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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to newly-appointed Myanmar ambassadors



President U Win Myint receives U Hau Khan Sum and U Min Thein, newly-appointed Myanmar diplomats at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint gave policy guidance to two newly-appointed Myanmar ambassadors yesterday morning.

The President received U Hau Khan Sum, Ambassador to Canada and U Min Thein, Ambassador to Austria and Per-

manent Representative to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Vienna at his office in

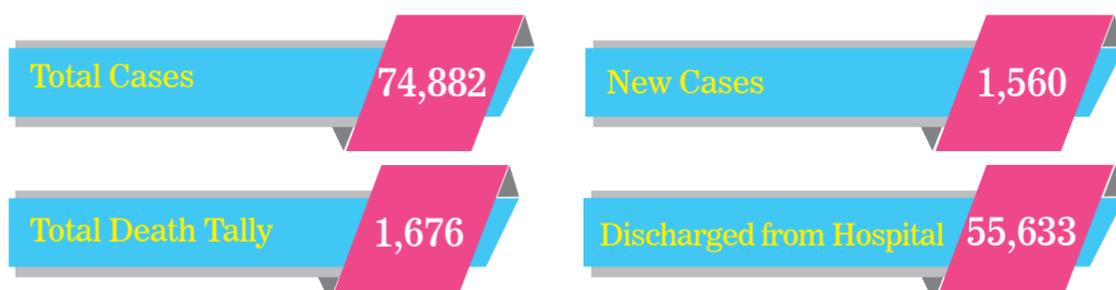
the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

**1,560** new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 November, total figure rises to **74,882**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **74,882** after **1,560** new cases were reported on 19 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **74,882** confirmed cases, **1,676** died, **55,633** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 19 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 19-11-2020

26

Ministry of Health and Sports

## “People are the key”

### President of Federal Republic of Germany Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr K P Sharma Oli and Secretary-General of United Nations Mr António Guterres send Congratulatory messages to State Counsellor

THE following are the congratulatory messages from Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr K P Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal and Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations sent to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for the successful General Election held on 8 November 2020.

#### Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

IN the parliamentary elections held on 8 November, in circumstances made more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic, the citizens of your country gave a remarkable demonstration of their desire to continue along the path of democratization, the peace process and national reconciliation.

I would like to congratulate you on these successful and peaceful elections and the renewed victory of your party. You have received a mandate from a large part of the population to take resolute action to tackle the many different challenges which Myanmar faces. As you do so, only the integration of all ethnic groups living in your country and their full participation in public life can bring about greater stability, unity and prosperity in the long term.

I wish you a great deal of strength and confidence for the reforms that are needed to make this possible.

Allow me to assure you that Germany will continue to stand by and support you and your country.

#### Mr K P Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal

ON behalf of the Government and people of Nepal, as well as on my own, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Your Excellency on the landslide victory of National League for Democracy (NLD) in the Myanmar's general elections. The result is a testimony of the faith of the people of Myanmar in your able leadership and the popularity of your party among the people.

I am happy to state that Nepal and Myanmar have been enjoying excellent state of bilateral relations based on mutual trust, understanding and cooperation ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960. Cultural similarities, especially the shared values of Buddhism, have brought our two countries and people closer. The Nepali speaking people of Myanmar have served as a strong bridge between our two countries.

I believe that the bonds of friendship and close cultural ties existing between Nepal and Myanmar will be further strengthened in the years to come. I happily recall your Excellency's successful visit to Nepal in November 2018 which have helped to bring our two countries further closer.

I look forward to working closely with Your Excellency to expand and consolidate our friendship and cooperation for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.

#### Secretary-General of the United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL of the United Nations Mr António Guterres sent a congratulatory message to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

In his message, the Secretary-General of the United Nations welcomed the peaceful conduct of the general elections, held on 8 November 2020 in Myanmar. The results reflected a continued strong mandate for the State Counsellor and the National League for Democracy. The high voter turnout underlined the trust and hope in her leadership, and Myanmar had a real opportunity to emerge as an inclusive and harmonious democracy that derived strength from its diversity. He also added that he was fully aware of the challenges in pursuing national reforms, and assured the strong support of the United Nations for democracy, rooted in national reconciliation, strong institutions and respect for human rights. Furthermore, he expressed his appreciation for the good cooperation extended to his Special Envoy, and also assured the readiness of the United Nations system in further strengthening the partnership with the Government of Myanmar and in providing support to its people.

## e-Government implementation work committee holds 5<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting

THE 5<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting of e-Government implementation work committee was held via videoconferencing yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, in his capacity as the chairman of work committee, made an opening speech, calling for further cooperation to improve the e-Government system for development of useful projects in the country in line with the guidance of the State Counsellor as the patron of e-Government Steering Committee, and the Vice President who is the chairman of the committee.

He also discusses reform of procedures at the state departments due to increasing demand in online payment, legality and accountable way to meet the changing trend into new normal lifestyles.

The Union Minister also talked about the need to adopt laws relating to cybersecurity, its policy and strategies and to renew the Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan (2016-2020) which will expire this year.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, in his capacity as the vice-chairman of the work committee, presented the launching of Myanmar National Portal in 2018 as a part of Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan, its mobile app, the need of connection between the web sites of government agencies and API, 24/7 services from the data centre of his ministry for server co-location and web hosting systems, upgrade of government cloud this year, and the implementation of e-Government Integrated Data Centre for all the government agencies.



Coordination meeting of e-Government implementation work committee is held online on 19 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Chairman of e-ID System Work Committee and Union Minister U Thein Swe reported on the implementation of the e-ID system; its Secretary about the

accomplishment of decisions in the 4th coordination meeting.

Senior officials at the meeting also discussed issuing cybersecurity law, policy and strategies,

the implementation of Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan (2016-2020) and the next round of this plan for the period from 2021 to 2025. —MNA(Translated by AK)

# Govt discusses preparations for Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe presided over a coordination meeting of the Steering Committee tasked with holding the annual Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In delivering a speech at the meeting, the Vice President said that the Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony had been held annually in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory since 2012, and the upcoming 9th event will be held in line with the rules and guidelines of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports as well as various appeals to the people, orders, ordinances and directives.

He also discussed preventive measures against the disease by disinfection at the ceremony area, health tests for persons who will perform duties at the ceremony, distribution of masks, face shields and gloves for the congregation, making advance arrangements to provide hand sanitizers/gels for attendees before coming into the ceremony and measures for compliance with the 21 standard guidelines prescribed by the Min-



Vice President U Myint Swe chairs the coordination meeting on preparing for holding the annual Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

istry of Health and Sports for the ceremony.

A total of 18 members of the Sangha, including senior monks from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, will be invited to the ceremony.

The Vice President also gave instructions to the relevant committees on preparing accommodations for the Sayadaws who are visiting Nay Pyi Taw, setting up

medical clinics, the readiness of medicines and medical supplies, making social distancing plans at the venue of the ceremony and other decorations at the event.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Deputy Minister U Kyi Min reported on preparations for successful holding of the ceremony, invitation to the monks, formation of sub-committees and

conducting rehearsals.

Next, senior officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture presented preparations for donation items, offering meals to members of the Sangha and transportation.

Officials from the relevant ministries also discussed various details of the programme, releasing information about the ceremony, COVID-19 preventive

measures, measures to ensure that the 21 standard guidelines are followed at the ceremony, decorations, security measures, logistics and electricity supply.

The Vice President gave advice and suggestions to ensure coordination based on the discussions after which the meeting was concluded.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## Announcement on Stay-at-Home to control COVID-19 spread

THERE have been 73,322 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar up to 8:10 pm on 18-11-2020. Among the patients taken to the hospitals, 75 per cent of them have been discharged, while the death toll reached 1,650.

As the winter season has set in Myanmar at present and this climate is favourable to the spread of COVID-19. Moreover, the disease could rapidly spread if people make tours in the upcoming open season and the long holiday period.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health and Sports is increasing surveillance and control measures against a possible higher number of positive cases due to the public gatherings before and after the 2020 General Election on 8 November. The region and state governments are also conducting 'Mask and Face Shield Campaign' with the distribution of masks, face shields and pamphlets during the awareness campaigns.

Therefore, people are advised not to make unnecessary tours and public gatherings, while following the directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports and staying at home to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar.

*Ministry of Health and Sports*

## RFP to Invest in Package 1 of the New Urban Development of Yangon City issued to 9 entities

THE Myanmar Government's Swiss Challenge Tender Committee received 16 Expression of Interest (EOI) submissions to develop Package 1 - Industrial Park with Essential Ancillary Infrastructure as part of the New Urban Development of Yangon City from nine countries ahead of the 22 October 2020 deadline.

