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Monday, 19 October 2020

Over 3,000 Myanmar citizens abroad cast advance votes on 18 Oct

OVER 3,000 Myanmar nationals yesterday cast advance votes for 2020 General Election at three Myanmar embassies, and extra polling station in foreign countries.

On the last advance voting day, 503 Myanmar nationals cast votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, 72 in Seoul and 2,260 in Singapore.

In addition, about 180 voters cast their ballots at the polling station in Dubai yesterday.

All Myanmar nationals cast advance votes abiding by COVID-19 rules of the respective countries.

The respective embassies and polling station also took preventive and control measures for the pandemic safety. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar citizens cast advance votes at the polling station in Dubai on 18 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

More than 100 Myanmar citizens from USA, ROK fly back home



Myanmar returnees line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 18 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

A total of 112 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in the United States of America and the Republic of Korea because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flight yesterday.

Myanmar embassies in Washington and Seoul jointly organized the Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s relief flight bringing back 51 citizens from the United States of America and 61 from the Republic of Korea.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 7-day quarantine at

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

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

Until now seven batches of Myanmar nationals from USA were repatriated by relief flight via the Incheon International Airport in South Korea. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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“People are the key”

Advice to people in Yangon Region

1. About 6,000 people have been quarantined in Yangon. Within two days, quarantine spaces were arranged for 1,000 people who came back from Rakhine State. Now, the number of people who had contacts with COVID-19 patients has increased, so seven new quarantine centres have been established for 1,000 more people. The civil society organizations and volunteers are invited to help the persons at the quarantine centres.
2. People in Yangon need to send the persons who had contacts with confirmed cases in the contact tracing to the quarantine centres without making them worried.
3. People should adhere to the required rules and regulations in the quarantine centres. When sending food to people in quarantine centres, alcohol and cigarettes should not be included in the delivery.
4. People in Yangon have lots of difficulties, challenges and burdens. Therefore, they need to strictly follow the rules by staying at home in two to three weeks during this period. In going outside for necessary reasons, they must wear masks. As Yangon City has a large number of population, people are also advised to abide by the rules of Ministry of Health and Sports amidst the increasing number of confirmed cases.

Over 3,000 Myanmar citizens abroad cast advance votes on 18 Oct



Myanmar citizens in Thailand cast advance votes in Bangkok on 18 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



Myanmar nationals line up for advance voting in Seoul on 18 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

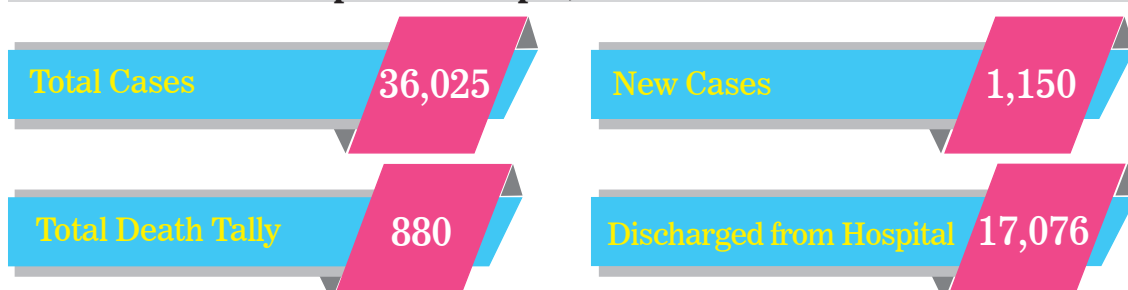


Myanmar nationals queue outside the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore for advance voting on 18 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

1,150 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 October, total figure rises to 36,025

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 36,025 after 1,150 new cases were reported on 18 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 36,025 confirmed cases, 880 died, 17,076 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 18 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 18-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



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

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

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

20

COVID-19 protective supplies to be distributed to polling stations across Myanmar

THE Central committee for receiving and distributing COVID-19 protective supplies yesterday organized a meeting to discuss plans and arrangements to distribute the supplies to voters, polling station staff, and volunteers for the 2020 General Election to be held on 8 November.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, in his capacity as Chairperson of the committee, presided over the meeting. Deputy Ministers who are members of the committee — U Tin Myint, Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, U Maung Maung Win, U Kyaw Myo, U Myint Kyaing, U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretaries, and other officials attended the meeting at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

Regional Ministers for Immigration and Human Resources as well as Regional Ministers for Security and Border Affairs, as members of the committee, participated in the meeting via videoconferencing.

The committee would supervise the arrangements to distribute the COVID-19 protective supplies, purchased from China, to voters, polling station staff and volunteers, according



Union Minister U Thein Swe (R) speaks during the meeting on distribution of COVID-19 protective supplies to the polling stations nationwide on 18 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

to the Union Minister. When the supplies from China were delivered at Yangon and Mandalay International Airports, the committee would supervise the handover of the supplies to Regions and States, said the Union Minister.

