBTT is aimed to contribute to the development of Myanmar's

food industry by providing 24/7 services.

It has a jetty 230 meters in length, 25 metres in width, with an 11-metre draft, which has the capacity to accommodate vessels up to 200 metres LOA and 60,000 DWT (Dead Weight Tonnage).

Besides, the 42nd Denko Jetty in Thilawa Port was constructed in 2019, and the jetty started its operation in 2020. —Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Selling surpasses buying in domestic gold market

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic gold market sees more sellers than buyers, said general secretary U Myo Myint of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The gold market is sluggish amid the coronavirus resurgence. The daily transaction of 50 visses (a viss equals to 1.6kg) of gold were earlier seen in the market. Now, about five visses are rarely traded per day, he continued.

“Only 4-5 visses of gold are daily traded. The traders have not come to the YGEA’s office yet,” he explained.

On 18 November, pure gold fetches about K1,309,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) while the global gold price hit US\$1,881 per ounce, local gold market data indicated.

Last month, the global gold price reached a peak of \$1,900 per ounce. Then, it dipped to \$1,887 in November.

Following the US election, the stock market bounced back, and the global stocks jumped. Meanwhile, gold market experienced a slowdown, U Myo Myint shared his opinion.

“Investors return to the stock market on the US presidential election result. Gold market witnessing choppy trade as the market reacts to the outcome of the US. The market cools down the gold market for now,” he said.

Nevertheless, local market relying on international gold price



Yangon Region gold market, which was temporarily suspended amid the COVID-19 resurgence, was back into business on 26 October. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

es did not shake up as it is supposed to be, due to the shortage of raw material, he added.

“At present, the old gold scrap and jewellery are refined into the pure gold bar. The raw material has not come from gold mining,” he said.

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

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.

According to gold traders, during the past four months, the

domestic gold was priced with the minimum rate of K1,216,500 (1 July) and the maximum rate of K1,296,500 (27 July). The price moved in the range of, K1,286,500 on 13 August and K1,332,500 on 7 August. The local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching an all-time record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar imports \$3.14 bln worth fuel oil in 2019-2020FY

MYANMAR spent nearly US\$3.14 billion importing over 5 million tonnes of diesel and gasoline in the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over 5 million tonnes of fuel oil with an estimated value of \$3.26 billion flowed into the country during 2018-2019FY, the trade data issued by the Central Statistic Organization indicated.

The oil and gas sector has been crashed during COVID-19 outbreak. Oil price went negative on 20 April as there is no place to store all the crude the world is producing, but not using. The global market remains broken, leading domestic oil price plunge to more than 50 per cent in April against January’s prices.

Consequently, domestic oil prices have been on the decline since 10 January 2020 owing to a fall in global oil prices. On 8 January 2020, oil prices were pegged at around K905 per litre for Octane 92, K995 for Octane 95, and K985 for diesel and premium diesel. Then, the prices in the domestic market have extended its drop in May.

On 22 April 2020, the oil prices touched a low of K290-330 per litre for Octane 92, K430-455 for Octane 95, K435-465 for diesel, and K445-475 for premium diesel, according to the domestic oil market.

“Domestic oil price is positively related to the global market,” said a trader.

Oil price inched higher in

the global market in August. In the global markets, oil prices stood at around US\$45.8 per barrel for Brent oil and \$42 per barrel for WTI crude oil on 30 August 2020.

The domestic fuel oil market showed a slight increase in oil prices in early August compared with late April.

At present, Oil stocks in Asia are rebounding, but there is a long way to go for a full recovery, as per global market’s price data.

The fuel oil was pegged at around at K485-515 for Octane 92, K615-630 for Octane 95, K510-555 for diesel and K520-570 for premium diesel on 18 November in domestic retail market, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association stated.

On 10 October 2018, due to an increase in global crude oil prices and the weakening of the Kyat against the US dollar, oil prices had touched a remarkable high of K1,065 per litre for Octane 92, K1,115 for Octane 95, K1,085 for diesel, and K1,105 for premium diesel.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally.

Usually, Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore, with monthly volumes touching 200,000 tonnes for gasoline and 400,000 tonnes for diesel. There are about 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over half (55%) of Asia-Pacific consumers would use Tap to Phone payments: Visa Study

NEW research from Visa found that the majority (55%) of Asia Pacific consumers would likely use Tap to Phone payments, despite solutions not yet being widely available in the region. Consumer interest is strongest in Malaysia (64%), followed by Taiwan (62%), Hong Kong (62%), and India (55%). The research suggests that as Tap to Phone solutions are introduced in Asia Pacific, consumers will embrace this new form of the contactless payments they are already accustomed to using.

In addition to simplifying point-of-sale infrastructure for businesses, tap to phone payments bring benefits to consumers. Ease of use was rated

as the top reason that would encourage them to try tap to phone, by 52% of consumers surveyed. This was followed by saving time (51%) and eliminating the need to carry cash (50%).

Forty-three per cent of consumers rated security as a factor that would encourage their adoption of tap to phone payments. However, Visa believes there is a need for the industry to work together to educate consumers about security features. Losing personal or financial information were named as the top concerns around using tap to phone. Tap to Phone solutions bring multiple layers of security



on both the buyer and seller side, to ensure that Visa’s high standards for secure payments

are met. Each solution undergoes an intensive certification process including a security

assessment by an accredited expert security lab. These solutions are also supported by an industry standard that has been developed and published by the PCI Security Standards Council.

Visa’s research also looked at the scenarios where consumers would be most likely to pay via tap to phone. Convenience stores were cited by 59% of survey participants, reflecting the desire for quick, easy transactions. Over half (56%) said they would want to be able to pay at a restaurant while seated at the table. Food courts, street stalls and kiosks were the third most popular scenario at 52%. —GNLM

Effective measures can lessen disruptions in food supply chain

WITH the time for harvesting winter-season crops approaching and due to current challenges in food supply chain, there is now considerable concern about food production, processing, distribution and demand.

The COVID-19 outbreak, with all the accompanying closures and restrictions, has created logistical bottlenecks that ricochet across the long value chains of the economy.

Closures of restaurants and less frequent grocery shopping diminish demand for fresh produce and fishery products, affecting producers and suppliers, especially smallholder farmers.

Meanwhile, it is found that the restrictions are causing hindrances to border trade with China and Thailand today.