Among those entities which submitted an EOI, 15 qualified entities were shortlisted and invited to participate in the subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) stage.

Of those 15 shortlisted entities, the following nine entities have paid the RFP fee permitting them access to RFP documents ahead of the 6 November 2020 deadline:

Name	HQ Location
BES Engineering Corporation	Taiwan (China)
BYMA Myanmar Limited(a subsidiary of Bouygues Construction)	France
Dragon Power Company Limited	Myanmar
EDF HQ Singapore Pte. Ltd.	France
Myanmar National Brotherhood Consortium	Myanmar
NTPC Limited	India
Nylect Technology (Myanmar) Ltd.	Singapore
Southern Metal Industry Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
SUEZ Group	France

These nine entities may bid either by themselves or as part of a consortium formed to cover the technical and financial scope of this project.

The Question-and-Answer period is allocated up to mid-December 2020. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 18 January 2021.—MNA

# Union Minister U Win Khaing attends 38<sup>th</sup> AMEM, associated meetings

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended the virtual meeting of the 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and associated meetings hosted by Viet Nam from 17 to 20 November yesterday morning from Nay Pyi Taw.

The opening ceremony of the meetings and the ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2020 was held and Vice Minister for Industry and Trade of Viet Nam and the rotating Chairman of ASEAN Energy Mr Dang Hoang An delivered the opening speech.

The 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (38th AMEM), the 6th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting with International Energy Agency (6th AMEM-IEA) and ASEAN Energy Awards Ceremony were held.

Union Minister U Win Khaing discussed the completion of the Phase 1 (2016-2020) of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation- APAEC;



Union Minister U Win Khaing participates in the 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and Associated Meetings via videoconference on 19 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

the programmes to be continued to implement the Phase 2 (2021-2025); cooperation with international organizations and development partners to reduce carbon emissions and promote clean energy conversion; resili-

ence of the energy sector to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis and renewable energy development; energy security and electricity security; and reforming new energy policies during the meetings.

After the meetings, the Union Minister also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Mr Supattanapong Punmeechaow to discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of electricity, energy and investment.

The 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and Associated Meetings were attended by the energy ministers from the ASEAN countries, senior officials, officials from the International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and ASEAN+3 countries -- China, Japan and South Korea and representatives from the development partner countries -- Australia, India, New Zealand, Russia and the USA.

The Union Minister will also participate in the 17th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting with the ASEAN+3 countries (17th AMEM+3), 4th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting with International Renewable Energy Agency (4th AMEM-IRENA) and 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting (EAS-EMM) online.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

# Paper reading session held virtually to mark Centenary of Yangon University



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi (L) joins the paper reading session to mark the Centenary of Yangon University via videoconference on 19 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

A paper reading session titled “Sustainable Development Goals to Transform Peaceful and Prosperous Myanmar” to mark the Centenary of Yangon

University was held at the university’s research centre via videoconferencing yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi said the Yangon Uni-

versity is the heart of all national people living in the union and is recognized as the mother of all universities in Myanmar.

He expressed words of

thanks to the Chair of Rectors Committee Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Rector of Yangon University Dr Phoe Kaung and other officials for holding the paper reading ceremony to mark 100th anniversary of the Yangon University including 76 faculty members who read their research papers.

The Union Minister also talked about the SD index of Myanmar which was 44.5 in 2016 and 64.6 in 2020 according to the Sustainable Development Report, plans to promote the SD index and to enhance internationalization in higher education.

He then appreciated the participation of teachers in the paper reading session as it can exchange the views to promote the businesses in society and

can link the students with the real worksite for their practical and lecture sectors.

He also said the natural resources are limited resources while learning is infinite resources or infinite treasures. As the saying goes, there is no friend like learning, and so the real friend for all national brethren is learning, and then he extended best wishes for the eternal existence of the university.

The research conference for the centenary of Yangon University will be held for two days on 19 and 20 November, and a total of 76 teachers and paper researchers will read 76 papers. —MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

# ROK Embassy hands over 100 audio-guide to National Museum in Yangon

THE Embassy of the Republic of Korea, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, handed over 100 new audio-guide to National Museum in Yangon yesterday.

U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, accepted the equipment presented by Mr Lee Sang-hwa, Korean Ambassador.

Through this new audio-guide will substitute old audio guide which was originally at the National Museum Yangon. Compared to the 42 old audio guide which explained only 30 artifacts, the 100 new audio guide explains 80 artifacts in 3 languages (Myanmar, Korean, English) with Korean Language newly added.

Korean Ambassador highlighted that as two

countries commemorate 45th anniversary of diplomatic relationship today, and next year(2021) is Mekong-ROK Exchange Year, this will serve as meaningful momentum to attract more Korean visitors to Myanmar, and promoting Myanmar culture to Koreans. On similar context, Korean Government recently disclosed the upgraded “New Southern Policy PLUS” which puts much importance on mutual cultural exchange.

Another special features worth attention is, Myanmar Actor Khar Ra participated in the Myanmar version track 1 recording. Khar Ra is an Honorary Ambassador for Korean Culture, whose role is to promote mutual cultural exchange.—GNLM



Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein accepts the audio-guide devices donated by ROK Embassy on 19 November.

# Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe participates in Ministerial Meeting of Global HIV Prevention Coalition

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe participated in “The Ministerial Meeting of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC): HIV Prevention 2021-2025, Taking Stock, Planning the Future” hosted by UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland via videoconferencing yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was officially opened by Ethiopia’s Health Minister Dr Lia Tadesse.

UNAIDS CEO Ms Winnie Byanyima and Global Fund CEO Mr Peter Sands explained the main activities and future plans of their organizations.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that Myanmar is working hard to control the spread of COVID-19 disease.

He continued that Myanmar also focused on providing health services for non-COVID-19 diseases too. He highlighted Myanmar’s great effort to reduce HIV prevalence. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe participates in The Ministerial Meeting of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) via videoconference on 19 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

firmly continues HIV prevention and treatment activities, according to the Union Minister, who said that the Ministry is working hard to ensure continuous access to ART for people with HIV. He added that Myanmar is taking great efforts to draft and implement policies and strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Myanmar introduced the

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) system in this year’s July. The Union Minister continued that the Global Fund gave Myanmar US\$7 million to control the COVID-19 pandemic, and has approved another \$18 million. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar, the ministry is coordinating with UN agencies to combat various diseases including HIV, syphilis, TB, and viral

Hepatitis.

It is targeted that the world would become an HIV-free society in 2030.

The Union Minister also expressed thanks to the Global Fund for providing a total of \$876.1 million for combatting HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria from 2011 to 2020. And he said thanks to the UNAIDS for providing technical assistance for HIV/

AIDS prevention activities.

He also said that HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities in Myanmar are successful.

In Myanmar, 85 per cent of people with HIV are aware of their disease, and 91 per cent of them are currently taking ART. If compared to the rate in 2010, new HIV infections in Myanmar have been reduced by 36 per cent and total deaths due to HIV/AIDS and related diseases have been reduced by 52 per cent. By the end of June 2020, about 79 per cent of estimated 240,000 people with HIV had been treated with ART, according to the Union Minister.

The meeting was participated by Health Ministers and senior officials from the 28 member nations of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC), and they discussed the HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategy (2021-2025).—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

# Union Attorney-General receives UNODC Country Manager

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received a courtesy call of UNODC Country Manager Mr Benedikt Hofmann at the former’s office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. At the meeting, they discussed the works of Union Attorney-General Office in the rule of law and justice, legal advice and prosecution, joint projects with international partner organizations, cooperation between UAGO and UNODC since 2014, future plans between the two offices in the post-COVID-19 and possible support of UNODC in the ‘UAGO Strategic Planning 2020-2024’.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives UNODC Country Manager Mr Benedikt Hofmann in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 November. PHOTO: MNA

# CBM Governor discusses economic relief loan with IMF online

U KYAW KYAW MAUNG, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, participated in a virtual meeting with the International Monetary Fund yesterday morning in order to discuss matters related to getting a second loan from the fund under COVID-19 loan scheme.

The virtual meeting was also participated by Deputy Minister for Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, CBM Vice-Governor U Bo Bo Nge, IMF Mission Chief for Myanmar Mr Shanaka Jayanath Peiris, IMF Southeast Asia Voting Group Executive Director Ms Alisara Mahasandana, IMF Resident Representative for My-



CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung holds online meeting with International Monetary Fund on 19 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

anmar Mr Neil Saker, and senior officials from the CBM and the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

During the meeting, the par-

ticipants discussed COVID-19 impacts on the global economy and matters related to getting the second loan under COVID-19 (Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid

Financing Instrument).