About 40 batches of the supplies will arrive in Yangon and Mandalay International Airports in the third week of October starting from 17 October, according to the Union Minister, who said that authorities in Nay Pyi Taw Council and regional governments must effectively supervise the handover of the

supplies to polling stations in their areas.

The Union Minister said that all the ministries concerned need to cooperate in receiving the supplies, customs procedures, payment processes, the handover of the supplies and other relevant matters.

The Union Minister also stressed that COVID-19 preventive measures must be adhered during the processes of the handover of the supplies.

The Union Minister said that all officials including regional authorities need to cooperate with each other to make the de-

liveries of the supplies efficient.

Regional authorities must report the expenditures on deliveries of the supplies in their relevant areas, to the central committee, according to the Union Minister.

The COVID-19 protective supplies must be delivered to polling stations three days before the General Election, according to the Union Minister.

The participants discussed various matters including the matter related to how to make the distributions efficient in accordance with the COVID-19 related guidelines set by the

Ministry of Health and Sports.

The COVID-19 protective supplies including gloves, masks, face shields, and PPEs received at the Yangon International Airport will be redistributed in Yangon, Bago, Taninthayi, and Ayeyawady regions as well as Kayin, Kayah, Mon and Rakhine states. The supplies received at the Mandalay International Airport will be redistributed in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions as well as Kachin, Chin and Shan states. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law



IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.

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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.

Over 1.12 mln residents in Mandalay check voters' lists posted for second time

A total of 1,126,710 residents in Mandalay Region came to check their names on electoral roll posted for the second time, and 179,828 of them are submitted for correction, objection, and request to be on electoral registration, according to Mandalay Regional Election Sub-Commission.

Among them, 114,790 residents in the region have submitted their requests to be on registration with Form 3, 18,905 have submitted for objection regarding voters listed on the registration with Form 4, and 46,133 have requested the corrections for voter identification, said U Shein Win, chair of Mandalay regional Election Sub-Commission.



Picture shows Mandalay Region Election Sub-Commission office in Mandalay. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

sion.

The corrections must be made before the Election Day. There should not be any error in the revised version, which

will be sent to the ward/village commission team, he continued.

The registered voters' lists were posted for 4,578,813 eligible voters in Mandalay Region be-

tween 25 July and 14 August. After revision of the list, 4,784,288 eligible voters are updated in the second round between 1 and 14 October. Among them, a total of 17,982 residents sent correction, objection and registration requests. Those lists are still being updated, and they will be sent to the relevant ward and village sub-commissions.

Mandalay Region had 4,424,727 eligible voters and over 5,400 polling stations in the 2015 General Election, and 3,223,845 voters cast the ballots, and only 72.86 per cent of the electorate voted, the regional sub-commission reported.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD) (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Two killed in landslide in Phakant

TWO miners were killed by a landslide at a jade mining site in Phakant Township in Kachin State at about 4 pm on 17 October, according to Seikmu Village-tract Administrator's Office.

A 150-foot height slope suddenly collapsed onto the two miners — U Tu Aung (aged 28) and U Gwam Mai (aged 34)— at

a jade mine (formerly owned by 111 Company) near Kaung San Village in Seikmu Village-tract, and the two miners and they died on the spot.

Both of the landslide victims are from Taung Kaw Village. Their bodies were sent to Phakant Hospital. —Tar Lin Maung (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Rescue workers carry the corpses of the landslide victims at a jade mine in Phakant on 18 October 2020. PHOTO: TAR LIN MAUNG (IPRD)

Four women dead, one child missing after vehicle plunges into Shweli river

A car, seven people on board, plunged into the Shweli River near Naunghin village in Muse District at 9 am on 18 October, leaving four women dead and one child missing.

The vehicle was reportedly submerged into the river due to speeding. Of seven on board, including Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) party supporters, the driver and two women managed to escape from the drowning, Muse philanthropic association sent them to Muse Township People's Hospital, yet one woman, unfortunately, died at the hospital. Other three women and one child were assumed to be trapped in the vehicle, and the related



Locals and rescue workers search the victims of vehicle accident in Shweli River on 18 October 2020.

PHOTO: SANDAR (IPRD)

Red Cross members, volunteers and residents carried out searching, and the bod-

ies of three women are found at 1 pm, and one child is still missing. The search opera-

tion is still ongoing. —Sandar (IPRD)

(Translated by EMM)

To shape the future with your vote, let's check the voters list.

Watermelon price declining amid COVID-19 resurgence

THE prices of watermelon drastically fell to 1,500-2,500 Yuan from over 4,000 Yuan per tonne amid the coronavirus crisis, said a trader from Khwar Nyo fruit depot.

Therefore, both the traders and growers are required to make an observation. The COVID-19 resurgence in Myanmar directly affected the border trade, and some truck drivers are tested positive for the coronavirus.

As China is tightening the border security to contain the spread of COVID-19, it caused the delay in trade, he said.

Regardless of large supply in Muse, some watermelons are not ripe enough to place in the market. Consequently, it hurts the market.

However, we feel lucky as the trade is not suspended, he continued.