We must take timely necessary measures in order to prevent serious impacts on the entire food supply chain in our country and our exports.

Besides, shortages of fertilizers, veterinary medicines, and other inputs could also affect agricultural production.

If the product is perishable, we need to adjust the export volume and our production, and need to ensure that the perishable product can stay within safe temperature ranges during transport.

Transporting perishable products by air should be one of the options to ensure that disruptions of food supply chains are minimized as much as possible.

We must realize the severity of the situation and sometimes should tighten or loosen the measures according to the spread of the pandemic. The supply chain should be flexible enough to respond to the challenges in this time of crisis.

At an industry level, we recognize that companies must also adapt to today's challenges and continue to provide access to essential food and beverage products amid changing consumer needs during the crisis.

We must do everything possible to ensure that our food supply chain is functioning properly and that information on prices, production, consumption, and stocks of food is available to all in real-time. Prevention costs less.

Now, more than ever, is the time for us to collectively take action to keep the food supply chains open and to protect the flow of food so that consumers can continue to have necessary access to safe and high quality food to help people get through this pandemic.

We must take care to avoid accidentally tightening food-supply chains.



The supply chain should be flexible enough to respond to the challenges in this time of crisis.

A VIABLE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WILL IN THE LONG TERM REDUCE THE COST OF CURATIVE HEALTH

Improving primary healthcare service

By Lokethar

NOWADAYS, there is hardly a person who is not taking some medicine or the other to keep healthy particularly if he or she is over 50 or so years of age. The variety of medicines taken seem to increase proportionately with age. Some doctors, even on the patient's first visit prescribe a range of medicines including strong analgesics, antibiotics and dietary supplements. All this leads to a demand for a large range of medicines. As the pharmaceutical industry in Myanmar cannot as yet meet the demands for a large range of medicine, almost all the medicines the public consume are imported. What is needed for the people is to be healthy and fit with minimum need for regular medication.

Primary Health Care Service relates to provision of health care which is community based and aims at providing initial healthcare at a primary health care center, through early detection and treatment of disease and averting, to the extent possible, the need for regular use of medicines. If the patient is in need of hospitalization, the primary healthcare centre would refer the patient to

the nearest appropriate Public Hospital. Nowadays primary healthcare is becoming more and more relevant as according to the WHO, Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) like diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases, etc. which were once considered to be the diseases of the "rich" have now emerged among the not so rich and the poor as well. NCDs require early detection and treatment to avoid dire consequences later. Primary healthcare service may be provided by doctors of the public health system or under agreement by private general practitioners (GPs). The healthcare providers may also be qualified persons of the nursing profession. However, proper training and certification would benefit doctors and nurses who are to function as primary health service providers.

According to a study by N N Latt et al in 2016, Myanmar already had established 87 primary and secondary health centres (not including the public hospitals and clinics), 348 maternal and child health centres, 1,648 rural health centres and 80 school health teams. These facilities are mainly responsible for preventive services and public health activities. Pri-

mary healthcare service, if it is to be extensively accessible, will involve increasing substantially the Government budget for primary healthcare. It will also mean a larger input from family incomes and savings where the cost of health care is shared by the public under a out-of-pocket (OOP) cost sharing system.

For the health authorities it means more emphasis on public

In Myanmar the Public Health Authorities would need to upgrade existing facilities and establish new "Primary Healthcare Centres" manned by Healthcare Professionals and Staff all over the country as needed.

health and preventive medicine. This translates into the need for a well organized system of primary health care service including basic health checks like monitoring blood pressure, heart rate, blood sugar, blood oxygen etc., and providing help and advice to people in communities across the urban and rural areas, to ensure for them a healthy lifespan.

At the conclusion of the recent World Health Organization

Conference, the Director-General of the World Health Organization said that the current Covid-19 Pandemic was the consequence of "chronic under investment in public health". He said the WHO will set up a "Council on Economics of Health for All". He further said that investment in health is not a cost but an investment for a good future.

Of course it would be quite

In Myanmar the Public Health Authorities would need to upgrade existing facilities and establish new "Primary Healthcare Centres" manned by Healthcare Professionals and Staff all over the country as needed.

costly for developing countries, to set up an up to date primary healthcare system within a short period of time. It may be possible to an extent in Myanmar where, as mentioned above, there already exists a basic but not yet extensive primary health care system overseen by the Public Health Authorities, to achieve the target of universal primary health care as envisioned in the "Health for All" program of the WHO. It will

have to be undertaken step by step over a period of time, depending on budget allocation of the Government and the other means such as basic health insurance scheme by the private sector perhaps.

In Myanmar the Public Health Authorities would need to upgrade existing facilities and establish new "Primary Healthcare Centres" manned by Healthcare Professionals and Staff all over the country as needed. The system would also have to provide effective basic health care service to the public, including dissemination of knowledge and information as to how one can lead a healthy life that would extend his/her lifespan without resorting to a host of medicines to cure their illness acquired because of their unhealthy lifestyle.

The Primary Health Care Centres, would also help to enlighten the public about nutrition and taking nutritious food available in their areas and communities and advise on the selection of such food items to put together "balanced meals" which will ensure proper growth of both mind and body. Nutritious food intake will and at the same time help negate the need for food supplements and "vitamin pills", except for the elderly and

persons with vitamins and minerals deficiencies. Regarding type of food the nutritionists would advise people to limit their intake of fast food including "junk food" of very little nutritional value. In the preventive health perspective, the role of physical fitness programmes for maintaining health and vitality and controlling body weight would help in warding off many diseases and contribute to a healthier lifespan.

Improving primary healthcare service is easier said than done considering the resources needed to operate and maintain a sustainable primary health care system. However there is the WHO and the development partners to provide financial and technical assistance. A viable primary healthcare system will in the long term reduce the cost of curative health. Another positive outcome would be a healthier lifespan for the ageing people which will reduce the cost of geriatric care. The best outcome however would be a more healthy and productive population which will contribute to enhancing the economy of the country.

With charity to all and malice to none.



COMMEMORATING WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY

A glimpse and an 'application' of Saint Augustine's just and unjust war concepts

By Dr Myint Zan

13 November 2020 is (to use the historic present tense) the 1666th birthday of Augustine of Hippo (13 November 354 Current Era, Thagaste, modern-day Algeria- 28 August 430, Hippo, modern-day Algeria).