They also discussed COVID-19 impacts on Myanmar’s economy, development of Myanmar’s financial sector, possible

inflation in Myanmar, foreign exchange rates and liquidity, trade deficit, a significant increase in Myanmar’s foreign exchange reserves, and situations in the banking sector of Myanmar, IMF’s plan to provide assistance in taking up the challenges that Myanmar’s financial sector is facing, the impact of an increase in spending during the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for additional funding, the cooperation between the CBM and the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and other related issues.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

## Physical exercises are useful for reducing stress

Regarding the COVID-19 disease, as the weather is becoming cooler, you need to be more careful. According to the assessments and experience of experts, the COVID-19 virus becomes a little more active and multiplies a little bit faster in cold weather. That is why we need to be more careful as the cold weather sets in. We are lucky because in our country some places are not that cold. However, we have areas where it is cold. We need to be very careful in cold regions. Therefore, for our people to be healthy and to keep warm the Ministry of Health and Sports has been broadcasting physical exercise programmes; I want our people to take interest in these programmes. If people take part in these exercise programmes, they would feel happy and healthy. Physical exercises are useful for reducing stress. This is what experts have found out scientifically.

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



## Myanmar nationals abroad fly back home by relief flights

THE 13th relief flight of All Nippon Airways (ANA) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo landed at Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 138 Myanmar citizens after they were stranded in Japan due to the suspension of international flights yesterday evening.

The relief flight of Myanmar National Airways (MNA) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and Myanmar Seafarers' Federation also brought 136 Myanmar seamen back home from abroad yesterday. Among them, 6 people were from England, 6 from Germany, 7 from France, 3 from the Philip-



Myanmar returnees line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 19 November 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

6 from Singapore, 2 from Japan, The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports  
 17 from Turkey, 6 from the Netherlands, 8 from Indonesia, 2 from the United States and 64 from South Korea.  
 8 from the UAE, 1 from Taiwan,

and the Yangon Region government arranged 7-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens and Myanmar seamen who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and shipping companies. —MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

## UNODC supports Myanmar to protect its borders against transnational organized crime

AMIDST growing concerns over the strong supply of illicit drugs and cross-border crime in the Golden Triangle, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) yesterday handed a major delivery of equipment aimed at strengthening law enforcement capacities in Myanmar's border regions. In recent years, a rise in synthetic drug production has reshaped the illicit drug market in Southeast Asia and beyond, feeding a regional methamphetamine market of up to US\$61.4 billion annually. Regional transnational organized crime groups play a key role in this business, exploiting growing trade infrastructure and gaps in border security to move illicit goods throughout the region.

UNODC has been working with the Government of Myanmar to address these cross-border criminal activities through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs). These offices serve to facilitate effective coordination between the



Handover of BLO equipment from UNODC Country Manager Mr Benedikt Hofmann to Pol. Brig-General Aung Htay Myint, Chief of Division against Transnational Crime, Myanmar Police Force. **PHOTO: UNODC**

different law enforcement services and, as part of a regional network supported by UNODC, cross-border information sharing and operational coordination.

At the handover, Mr Benedikt Hofmann, who took up his position as UNODC's Country Manager for Myanmar in August this year, said: "The involvement

of organized criminal groups and the shift to synthetic drugs has made finding a response incredibly complex, but effective border security is an important step in the right direction. UNODC is committed to continue supporting Myanmar to strengthen its border management capacities and facilitate cooperation with

its neighbours."

The equipment delivered to the BLOs includes technical tools, such as video borescope inspection cameras, remote fly cams, night vision monoculars, drug and precursor chemical testing kits, covert voice recorders, GPS trackers, and laptop and desktop computers. In addition,

UNODC developed and delivered a series of 'pocket guides' for frontline officers to interdict different types of illicit activities and info guides on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

As part of a partnership with Japan to address border security in the ASEAN region, UNODC will distribute the packages to the 13 BLO locations in Myanmar. "It is more important than ever for UNODC to assist Myanmar and its neighbours at this difficult time", Mr Hofmann said. "Seizure patterns show that unlike the formal economy, illicit activities – in particular synthetic drug production – has continued and even grown during the COVID-19 pandemic."

The handover, which took place at the Myanmar Police Force headquarters, followed a meeting between Mr Hofmann and Major-General Soe Tint Naing, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Home Affairs, where they discussed general cooperation between Myanmar and UNODC. —UNODC

# CMP garment exports rise last FY despite COVID crisis

Myanmar's garment export sector, which constitutes over 20 per cent of overall export value, stepped up amid the coronavirus impacts.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued US\$4.798 billion in the last financial year 2019-2020, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce. Although the sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the pandemic export values, rose in the previous FY.

The export value of CMP garments was only \$850 million in the 2015-2016 financial year, but it has tripled over the last two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about \$2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to \$4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP

garment industry has emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries.

The majority of Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free-on-board (FoB) system, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

The coronavirus impacts badly batter the labour-intensive enterprises, said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

However, foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses, including garment enterprises. The foreign investors are not bothered by the disputes between employers and employees and the closure of some CMP businesses during the mean times.

Of the investment proposals, the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses are



(FILES) Woman sew clothes at a workplace in Yangon during the first wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar.  
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

prioritized by the commission.

Myanmar Investment Commission is planning to accept investment projects in manufacturing masks, pharmaceuticals and others which can contribute to the fight against the coronavirus in the country at the soonest.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in

Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US.

Since an outbreak like COVID-19 might happen in the future, it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weav-

ing, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 400,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar. — Ko Htet  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar imports over \$1.2 bln worth machinery, spare parts last FY

The import value of Myanmar's machinery and spare parts has estimated at over US\$1.2 billion during the past financial year 2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

Similarly, the country imported \$899.89 million worth vehicles and spare parts.

Imports of commercial vehicles and machinery have been permitted through seaports and three border gates — Muse, Myawady, and Tachilek.

"Starting from 1 January, imports of commercial vehicles on a company licence are not allowed. Importers are required to operate a car showroom in line with the prescribed rules and regulations. However, the new policy can pose difficulties for traders conducting business on a manageable scale," said importers.

In a bid to maintain the social distancing during the coronavirus crisis, the Ministry of Commerce provided fully online licence system for the car showrooms for car imports. It will extend its online service to sales centres later, the ministry stated on 2 November.

Under the 2021 vehicle import policy, 2019 will be the oldest model to be issued an import permit for private cars with non-commercial purpose, according to the press release of the Commerce Ministry.

Except for machinery, all import vehicles must be left-hand drive under the 2021 vehicle import policy.

When vehicles with engines under 1,350 CC are individually imported, the model year must be 2019 and later. Passengers vehicles such as mini-bus, city

bus, express bus and commercial trucks manufactured in 2017 and later can be imported.

Under FOC Free-of-Charge licence system, fire trucks, ambulances and hearse vehicles manufactured in 2012 or later are allowed for import.

Heavy equipment that cannot be driven on public roads such as excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders, vibratory roller, clamp loader, motor grader, road roller compactor, bridge crane, gantry crane, tower crane, pilling machine, crawler drill/crane, mobile crane, rough-terrain crane, forklift, boom lift and asphalt finisher are allowed to be brought into the country as long as they are 15 years old or less.

Myanmar cuts tariff on import of private cars and Semi-Knocked Down vehicles amid the COVID-19 impacts. This

move is likely to bring down the prices of cars with engines above 1,500 CC. The dealers pointed out that the price is possible to drop by K2 to 15 million depending on vehicle brand and specifications.

In a bid to remedy the businesses slowdown caused by the COVID-19 impacts, the government has brought tax cuts on the importation of private cars with non-commercial purpose and SKD vehicles assembled in Myanmar starting from 1 August 2020, according to notification of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry released on 29 July 2020.

The government lowered custom duty from 30 to 20 per cent on imported private cars with the engine under 2,000 CC and 40 to 30 per cent on cars with 2,001 CC and above. Meanwhile, the locally assembled cars under

the SKD system were totally exempted from 10 per cent tax. Additionally, tariffs on SKD vehicles with 2001 CC and above were reduced from 20 to 5 per cent.

Additionally, starting from 7 August 2020, registration fees at the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) on FOB price of the private vehicles were reduced from 30 to 15 per cent for vehicles with 1,500 CC and above, 50 to 25 per cent for vehicles with 1,351-2,000 CC, 80 to 40 per cent for cars with 2,001-5,000 CC and 120 to 60 per cent for cars with 5,001 CC, and above respectively, the RTAD stated.

