

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 179, 11th Waning of Tawthalin 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Nearly 17,000 Myanmar citizens abroad cast advance votes in weekend



Myanmar citizens in India cast advance votes at the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi on 11 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

A TOTAL of 16,977 Myanmar nationals abroad cast advance votes at the Myanmar embassies, missions, con-

sulate-general offices and extra polling stations of respective countries during this weekend.

On Saturday, a total of 8,335 cast votes at 27 Myanmar

embassies, two missions, two consulate-general offices and four extra polling stations, and 8,642 Myanmar citizens voted at the 23 Myanmar embassies, one

mission, three consulate-general offices and three extra polling stations yesterday.

SEE PAGE-2

Over 100 nationals abroad return home by relief flight



Myanmar nationals returned from foreign countries line up at the immigration counter of the Yangon International Airport on 11 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE relief flight of Myanmar Airlines International, co-organized by the Myanmar Embassies in Washington and Seoul, landed at Yangon International Airport bringing 109 citizens, 49 from the United States of America and 60 from the Republic of Korea, yesterday.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home

quarantine.

In accordance with the directives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Myanmar embassies abroad and other relevant ministries in Myanmar, has been organizing six relief flights for Myanmar nationals from USA via Incheon International Airport of the ROK.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

After all, rules and regulations play the most crucial role in containment of this disease



While we are working for containment and treatment of this disease, we have to carry out economic recovery plans like in the disease. We are trying to control impacts on the economy and treatment for recovery in the business sector. The government has to consider the reopening of factories and industries because it is important not only for the owners and workers of the firms but also for the country's economy. In addition, we have adopted the list of priority for the business sector during COVID-19 outbreak. For example, the government is encouraging the construction sector as it is required for the long term infrastructural development of the country. It can also employ many people. Moreover, it is easier for construction workers to adhere to healthcare guidelines compared to other workplaces. After all, rules and regulations play the most crucial role in containment of this disease.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports to people regarding COVID-19 situation, on 9 October 2020)

Nearly 17,000 Myanmar citizens abroad cast advance votes in weekend

FROM PAGE-1

Fifty-seven Myanmar nationals cast votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Berlin, 18 in Ottawa, 21 in Oslo, 35 in Rome, 38 in Vienna, 126 in Washington, 246 in London and 3 in Cairo, 46 at the Myanmar Permanent Mission in Geneva, 157 in New York, 183 in Los Angeles and 14 in Paris on Saturday.

At the polling stations opened yesterday, 10 Myanmar nationals voted at the Myanmar Embassy in Belgrade, 62 in Kuwait and 29 in Colombo, and 10 at the Consulate-General Office in Kolkata.

Myanmar embassies in Brussels of Belgium and Washington of the United States also started opening polling stations, and an extra polling station was

also opened in Fort Wayne of Indiana. Those who cannot come to the Myanmar embassies and consulate-general offices cast votes at the extra polling stations — 41 voted in Ho Chi Minh, 491 in Nagoya and 254 in Macao.

Some 3,000 Myanmar nationals cast votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok yesterday, 92 in Beijing, 43 in Canberra, 16 in Jakarta, 972 in Kuala Lumpur, 141 in Moscow, 30 in New Delhi, 113 in Phnom Penh, 24 in Rome, 1,114 in Seoul, 1,800 in Singapore, 154 in Tokyo and 20 Vientiane, and 226 at the Myanmar Consulate-General Office in Chiang Mai.

Myanmar citizens, abiding by the COVID-19 rules of the respective countries, cast advance votes.—MNA

(Translated by KZT)



Myanmar nationals cast advance ballots at the Myanmar Embassy in Kuwait on 11 October. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar nationals line up to cast advance votes in Moscow on 11 October. PHOTO: MNA



A Myanmar national casts advance vote at the Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta on 11 October. PHOTO: MNA



A Myanmar national casts advance vote at the Myanmar Embassy in Canberra on 11 October. PHOTO: MNA



A Myanmar national casts advance ballot at the Myanmar Embassy in Rome on 11 October. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar nationals cast advance ballots at the Myanmar Embassy in Phnom Penh on 11 October. PHOTO: MNA

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

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

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



Statement on adherence to healthcare guidelines in 2020 General Election

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

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Announcement for voters

1. The Union Election Commission has announced that the eligible voters who have been living outside their constituencies at least 90 days can fill and submit Form (3-A) at the sub-election commissions of relevant residential quarters/village-tracts from 17-9-2020 to 10-10-2020 so that they can cast vote for the candidates in the respective constituency where they are living if they do not want to go back to their original constituencies.
2. These voters are informed again that the Form (3-A) can be submitted to the election sub-commissions of relevant residential quarters/village-tracts, not later than the 10-10-2020 deadline.

Union Election Commission

Centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry to be held virtually

CELEBRATIONS for the 100th anniversary of Myanmar film industry will be held virtually at Studio 1 of Myanmar Radio and Television in Yangon on 13 October.

The event will be live-streamed on MRTV Facebook page and MRTV Live at 5 pm.

It will be rebroadcast again with other programmes of the 100th anniversary of Myanmar film industry at 9 pm on 13 October.

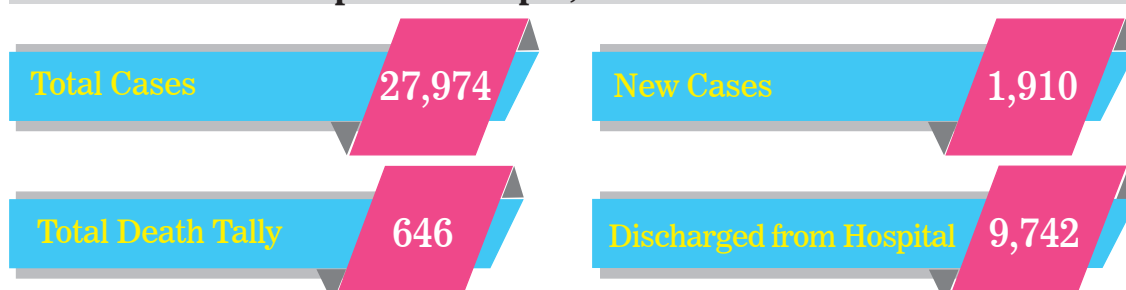
It can also be watched on MOI Webportal Myanmar Facebook page and Myanmar Digital News Facebook page.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

1,910 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 October, total figure rises to 27,974

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 27,974 after 1,910 new cases were reported on 11 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 27,974 confirmed cases, 646 died, 9,742 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 11 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 11-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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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.

Bean price jumps to three-year record high

Fried beans and pulses are displayed for sale at the shop in Mandalay.
PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

THE prices of black bean, pigeon peas and chickpeas which are mainly exported to India touched a three-year high on the back of strong demand by

India, Mandalay traders said.

The prices stood a low of K95,000 per three-basket bag of black bean, K70,000 per bag of pigeon peas and K75,000 per

pack of chickpea in early September. The price has risen in mid-September and climbed up to K112,000 per bag of black bean, K88,000 per bag of pigeon

peas, and K95,000 per pack of chickpea. The price soared to the highest in three consecutive years, Soe Win Myint depot owner in Mandalay said.

"China has been increasingly purchasing Myanmar beans amid the coronavirus crisis. However, the price sharply dropped in early September on account of weak demand. Following the news of India's purchase for 150,000 tonnes of black beans and its further purchase plans for pigeon peas and chickpeas, bean prices remarkably increased," he said.

At present, Mandalay commodity depot is temporarily closed as precautionary measures of the COVID-19. Nevertheless, the beans are traded through an online platform. The growers are preparing for the cultivation of winter crops - black bean, pigeon peas and chickpeas.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Rice price slightly rises in September

THE prices of rice in export and domestic markets slightly increased in September amid the coronavirus crisis, as per data of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Following the coronavirus resurgence in Myanmar, rice was highly demanded in the domestic market. The domestic retail market in September saw a rise of K1,000-1,500 per 108-pound bag compared to August's prices, said traders from Bayintnaung market.

The prices of rice last month for Pawsan varieties moved in the ranges of K38,000-50,000 per 108-pound-bag in the domestic market, while low-quality rice fetched K22,000-26,500, MRF data showed.

"When the volume of old rice stock has become smaller, the surging coronavirus cases in September prompted the people to make bulk-buying, making the price up by around K1,000-3,000 per bag compared with the previous month. The residents prefer old rice to the newly harvested crop", traders said.

The fresh rice will enter the market soon, so the price of new rice is likely to slide. But, the cost of old rice is expected to remain strong, said a trader from Wahdan depot.