Augustine was one of the more (not necessarily 'most') influential philosophers in the context of the post-classical (mainly ancient Greek and Roman) times.

In any case, he was one of the most influential Christian philosophers and theologians.

His influence among Christians world-wide is such that till the Catholic and other Christian mission schools were nationalized in Burma in the year 1964, there is (was) a school in Rangoon (now Yangon) named after him: Saint Augustine's High

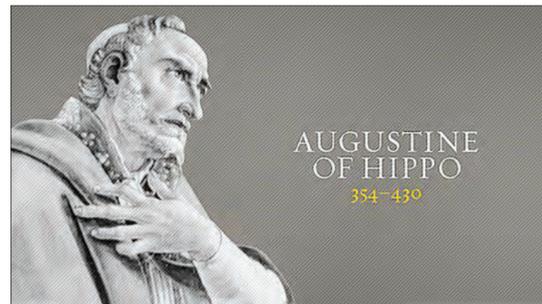
School (Since 1964 State High School No.2 at Kamayut Township).

Saint Augustine wrote extensively in the Latin language on a variety of Christian theological subjects.

This note is not to mention far less elaborate on the postulates or polemics of Augustine regarding Christian theology but to briefly encapsulate and try to apply Augustine's concepts of just and unjust wars.

Wars are almost as old as civilizations. If skirmish and battles between pre-civilization tribes and clans are taken into account, wars are older than civilizations.

His influence among Christians world-wide is such that till the Catholic and other Christian mission schools were nationalized in Burma in the year 1964, there is (was) a school in Rangoon (now Yangon) named after him: Saint Augustine's High



is conceivably more well-known than Augustine's 'just war and unjust war concepts'. The classic work of Sun Tzu (circa 544 BCE-496 BCE) deals with military strategy and tactics.

Jus Ad Bellum and Jus in Bello

Augustine's views on just wars and unjust wars were written over 800 years after Sun Tzu's classic. It is unlikely that Augustine was aware of Sun Tzu's work

on military strategy. Augustine's work in this particular genre is not about military strategy or tactics. The crux of Augustine's work in this philosophical genre can perhaps be described in the Latin language as jus ad bellum (or 'right to wage war').

More than 1600 years ago Augustine did lay down a set of criteria to determine the legality or legitimacy of wars in terms of jus in bello. (The terms legality

and legitimacy are not synonymous, perhaps Augustine might have referred to and applied both terms)

Jus ad bellum is different from jus in bello which is the conduct to be adhered to in warfare regarding both combatants and non-combatants and use of weapons, method of warfare whose ancient roots (at least on historical if not fully legal grounds) can be traced back to the Hindu epics Ramayana and Mahabharata of around 3000 years ago.

In the contemporary era jus in bello (conduct to be adhered to in international warfare) is governed and regulated by the four (different) Geneva Conventions of 1949. One hundred and ninety-four (194) countries and territories are parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, making it a truly universal international convention or the 'biggest' mul-

tilateral treaty. **Synopsis of Augustine's Just War Concept**

But back to Augustine's concept of just war and unjust war. Augustine posits that in order for a war to be just (please note that being 'just' is not necessarily, not all the time anyway, synonymous with being 'legal')

the following four conditions should be fulfilled. I should add that Augustine apparently meant those criteria to be applicable as regards starting a war and not necessarily about defensive war or the right of self-defence in international law which is 'enshrined' in the Charter of the United Nations to which 193 States (countries) are parties to the UN Charter.

Augustine, in effect, stipulates that in order for a war to be considered just:

SEE PAGE-10

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World Children's Day

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"A Day to Reimagine a Better Future for Every Child"

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 18 November, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19 November, 2020: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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A glimpse and an 'application' of Saint Augustine's just and unjust war concepts

FROM PAGE-9

first, the decision to go to war must be derived from the proper authority through the legitimate political and legal process

second, it must be for a just cause: sources indicate that whether a wrong or wrongs have been committed to the party initiating the war must be verified and determined first and whether waging of war is the appropriate response

third, right intention: is the war fought to 'righting the wrongs' that had been committed against the party that waged war and whether there was no other option apart from starting a war

fourth, war must be waged only as a last resort 'after exhausting all peaceful remedies' among the potential adversaries

I should again add that this arguable Augustinian concept of jus ad bellum is, to a considerable if not a great extent, being superseded by contemporary international law concepts regarding the use of force among countries even before the emergence of the United Nations Charter in 1945.

Still, using the above apparently Augustinian criteria let us have a brief look at a series of wars that occurred well over a thousand years after Augustine

died.

An ostensible Augustinian analysis on waging war against the indigenous people of South America

On 12 October 1492 Christopher Columbus (1451-20 May 1506 Current Era) landed in what is now an island in the Bahamas and what later became part of the New World. This occurred over 1062 years after Augustine's death in the year 430 Current Era.

Within several years and definitely within a decade or so of Columbus's 'discovery' the conquest, the subjugation, the cruelties, the almost wiping out or at least 'cancelling' of many of the indigenous peoples in several regions of what was later come to be known as South America took place.

And they continued for about the next 100 to 200 years.

Would the learned Christian (Catholic) theologian approved of these wars based on his ostensible just war and unjust war theories as summarized above?

I might add that over 1600 years ago Augustine could not, would not have known about the existence of the two American continents not to say some of the Andean civilizations including the Mayan civilization that had existed long before Augustine's time in the 4th and 5th century Current Era.

More than a millennium after the Catholic theologian's death some of his fellow religionists had committed almost unspeakable atrocities against the indigenous people after the conquest of the (now) South Americas. It was through sheer greed and wickedness that these conquistadors (the then Spanish conquerors) committed widespread crimes against the indigenous peoples of South America. An excuse or 'justification' they gave for these cruelties and inhumane acts was that they wanted to 'Christianize' the 'heathen' people. To a very large almost 'complete' extent within a century or so after their arrival they had succeeded in doing just that.

Based on Augustine's concept of just war and unjust war as summarized above, would Augustine have approved or not these historical (not 'historic') events?

Bartolomé de Las Casas, (1474 or 1484, - July 1566) a Spanish historian and Dominican priest during that era was among quite a few others who protested against the oppression and the brutalities that were inflicted on the indigenous peoples of South America. But hypothetically and more relevantly if Augustine were to 'come back' would he have approved of the continuous 'war'

waged on the indigenous peoples of South America by the conquistadors?