However, tax cuts still do not cover special goods tax, commercial tax and income tax in order to hold the vehicle ownership status. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

<p>Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355</p>	<p>circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  သတင်းစာဖတ်ရရှိဖို့မိကဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။  <b>Circulation order is in easier way.</b> <b>HOTLINE 09-45237515</b></p>
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# Continue to fight against HIV/AIDS amidst COVID-19

COVID-19 cases in Myanmar reached over 74,800, with more than 1,670 deaths as of yesterday.

With enforcement of stricter stay-at-home measures in our country, especially in Yangon Region which is experiencing surge in positive cases, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to limit transmission of the virus, new challenges for primary care practitioners who manage patients with chronic diseases and infectious emerged.

AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (TB), three of the deadliest infectious diseases, together kill 2.4 million people every year, with TB alone responsible for 1.5 million deaths. And deaths from these diseases could almost double over the next year, according to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a consortium of donors that funds treatments. The reason: coronavirus. It's a horrifying prospect, and calls for an urgent action plan.

Hence, we must do everything possible to lessen its potential destructiveness. Part of that is also making sure we do not forget about the fact that patients HIV/AIDS require life-saving medicines.

Making sure we do not forget about the fact that patients HIV/AIDS require life-saving medicines.

Increased antiretroviral treatment coverage has seen the number of people dying of AIDS-related illnesses fall by a third since 2010, reflecting our success in fighting the disease.

Thankfully, with popular support and political will, prevention programmes have achieved a 36 per cent decline in new infections and a 52 per cent decline in HIV/AIDS related deaths when compared with those in 2020.

Understanding that cases of infectious disease likes HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria would rise if we do not manage the live-saving services well, the Ministry of Health and Sports has implemented a scheme under which over 70 per cent of HIV/AIDS patients have been provided with ART for six months while over 90 per cent of patients who are taking methadone are getting the medicine at their door.

We could not achieve this important success in our fight against HIV, without support from the Global Fund which provided us with over US\$876 million to be used for fighting HIV/AIDS from 2011 to 2020, and technical assistance from UNAIDS.

We would like to express thanks to the Global Fund for its agreement for providing over US\$128 million again to strengthen our fight against HIV/AIDS from 2021 to 2023.

Apart from all measures taken to protect people from coronavirus and to treat those who have become sick, we must also enforce the current response to COVID-19 to make sure that people with underlying diseases do not become fatalities for lack of proper medicines and treatment for their existing chronic conditions.

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# Tribute to my Alma Mater Yangon University 1920- 2020

THE writer wishes to pay tribute to his Alma Mater Yangon University with a series of articles on his life, learnings, and cultural educational and social experiences of everlasting values.

On the auspicious occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Yangon University, the writer eye-witnessed all celebrations from his house, 33 Chancellor Road leading to the Convocation Hall. Facing all important buildings such as central men's hostels, stadium and Yangon University Students Union (TekathoKyaungthamyaThamagga).

The writer's series of tribute articles would begin with Men's Hostel Sagaing Hall (Hostel). To be literally correct, Hall means a large room. Hostel means Residential Building. In his days hostel was used and Men's Hostels bore Hostel on the front gate. Now halls replaced hostels.

There are five central hostels for men students on the right side of the Chancellor Road, namely Inwa Hostel (Hall), Sagaing Hostel (Hall), and Pinya Hostel (Hall). Pegu (Bago) Hostel, and Thaton Hostel, and Women's hostels were Inya Hostel (Hall) and Benton Hostel (Hall) of Judson College. Later two women hostels were added, namely Marlar Hostel (Hall) and Thiri Hostel (Hall).

As resident and staff of Sagaing Hostel (Hall), the writer wishes to begin with Sagaing Hostel (hall). The writer was a resident as well as a staff of Sagaing Hall. After his first B.A degree from Mandalay University College, he joined Yangon University as Tutor in English Department. Later, thanks to the advice of U Myo Min, Professor of English Department, he was transferred to the Department of Modern History and Political Science.

With the advice of Professor, he became a hall tutor of Sagaing Hostel. All central men's hostels are 3 storeyed building, red brick and fenced by Ponnayek plants with red or pink blooms all the year round. The first (ground) floor was for the fresher students; the second floor for the sophomores (second year students) and third or top floor for Honours or post-graduates.

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The writer became hall tutor of the second floor. Here the writer would like to say that university student's life is not complete unless he is a residential (hostel) student. He would like to appreciate and support British style of residential university. But after the Yangon University Students Boycott 2/1920, the British Colonial Government allowed day scholars (non-residential students) to attend.

To mention but a few good students, the writer would like to start with Poe Pyone Cho. Firstly the writer wishes to mention Poe Pyone Cho (not his real name) but we nicknamed him popular film comedian of the time. He was an all round young student. He could mimic, sing songs both classical and popular hits of the times, copy gait, manners and voice of his men and women professors and teachers. He could compose extempore amazing songs on the tune of popular hits. He could dance traditional and modern dance aping Great Poe Sein, Shwe Man Tin Maung and Sein Aung Min. Without him no social function be complete. Day trip excursions to Bago, Thanlyin and Twante, we had to pay for his share Kyats 3 or 5. The whole excursion was lively. He could make everyone laugh. At annual dinner of the hostel, he would dance and make jokes. Even the real dancers and comedians could not beat him.



Men's Hostel Sagaing Hall (Hostel) was built in 1928. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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As we passed the gate of Dr Htin Aung, he would wish Dr Htin Aung: "Long, long, long. Long life, Sayagyi."

Dr Htin Aung was short in body height twisting his longevity of life and also long height of his body. Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung came out and spoke words of appreciation to him.

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The very naughty way his thanks to the writer was that he booked a room at a private hotel and a young comfort girl for the writer to enjoy. The writer shouted him out, telling him never to see me again. Yet he did appear at the writer's wedding with a big present.

When the writer won the state scholarship to join London University all the Sagaing Hostel students gave him a good sendoff to Lewis street jetty from where the writer boarded S.S. Salween Ship of Henderson Line. The writer dropped an article "On S.S Salween" to the annual magazine of Yangon University, which is the first of a Series.

The writer would like to express thanks to the Global New Light of Myanmar for giving place on the pages of this highly esteemed daily.

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Myanmar Gazette Appointment of Permanent Secretary THE Union Government has appointed Dr Zaw Myint, Director-General of Department of Myanmar Nationalities' Languages under the Ministry of Education, as Permanent Secretary of the same ministry.

World Children's Day ကမ္ဘာ့ကလေးများနေ့ World Children's Day "ကလေးအားလုံးရဲ့ အနာဂတ်လှပဖို့ စိတ်ကူပံ့ဆောင်ပေးရမယ်" "A Day to Reimagine a Better Future for Every Child" ၂၀၂၀ ခုနှစ် နိုဝင်ဘာလ ၂၀ ရက်နေ့

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 19th 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 AFTERNOON OF THE 20th November, 2020: Light 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 Upper Sagaing, Yangon Regions and Shan, Chin, Kayin, 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 light rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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

**Second COVID-19 Fund to disburse over K22 bln to 698 enterprises in third batch**

By Nyein Nyein

A total of 698 enterprises have been approved to take out over K22.768 billion from the second COVID-19 Fund in its third batch, according to a committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19.

On 22 September, K20.777 billion have been disbursed to 1,041 businesses in the first batch of the Second COVID-19 Fund. The Fund has provided K41.899 billion loan to 2,241 enterprises so far.

The applicants approved by the committee will be screened in line with bank rules and procedures, and they are not eligible for the loan if they get sued by a bank, the committee stated.

The priority sectors for the second batch of COVID-19 loan

are agriculture and livestock enterprises, manufacturing businesses, import-substitution businesses, food and beverage businesses, oversea employment agencies, export and import businesses, and vocational schools.

The 2019-2020 additional budget of K100 billion are put into the second COVID-19 Fund to mitigate the economic impacts of the coronavirus on the businesses. The government started the first COVID-19 Fund to the business stricken by the coronavirus impacts, with K50 billion allocated from the country's revolving Fund and another K50 billion from the social welfare fund. The loan is set to pay off within one year, at one per cent of the interest rate.

In the first batch, more than

4,250 businesses applied for the loan and 3,393 of them received the loan in line with the loan procedures. Over K101 billion have been disbursed under seven batches, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations announced.

The committee was formed on 13 March, and Union Minister U Thaug Tun for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations was appointed as the chairman of the committee.