There is self-sufficiency in the domestic market, and people do not need to concern over the shortage of rice. A total of 100,100 bags (108 pounds per bag) from reserved rice have been sold between 10 July and 3 October 2020, and about 701,689 bags are left to sell, MRF stated.

In September, the export prices of white rice (low quality) and parboiled rice range US\$385 to 500 per metric tonne depending on quality, indicating a slight increase compared with the previous months.

The foreign market purchases our rice as the price is relatively lower than other Asian countries such as Thailand and Viet Nam, MRF data showed.

Yet, the prices are higher than those market prices of India and Pakistan, MRF's data showed.

MRF expected to ship 2.4 million tonnes of rice, and broken rice in the Financial Year2019-2020 and the country meet the export target before the financial year-end. Between 1 October and 11 September, Myanmar sent over 413,490 metric tonnes to neighbouring countries through border trade, while over 2.117 million tonnes of rice and broken rice were shipped to foreign trade partners via mar-

itime trade, totalling over 2.53 million tonnes.

Ove the past eleven months, the value of Myanmar's rice and broken export was estimated at US\$774.89 million.

A surge in rice shipping through sea trade was contributed to meeting year's export target, MRF stated.

Myanmar has shipped rice to 66 foreign markets. China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and Philippines. Madagascar is the fourth-largest buyer and Guinea the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice.

In the 2019-2020FY, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by China, Senegal, Indonesia and Thailand. Broken rice has been placed in 60 foreign markets.

Myanmar targets to export 4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the current FY 2020-2021, said U Aung Than Oo.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the FY2017-2018, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.3 million tonnes, in the FY2018-2019.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Workers load a vehicle with rice bags at a port in Yangon.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Singapore tops source of FDIs in Myanmar in 2020-2021FY

SINGAPORE has remained as the top source of foreign direct investments into Myanmar in the current financial year 2019-2020, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The 20 Singapore-listed enterprises brought in US\$1.85 billion into Myanmar in the past financial year 2019-2020. Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Hong Kong stood as the second-largest investors this FY with an estimated capital of \$1.42 billion from 46 enterprises, followed by Japan investing \$760 million in Myanmar.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of more than US\$5.68 billion between 1 Octo-



Picture shows Thilawa Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: NAY LIN

ber and 30 September in FY2019-2020, and over \$100 million is required to meet FDI target, the DICA stated.

The FDIs flow into oil and gas, power, transportation and communication, real estate, hotels and tourism, mining, live-

stock and fisheries, industrial estate, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, trading, logistics and other service sectors.

Singapore has stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar since 2012, pulling in the FDI of \$2.4 billion in the

2018-2019FY, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014FY and \$418 million

in the 2012-2013FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second-largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after top investor Japan.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Goat, cattle exporters call for market creation in domestic meat market

THE goat and cattle exporter are asking for regulatory relief and market creation in domestic meat market as they are carrying a heavy burden due to export difficulties through border trade and high input costs such as feedstuff cost and labour wages.

“We request the reduction of market barriers. It does not mean to reduce the Licence C fee, controlled by a municipal committee for butchery. We want the municipal to support breeding and meat production.

If regulatory fees including permit fees by the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary and tax costs around K5,000 per head of cattle, we can sell the boneless mutton of export quality at K10,000 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg). The price, however, is not suitable for the domestic market. If there is a canned meat factory invested in the country, we can provide them as much as they want. The high-quality meat is not usually consumed in the domestic market. Consequently,

the cattle and goat exporters are now waiting for the export market, while they are being burdened by feedstuff cost and other general costs.

It costs K3 million per 300 heads of cattle for ten days. Otherwise, it approximately costs K5,000 for a goat and K1,000 for an ox to feed. About 5,000-6,000 heads of cattle owned by 50 companies have been stranded in Namhkam border area of Myanmar with China since August. Some companies are hard to survive from financial hardship, U Than Tun Oo, chair of Magway Region Livestock Entrepreneurs Association stressed.

China purchased Myanmar's live cattle and goat through border trade, and they add value in the slaughterhouses. They re-export them to other foreign markets. Despite the foreign demand, the coronavirus crisis posed transport problems in the border area, livestock entrepreneurs said.

The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 has already issued notifications relating to standard operating procedure and transport routes for the entrepreneurs.—Thant Zin Win

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



China imports goats from Myanmar to re-export them. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Myanmar's trade deficit widens to \$1.46 bln in 2019-2020FY

MYANMAR'S trade gap has significantly surged to US\$1.46 billion in the financial year 2019-2020 from over \$1 billion registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Commerce. Between 1 October and 25 September in the current FY, Myanmar's external trade increased to over \$36.2 billion from \$34.3 billion recorded in the year-ago period. While exports were estimated at \$17.37 billion, imports were valued at \$18.8 billion. Compared to the FY2018-2019, exports showed an increase of \$851 million, while imports climbed up by \$1 billion. Myanmar's foreign trade has shown a 10-per-cent increase, year over year, under the incumbent government.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

Myanmar's top export countries are China, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, the US, India, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the UK. In contrast, it primarily imports from China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural

and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to boost export under the World Trade Organization's rules, enhance value-added production and competitiveness, reduce export barriers and provide trade financing services. The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. The country mainly imports essential goods, construction materials, capital goods, hygienic material and supporting products for export promotion and the import substitution. Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, \$1.3 billion in the previous mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.

The Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its policy reform depending on the requirements of the State and people. Moreover, a series of trade liberalization and openness for policy development have been introduced for enhancing a more viable trade environment. The private sector plays a prominent role in Myanmar's market-oriented economic system. The ministry is highlighting free and fair trade, ensuring product safety and quality goods and services.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

KBZ Life Insurance, KBZ MS General Insurance provide health insurance to health workers of Inya Centre

KBZ Life Insurance and KBZ MS General Insurance provided health insurance cover to a total of 200 frontline health workers including doctors, nurses and volunteers who are working at the Inya COVID-19 Centre in Yangon on Saturday.

The donation of health insurance was made at the handover ceremony of the Inya Centre to the Yangon Region government and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Deputy Administrative Director of KBZ Life Insurance U Nay

Myo Aung presented the health insurance documents to the Inya Centre Working Committee Secretary U Tint San who returned certificate of honours.

Deputy Chairman of KBZ Life Insurance and KBZ MS General Insurance U Nyo Myint said, "We made the donation of health insurance cover to honour the doctors, nurses and volunteers who are rendering their kind and selfless services to the public during this pandemic".

"The insured doctors, nurses

and volunteers are entitled to receive full benefits including medical expenses if they are feeling unwell during the COVID period. Especially, if they are infected with COVID-19, they will get double benefits from this special insurance scheme," he added.

KBZ Life Insurance and KBZ MS General Insurance, the companies that won international insurance awards annually, are providing life and general insurance coverage to the public nationwide.—Ko Kyaw



KBZ donates health insurance to 200 doctors, nurses and volunteers of Inya Centre on 10 October 2020. **PHOTO: KO KYAW**

Police injured in attack by crowds when inspecting illegal excavation in Minbu

SOME policemen were injured after a crowd of 300 people attacked them with catapults when they tried to stop illegal excavation

on a site in a village in Minbu Township, Magway Region, on 10 October night, according to police.

At 9 pm on 10 October, U



Authorities inspect the things found at the illegal excavation site. **PHOTO: ZAY YATU (MAGWAY)**

Aung Moe informed the police that hundreds of people are illegally excavating his farmland in Ma-gyi-thone-bin Village in Minbu Township. Alongside village officials, a witness and the farmland owner, 12 policemen led by Sub-inspectors Kyaw Nyein and Lin Nang Oo, armed with a total of four guns, arrived at the site at about 9:20 pm, and they saw about 300 people, holding electric torches in their hands, were carrying out the illegal excavation in search of ancient antiques.

From about 100-yard away from the crowd, the police ordered the crowd to stop the illegal excavation and to go home. Then the crowd shouted and attacked the police by using slingshots. Some police were injured by the attack, so the police fired warning shots into the sky to control

the situation and then the police withdrew from the site, according to the police. "We are still hunting the offenders," said an officer of Minbu Township Police Force.

Magway Region Department of Archaeology Deputy Director U Myint Thein said that they will report the case to the regional government and the headquarters of the Department of Archaeology.

On 11 October morning, Police Colonel Hlaing Tint from Magway Region Police Force, inspected the site.

In the pits at the site, the officials found 48 things believed to be shards of ancient pottery, 11 things believed to be human bones, and a small pottery. Officials from the Department of Archaeology visited the site and recorded the finding.