Authorization by God to wage a 'just war'?

A tutorial presentation was held on 13 November 2014 (1660th birthday of Augustine) at Multimedia University, Malacca, Malaysia in the subject of legal philosophy (which this writer taught). During the presentation, a student (reading from a web site) stated that if a 'Divine Command' was given by God to the legitimate authority' then it could be (one factor) in asserting (arguably from an Augustinian perspective) that the waging of war is 'just'.

Former United States president George W. Bush (born 6 July 1946) was one of the main proponents who waged 'war against Iraq' in March 2003. A few years after the Iraq war he apparently claimed that he was following 'God's orders' to invade Iraq. As far as this writer can discern former President George W. Bush (born 6 July 1946) did not refer to Augustine's just war/unjust war concept in his justification for the Iraq war of 2003.

Aims of World Philosophy Day

When, in 2002, the United Nations established (so to

speak) World Philosophy Day one of its aims was (and is) 'to foster philosophical analysis, research and studies on major contemporary issues, so as to respond more effectively to the challenges that are confronting humanity today'.

The scourge of Covid 19 is one of the major challenges' confronting humanity today'. But the United Nations Charter in its preamble mentioned about preventing (if 'we can' I might add) the scourge of war. Augustine's view on just and unjust wars is noted and recalled since the anniversary of his birthday also falls in the month of November coinciding with World Philosophy Day.

The book that Dr Myint Zan edited Legal Education and Legal Traditions: Selected Essays has recently published by springerlink.com.

He has also established Myint Zan Philosophy fellowship at one of his alma maters The Australian National University (ANU) a Myint Zan Fellowship in Philosophy for Early Career Researchers at ANU for the years 2018 to 2020. He also established a Myint Zan Philosophy of Science prize in perpetuity for undergraduate philosophy students at ANU.



MoHS: Physical fitness dances competition starts online

TO encourage physical activity for health and wellbeing in the community during the COVID-19 crisis, the physical fitness dances virtual competition under the community sporting programme, organized by the Ministry of Health and Sports, has taken place between 11 November 2020 and 19 February 2021.

The participants have to post 3-minute physical fitness dance video on the Facebook account, tagging the sports officer of the respective township. They need to share their posts on the Facebook Page <<https://m.facebook.com/လှိုင်လှိုင်ရှားရှား-လူထုအားကစား-109943764187111/> held by the MoHS.

This mass sports event embraced virtual competition this

year to encourage the people to engage in physical activity during the Stay at Home period. It will help to boost the immune system, maintain weight management, reduce health risks, strengthen bones and muscles and have mental and physical health benefits. It has nine fitness dance events which must coordinate the head, arms, legs and shoulders, with eight events following the dances steps of the coach and one free fitness dance event. The same videos of events are to be updated respectively. The physical activity will help you lower the risk of underlying medical conditions. That is the first-ever virtual event to promote public health.

The winners will receive K2 million for the first price,



MoHS is organizing physical fitness dances virtual competition under the community sports programme from 11 November 2020 to 19 February 2021. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

K1.7 million for the second price and K1.5 million for the third price, while 15 participants will get K1 million award each for consolation prizes, totalling K20.2 million. The MoHS headquarters will select the final winners. The competitors can learn the fitness dance steps through the video uploaded by the sports officers, said U Win Htet Mon, Deputy Director of

the Department of Sports and Physical Education.

"Around 100 participants have joined fitness dance events 1 and 2 so far in Pyapon District. They will be awarded the first, second, third and consolidation prizes in district-level competition and will be selected. People are interested in this virtual competition. The sample video of fitness dance events will be

further updated.

The district/township sports officer held sports talk show to encourage the residents to join the events. The ministry organized this competition to promote public health during the coronavirus crisis, said Daw Sandar Oo, Sports officer from Pyapon District. —Thant Zin Win
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FLOCKING TO THE SMALLER CHANNELS

Small networks boosted as Trump supporters reject Fox

TENS of thousands of Donald Trump supporters, disbelieving the presidential election results and increasingly frustrated by the conservative Fox News, are turning – often at the president’s urging – to smaller, right-wing channels OAN and Newsmax, which still refuse to call the race for Joe Biden.

“Democrats planned a coup on the president on the United States,” One America News Network (OAN) anchor Christina Bobb insisted Monday. “And Biden still lost!”

“Trump is getting a second term,” she added.

Ten days since Joe Biden was declared president-elect by all the major US news stations, OAN has refused to cave.

“We have not called the election for Biden because we believe it’s a very close race,” Chris Ruddy, the founder and CEO of Newsmax, the other strongly conservative channel on the rise, told AFP.

The approach has hit the nail on the head for Trump support-

ers disillusioned with Fox News, which they believe was wrong to make the outgoing president’s defeat official and failed to support him enough.

OAN president Charles Herring told AFP that his channel has been among the top 10 most-watched across the entire US cable industry for the past several weeks.

And Newsmax crossed the threshold of one million viewers for the first time in its history last week.

Simultaneously, Fox News has been beaten several times by rival CNN since election night on November 3, a rare event, although its audience numbers remain strong.

Herring told AFP that former Fox viewers have written to OAN to express their frustration over the network’s apparent leftward turn. Trump himself has encouraged followers to switch to OAN and Newsmax, saying he considered “the biggest difference” between the 2016 election and 2020 was Fox’s stance.



Trump supporters were disillusioned with Fox News, which they believe was wrong to make the outgoing president’s defeat official and failed to support him enough. PHOTO: AFP

More and more top-tier Republicans have accepted invitations to speak on the two small channels, including Trump, who

has already given them interviews.

But there’s a key difference between Newsmax and OAN,

according to Kevin Arceneaux, a political science professor at Temple University.

SOURCE: AFP

SLASHING COMMISSION

Apple to halve its cut from small app developers



Apple said the ‘vast majority’ of developers will benefit from its App Store Small Business Programme. PHOTO: AFP

APPLE is to slash the commission it takes from small businesses selling programmes on its App Store, the company said

Wednesday, but the tech giant will still take a 30 per cent cut from major developers.