The committee is responsible for measures to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 situation on trade and tourism sectors; short, medium and long term measures to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, together with the private sector and related associations; creation of new jobs for those employ-

ees who have been laid off at the factories; conducting vocational education to the workers; and additional measures to explore new markets to buy raw materials for CMP garment businesses in the country instead of relying on the sole market-China.

Additionally, the public and private sectors need to cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories, the committee urges.

Furthermore, as the long-term strategies, the committee will request Myanmar President office to give tax exemption and reliefs depending on the situations of the COVID-19 impacts on SMEs and to provide loans to the domestic businesses at a low-interest rate.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

**Pwintbyu chilli growers get greater profit from high yield**

THE residents from Pwintbyu township are growing Tharmo chilli with the use of irrigated water from Mezali Dam. The chilli plantations have a high yield, and the chilli sells well in the local market, according to the chilli growers from Than Man Yin village in Pwintbyu township.

"The residents in Than Man Yin village are engaged in agricultural business on a commercial scale with the use of water irrigated from Mezali Dam. This year, the Tharmo chilli plantations with irrigated water are earning the growers a higher profit. This Tharmo chilli is popular among the customers, and it is selling well in the local market. We have to grow the seeds for one month to move them into



Chilli growers in Pwintbyu Township earn profit from high yield. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)**

the nurseries. We can pick up the chilli two months later. For the first time, I have picked up the chilli of around 250-300 visses and earned around K2,400 or

2,500 per viss for early yield. The price of chilli went down recently, earning us only K1,700 per viss. The seeds of Tharmo chilli are sold for K4,500 per can in the

market. Our township has a sufficient supply of irrigation water, and it is good to grow the crops. Our local planters are happy to grow the Tharmo chilli this year because it is earning them handsome profit," said Ko Kyaw Zin Win, a local Tharmo chilli grower from Than Man Yin village in Pwintbyu township.

The local farmers from Than Man Yin village in Pwintbyu township are also growing other crops such as paddy, sesame, chickpea, green gram, butter bean and corn with irrigated water annually. Besides, the local people also cultivate chilli, long bean, arum plant and bitter gourd on a manageable scale.—Ye Win Naing (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

**Bago rice exports directly go to China via Muse**

BY Nyein Nyein

RICE from Bago region is being exported directly to China via Muse town without entering Yangon market, said U Than Oo, the secretary of Bayintnaung commodity depot.

The rice from Bago is being exported directly to China through Muse town because the rice prices in Yangon and other regions are almost the same. Also, the truck charges to transport rice are nearly the same.

"The rice traders from Muse thought the truck charges are almost the same to trans-

port the rice from Yangon and other regions. So, the traders from Muse demand rice from other regions. There are also a few trucks heading to Muse from Yangon region. Now, the rice from Bago east and west is not entering Yangon region these days," said U Than Oo, who also added that the trucks entering Yangon region are not easy to find the cargoes. So, they are only trading directly in the regions.

"The 12-wheel trucks entering the Yangon region could not find the cargoes easily on their way back to Muse and Mandalay.

Most of the trucks went to the region to load the cargoes and left the region directly," he added.

Muse 105th Mile trade zone on Myanmar-China border area exports more than 30,000 rice bags to China daily, said U Min Thein, the vice-chairman of Muse Rice Commodity Depot.

About 50 trucks carrying 640 rice bags are also entering daily Muse 105th Mile trade zone, and the same volume of rice bags are sold back to China mainland, he added.

Although China needs about 80,000 rice bags daily to consume in their country, only

over 30,000 rice bags are exported to China daily because of COVID-19 restrictions in China and transportation barriers, said U Min Thein.

The price of high quality 15-mark rice (Kayinma) is K 23,000 per bag containing 108 pounds while 25-mark rice is sold for K 20,500-K 21,000 per bag, according to Bayintnaung commodity depot. Although Muse merchants are trading directly in the region, around 100,000 rice bags are still entering Bayintnaung commodity depot daily, said U Than Oo.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

UNPRECEDENTED CALLS

# Thai leader orders police crackdown on democracy protests

THAI Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha ordered security agencies Thursday to crack down on pro-democracy protesters, as rights groups condemned police for using tear gas and water cannon at a Bangkok rally.

The country has been rocked since July by youth-led protests demanding a new constitution, unprecedented calls to reform the untouchable monarchy, and for Prayut to resign.

Clashes outside parliament Tuesday between pro-democracy protesters and hardline royalists marked a steep rise in violence, with six people shot.

A day later, some 20,000 people massed in Bangkok's main shopping district, and protesters

daubed anti-royal graffiti outside the Thai National Police headquarters.

Prayut, who seized power in a 2014 coup, issued a statement Thursday warning protesters will be hit with the full force of the law.

"The situation is still not resolved in any good direction and is likely to develop into more conflict leading to more violence," he said.

"If this is left... it may damage the nation and the most beloved institution," he added, referring to the monarchy.

He said the government and security agencies need to "intensify their practices", and enforce all sections of all laws.

This could mean more charges under the country's harsh royal defamation laws, which are routinely interpreted to include any criticism of the monarchy -- including content posted or shared on social media.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn asked the Thai government in June to suspend using the lese majeste laws, but human rights critics say there is a host of other legislation that authorities can use to target democracy activists.

Asked by AFP if the government was giving the nod to police to pursue lese majeste charges, spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri did not rule it out.



Workers clear up after protesters daubed graffiti on the walls of the Thai police headquarters. PHOTO: AFP

"The protesters should respect all laws in general. We don't specify whether we would be enacting any laws specifically," he told AFP. SOURCE: AFP

UNVIABLE POSITION

## Majority of UK pubs, restaurants expect to go under: survey



Pubs and restaurants are closed in England again to slow the spread of coronavirus, but the measure has owners worried whether they will survive financially. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ALMOST three quarters of UK pubs and restaurants expect to shut permanently next year following damaging coronavirus restrictions, an industry poll indicated Thursday.

The British Beer and Pub

Association, the British Institute of Innkeeping and UK Hospitality said in a statement that 72 percent of surveyed businesses "expect to become unviable and close in 2021".

The survey, conducted by

market research company CGA, also showed that pubs and other hospitality businesses want the UK government to provide more support.

CGA polled 446 businesses representing more than 20,000 venues nationwide during November.

"The evidence is here to see of the devastating, long-term impact the government's restrictions are having on hospitality and pub businesses," the three trade organisations said in a statement.

"Without a change in approach and more support from government, much of our sector could be gone within a year -- that means businesses and jobs lost plus much-loved venues closed forever."

SOURCE: AFP

A HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

## Diet trends to see 4 bn people overweight by 2050: study

MORE than four billion people could be overweight by 2050, with 1.5 billion of them obese, if the current global dietary trend towards processed foods continues, a first-of-its-kind study predicted Wednesday.

Warning of a health and environmental crisis of "mind-blowing magnitude", experts from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) said that global food demand would leap 50 per cent by mid-century, pushing past Earth's capacity to sustain nature.

Food production already hovers up three-quarters of the world's fresh water and one-third of its land -- and accounts for up to a third of greenhouse gas emissions.

Providing a long-term

overview of changing global eating habits between 1965 and 2100, the researchers used an open-source model to forecast how food demand would respond to a variety of factors such as population growth, ageing, growing body masses, declining physical activity and increased food waste.

They found that "business as usual" -- a continuation of current trends -- will likely see more than four billion people, or 45 per cent of the world's population, overweight by 2050.

The model predicted that 16 per cent would be obese, compared with nine per cent currently among the 29 per cent of the population who are overweight.

SOURCE: AFP

POWERFUL NEW TOOL

## Los Angeles and Google partner on 'Tree Canopy' project

LOS ANGELES and Google have struck a partnership to track canopy density in the huge metropolis to determine which neighbourhoods need more trees as a means of fighting extreme temperatures.

Vegetation, notably tree can-

opy coverage, plays a key role in offering the kind of relief that Los Angeles needs: The city is the state's biggest urban heat island thanks in no small part to thousands of miles of roads and parking spaces. A project with Google's new Tree Canopy Lab

is making it "possible for us to quickly assess the areas of our city with the greatest population density and the fewest trees with the greatest heat," Mayor Eric Garcetti said in announcing the program on Wednesday.

SOURCE: AFP



The authors said that 45 per cent of people would be overweight by mid-century based on current dietary trends. PHOTO: THEO ROUBY AFP/FILE

STRATEGY OF BOLSTERING DOMESTIC DEMANDS

# China adopts new steps to bolster consumption, facilitate Internet Plus Tourism



People look at products displayed during a live streaming event in Beichuan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, Nov. 14, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA will introduce new measures in boosting consumption in commodities and key sectors, and tapping rural consumption potential, according to the State Council, or the cabinet.