"The Pyu-era ancient materials, widely excavated from our area can command high prices in the market. Some people are willing to pay high prices for those materials. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, some people have lost their livelihoods. In this case, it seems that their greed and anger sparked the illegal excavation," said a Minbu resident.

Currently, four people including U Myint Oo have been charged under section 447/427 of the Penal Code for the illegal excavation.

U Myint Oo, U Tun Win, U Chak Kyi, and U Ye Htwe have been charged under section 353/333/114 for attacking the policemen, according to the Minbu Township Police Force.—Zay Yatu (Magway) (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Campaign speeches of three political parties for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speeches of United Democratic Party, National Political Alliance Party and Wontharnu Democratic Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 12 October for the second time.—MNA

'TIER THREE' COVID RESTRICTIONS

UK PM to unveil new tiered COVID-19 restrictions Monday amid rising pandemic concerns

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to outline a new three-tiered system of coronavirus restrictions on Monday as new COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the country, local media reported.

Johnson will reveal the full details of the much-anticipated approach in a statement to the House of Commons, or the lower

house of the British parliament, on Monday, following criticism of his government for not keeping MPs properly informed of changes, according to the London-based Evening Standard newspaper.

The three tiers, known as Local COVID Alert Levels, are expected to be medium, high and very high.

Under a very high alert, pubs and bars would have to shut, but not restaurants.

The prime minister's chief strategic adviser, Edward Lister, said it is "very likely" that certain local areas will face "further restrictions" because of a "rising incidence" of COVID-19, the Sky News reported.

In a letter to MPs, Lister

said the government would discuss "difficult choices" with local leaders.

At present, Downing Street is under pressure from regional leaders to consult them on lockdown measures.

After a meeting with government officials, leaders of West Yorkshire councils wrote a joint letter to Chancellor of the Ex-

chequer Rishi Sunak saying, "We are concerned by rumours in the media that we might be pushed into Level Three of a new system set to be introduced, without any discussion or consultation, or without adequate economic measures put in place to support affected people and businesses."

SOURCE: XINHUA

QUESTIONABLE CLAIM

Trump: 'I am immune' from Covid-19

US President Donald Trump on Sunday declared himself immune from Covid-19 as he prepares to return to the campaign trail in a fight to regain ground against surging White House rival Joe Biden.

"It looks like I'm immune for, I don't know, maybe a long time and maybe a short time, it could be a lifetime, nobody really knows, but I'm immune," Trump said in a Fox News interview, a day after his doctor affirmed he was no longer a transmission risk for the disease.

"You have a president who is immune... so now you have

a president who doesn't have to hide in a basement like his opponent," he added -- in a jab at the Democrat Biden and his far more cautious approach to campaigning in a pandemic.

It is not yet clear to what degree contracting Covid-19 confers immunity from future infection, with early studies suggesting a few months while newer ones have indicated it could last longer.

While it acknowledges that -- generally -- a person who recovers from a viral infection is protected against new infection, the World Health Organiza-

tion cautioned in August: "For COVID-19, we do not yet have enough data to confirm if antibodies protect, what antibody levels are required, or how long protection will last."

During his phone interview on Fox News, Trump went on to suggest that his White House rival could himself be sick.

"If you look at Joe, he was coughing yesterday horribly and grabbing his mask, as he's coughing," Trump said. "And I don't know what that was all about, and it didn't get much press."

The Biden campaign has



President Donald Trump rallied hundreds of supporters for a comeback event at the White House, and is planning back-to-back rallies in a bid to salvage his struggling campaign three weeks from the November 3 election. **PHOTO: AFP**

been publishing daily coronavirus tests for their candidate since Trump tested positive

on October 1 -- landing him in hospital for three nights and derailing his campaign.— AFP ■

AVOIDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Pandemic fuels New York used-car sale surge, risking 'Carmageddon'

Increasing numbers of New Yorkers are buying cars as they avoid public transport because of the coronavirus pandemic, igniting the second-hand market but undermining hopes of less congestion in the Big Apple.

Julien Genestoux, 35, never owned a car when he lived in Lyon, Rome and San Francisco. And he got through five years in New York without needing one.

"Using a car in the city is a nightmare," he told AFP. "There's the traffic jams, going round for hours looking for somewhere to park."

"For me, it was not practical at all. But here it has become necessary unfortunately."

A few weeks ago, Genestoux, who has three children, finally took the plunge and bought a family car from a used-car website.

It has allowed his family to escape New York at a time when

virtually all its cultural activities are shut down. "Living in New York when you can't do anything, you have to go out," said the tech entrepreneur.

Genestoux has swapped weekends in Central Park for trips to Rockaway beach. And he's not the only one to purchase four wheels of their own.

He was the last of his group of friends to buy a car -- none of them had ever owned one before the pandemic.

The Manheim used vehicle value index, which tracks price trends in the United States, reached an all-time high of 163.7 in August, against 141.3 a year ago.

In early June, second-hand car dealer Chris Stylianou was close to completely emptying his stock, something he'd never come close to achieving in his 30-year career.— AFP ■



A second-hand car lot in Brooklyn, New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

ATTACK ON POLICE

Police station outside Paris targeted in fireworks attack

Around 40 people staged an hour-long fireworks attack against a police station outside Paris early Sunday, authorities said, the latest in a string of incidents targeting security forces in recent months.

Two officers were on a cigarette break outside the station in

Champigny-sur-Marne, around 12 kilometres (8 miles) east of the capital, when the assailants, some carrying steel bars, suddenly arrived shortly before midnight.

The officers barely managed to barricade themselves inside when the crowd began attacking

the entrance and several police vehicles, but nobody was injured during the raid.

The city's mayor, Laurent Jeanne, told AFP the police might have been targeted in retaliation for a recent scooter accident allegedly caused by police, "which has not been proven".— AFP ■

COLLECTING MICROPLASTICS

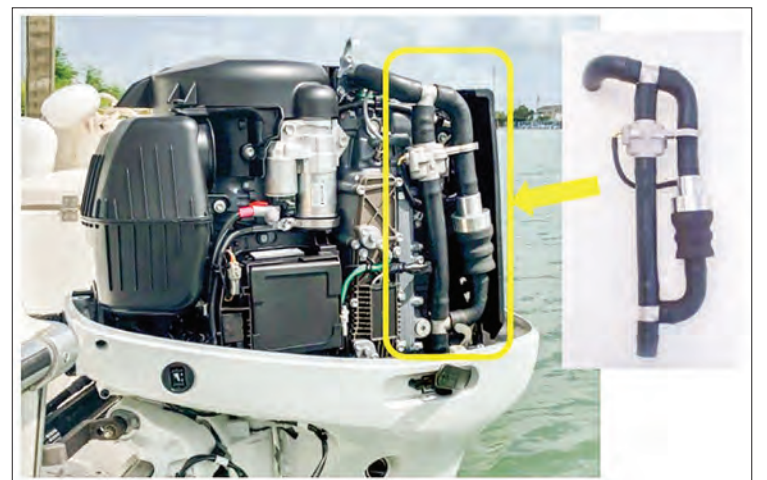
Suzuki to launch microplastic collection device for outboard engines

Suzuki Motor Corp. next year will launch the world's first device for outboard engines to collect microplastics, with marine plastic pollution becoming a growing environmental problem around the world.

Suzuki, which provides outboard engines with displacement of around 70 cc to more than 4000 cc, has developed a device that filters microplastics from seawater pumped up for engine cooling, it said in a release issued recently.

Installation of the device does not affect performance as it only filters water after the engine has been cooled, the company said.

Suzuki, which also makes two-wheel and four-wheel vehicles, plans to initially offer the device as an option before eventually providing it as a standard feature.



Supplied photo shows a microplastic collecting device developed by Suzuki Motor Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The product is part of the Suzuki Clean Ocean Project to address the issue of marine plastic waste and trial use of the device in Japan found that the filter successfully collected such waste as well as wood chips and nylon, Suzuki said.

The company plans to conduct similar tests overseas to

improve the product's performance.

About 300 million tons of plastic waste is produced every year, of which 8 million tons end up in the world's oceans, significantly affecting marine ecosystems, according to the U.N. Environment Program.— Kyodo News ■

Pay attention to mental health challenges faced by healthcare workers

CCOVID-19 pandemic has posed several challenges on several fronts, bring mental health consequences of the pandemic for health workers working at frontlines and a vast majority of people struggling for livelihood and trying to adapt to the pandemic.