The iPhone manufacturer

said that from the new year, developers who make less than \$1 million from selling apps on its store will see Apple’s revenue bite cut to 15 per cent.

The announcement, however, will have no effect on developers that generate huge amounts of cash from wildly popular apps and videogames. Apple and the developer of the blockbuster game Fortnite, Epic Games, are fighting over whether the California-based company’s tight control of its App Store, and its 30 per cent cut of revenue, counts as monopolistic behavior. Apple pulled Fortnite from its store in August after Epic released an update that dodges revenue shar-

ing. A trial to resolve the dispute is not expected until next year.

Apple said the “vast majority” of developers will benefit from its App Store Small Business Programme – launched to give companies a boost during the pandemic.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our global economy and the beating heart of innovation and opportunity in communities around the world,” Apple CEO Tim Cook said.

“We’re launching this program to help small business owners write the next chapter of creativity and prosperity on the App Store, and to build the kind of quality apps our customers love.”

SOURCE: AFP

E-COMMERCE

Walmart scores another strong quarter amid coronavirus upheaval

WALMART reported another strong quarter Tuesday, pivoting during the coronavirus pandemic, with more consumers shifting to e-commerce and shopping less frequently but with bigger orders.

Net income came in at \$5.1 billion, up 56.2 per cent from the year-ago period, following a 5.2 per cent increase in sales to \$134.7 billion in the quarter ending October 31, easily topping analyst estimates.

Walmart has emerged as a winner during the disruption of Covid-19, notching huge sales during the spring lockdowns when it kept selling while “non-essential” stores were shuttered and strengthening its ties to consumers who adjusted their shopping habits during the pandemic.

SOURCE: AFP

MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

Global streaming giants blow dust off Mideast music business

THE Arab music industry – plagued by rampant piracy, free YouTube clips and dated channels – is the new target for global streaming giants intent on bringing the outmoded business into the digital era.

After their successes in Europe and the Americas, online platforms are looking to invest in emerging markets in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and capture their large populations of hyper-connected youth.

In a region plagued by political turmoil and economic crises, streaming giant Spotify is hoping to blow the dust off a Mideast business that has failed to keep up in a world of paid-for digital content.

“We arrived with a fully Arabic service, localized playlists and a local team,” Claudius Boller, Spotify’s Middle East and Africa managing director, told AFP. “We are only just getting started.”

SOURCE: AFP

A COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC ISSUE

China urges more cooperation with WHO on COVID-19 traceability

CHINA calls on all countries to strengthen cooperation with the World Health Organization on the traceability of the COVID-19 virus, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said here on Tuesday.

Reports indicated that the coronavirus could have been circulating in Italy since September 2019, five months before the first case emerged in Italy, according to a study released recently by the National Cancer Institute (INT) in Milan, Italy. In response, spokesperson Zhao Lijian said it further indicated that virus traceability is a complex scien-

tific issue, and scientists should carry out international scientific research and cooperation to promote the understanding of virus animal hosts and the transmission routes. This cooperation would better prevent future risks and protect the safety and health of people. He noted that virus traceability is a continuous development process involving many countries and that China hoped the entire international community would adopt a positive attitude and strengthen cooperation with the WHO on the issue.

SOURCE: XINHUA



Reports indicated that the coronavirus could have been circulating in Italy since September 2019, five months before the first case emerged in Italy, according to a study released recently by the National Cancer Institute (INT) in Milan, Italy. A woman with a protective face mask walks across the Piazza del Duomo in central Milan. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

US, Europe plan vaccination schemes as second virus wave builds

PLANS for vaccination programmes began taking shape in Europe and the United States following recent breakthroughs, as surging coronavirus case loads prompted gruelling new restrictions, with Austria taking the unpopular step Tuesday of closing schools and shops.

Global hopes of vanquishing the coronavirus pandemic were high after US biotech firm Moderna said its vaccine candidate was nearly 95 per cent effective in a trial, a week after similar results announced by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech.

Top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci hailed the results, telling AFP that the data exceeded expectations. "The idea that we have a 94.5 per cent effective vaccine is stunningly impressive," he said.

Moderna, whose clinical trial involved more than 30,000 participants, expects to have approximately 20 million doses ready to ship in the United States by year-end -- with elderly and at-risk people to be first in line for jabs.

The US Food and Drug Agency may approve both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines early next month, according to Moncef Slaoui, head of the government's "Operation Warp Speed" vaccine quest.

He said that from January, 25 million people would be vaccinated per month.

France too said it was "get-

ting on the starting blocks" for a vaccination programme to launch in January pending French and EU regulatory approval, budgeting 1.5 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) for the rollout in 2021, according to spokesman Gabriel Attal.

Fauci, who heads the National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, warned it would be crucial to convince people to take the vaccine, particularly in the US, where anti-vaccine sentiment runs high.

"A vaccine with a high degree of efficacy is of no use if nobody gets vaccinated," he said.

Yet with widespread availability of any vaccine still far off, restrictions on free movement, gatherings and business were inevitable as the second wave of the coronavirus continued to build.

SOURCE: AFP



A volunteer receives a Moderna injection in a clinical trial involving more than 30,000 participants. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PREPARING A VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

France aiming to start COVID vaccinations in January

FRANCE said Tuesday it was preparing to kick off a nationwide Covid vaccination campaign in January when it hopes virus shots will be approved and available.

The government is worried that millions of French people will refuse coronavirus shots, even after a vaccine was found to be nearly 95 per cent effective on Monday, bringing optimism to a

world facing surging infections and a raft of new stay-at-home orders. US biotech firm Moderna on Monday claimed 94.5 per cent effectiveness in a clinical vaccine trial with more than 30,000 participants, after US pharmaceutical company Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech said last week that their vaccine was 90 per cent effective. According to the World Health Organization, some 42

"candidate vaccines" are currently undergoing clinical trials.

"We're preparing a vaccination campaign to be ready the moment that a vaccine is approved by European and national health authorities so we can launch a vaccine immediately," government spokesman Gabriel Attal told France 2 television. The growing vaccine scepticism in France could however confound

a public health campaign on immunization. Only 59 per cent of French people are prepared to get vaccinated, according to an Ipsos opinion poll published in September, compared with 74 per cent worldwide.

"My fear is that not enough French people will get vaccinated," Prime Minister Jean Castex said at the weekend.