Greater support will be provided for the growth of Internet Plus Tourism, to better cater people's demand in consumption upgrading, the State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier

Li Keqiang decided on Wednesday.

Figures from the Ministry of Commerce show that in 2019, retail sales in automobiles, home appliances, furniture, construction materials and catering sectors accounted for some 25 per cent of the total retail sales in China, and retail sales in rural areas accounted for 14.7 per cent of the total.

In October, total retail sales saw a 4.3 per cent

year-on-year increase, registering positive growth for three consecutive months.

"At present, the prominent restraint on economic development lies in consumption as the main growth engine was seriously affected by COVID-19 earlier this year. It has been picking up in the past few months, yet notable difficulties remain in restoring normal growth. We need to explore new highlights in consumption

to spur domestic demand," Li said.

It was agreed at the Wednesday meeting that the strategy of bolstering domestic demands will be firmly implemented. Auto consumption will be stabilized and expanded. Local authorities are encouraged to finetune restrictive measures regarding car purchasing, and raise the ceiling of licence plate quota.

SOURCE: Xinhua

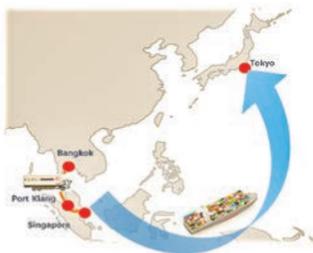
DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORT SERVICES

## Nippon Express starts truck and sea transport services from Thailand

MAJOR Japanese logistics firm Nippon Express Co. has launched door-to-door truck and maritime transport services from Thailand to Japan to deal with limited ocean cargo shipments from Southeast Asian countries.

Nippon Express said its Singapore-based subsidiary, Nippon Express (South Asia & Oceania) Pte. Ltd., on Tuesday started the services called "Nex Ocean-Solution Xross Border Direct" without relying on maritime transport alone.

Nippon Express said



Nippon Express Co.'s door-to-door truck and maritime transport services from Thailand. PHOTO: KYODO

it combines cross-border truck transport from Thailand to Klang port in Malaysia with sea transport from Klang to major Japanese ports, allowing for a wide variety of prod-

ucts to reach Tokyo from Bangkok in 16 days at the shortest.

Its service via Singapore combines cross-border truck transport to Singapore with maritime transport from there to major Japanese ports, giving a lead time as short as 14 days from Bangkok to Tokyo, the Japanese firm said. Nippon Express said its new services aim to respond to shortages of vessel space and containers for ocean cargo shipments from the Southeast Asian region to Japan.

SOURCE: Kyodo

HOSPITALITY SECTOR

## Qatar hotels fighting to survive until 2022 World Cup

QATAR has marketed its opulent skyscraper hotels as jewels in its World Cup 2022 crown but coronavirus curbs and a glut in new properties are jeopardizing the industry.

As well as keeping out overseas visitors, travel restrictions have complicated staffing preparations just as Qatar's hospitality sector was scaling-up for football's marquee event.

One former Qatar-based hotelier told AFP that preparations had been made "difficult" and staffing was not at levels to ensure properties are ready in time.

"It's a struggle," she said.

One Doha hotel manager said lockdown had forced him to wait three to five months to bring staff from abroad, complicating training plans.

As in much of the Gulf, migrant labour is vital to the gas-rich emirate where expat workers outnumber

the 333,000 Qataris nearly nine to one.

Without a large middle class to sustain domestic tourism, Qatar had hoped to expand its hospitality sector ahead of 2022 by encouraging mini-breaks for passengers connecting through Doha on Qatar Airways.

That promotion is currently frozen.

Qatar expects as many as 1.5 million people to descend on the tiny Gulf nation for the World Cup, and in the months before and after the big event.

But the increasing

supply of hotel rooms needed for the tournament could hurt operators in the two years before kick-off.

The hotel market is "generally over-supplied", said Pawel Banach of property valuation experts ValuStrat which has warned that not all of Qatar's hotels will survive the coronavirus downturn.

Smaller properties have suffered the most during Qatar's strict lockdown, the Doha manager said, with non-residents mostly unable to visit the country since March.

SOURCE: AFP



Property experts warn not all of Qatar's hotels will survive the coronavirus downturn. PHOTO: AFP

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### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 (Tazaung Taing Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

### THE REPUBLIC OF UNION OF MYANMAR THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (21/2020-2021)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective Materials in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	MOC/L-004(20-21)	Welding Electrode and Welding Rod Heater (3) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-164(20-21)	Spares for SR-700L Kato Rough Terrain Crane (19) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 20 November 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 21 December 2020**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **21-12-2020, 12:00 pm**.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. +95 67 - 411206

## Nasdaq-listed Bilibili reports record high Q3 revenue, up 74 pct

Chinese online entertainment platform Bilibili Inc. notched up a total net revenue of 3.23 billion yuan (about 493.3 million U.S. dollars) in the third quarter (Q3) of 2020, up 74 per cent year on year.

Average monthly active users (MAUs) reached 197.2 million, representing a increase of 54 per cent from the same period of 2019, according to a statement from the company.

Its revenue from mo-

bile games totaled 1.28 billion yuan, up 37 per cent, while revenue from advertising jumped by around 126 per cent to 557.5 million yuan, according to the statement.

SOURCE: Xinhua

"SUPER-SIZED"

# Xi touts China's huge economy as base of free trade in APEC speech

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping hailed China as the pivot point for global free trade Thursday, vowing to keep its "super-sized" economy open for business and warning against protectionism as the world battles the Covid-19 pandemic.

Buoyed by the signing of the world's largest trade pact over the weekend, Xi said the Asia-Pacific is the "forerunner driving global growth" in a world hit by "multiple challenges."

He vowed "openness" to trade and rejected any possibility of the "decoupling" of China's economy, in his only nod to the



Buoyed by the signing of the world's largest trade pact over the weekend, China President Xi Jinping says the Asia-Pacific is the 'forerunner driving global growth' in a world hit by 'multiple challenges' including the coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

hostile trade policy of US President Donald Trump's administration, which has battered China with tariffs and tech restrictions.

Xi was speaking at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, held online this year because of the pandem-

ic, which brings together 21 Pacific Rim countries, accounting for about 60 per cent of global GDP. It was not immediately

clear if Trump, wounded by his election loss to Joe Biden, would take part in the two-day gathering or send a high-level delegate in his place. In a speech that veered into triumphalism over China's economic "resilience and vitality" in bouncing back from the virus, which first emerged in the central city of Wuhan, Xi warned countries who insist on trade barriers would suffer self-inflicted wounds. "Openness enables a country to move forward while seclusion holds it back," he said. "China will actively cooperate with all countries, regions and enterprises that want to do

so. We will continue to hold high the banner of openness and co-operation."

### Trade agenda

But Xi's rhetoric may raise eyebrows in capitals where China has either restricted trade or used its giant economy as a bargaining chip in wider geopolitical disputes.

Australian exports of beef, wine and barley to China -- their biggest market -- have been restricted, as a diplomatic rumble over the origins of the pandemic as well as accusations of espionage hammer relations.

SOURCE: AFP

VIRTUAL SUMMIT

# Trump will join APEC summit, U.S. official tells Malaysia

U.S. President Donald Trump will be joining the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum's virtual summit meeting on Friday, host Malaysia said Thursday.

Hairil Yahri Yaacob, a senior official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, told reporters after chairing a meeting of APEC senior officials that his

U.S. counterpart Sandra Oudkirk "confirmed verbally" that Trump will join the meeting.

But unlike the case with other APEC leaders, there has been

no written confirmation to that effect, he added.

If Trump, who lost the White House to challenger Joe Biden in this month's presidential election,

participates in the meeting to be chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, it will be his first since 2017 when Viet Nam was the host. SOURCE: Kyodo

FULL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

# German MPs to grill ex-Wirecard boss over massive fraud



The Wirecard logo at the headquarters of the payment service provider. PHOTO: AFP/SVEN HOPPE/DPA

MARKUS Braun, the former chief executive of disgraced payments giant Wirecard, will on Thursday face a public grilling by German lawmakers over the massive accounting fraud that brought down his firm.

Wirecard collapsed in June after it was forced to admit 1.9 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) missing from its accounts did not exist, and MPs have opened a full parliamentary inquiry into possible regulatory failings that allowed the cheating to go unnoticed for years.