As the public fatigue of COVID-19 and the agenda shifts back to other matters, the frontline healthcare workers frontline workers might feel increasingly isolated from the rest of the public in their sustained efforts against COVID-19. Whilst the risk to the public reduces, healthcare workers' continued interaction with COVID-19 cases means there remains the threat of days of enforced self-isolation, and serious illness.

Balance working hours and rotate workers from higher-stress to lower-stress functions is helpful to prevent burnout, minimize stress and enhance the mental well-being of health workers. Personal protective equipment must be readily accessible to all.

come under great pressure in the ongoing pandemic response.

Balance working hours and rotate workers from higher-stress to lower-stress functions is helpful to prevent burnout, minimize stress and enhance the mental well-being of health workers. Personal protective equipment must be readily accessible to all.

Max Energy has offered special discounted fuel prices to healthcare workers, ambulances, CSOs and taxi drivers during COVID-19 crisis since June in our country, KBZ Life Insurance and KBZ MS General Insurance have provided health insurance to about 200 health workers at the Inya COVID-19 Centre. People have also shared their wealth to needy people by providing cash and kind as a way of reducing economic burden during hard times. Such initiatives are most needed today.

We all should display more sympathy and understanding and be supportive to others, as the pandemic does not seem to be going away any time soon. Let's continue to stand together to tackle what is the greatest public health challenge of our generation.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 10 OCTOBER 2020: FOCUS ON 'MENTAL HEALTH FOR ALL'

World Mental Health Day 2020

There is no health without mental health, for which sustained and scaled up investments are needed.

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

ALL people require access to quality mental health care and effective treatments that protect and promote overall health and well-being. Globally, nearly one in 10 people have a mental health condition. Depression is a leading cause of disability. An estimated 3 million people die every year from the harmful use of alcohol. A suicide occurs every 40 seconds. Most mental health conditions can be effectively treated at relatively low cost. And yet more than a quarter of the world's population lives in a country where there is less than one psychiatrist for every 100 000 people. In the WHO South-East Asia Region, four out of every five people who require mental health services are unable to access them. The Region has the lowest per capita number of mental health workers. By scaling up investments in quality mental health care, all countries in the Region can significantly enhance mental health, well-being and resilience. Given the immense social and economic impact of COVID-19, countries and partners must act with speed and scale to secure and apply the necessary funds, as underscored by the theme of this year's World Mental Health Day campaign – Move for mental

health: let's invest.

The Region has in recent years made steady progress to improve access to mental health care and treatment as part of its Flagship Priorities on addressing noncommunicable diseases, scaling up emergency risk management and achieving universal health coverage. Most Member States have developed national mental health policies that have been integrated into national health policies. Specific regional strategies on suicide prevention, autism spectrum disorders and the harmful use of alcohol continue to be rolled out, with a focus on strengthening services at the primary level and promoting multisectoral buy-in. The Region continues to be a global leader in the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services in emergency settings, for which WHO's mh-GAP Programme has proven particularly valuable. Access for all to need-specific, culturally sensitive mental health care following an acute event is vital to promoting a strong social and economic recovery and to ensuring that mental health care is mainstreamed at all levels of service delivery.

The vast social and economic impact of COVID-19 highlights the critical need for all countries



Under the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, the first ever World Mental Health Day was celebrated on October 10, 1992. IMAGE CREDIT: PIXABAY

in the Region to invest in quality mental health care, which must be part of an overall increase in health spending. Across the Region, services for mental health care – including access to psychiatric medicines – have in recent months experienced significant disruptions, which WHO has been supporting Member States to overcome through innovative service delivery models such as telemedicine and via novel ways of securing access to medicines such as door-step deliveries. WHO continues to strengthen the capacity of health workers to detect, manage and treat mental health issues through virtual

trainings and webinars, and will continue to facilitate the identification of best practices that can be adapted and rolled out to scale, especially at the community level. The Region's recently adopted Ministerial Declaration for a Collective COVID-19 Response highlights the ongoing need for countries to maintain essential health services, including for mental health, to strengthen the response and build health system resilience into the recovery and beyond.

In this International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, special efforts must be made to protect and promote the mental

health and well-being of health workers, which has come under great pressure in the ongoing pandemic response. To prevent burnout, minimize stress and enhance the mental well-being of health workers, facility administrators should appropriately balance working hours and rotate workers from higher-stress to lower-stress functions. Personal protective equipment must be readily accessible to all. Administrators must ensure that financial resources are available to call up additional staff and pay overtime and sick leave. Leaders across sectors must continue to apply a zero-tolerance approach

to social stigma, verbal aggression and violence directed at health workers, and must continue to celebrate and support the health workforce.

There is no health without mental health, for which sustained and scaled up investments are needed. WHO will continue to provide its full support to countries and partners in the Region to strengthen the provision of need-specific, culturally sensitive mental health care and treatments throughout the COVID-19 response and into the recovery and beyond, in line with its strategic preparedness and response plan, the Region's Flagship Priorities, WHO's "triple billion" targets and Sustainable Development Goal 3. With crisis comes opportunity, and we must seize this World Mental Health Day to accelerate progress on ensuring all people in the Region can access the mental health care and effective treatments they require to stay healthy, well and resilient. For a healthier, more sustainable social and economic future, together we must act – and invest – now.

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WHO's South-East Asia Region comprises the following 11 Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

INDIA SECOND COUNTRY AFTER US TO REPORT 7 MILLION CASES

India coronavirus cases cross 7 million

INDIA'S coronavirus cases surged past seven million on Sunday, taking it ever closer to overtaking the United States as the world's most infected country.

Health ministry data showed a rise of almost 75,000 cases on Sunday, taking the total to 7.05 million, second only to the US which has recorded 7.67 million infections.

Experts say that the true number may be much higher, with testing rates in the vast

country of 1.3 billion people -- home to some of the planet's most crowded cities -- much lower than in many other countries.

This is borne out by a string of studies measuring antibodies to the virus among the Indian population that have indicated infection rates could be several times higher than officially recorded.

India's death toll of 108,334 as of Sunday is also lower than in the US and other countries with higher caseloads.

The United States has recorded 214,000 deaths while Brazil, with two million fewer infections than India, has lost nearly 150,000 lives so far.

Possible factors for this include India's relatively young population, immunity thanks to other diseases -- and under-reporting.

The rise in infections in India comes as the government continues to lift restrictions to boost an economy battered by a severe lockdown imposed in March.

On Thursday, cinemas are set to re-open -- albeit at 50 percent capacity -- and experts fear the upcoming festival season when large crowds gather for public celebrations will exacerbate the situation.

Anticipating a fresh surge in cases, the government has issued strict guidelines and capped the number of revellers for the two main Hindu festivals of Dussehra on October 25 and Diwali next month.

SOURCE: AFP



People have tests at a COVID-19 mobile testing facility in Hyderabad, India, on July 31, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

U Hau Khan Sum appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Canada

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hau Khan Sum, Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Canada.—MNA

Appointment of Belgium Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Ms Sibille de Cartier d'Yves as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Bangkok, in succession to Mr Philippe Kridelka.

Ms Sibille de Cartier d'Yves was born in February 1978 in Belgium. She earned Master in Political Sciences in 2000. From 2001 to 2016, she had served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and the Permanent Mission of Belgium in Nairobi, Kigali and Vienna. From 2016 to 2020, she served as Belgian Ambassador to Egypt and Sudan. She speaks French, English, Dutch, Spanish, Egyptian and German languages.

She is married and has two children.—MNA

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2020)

"စပါးစည်ညီညွတ်သော စီမံအာဏာပိုင်မှုသည် သဘာဝဘေးလျော့ပါးရေးမိန့်"

"It's All About Governance"

အောက်တိုဘာလ(၁၃)ရက်

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 11-10-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (1/2) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

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ELECTION IN A PANDEMIC

Virus, inequality top agenda as Lithuania votes

LITHUANIANS vote Sunday in the first round of a general election overshadowed by a record spike in coronavirus cases, with the ruling centre-left coalition defending its handling of the pandemic in a tight race with opposition conservatives.

The rivals are also focused on bridging the economic and educational gulf between rural and urban residents in the Baltic eurozone state of 2.8 million people.

All major parties share a pro-EU and NATO platform, and back Vilnius's drive to rally support within the EU for neighbouring Belarus's democratic opposition after a disputed presidential election.

Opinion polls show a tight

race, with Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis' centre-left Farmers and Greens Union and the conservative Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats both garnering around 15 percent.

If reelected, Skvernelis, who is more popular among lower-income rural voters, promises to set up state-owned pharmacies nationwide and introduce an annual "13th pension" cash bonus for the elderly.