SOURCE: AFP

TOURISM DESTINATION

Visitor arrivals to Hong Kong drop by over 90% for 9 consecutive months amid COVID-19

THE Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) has announced that visitor arrivals to Hong Kong in October dropped by 99.8 per cent year on year to 7,817, making October the ninth month to witness a decline of over 90 per cent since February due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the figures released by the HKTb, compared with the same period last year, visitor arrivals between January and October declined by 92.9 per cent to less than 3.56 million.

As the bilateral Air Travel Bubble between Hong Kong and Singapore with designated flights to be launched on Sunday, the board said it was actively gearing up to welcome the first batch of Singaporean visitors with gifts and over 1,000 promotions and special offers.

Hong Kong and Singapore had both responded positively to the Air Travel Bubble, especially with bubble flights from Singapore to Hong Kong before the end of the month already fully booked, said Chairman of the HKTb Pang Yiu-kai.

SOURCE: XINHUA

SCALED-DOWN VIRTUAL FORMAT

Saudi to host online G20 summit amid pandemic, recession



Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan. PHOTO: AFP

SAUDI Arabia hosts the G20 summit Saturday in a first for an Arab nation, but the scaled-down virtual format could limit debate on a resurgent coronavirus pandemic and crippling economic crisis.

The two-day meeting of the world's wealthiest nations follows a bitter US election the results of which remain disputed by President Donald Trump and comes amid criticism of what campaigners call the group's inadequate response to the worst re-

cession in decades.

Held under the shadow of a raging pandemic, the summit which is usually an opportunity for one-on-one engagements between world leaders, is reduced to brief online sessions on pressing global issues -- from climate change to growing inequality.

Discussions are expected to be dominated by the "implications of the pandemic" and "steps for reviving the global economy", a source close to the

Saudi organizers told AFP.

New vaccine breakthroughs have raised hopes of containing the virus, which has infected 55 million people globally and left 1.3 million dead. The Paris-based OECD projects global economic output will contract by 4.5 per cent this year.

G20 nations have contributed more than \$21 billion to combat the pandemic, including production of vaccines, and injected \$11 trillion to "safeguard" the virus-battered world economy, organizers said.

But the group faces mounting pressure to help stave off possible credit defaults across developing nations.

Last week, G20 finance ministers declared a "common framework" for an extended debt restructuring plan for virus-ravaged countries, but campaign group Action Aid described the measure as "woefully inadequate".

SOURCE: AFP

BRIGHT AND SHINY

US unveils star-spangled pavilion for Dubai's Expo 2020

STAR-SPANGLED and featuring a SpaceX rocket module, the US pavilion at the gigantic Expo 2020 Dubai site was handed over Wednesday less than a year before the delayed launch of the world fair.

The six-month mega event, a milestone for the wealthy Gulf emirate which has splashed out \$8.2 billion on the eye-popping venue in the hope of boosting its soft power and resetting the economy, will open its doors in October 2021 after the coronavirus

pandemic forced a one-year postponement.

But despite the delay, armies of workers in protective masks were still racing to complete dozens of pavilions among the 192 participating countries, including Israel, which signed a normalization agreement with the United Arab Emirates in September.

The United States pavilion will "showcase our values", US ambassador to the UAE John Rakolta Jr. told journalists during a

handover ceremony.

The theme of the silver building draped in stars is "life, liberty and pursuit of the future", he said. Once opened, visitors will be taken on a tour via a moving walkway that meanders through the building.

Set to highlight American values, the pavilion website said the US delegation aims to exhibit "American freedom, ideals, enterprise and innovation".

SOURCE: AFP



The US government turned to the fair's host, the United Arab Emirates, for funding for the pavilion after failing to find financing at home. PHOTO: AFP

NO PLACE IN THE TOP TEN FOR LUX

Weaker dollar adds Paris and Zurich to world's priciest cities

PARIS and Zurich have joined Hong Kong as this year's costliest cities worldwide, while Singapore and Osaka have slipped from their joint-top spot after the coronavirus pandemic weakened the dollar, a survey published Wednesday showed.

The biggest mover was Tehran, which jumped 27 places on US sanctions, The Economist Intelligence Unit added in its Worldwide Cost of Living 2020 report.

The pandemic's effect on the dollar was however the biggest factor for places switching,

the financial research group noted.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the US dollar to weaken while western European and north Asian currencies have strengthened against it, which in turn has shifted prices for goods and services," said Upasana Dutt, head of worldwide cost of living at The EIU.

The EIU said "Singapore and Osaka, which have been dislodged from their joint-first with Hong Kong, find themselves at fourth and fifth ranks, respectively, with Osaka tying with Tel Aviv.

SOURCE: AFP

THE DROP IN SALES

European car sales swerve lower

EUROPEAN car sales swerved lower again in October, industry data showed Wednesday, as countries began to tighten restrictions on businesses

to battle the spread of coronavirus infections.

The drop came after the major manufacturing sector posted the first increase of the year in

September, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) said.

"Registrations of new cars declined by 7.8 per cent to 953,615 units last

month, as several European governments reimposed restrictions to battle a second wave of the coronavirus," said the trade group.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (923N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (923N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (045S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (045S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

PHASE-III CLINICAL TRIALS OF COVID-19

China, BRICS partners work on COVID-19 vaccines: Xi

CHINESE companies are carrying out phase-III clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines with Russian and Brazilian partners, said Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday.

China is also willing to have relevant cooperation with South

Africa and India, Xi said when addressing the 12th BRICS summit in Beijing via video link.

Xi said to support the development of the BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre, China has designated its own national centre.

China will work with other

BRICS countries both online and offline to advance collective vaccine research and trials, set up plants, authorize production and recognize each other's standards, Xi said.

SOURCE: XINHUA



A boy looks at Sinovac Biotech LTD's vaccine candidate for COVID-19 on display at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing on September 6, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

THE BAILONG ELEVATORS

Towering outdoor lift zips tourists up China's 'Avatar' cliff

TOWERING more than 300 metres up the cliff face that inspired the blockbuster movie "Avatar", the world's highest outdoor lift whisks brave tourists to breathtaking views.

The three double-deck-

er elevators in central China's Zhangjiajie Forest Park zip up the cliff in just 88 seconds, a speedy attraction as domestic tourism slowly recovers in China after the coronavirus forced strict travel measures and lockdowns earlier

this year. It delivers tourists to the top of the sandstone rock face that inspired the fictional jungle moon of Pandora — home to the blue-hued Na'vi people — of the 2009 James Cameron smash hit.