Austria-born Braun, who is in pre-trial detention in the Bavarian city of Augsburg on suspicion of organized commercial fraud and market manipulation, will appear in person the Bundestag in Berlin to give testimony, with media also allowed to attend.

Missing from the action will be fellow prime suspect and Austrian Jan Marsalek, Wirecard's mysterious former chief operating officer who has been on the run since the scandal broke and features on Interpol's most wanted list. SOURCE: AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (046W/047E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (046W/047E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/ MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (033W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (033W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/ MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (045S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (045S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/ MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GOLDEN CENTURY V.003/2020

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GOLDEN CENTURY VOY. NO. (003/2020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

**TEST AT HOME**

# US approves first rapid home Covid-19 test

THE US issued an emergency use authorization for the first self-administered rapid coronavirus test Tuesday, as more parts of the country increase restrictions in an attempt to halt a Covid-19 surge.

The Food and Drug Administration approved a testing kit for people age 14 and older whom a doctor suspects to have Covid-19. The test, which is by prescription only, delivers results in 30 minutes.

“We continue to demonstrate unprecedented speed in response to #COVID19,” tweeted FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn.

“FDA authorized the first #COVID19 test that’s fully



Workers assemble a saliva based, rapid result, collection kits to test for COVID-19 at Spectrum Solutions in Draper, Utah. **PHOTO: AFP**

self-administered & provides results at home. It’s an important advancement, underscoring our commitment to expanding test access.”

The authorization is for an at-home nasal sample kit developed by Lucira Health. Users collect a sample with the included nasal swab, then put

the sample in a small vial.

The vial is inserted into a small device that tests the sample. A light-up display on the device shows a user’s result in 30 minutes or less.

The test is designed to be affordable and is intended to cost less than \$50, according to the Lucira Health website.

The FDA had previously approved at-home Covid-19 tests, giving the green light in late April and early May to two nasal sample collection kits and one saliva sample collection kit.

But samples from those kits had to be sent to a lab for processing, instead of delivering results at home.

**SOURCE: AFP**

**CASHLESS SYSTEM**

# Google to integrate bank accounts in payments app



Google will be letting US consumers manage checking and savings accounts directly from the Google Pay mobile app in a further push into consumer finance. **PHOTO:AFP/FILE**

A Google bank account?

The internet giant said Wednesday it would be partnering with commercial banks and credit unions starting next year to allow users to manage mobile-based accounts through the Google Pay platform, in the latest move by tech giants into consumer finance.

“People do almost everything on their phones today, but for many, the way they save, pay and engage with their bank has remained unchanged,” said Caesar Sengupta, vice president of Google Payments. “That’s why we’re working with trusted financial institutions to create Plex, a new mobile-first bank account integrated into Google Pay.”

The Plex Accounts for US consumers will be offered with no monthly fees, overdraft charges or minimum balance requirements, according to Google, which said 11 banks and credit unions were participating. Google at the same time said it was updating its Google Pay app to help users better organize payments to people and businesses.

“Instead of showing a stack of cards or a long list of transactions, the new Google Pay app focuses on the friends and businesses you transact with most frequently,” Sengupta said. The initiative comes with tech giants moving deeper into personal finance with person-to-person payments and co-branded credit cards.

Apple recently launched its own branded credit card with Goldman Sachs which integrates into its Apple Pay application. Amazon, which has its own branded credit card, has discussed offering its own checking accounts but has not followed through with the plan.

**SOURCE: AFP**

**HANDSOME REWARD**

# Boom in demand for friendly hackers as 5G approaches



“Bug bounty programmes” are now offered by organizations ranging from the Pentagon and banks such as Goldman Sachs to airlines, tech giants and thousands of smaller businesses. **PHOTO: AFP**

AS the number of online devices surges and superfast 5G connections roll out, record numbers of companies are offering hand-

some rewards to ethical hackers who successfully attack their cybersecurity systems.

The fast-expanding field

of internet-connected devices, known as the “internet of things” (IoT) which includes smart televisions and home appliances, are set to become more widespread once 5G becomes more available -- posing one of the most serious threats to digital security in future.

At a conference hosted by Nokia last week, “friendly hacker” Keren Elazari said that co-opting hackers -- many of whom are amateurs -- to hunt for vulnerabilities “was looked at as a trendy Silicon Valley thing six to eight years ago”.

But “bug bounty programmes” are now offered by organizations ranging from the Pentagon and banks such as

Goldman Sachs to airlines, tech giants and thousands of smaller businesses.

The largest bug-bounty platform, HackerOne, has 800,000 hackers on its books and said its organizations paid out a record \$44 million (38.2 million euros) in cash rewards this year, up 87 per cent on the previous 12 months.

“Employing just one full-time security engineer in London might cost a company 80,000 pounds (89,000 euros, \$106,000) a year, whereas we open companies up to this global community of hundreds of thousands of hackers with a huge diversity in skills,” Prash Somaiya, security solutions architect at HackerOne, told AFP. **SOURCE: AFP**

**HANDSOME REWARD**

# Will small rockets finally lift off?

THE boom in demand for placing small satellites into orbit has boosted interest in small rockets, but industry players do not think the niche will become a business segment of its own.

“This time last year, we were able to count over 120 startups for microlaunchers, small rockets that would carry a single small satellite. As we look today, there is a significantly smaller number of those,” said Tory Bruno, CEO of Boeing-Lockheed Martin joint venture United Launch Alliance (ULA), said at a recent industry gathering.

The frenzy of proposals for small rockets, or microlaunchers, comes as new sat-

ellite-based phone and internet networks are shifting away from a few satellites in high, geostationary orbits.

Instead they use constellations of many, small satellites placed in low earth orbits (LEO).

In the past decade 1,805 small satellites have been placed in orbit and the advisory firm Euroconsult expects that number to rise to 10,000 by 2030.

This year, 95 of the 1,079 satellites launched as of November 1 were small satellites. Of those, three-quarters were part of the Starlink network of SpaceX chief Elon Musk.

Many startups and small companies believed this would



Rocket Lab’s Electron is just one of two proven small rockets that aim to serve the large market for putting small satellites into orbit. **PHOTO: ROCKET LAB/AFP/FILE**

create “a market for microlaunchers that are cheap to build and much cheaper to exploit than a big launcher”, such as the Ariane or SpaceX’s Falcon 9, said

Xavier Pasco, a space industry specialist and head of French think tank the Foundation for Strategic Research.

**SOURCE: AFP**

A THREE-MONTH DEADLINE

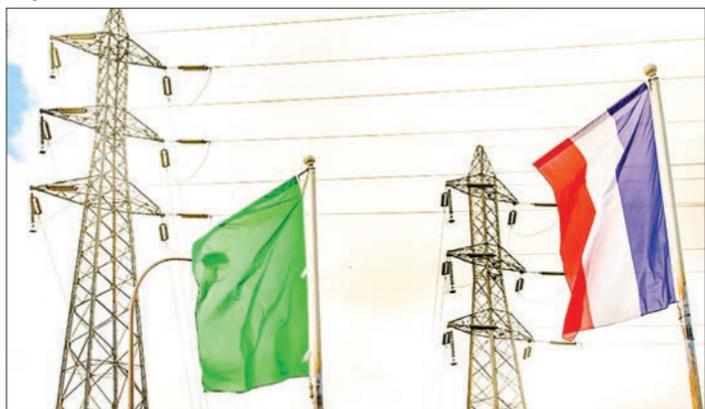
## Court gives France three months to fulfil climate change commitments

IN a ruling hailed by campaigners as “historic”, France’s top administrative court on Thursday gave the government a three-month deadline to show it is taking action to meet its commitments on climate change.

The government of France, which brokered the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, was hauled before the Council of State by Grande-Synthe, a low-lying northern coastal town which is particularly exposed to the effects of climate change.

The Council, which rules on disputes over public policies, noted that “while France has committed itself to reducing its emissions by 40% in 2030 compared to 1990 levels, it has, in recent years, regularly exceeded the ‘carbon budgets’ it had set itself.”

It also noted that President Emmanuel Macron’s government had, in a decree in April, deferred much of the reduction efforts beyond 2020.



This file photograph taken on September 19, 2015, shows a green flag, indicating the air quality as it flutters next to the French flag in Grande-Synthe, northern France, a former steel smelting town. **PHOTO: AFP/ PHILIPPE HUGUEN**

Despite Macron’s headline 2017 promise to “make our planet great again” – a swipe at climate denier US President Donald Trump who vowed to “make America great again” – France is far off track to meet its commitments under the 2015 treaty.