More popular among urbanites, his conservative rival ex-finance minister Ingrida Simonyte has slammed Skvernelis -- a former national chief of police -- as running a chaotic and populist administration.

SOURCE: AFP



People disinfect hands to cast their ballots during an early vote, ahead of the parliamentary elections at the polling stations in Vilnius, Lithuania on Oct 6, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

"HI, SPEED"

5G iPhone expected to star at Apple event

APPLE is expected on Tuesday to unveil a keenly anticipated iPhone 12 line-up starring models tuned to super-fast new 5G telecom networks in an update considered vital to the company's fortunes.

A streamed event was cryptically teased with the message "Hi, Speed" in an apparent reference to the faster wireless networks being in-

troduced in many parts of the world.

Analysts expect Apple to introduce a selection of iPhone 12 models in multiple sizes, with some shipping earlier than others due to the toll the pandemic has taken on the company's supply chain.

"We believe iPhone 12 represents the most significant product cycle for Cook & Co.

since iPhone 6 in 2014 and will be another defining chapter in the Apple growth story," Wedbush analyst Dan Ives said in a note to investors, referring to chief executive Tim Cook.

The time is ripe, analysts said, for Apple to hit the market with an iPhone tailored to the super-fast 5G telecom networks taking root around the world.

"Apple absolutely needs 5G right now," said Techspontential analyst Avi Greengart, "not for the US, but for China, where 5G is driving purchase decisions."

Some Apple rivals have already produced 5G models, and China is far ahead of the US when it comes to the new-generation networks.

SOURCE: AFP

THE CRAB INDUSTRY IN MARYLAND

Immigration impasse, coronavirus clobber iconic US crab industry



There are few takers for the tough, seasonal work of separating crab meat from their shells. PHOTO: AFP

AS crab season arrived in Hoopersville, Maryland, locals began asking where Jose Bronero Cruz was. For two decades, he'd traveled from

Mexico to the remote town to pick crab meat, but this spring, he did not arrive.

Nor did any of the other foreign workers Janet Rip-

pons-Ruark relies on to process meat from the blue crabs Maryland is famous for, exacerbating a worker shortage that ballooned into a crisis for the eastern US state's iconic industry.

"We've survived Covid. But we're in an area where there is just not local help," Rippons-Ruark said.

A shortage of visas for foreign workers combined with disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic paralyzed parts of Maryland's crab industry this year, forcing two-thirds of the major seafood processors to scrape by on the few employees they could find, or close entirely.

A batch of visas issued at the start of October finally allowed Cruz and other guest

workers to enter the country, but amid the prolonged deadlock over immigration policy in Washington that shows no sign of abating soon, crab industry leaders fret for their future.

"Whether we'll survive the staffing thing... That remains to be seen," said Jack Brooks, president of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association.

Backbones of industry

Blue crabs pulled from the waters of the Chesapeake Bay are perhaps Maryland's best-known export, with the state the second-largest producer of the 2018 US harvest valued at \$188.4 million, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SOURCE: AFP

HURRICANE DELTA

Weary Louisiana residents assess damage from latest hurricane

WEARY Louisiana residents emerged to sunny skies Saturday as they began to assess the damage wrought by the second devastating storm to roar through in two months, Hurricane Delta, now a tropical storm.

There were no immediate reports of victims from the storm, now greatly weakened as it churns northeast toward neighboring Mississippi.

While Delta left hundreds of thousands of people without power in both Louisiana and Texas, damage generally appeared moderate. In Lake Charles, a city of 75,000 still recovering from the August 20 passage of Hurricane Laura, Delta dumped 16 inches (40 centimeters) of rain, flooding many homes and leaving knee-high water in some areas.

"We're picking up the pieces, but we have quite a road ahead of us," Mayor Nic Hunter said Saturday on CNN.

He said Delta's passage so soon after Laura felt like "a double whammy... It's adding insult to injury."

The blue plastic tarpaulins that had been lashed over roofs damaged by Laura were ripped away overnight by Delta's powerful winds in the latest test of residents' nerves and preparations.

SOURCE: AFP

FORMER CONVICT APPOINTED PM

Kyrgyzstan names freed populist politician acting prime minister



Kyrgyz acting prime minister Sadyr Japarov holds a press conference at the Ala-Archa state residence in Bishkek on October 10, 2020. **PHOTO: VYACHESLAV OSELEDKO/AFP**

KYRGYZSTAN'S parliament on Saturday made a populist politician recently freed from jail prime minister, with Sadyr Japarov immediately saying he expected the country's embattled

president to step down. Hundreds of Japarov's supporters took to the streets of the capital Bishkek to celebrate, after a week that saw opposition supporters demonstrate and clash with police over a contested election on Sunday.

At least one person has died and over 1,000 have been injured in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian country with close ties to Russia.

The violence also saw shots fired as groups of rival supporters clashed on Friday.

Japarov was made acting prime minister after a majority of lawmakers supported his candidacy at an extraordinary session of parliament.

He said he expected President Sooronbay Jeenbekov to resign "in two to three days" in

comments at his confirmation on Saturday.

"I met with (Jeenbekov) here at the state residency. He said that after confirming the cabinet and government structures, he would resign," Japarov said at his confirmation.

A deputy speaker at the extraordinary session on Saturday noted that Japarov would become acting president if Jeenbekov resigned.

The speaker of parliament would normally step in, but the post is currently unfilled.

Two sources in the parliament, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that they expected Jeenbekov to honour his pledge to step down.

SOURCE: AFP

DEFUSING TENSIONS

China backs Iran nuclear deal, calls for new MidEast forum

CHINA'S foreign minister Wang Yi has called for a new forum to defuse tensions in the Middle East after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart where he reiterated Beijing's support for Tehran.

Wang and Javid Zarif also reaffirmed their commitment to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, according to the Chinese foreign ministry, an implicit rebuke of the United States for abandoning the accord during their Saturday meeting in China's southwestern Tengchong city. Iran has been locked in an acrimonious relationship with Saudi Arabia, the other major Middle Eastern power, over the war in Yemen, Iranian influence in Iraq and Saudi support for Washington's sanctions on Tehran.

"China proposes to build a regional multilateral dialogue platform with equal participation of all stakeholders," said the Chinese foreign ministry statement. The forum would "enhance mutual understanding through dialogue and explore political and diplomatic solutions to security issues in the Middle East", the statement added. — **SOURCE: AFP**

ARDERN VS COLLINS

Ardern set to retain premiership as New Zealand heads to polls

WHEN New Zealanders vote on Saturday in the country's general election, the question seems not so much whether Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will win re-election to a second term, but by how much.

Ardern's first term in office was a baptism of fire, and the way she responded with empa-

thy and kindness has made her international household name.

After becoming her centre-left Labour Party's youngest-ever leader, less than two months before winning the 2017 election, the 40-year-old has led New Zealand through a once-in-a-century pandemic, a deadly volcanic eruption and the coun-

try's worst-ever mass shooting with her signature calm.

So whether it is her crisis management skills, or her approachable communication style -- a besweated Ardern was praised for holding an impromptu Q&A session on social media as the country went into a four-week-long coronavirus

lockdown -- it is unsurprising the Labour Party is shaping up to be the popular choice.

While opinion polls strongly suggest Ardern will beat Judith Collins, her centre-right National Party counterpart, it remains to be seen whether Labour will be able to govern alone.

SOURCE: AFP

JAPAN'S SOICHI NOGUCHI AND THREE OTHER ASTRONAUTS

NASA delays Oct. 31 launch of SpaceX to carry U.S., Japan astronauts

NASA said Saturday that it will delay the Oct. 31 liftoff of a spacecraft developed by U.S. company SpaceX, which will carry Japan's Soichi Noguchi and three other astronauts, citing the need for additional checkups on the rocket.

The launch of the so-called SpaceX Crew-1 mission is "now targeted for no sooner than early-to-mid November," the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said in a news release.

NASA said it is currently evaluating a malfunction in the first stage engine gas generators of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket that was observed during a recent non-NASA mission launch attempt.

A Falcon 9 rocket will also be used for the Crew-1 mission featuring Noguchi of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and three NASA astronauts, Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker. They will stay on the ISS for approximately six months.

The launch delay will provide "additional time for SpaceX to complete hardware testing and data reviews," NASA said.

Following the announcement, Noguchi tweeted, "We, crew members, will continue training, thinking that it is necessary preparation to ensure the safety of the rocket."

SOURCE: KYODO



(From R) JAXA astronaut Soichi Noguchi and NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker are seated in SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft during a training session.