SOURCE: AFP

DISCUSSING VARIOUS PROPOSALS

Thai MPs to vote on reforms, day after six protesters shot

THAI democracy protesters are set to return to the streets of Bangkok on Wednesday a day after six of their number were shot with live rounds, as lawmakers prepared to vote on possible constitutional reforms.

A day earlier, in the most violent clashes since the pro-democracy movement kicked off in July, police used tear gas and water cannon on demonstrators.

Some in the crowd were shot, according to medical workers, though it was unclear who opened fire.

Bangkok has for months been rocked by youth-led rallies demanding a constitutional overhaul and the removal of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who took power in a 2014 coup.



Riot police use water cannons to disperse pro-democracy protesters outside the Parliament in Bangkok on November 17, 2020. PHOTO: AFP/VACHIRA VACHIRA/NURPHOTO

Some in the movement have also called for reforms to the monarchy — a once-taboo subject.

On Tuesday, as lawmakers debated possible changes to the military-scripted constitution,

LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS

Australian arrested over Iraqi oil bribes worth US\$78m

AUSTRALIAN police on Wednesday arrested a man in connection with US\$78 million in bribes used to secure lucrative Iraqi oil contracts linked to an alleged international corruption ring.

Local media named the man as former Leighton Offshore managing director Russell Waugh.

Police claim his company paid bribes through contractors including Unaoil — a Monaco-based firm which last year had two former senior executives plead guilty to being part of a scheme to bribe foreign government officials in several countries including Azerbaijan, Syria and Iraq.

Investigators believe the payments were used to secure

contracts to build oil pipelines worth roughly US\$1.5 billion.

"The key targets of the bribery scheme were Iraqi Ministry of Oil officials and government officials within the South Oil Company of Iraq," Australian Federal Police said in a statement announcing the arrest of a 54-year-old in Brisbane.

They said the investigation, which spanned nine years and involved US and UK authorities, was a "painstaking process" of piecing together a worldwide jigsaw of "alleged corruption".

Police also announced they had issued two further arrest warrants for men living overseas.

SOURCE: AFP



The payments are suspected of being used to secure contracts to build onshore and offshore oil pipelines. PHOTO: HAIDAR MOHAMMED ALI/AFP/FILE

protesters ploughed through police barricades towards parliament, prompting the use of tear gas and water cannon.

More than 50 people were injured, mostly by tear gas, according to the Erawan Emergency Medical Centre, an ambulance and medical coordination service, which said six people were shot.

Four people were still in hospital.

A Bangkok police spokesman denied officers had used rubber bullets or live rounds.

The Thai Human Rights Lawyers Association slammed the police tactics, saying "it was not in accordance with international procedure to disperse demonstrations".

At the two-day sitting, Thai

MPs have been discussing various proposals for constitutional change, which mostly exclude any reform to the monarchy.

One proposal seeks to replace the military-appointed Senate with directly elected representatives.

It was Senate support that allowed Prayut to hold on to power after last year's election.

Parliament is expected to vote Wednesday on which amendments are to be debated further.

The vote is expected to take several hours and may not be finished by the time protesters regroup at a major intersection in Bangkok's shopping district of Ratchaprasong at 4:00 pm (0900 GMT).

SOURCE: AFP

REFLECTING TRUMP'S POLICY

US to slash troop levels in Iraq, Afghanistan

THE US will slash troop levels in Afghanistan and Iraq to their lowest levels in nearly 20 years of war after President Donald Trump pledged to end conflicts abroad, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

Rejecting concerns that precipitous drawdowns could give up all the US has fought for, Acting Defence Secretary Chris Miller said around 2,000 troops would be pulled from Afghanistan by January 15.

Five hundred more would come back from Iraq by the same date, leaving 2,500 in each country.

The moves reflect Trump's policy "to bring the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to a successful and responsible conclusion and to bring our brave service members home", Miller said.

Miller said the US had met its goals, set in 2001 after the

Al Qaeda attacks on the United States, to defeat Islamist extremists and to help "local partners and allies to take the lead in the fight".

"With the blessings of providence in the coming year, we will finish this generational war and bring our men and women home," he said.

Ending 'endless wars'

The moves took the United States closer to disengaging from conflicts that have blazed and smouldered through three presidencies with no end in sight since 2001.

But critics said they risk appearing like a humiliating defeat, leaving the original threat of Islamic extremist attacks intact.

The announcement came just weeks before Trump cedes the White House in the wake of



US President Donald Trump addresses troops at Bagram airbase outside Kabul, Afghanistan, on November 28, 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

his November 3 reelection loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Amid criticism that Trump

was acting abruptly since his defeat, White House National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien

said the troop cuts have been in the works for some time.

SOURCE: AFP

US-SPONSORED NORMALIZATION ACCORDS

Bahrain's FM makes first official visit to Israel



Bahrain's foreign minister arrived in Israel Wednesday on the first official visit from the Gulf kingdom, which normalized relations with the Jewish state in September. PHOTO: AFP

BAHRAIN'S foreign minister arrived in Israel Wednesday on the first official visit from the Gulf kingdom, which normalized relations with the Jewish state in September.

The minister, Abdellatif al-Zayani, was welcomed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport by his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi, a live Israeli television broadcast showed.

Bahrain and its Gulf neighbour the United Arab Emirates both signed US-sponsored normalization accords with Israel at the White House on September

15, pacts that were condemned as a "betrayal" by the Palestinians and their allies.

The agreements shattered a longstanding Arab consensus that there should be no normalization with Israel until it reaches a comprehensive peace deal with the Palestinians.

Zayani was due to hold talks in Jerusalem later Wednesday with both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and outgoing US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was to arrive in Israel in the afternoon.

SOURCE: AFP

HANDLING OF POLITICAL CONTENT

Twitter, Facebook defend election rules at heated Senate hearing

FACEBOOK and Twitter defended their handling of US election misinformation at a heated congressional hearing Tuesday where one key senator assailed the platforms for being the "ultimate editor" of political news.