Before issuing a final ruling on the matter, the Council of State gave the government three months to justify “how its refusal to take additional measures is compatible with the respect of the reduction path chosen in order to achieve the targets set for 2030.”

Corinne Lepage, lawyer for the town of Grande Synthe, hailed the decision as “historic”. The ruling means that “policies must be more than nice commitments on paper,” she said.

In January 2019, the then Greens mayor of Grande-Synthe, Damien Careme petitioned the Council of State over what he called the government’s “climate inaction”. **SOURCE: AFP**

“DEFENCE OF THE REALM MUST COME FIRST”

## UK to unveil ‘largest military investment’ in three decades



File photo: A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain’s Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn speaking during Prime Minister’s Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons, in London on March 18, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

**P** RIME Minister Boris Johnson will on Thursday unveil what is being billed as Britain’s biggest programme of investment in the armed forces since the end of the Cold War.

In a speech to lawmakers in parliament, Johnson will announce an extra £16.5 billion (\$22 billion, 18.5 billion euros) in funding over the next four years.

It follows the ruling Conservatives’ commitment in their election manifesto last year to increase defence spending by 0.5

percent above inflation until 2025.

Johnson’s Downing Street office said the cash boost would “cement the UK’s position as the largest defence spender in Europe and the second largest in NATO”. It comes despite Britain’s economy suffering a historic downturn this year due to the coronavirus crisis, which has seen the government spend unprecedented sums to support people and businesses.

“I have taken this decision in the teeth of the pandemic be-

cause the defence of the realm must come first,” Johnson said in remarks released ahead of his speech. “The international situation is more perilous and more intensely competitive than at any time since the Cold War and Britain must be true to our history and stand alongside our allies.”

He added the new funding was “our chance to end the era of retreat” and that it would be used to “upgrade our capabilities across the board”.

**SOURCE: AFP**

ORGANISED CRIME GROUP

## Italy police arrest 19 in mafia vote-swap sting

ITALIAN police on Thursday arrested 19 people including the head of Calabria’s regional council in an anti-mafia sting against the powerful ‘Ndrangheta organized crime group.

Investigators say the Grande Aracri clan, based in the southern Italian region but also active in pockets of the north and abroad, was laundering dirty money through a chain of 23 pharmacies.

Regional council chief Domenico Tallini, 68, is accused of cutting the red tape required to set up the pharmacies in exchange for votes in the 2014 regional elections, police said in a statement.

Tallini, who belongs to ex-prime minister Silvio Berlusconi’s Forza Italia party, was placed under house arrest.

**SOURCE: AFP**

THE POP STAR-TURNED-OPPOSITION LEADER

## 7 dead in Uganda protests after arrest of presidential candidate



Violence erupted after opposition leader Bobi Wine, President Yoweri Museveni’s main opponent in upcoming elections, was arrested. **PHOTO: AFP**

SEVEN people died in violent protests that erupted in Kampala on Wednesday after Ugandan presidential candidate Bobi Wine was arrested, police said.

Security forces clashed with supporters of the pop star-turned-opposition leader who is President Yoweri Museveni’s main opponent in presidential elections on January 14.

“So far the dead are seven, as from late last evening. Those injured are 45,” police spokesman Fred Enanga told AFP on Tuesday.

The singer, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi, remained in police custody on Thursday for allegedly violating coronavirus measures at his rallies.

Enanga said calm had returned to the capital “even after there were attempts by

some gangs this morning to block roads by burning tyres and setting up barricades, which police stopped.”

The Red Cross said late Wednesday it had treated more than 30 people following “scuffles involving the police and the rioting masses”, including 11 people for gunshot wounds.

Wine, 38, has long been a thorn in Museveni’s side, netting a widespread following through catchy pop songs about social justice and corruption.

Many young Ugandans see him as their champion in a country mired in poverty and youth unemployment.

Museveni, a 76-year-old former rebel who seized power in 1986, is one of Africa’s longest-serving leaders.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## ONE: Inside The Matrix IV to be held in Singapore today

THE third event of the ONE Championship in this month named Inside the Matrix IV featuring bouts of world-class fighters: Russian fighter Aslanbek Zikreev vs Chinese fighter Wang Jinguang will be held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 20 November (today).

Today's fights will include colourful bouts including Kickboxing, Muay Thai, and Mixed Martial Arts.

Fans across the globe can enjoy the event free via ONE Super Application, and ONE Championship YouTube channel, according to the ONE Championship organizers.

In the main card of the event or Catch Weight (58.3Kg) of Kickboxing fight, Russian fighter Aslanbek Zikreev will face against Chinese fighter Wang Jinguang.

Next, in the Catch Weight (59 Kg) event of

Muay Thai bout, Rocky Ogden of New Zealand will take on Joseph Lasiri of Italy.

In the Bantamweight fight of Mixed Martial Arts, Bruno Pucci of Brazil will fight with Kwon Won IL of South Korea.

Next, in the Featherweight event of Mixed Martial Arts, Ryogo Takahashi of Japan will fight against Yoon Chang Min of South Korea.

In the Women Mixed Martial Arts fight of Catch Weight (61.35Kg), Brazilian fighter Maria Mazar will take on South Korean fighter Choi Jeong Yun.

The ONE: Inside The Matrix IV event will begin at 8:30 pm of Singapore Standard Time and fans also need to check local listings for the global broadcast, the event organizers stated on the ONE Championship official page.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

## Belgium, Italy reach Nations League finals

LEUVEN (Belgium)—Belgium cruised past Denmark 4-2 in Leuven on Wednesday to book a place at next year's Nations League finals, with Romelu Lukaku scoring twice, while Italy beat Bosnia and Herzegovina to also qualify.

Roberto Martinez's world-number-one-ranked Belgians only had to avoid defeat to qualify from Group A2 but secured a finals spot in style.

Lukaku has now scored 17 goals in his last 14 international games after his second-half double.

Italy needed a win in Sarajevo to be sure of progress from Group A1, but had little trouble in beating Bosnia 2-0.



Lukaku (L), Tielemans (C) and De Bruyne (R) scored Belgium's goals. PHOTO: JOHN THYS/AFP

Andrea Belotti scored the opening goal, with Sassuolo's Domenico Berardi netting for the second straight game.

Belgium and Italy join world champions France and Spain in qualifying for next October's finals.—AFP

## Zverev bounces back from defeat to keep ATP Finals hopes alive

LONDON—Alexander Zverev beat Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 on Wednesday to keep alive his hopes of another ATP Finals triumph in London.

The 2018 champion looked out of sorts in his straight-sets defeat against Daniil Medvedev on Monday and again struggled to find early rhythm at the empty O2 Arena.

The Argentine eighth seed, who is at the elite eight-man event in place of the injured Roger Federer, was also looking to bounce back from losing his opening round-robin match, to Novak Djokovic.

Big-serving Zverev, who struggled badly on second-serve points against Medvedev, was broken by Schwartzman in the third game but turned the tables with two breaks of his own to take the set.

The Argentine's serve was again under pressure in the first game of the second set but he dug himself out of the hole to hold before Zverev broke in the third game.

The German, who stands 28 centimetres (11 inches) taller than Schwartzman, appeared to be in control without finding his best form but then lost his own serve with a clutch of unforced errors.—AFP

## Foden, Rice net first England goals in Iceland rout

LONDON—Phil Foden and Declan Rice scored their first England goals as the hosts rounded off their disappointing Nations League campaign with a 4-0 demolition of 10-man Iceland on Wednesday.

Gareth Southgate's side were already out of contention to reach the Nations League finals after Sunday's defeat against Belgium.

But Southgate had insisted the dead rubber was important to his planning for next year's European Championship and his players took that message to heart.

Rice netted in the first half at Wembley as he became the first West Ham player to score for England in 10 years.

Chelsea midfielder Mason Mount increased England's lead before Foden struck twice after Iceland defender Birkir Mar Saevarsson was sent off for two bookable offences.

It was a sweet moment of redemption for Manchester City playmaker Foden, who had been sent home in disgrace along with Manchester United's Mason Greenwood after the pair broke coronavirus protocols during their trip to Iceland in September.

Foden, 20, is the youngest England player to score more than once in a single match at Wembley.

For the first time since 1883, England had three players aged 21 or younger score in the same match.

It has been a frustrating year for Southgate as England struggled to establish any momentum on the pitch, while there was a rash of unwanted headlines provoked by several of his players' off-field antics.—AFP



England midfielder Phil Foden (C) celebrates with team-mates after scoring against Iceland. PHOTO: NEIL HALL POOL/AFP