PHOTO: SPACEX/KYODO

LONG-RULING LEADER

Tajikistan vote
seen as easy win
for strongman

Tajikistan is voting for the second time this year after parliamentary elections in March. **PHOTO: AFP**

VOTING was underway in Central Asian Tajikistan Sunday in a presidential election expected to pave the way for incumbent Emomali Rakhmon to become the longest-ruling strongman in the former Soviet space.

Few are anticipating any hiccups for Rakhmon as he closes in on three decades in power and looks to overtake Kazakhstan's recently retired Nursultan Nazarbayev in the regional longevity stakes.

Rakhmon cast his vote in a "school for gifted children" according to a report by Russian agency RIA Novosti, which said the leader was "in a good mood, as he greeted the journalists at the polling station".

Authoritarian Rakhmon

faces four other candidates, all of whom are viewed as token opponents, in his bid for a fresh seven-year term.

Polling stations opened at 6:00 am local (0100 GMT) and will close at 8:00 pm (1500 GMT), with results expected the following morning.

Voters in the capital Dushanbe interviewed by AFP overwhelmingly stated their intention to cast their ballot for Rakhmon -- and struggled to name the other candidates.

Zarina Mamadnazarova, a 25-year-old woman who is currently unemployed, said she would vote for Rakhmon "because he is the best president, our national leader".

SOURCE: AFP

COLOMBIA'S MOST POWERFUL MAN

Judge lifts house arrest
order against Colombian
former president Uribe

A judge on Saturday lifted a house arrest order against former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, who is under investigation for alleged witness tampering.

Uribe has been held under the order since August.

The decision is the latest twist in a long-running legal battle and is likely to disappoint Uribe's detractors, who had hailed the house arrest as a triumph of judicial independence.

"The decision adopted by this official is to agree to the request submitted by the defense, supported by the Attorney General's Office and the representation of the public prosecutor and as such Dr. Alvaro Uribe Velez will be granted his immediate freedom," said Judge Clara Ximena Salcedo.

"Thank God," Uribe said in a message on Twitter following the decision.

SOURCE: AFP

FRAUDULENT MESSAGES

Campaigns sidestep Cambridge
Analytica crackdown with new methods

"YOUR early vote has not been recorded," one text message said, with a link for more information.

Other messages tell voters they are not registered, or offer unverified information about a political opponent.

Fraudulent messages like these are drawing attention as political campaigns ramp up data collection and voter targeting using their own technology to circumvent restrictions imposed by social media platforms following the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Facebook barred apps which scraped data on users and their

contacts after revelations about the now-defunct British consulting group. But in response, President Donald Trump's campaign and some activist groups are using their own methods.

"What we are seeing is almost more potent than in 2016," said Samuel Woolley, a University of Texas professor who leads propaganda research at the school's Centre for Media Engagement

Woolley's team, which examined messages such as the above-referenced ones, found that the Trump mobile app, and

to a lesser extent those of Democrat Joe Biden and other political activist groups, scoop up data to create profiles to craft personalized, targeted messages by SMS, email or social media.

Some apps collect data not only on the user, but his or her contacts, and track location and other activities such as shopping or church attendance.

Campaigns can combine that with third-party information from data brokers or public records to finetune messages to specific individuals or groups.

SOURCE: AFP



US lawmakers held hearings after revelations that consultancy Cambridge Analytica harvested data on tens of millions of Americans for political purposes; researchers say some campaigns are doing similar things, but circumventing Facebook. **PHOTO: AFP**

VIRTUAL MONEY

Why is the ECB eyeing a 'digital euro'?

THE European Central Bank will on Monday launch a public consultation and start experiments to help it decide whether to create a "digital euro" for the 19-nation currency club.

The move comes as the pandemic accelerates a shift away from cash, and as policymakers nervously eye the rise of private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.

Here's an explainer of what a "digital euro" would mean for the region's citizens.

What is a digital euro?

A digital, or virtual, euro would be an electronic version of euro notes and coins, it would be legal tender and guaranteed

by the European Central Bank.

It would also for the first time allow individuals to have deposits directly with the ECB. This could be safer than with commercial banks, which could go bust, or than holding cash that could be stolen or lost.

And like cash, money could be stored outside of the banking system, such as in a "digital wallet".

It would allow citizens and firms to make their daily payments "in a fast, easy and secure way," the ECB said as it published a report on virtual money in October. A digital euro would "complement cash, not replace it", the ECB stressed. Issuing

and transferring digital euros could be done using the distributed ledger technology known as blockchain on which cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin rely.

Why now?

The Covid-19 pandemic has boosted electronic payments as customers avoid notes and coins over fears they might spread the coronavirus.

Even in Germany, where cash is said to be king, consumers are this year expected to spend more money by card than in cash for the first time, according to a recent Euromonitor International report.

SOURCE: AFP

VIRGIN AND CAYMAN ISLANDS

UK urged to do more to open up tax havens to public scrutiny

Recent events in the British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands are seen by some as an indication that Britain is showing signs of improving tax transparency in its overseas territories, although activists say more still needs to be done.

Two years ago, an amendment made to UK anti-money laundering legislation required overseas territories including Bermuda, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man to establish public registers to show the real owners of shell companies. The British Virgin Islands, considered by anti-corruption

and anti-money laundering groups as one of the murkiest financial centres in the world, was the last to join, but has finally done so.

"It's huge news," Nienke Palstra, of Global Witness, told AFP. "They had been dragging their feet, even though it's been a legal obligation since 2018." Huge recent data leaks, including the FinCEN files and the Panama Papers, showed that the Caribbean archipelago was a major global hub for money laundering and tax evasion.

Concerns remain
Alex Cobham, from

the global Tax Justice Network (TJN) research and analysis group, said although BVI's commitment to publish records was welcome, it would have little effect.

The islands -- home to some 35,000 people in an area about one-fifth the size of London -- ranked ninth in its financial secrecy index, and first in its list of corporate tax havens.

He pointed to a statement from its premier Andrew Fahie, who in September spoke only of "working towards" publicly accessible ownership registers.

SOURCE: AFP



Activists say Britain needs to do more to improve tax transparency in its overseas territories, like the British Virgin Islands. PHOTO: AFP

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Dated 12 October 2020

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The above Trademark is used in respect of "Canned or bottled fruits and vegetables; canned lychee; canned rambutan, canned rambutan stuff with pineapple; canned longan; canned toddy palm; canned jackfruit; canned pineapple; canned sweet corn; sweet corn, processed; coconut oil for food; coconut, prepared; dried fruits and vegetables" in **Class 29**; and "Fruit juices; concentrates for making fruit juices; fruit nectars, non-alcoholic; vegetable juices (beverages); coconut water (beverage); Orange juice; pineapple juice beverages; mango juice; tomato juice (beverage); guava juice; lychee juice; pomegranate juice; vegetable mixed fruit juice" in **Class 32**.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademark or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)
For **Malee Group Public Company Limited**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,
221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township,
Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated: 12 October 2020