The hearing, the second in less than a month, came with social media under increasing fire from both the left and the right for their handling of political content during a bitter US presidential campaign. Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg and Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey testified remotely to the session, called to discuss "censorship and suppression of news articles" and the "handling of the 2020 election" by the platforms.

Senator Lindsey Graham, chairing the Judiciary Committee hearing, warned the CEOs that new regulations are needed to ensure that major platforms are held responsible for decisions on removing, filtering or allowing content to remain.

"It seems like you're the ultimate editor," the Republican senator said at the opening as he took aim at decisions by both platforms to limit the distribution of a New York Post



Senator Lindsey Graham takes his seat during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled, "Breaking the News: Censorship, Suppression, and the 2020 Election," on Facebook and Twitter's content moderation practices. PHOTO: AFP/BILL CLARK

article claiming to expose malfeasance involving the son of President-elect Joe Biden during the campaign.

"When you have companies that have the power of governments (and) have far more power than traditional media outlets, something has to give." Graham said the law known as Section 230 that gives immunity to online services for content posted by others "needs to be changed."

Megaphone for falsehoods

Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal also called for reform of Section 230 while re-

buking the platforms for what he said was inadequate action on political misinformation from President Donald Trump.

"The president has used this megaphone to spread vicious falsehoods in an apparent attempt to overturn the will of voters," Blumenthal said.

Blumenthal said the big platforms had "power far exceeding the robber barons of the last Gilded Age" and have "profited hugely by strip mining data about our private lives and promoting hate speech and voter suppression."

SOURCE: AFP

Striker Win Naing Soe to meet fans via online today



Striker Win Naing Soe (No 29) blocks the ball against the opponent during a Myanmar National League match against Yangon United on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: YDNB**

STRIKER of the Yadanarbon FC and Myanmar National Football Team will participate in an online fan meeting named “Meet with MNL Stars” which will be organized by Myanmar National League on 19 November (today), according to the statement with the MNL.

Win Naing Soe started his career at the Yadanarbon Junior Football Club from 2012, and he is now recognized as a key striker for Yadanarbon Senior Team, and he became the only Myanmar player who won the Myanmar National League’s top goalscorer award.

The 27-year-old striker has won the top goalscorer award twice in his career and the first time was in 2016 and the second

time in 2019.

Remarkably in 2019, Win Naing Soe scored 18 goals to become the top scorer, with only four goals coming from the penalty spot.

The striker also participated in Myanmar National Football Team as a young striker starting from 2016 and made seven appearances for the national team with best of his assists.

During his virtual meeting with fans today on the Myanmar National League Facebook Page, Win Naing Soe will answer the questions raised by the football fans and will encourage his fans across Myanmar to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic period. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Canelo to return against Callum Smith on December 19

LOS ANGELES — Pound-for-pound king Canelo Alvarez will make his long-awaited return to the ring next month when he battles Britain’s world super-middleweight champion Callum Smith, both fighters’ camps confirmed on Tuesday.

Alvarez, recognised as the holder of World Boxing Association’s middleweight “super” belt, has not fought since scoring an

11th-round knockout of Sergey Kovalev in a light-heavyweight duel last November.

The 30-year-old Mexican star’s return to the ring has been held up amid a dispute with promoter Oscar de la Hoya and streaming service DAZN.

Alvarez, who signed a \$350 million five-year deal with DAZN in 2018, earlier this month announced he was a free agent

after severing his ties with the platform and De La Hoya’s Golden Boy Promotions. However Alvarez’s December 19 fight with Smith will be aired on the DAZN platform on a one-off basis. The exact venue is to be confirmed, but US reports said it is likely to take place in Texas. Smith, who holds the WBA’s supermiddleweight title, is 27-0 with 19 wins by knockout.—AFP ■

Club World Cup in Qatar rescheduled for February

DOHA — Qatar will host the coronavirus-delayed Club World Cup, an important test event ahead of the 2022 World Cup, in February, FIFA said on Tuesday.

The virus has thrown the

sporting calendar into chaos with organizers forced to postpone flagship events like the Olympics and Euro 2020, while other events have been cancelled outright.

The Club World Cup, which had been due to be played in Doha in December of this year, will instead be held from February 1 to 11, 2021.

The competition sees club champions from the six regional confederations and the champions of the host nation, Qatar’s Al-Duhail, brought together for the annual contest.

Bayern Munich are due to take part after winning last season’s UEFA Champions League.

“The FIFA Club World Cup 2020 will now be held from 1 to 11 February 2021, taking place in Qatar,” FIFA said in a statement.

“FIFA and the host country will provide the required safeguards for the health and safety of all involved.”

Liverpool lifted the trophy in 2019 after beating Brazil’s Flamengo in the final.—AFP ■



Liverpool’s Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk (left) is closed down by Flamengo’s forward Gabriel Barbosa during the 2019 FIFA Club World Cup Final football match between England’s Liverpool and Brazil’s Flamengo at the Khalifa International Stadium in the Qatari capital Doha. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Stunning Spain hit Germany for six as Giroud stars for France



Ferran Torres (R) celebrates after completing his hat-trick in Spain’s stunning 6-0 win over Germany. **PHOTO: CRISTINA QUICLER/AFP**

PARIS — Ferran Torres grabbed a hat-trick as Spain condemned Germany to their worst defeat in 89 years on Tuesday, winning 6-0 in Seville to qualify for the UEFA Nations League finals and join France, who came from behind to beat Sweden 4-2.

Manchester City forward Torres was the star for Spain, who were as brilliant as Germany were bad. The result raises further questions about Germany coach Joachim Loew, who was already under pressure coming into this game.

“This has been a black day for us,” admitted Loew after Germany’s heaviest defeat since losing 6-0 to Austria in 1931

They came into their final game in League A, Group 4 on

top, a point clear of Spain, and so only needed a draw at an empty La Cartuja to qualify for the finals in October next year.

But Alvaro Morata headed Spain in front in the 17th minute before Torres crashed in the second on 33 minutes after Dani Olmo’s header hit the bar.

His City team-mate Rodri headed in another to make it 3-0 for Spain before the end of a first half in which they lost Sergio Canales and skipper Sergio Ramos to injury, with the latter coming off feeling his hamstring.

Germany’s defence was posted missing as Jose Gaya burst through and squared for Torres to get the fourth on 55 minutes, and Fabian Ruiz teed up the 20-year-old Torres to complete his hat-trick.—AFP ■