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1127S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1127S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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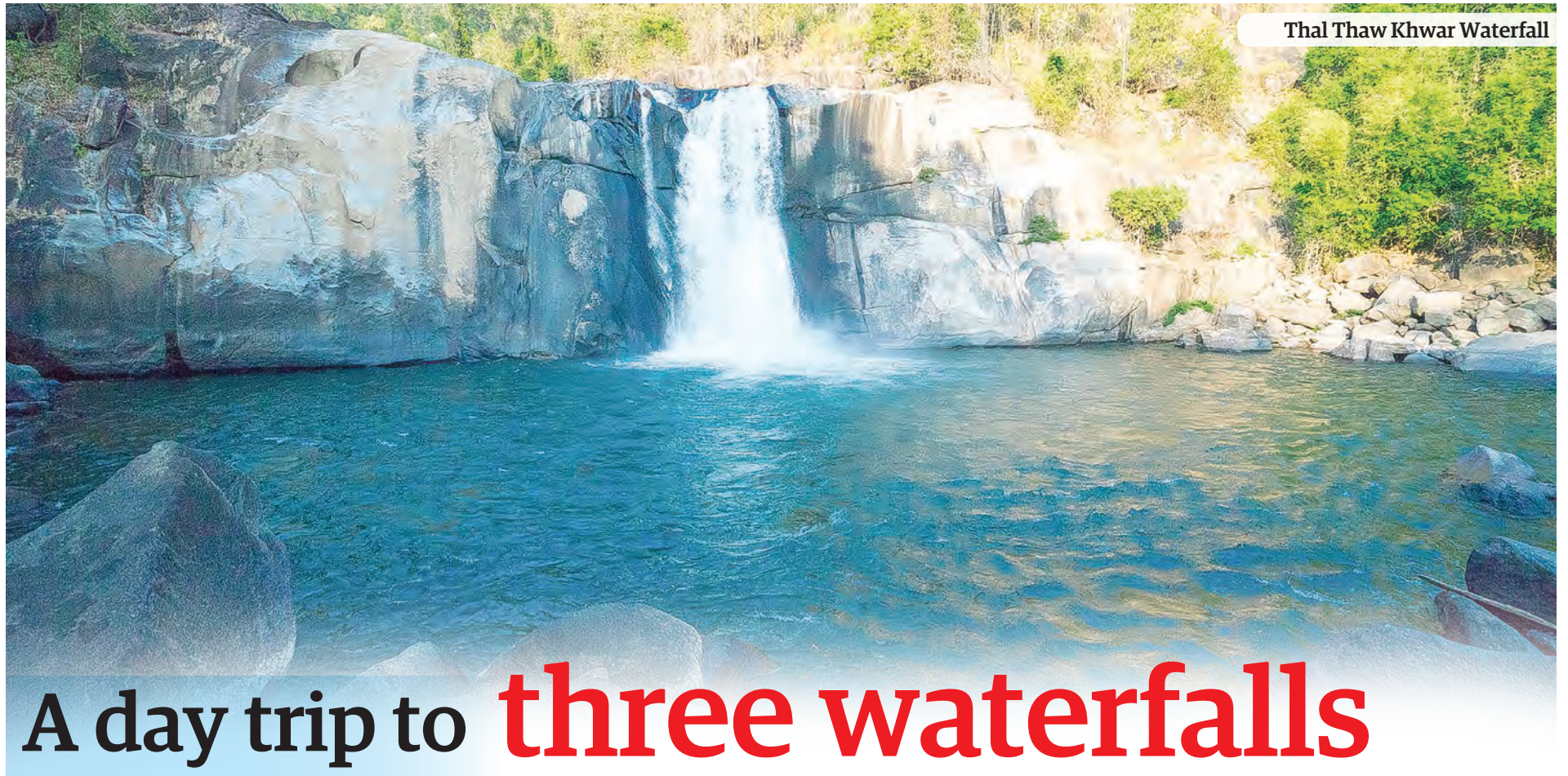
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Thal Thaw Khwar Waterfall

A day trip to **three waterfalls**

in Kyaukkyi Town

By Thiha Lu Lin (Thiha, the Traveller)
PHOTO: JOE JIN, THIHA LU LIN

THERE are three beautiful waterfalls near Kyaukkyi town in Bago Region. For a day trip, when we leave Yangon around 6 am, we can come back around 8 pm. The two waterfalls are in the same place, and the third one is in another place. But three of them are not far from each other. Although it's closed during COVID-19 period, let me say it should be visited when everything is back to a stable situation.

The three waterfalls called Sat Le Waterfall, Thal Thaw Mu Waterfall and Thal Thaw Khwar Waterfall. Sat Le Waterfall is a little privacy, and the other two are at the same place up the hill. But all are on the same route.

How to get there? We need to go for 99 miles through the highway from Yangon. There is a feeder road which leads to Kyaukkyi town. The road will become narrow, and it is just two cars away. When I went there, some parts of the road were being renovated, and I hope it's done now. After driving around



View from the top of the Thal Thaw Mu Waterfall

3 hours to Kyaukkyi town, we will arrive at Set Le Waterfall first and continue to Thal Thaw Mu and Thal Thaw Khwar waterfalls. After Kyaukkyi town, the road is getting narrower and rougher as the rocks are paved on the red earth. If it rains, the ground can become muddy, so

there is a risk that the wheels will not be able to move. There are also potholes, so if the car is low, it may hit bottom.

Set Le Waterfall

After a one-hour drive from Kyaukkyi town, we will arrive at Set Le Waterfall first. We may need to ask the direction to the waterfall on the way. There is an entrance sign on the way to the waterfall which says "Set Le Waterfall" in Burmese and "Khay Loh Klo Waterfall" in English with the Kayin flags. If we go through the gate a little further, we will arrive at the admission gate to pay for entrance fees for vehicles. The prices range from 1,000 kyats to 5,000 kyats depending on the type of car. Travelling cars such as light truck and saloon car need to pay only 1,000 kyats or 2,000 kyats, and 3,000 kyats for Mini Bus and 5,000 kyats for Express.

We will not be bored on the way to the waterfall as there are restaurants,



souvenir shops, several types of games during pagoda festivals such as arrow games and shooting games as well as grilled fish, grilled prawn, grilled chicken, grilled egg, and other kinds of grilled foods. We had lunch in one of those restaurants. As there were just a few guests at that time, we didn't have many kinds of food. There are also souvenir shops which sell Kayin traditional dress, bamboo hat and commemorative T-shirts.

There is another gate to pass near the entrance to the waterfall where armed guards will check the bags we have and will not allow keeping the bottles and spike tools.

I think it wouldn't be very amusing if we go only to the Set Le Waterfall. The waterfall is relatively small, but the waterfall is speedy. It would be more beautiful if it has much water. It seems the water is shallow and it is good to take rest and drink or eat as there are also big stones. It is just for recreation

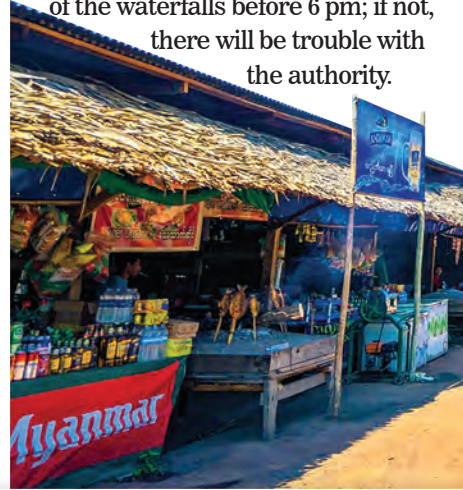


Set Le Waterfall has not much water, and I think it also depends on the arrival time

and not a “wow” place.

Thal Thaw Mu Waterfall and Thal Thaw Khwar Waterfall

This place can be reached after going back to the entrance gate of Set Le Waterfall and turn left. It will take 30 minutes as the car has to drive slowly on the rough road. There is also an entrance gate quite observable on the right side of the road, with the Kayin flags and the names of the waterfall in Burmese as well as in English are written as “Thal Thaw Mu- Thal Thaw Khwar Waterfalls”. After going through the gate for a little further, there will be the admission gate. Usually, there is no checking, though. We need to get out of the waterfalls before 6 pm; if not, there will be trouble with the authority.



It takes three hours to Kyaukkyaikyaik from Yangon

Kayin organizations-controlled areas and so you all need to follow some words of their organizations. Please notice the opening and closing hours of the waterfall. If they fix the closing time at 6 pm, you need to leave from there before that time. Although the people can drink alcohol at the shops, they scrutinize whether the people bring bottles or other sharp objects and seize such materials. They also strictly ban the disposal of trash. Be careful not to litter. It would be best if you took back the garbage. You need hiking boots if you go to Thal Thaw Khwar Waterfall. It would be better if you take gloves as you need to climb up the hill with ropes. You can access the mobile network only at the Kyaukkyaikyaik and on the way to the waterfall. You cannot access the waterfalls.

If you have time, you can pay a visit to three waterfalls near Kyaukkyaikyaik township of Bago after four hours’ drive from Yangon. I made a day trip. If you want to spend your vacation peacefully, you should choose only one waterfall to spend a lot of time. If you can manage your time, you can have a day trip without feeling tired. May you all have a safe and happy trip.

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)



Delicious fried fish at Set Le Waterfall

deep, but you can get into the water by stepping on the small rocks. The waterfall is lovely to take a photo. Most of the people take rest at Thal Thaw Mu as there are no places to take rest at Thal Thaw Khwar and the water is also deep there. Therefore, I would like to suggest the travellers play in the water of Thal Thaw Mu Waterfall and take rest there, after taking photos at Thal Thaw Khwar Waterfall.

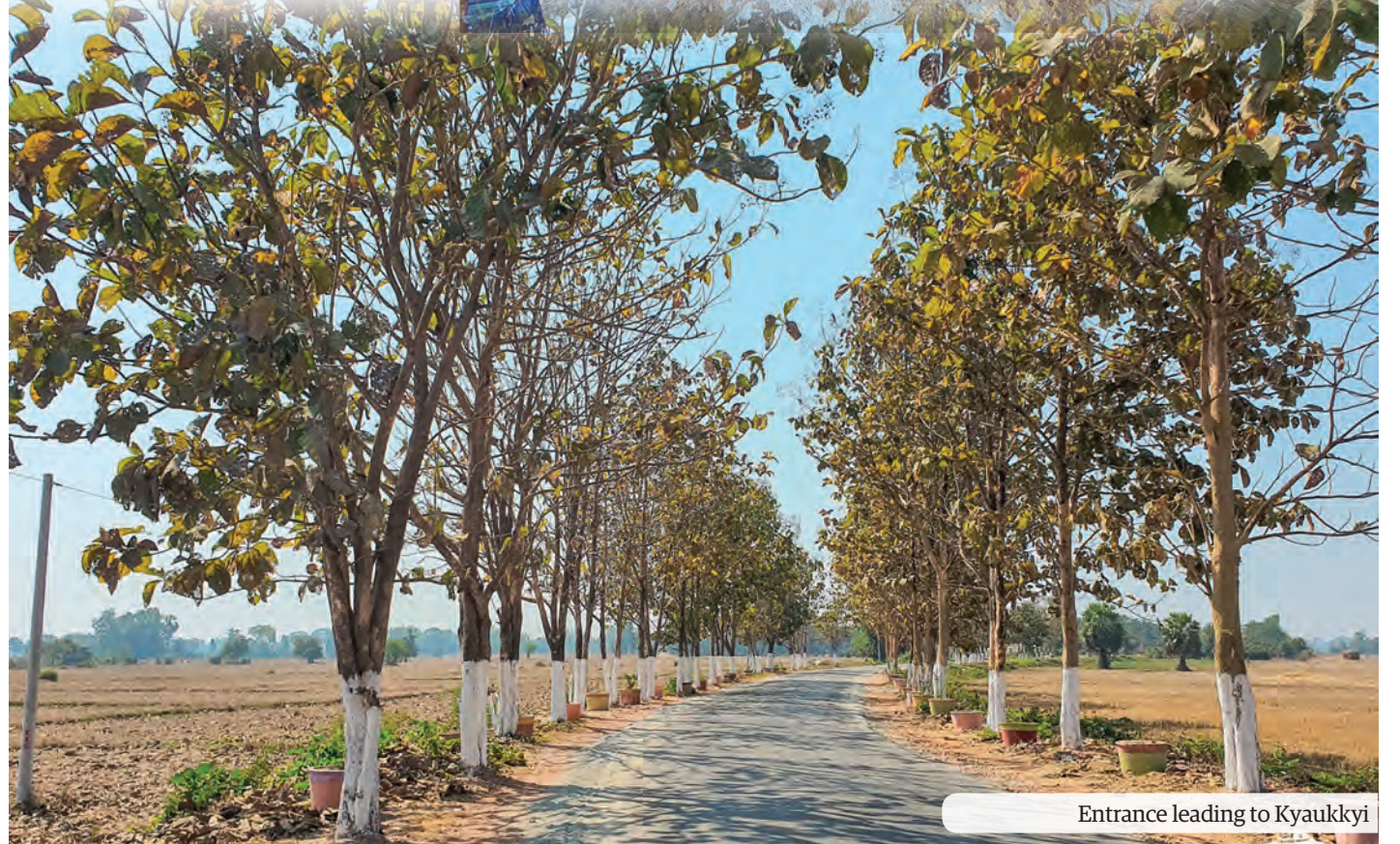
Things to keep in mind

As the waterfall is located in the



The vendors open restaurants together with traditional costumes

The car passing fee is collected here. There are restaurants and souvenir shops like Set Le Waterfall. I didn't find video game shops there. Most of the restaurants operate together with souvenir shops. The waterfall is more beautiful than Set Le, but we have to face an arduous journey to reach there. You will firstly see Thal Thaw Khwar Waterfall. You can take rest peacefully as there is smooth sand like the beach. You can skip the rocks and walk in the water. You can climb up the small hill with ropes. Even the girls in our group climb up like that. I sometimes felt scared climbing down the hill with ropes than the climbing up. After that, we can make a Soft Trekking in the jungle, including the bamboo forest. After 15 minutes walk, we arrived at the Thal Thaw Khwar waterfall. A massive volume of water beautifully flows from the waterfall. It is not easy to take a bath. It is a little bit



Entrance leading to Kyaukkyaikyaik

YUFC player Soe Min Naing retires to coach youths

FORMER Yangon United forward player Soe Min Naing has retired from football playing and will be coaching the Yangon United youth team near future, according to the statement with the Myanmar National League.

Upon his retirement from playing, the 30-year-old striker has revealed his feeling.

“It was a difficult decision for me. I can still play. Fans always want to see me as a player. But it was also the COVID-19 period. Thus I made a long-term decision for my life.

Soe Min Naing’s contract with Yangon United will expire at the end of this month, and he will then be working as the assistant coach of Yangon United U-19 team with head coach U Aye

Naing.

The striker played for Magway FC from 2009 to 2015 and won the Bogyoke Aung San Shield in 2015.

Then, he moved to Yangon United FC. In Yangon FC, he could assist the team winning the Myanmar National League trophy once, Bogyoke Aung San Shield twice and Open Cup once.

The last match he played for Yangon United was the 6-1 win over ISPE team, in which he scored a winning goal for his team.

Soe Min Naing also played for Myanmar National Football Team in 2015, and he made his debut on 30 March 2015 against Indonesia National Team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Yangon United striker Soe Min Naing (NO.8) celebrates his winning goal with his teammate Mg Mg Lwin (NO.11) during their previous MNL match against ISPE FC at Yangon United Sports Complex on 30 September 2020. **PHOTO: YUFC**

Nadal wins 13th French Open and record-equalling 20th Grand Slam



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning against Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the end of their men's final tennis match at the Philippe Chatrier court on Day 15 of The Roland Garros 2020 French Open tennis tournament in Paris on October 11, 2020. **PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOLAT / AFP**

PARIS — RAFAEL Nadal demolished Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to win his 13th French Open and equal Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday.

For world number one Djokovic, the defeat ended his hopes of an 18th Slam and of becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four majors twice.

Nadal, 34, claimed his 100th match win at Roland Garros against just two defeats since his 2005 debut.

The Spaniard, the oldest champion in Paris since Andres Gimeno in 1972, claimed the title without dropping a set.—AFP

Football: Brazil forward Robinho rejoins Santos

SAO PAULO — Veteran Brazilian striker Robinho has rejoined his boyhood club Santos, who he left to join Real Madrid as a 21-year-old rising star before spells with Manchester City and AC Milan.

The 36-year-old penned a five-month deal paying the nominal amount of about €230 a month with bonuses and an extension if things go well.

“This has always been my home, it's so special to come back here where my career began,” he said.

He is currently a fugitive from Italian justice, having been condemned to jail for rape in Italy in 2017.

Robinho shot to fame with goals galore for the Rio outfit, which also produced Neymar and Pele, before Real Madrid signed him to great fanfare in 2006.

A slight and sublimely talented centre forward, Robinho won league titles with Real and Milan and also turned out 100 times for Brazil, winning the Copa America and the Confederations Cup.—AFP

De Bruyne willing to sign new Man City contract



Manchester City Belgian midfielder Kevin De Bruyne. **PHOTO: MOLLY DARLINGTON POOL/AFP**

LONDON — Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne says he is willing to sign a contract extension amid reports the Belgian is close to agreeing a new deal.

De Bruyne has two-and-a-half years to run on his current deal, but it was claimed this week that City are in talks with him over a lucrative two-year extension worth £300,000 per-week.

The 29-year-old, who is with Belgium as they prepare to face England at Wembley on Sunday, was a key part of City's two Premier League titles in 2018

and 2019.

When City were threatened with a European ban last season, De Bruyne was said to be considering his future, but their successful appeal against the suspension means that is no longer a problem.

“I am very happy at the club, I can say now I have not spoken once to the club so I don't know why people are saying I have already agreed to something,” said De Bruyne, who has been at City since 2015.

“I always told everybody I am really happy at the club and

I feel comfortable so if the people at the club want to talk to me I am open to that and we will see what happens.

“But at the moment nothing has happened so I just get on with the way it goes.”

City were linked with a move for Lionel Messi after the Argentine superstar became unhappy at Barcelona in the close-season.

The deal never happened as Messi opted to stay in Spain, but it has been reported City will return with a new offer at the end of this season.—AFP