Moreover, watermelon is currently harvested in some China provinces. About 50 trucks

of watermelon daily enter Muse market, resulting in the price drop. Yet, some traders from Muse expect a reasonable price in the coming weeks.

Watermelon fetched the highest of over 4,000 Yuan per tonne this year. Then, the price sharply plummeted to 1,300 Yuan per tonne.

The Yuan exchange rate to Kyat is around K186 per Yuan in Muse border, Khwar Nyo Trading Co., Ltd stated.

At present, the prices of watermelons and muskmelons are plummeting. The delay in freight transport renders quality loss to the fruits. Additionally, the transport delay doubled the truck fare.

Earlier, trading was conducted in Muse border. The COVID-19 conditions blocked Chinese traders to come. As China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19, the driver substitution policy has been exercised on Muse, Mang Weing



Merchants evaluate the quality of watermelons on a vehicle in Muse in 2018. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

and Kyalgaung border route, said chair of Muse-Namhkam Chamber of Commerce.

Myanmar exports more than 800,000 tonnes of watermelons and 150,000 tonnes of musk-

melons every year. — Ko Htet
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Annual inflation rate continues dropping in August at 6.43 per cent

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index, fell to 6.43 per cent in August 2020, according to a report released by the Central Statistical Organization, under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

The US dollar against Kyat is relatively weak in August, with a fall of about five Kyats than the previous month and a sharp drop of K141 against a-year ago period. However, the gold price significantly rose in August on the back of global cues. Similarly, the imported oil price went up against July's rate, causing truck fares and food price to rise.

Nevertheless, there was a remarkable increase in CPI for the food group, household goods and maintenance, other commodities, clothing, education services, recreation, culture and non-food. The price of the education group is stable due to the closure of schools amid the COVID-19. The cost

of telecommunications and tobacco and beverages dropped, the report stated.

Starting from August 2019, the consumer price index rose, and the inflation rate has remained above 8 per cent since June 2019. It reached a peak of 8.61 per cent in September and dipped in November. It touched the highest level at 8.81 per cent in December 2019 because of the high season.

Afterwards, despite the drop in fuel oil price and gain in local currency, power tariff hike led to higher inflation rate up to 9.2 per cent in February 2020. Then, it gradually declined due to the coronavirus outbreak in March.

The inflation rate was registered at 8.35 per cent in May 2020, and so, the month of June with 7.91 per cent. It gradually inclined to 7.14 per cent in July and the rate extended its drop to 6.43 per cent in August.

The annual rate of core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was

11.96 per cent in August 2020, the inflation data indicated.

In August, Ayeyawady Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 11.6 per cent, followed by Mandalay Region at 10.44 per cent, and Nay Pyi Taw at 7.73 per cent. The rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 5.85 per cent in Ayeyawady Region and a minimum rate of -4.15 per cent in Mon State.

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. To reduce the inflation rate, the concerned authorities have been making efforts based on policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second five-year National Development plan (2016-2017FY-2020-2021FY). — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports plunge to \$132 mln in 9 days of 2020-2021FY

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 and 9 October in the current financial year 2020-2021 plummeted to US\$132.184 million from \$455 million registered in the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure reflects a drastic decrease of \$322.9 million compared with the year-ago period.

All the seven export groups — agriculture, livestock, fisheries products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing and other goods showed a decrease in exports compared with last year's export data.

Export values were registered at \$43.8 million for agro products, \$2.066 million for livestock, \$20.160 million for fishery products, \$17.89 million for minerals, \$0.2 million for forest products, \$45.375 million for manufactured goods, and \$2.67 million for other goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

At present, the CMP garment sector, which contributes

to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling due to the cancellation of the order from some countries and suspension of trade caused by the COVID-19 negative impacts. Similarly, other export groups also experienced the same due to the transport problems amid the coronavirus crisis.

Myanmar generated \$17.6 billion from exports in the last FY2019-2020, showing an increase of \$582.6 million compared to the FY2018-2019.

Myanmar's top 10 export countries are China, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, the US, India, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the UK, the Commerce Ministry stated.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Second wave doubles calls to National COVID-19 helpline

CALLS to the helpline of National COVID-19 Call Center, “2019”, which is open for the general public shot up starting from mid-August when second wave of COVID-19 began in Myanmar, Deputy Director of Epidemiology Research Division Dr Myo Myo Mon said.

Calls increased double in the second wave compared to the first wave. Over 100,000 calls were received daily in average during April and May of the first wave, and more than 200,000 calls daily were being answered in the second wave.

“People are getting more interested in the COVID helpline during the second wave”, the

deputy director said.

Most of the callers dialed to the centre’s automated system, while some called to health experts and doctors via the extension number “0” for the general public and “6” for quarantine centres.

About 550 callers dialed to doctors and health experts in April, and some 250 in May during the first wave, while over 300 callers dialed in the second wave.

People mostly called for the ways to prevent COVID-19 and its symptoms in the first wave and called for the matters relating to quarantine and quarantine centres, and help as they are getting COVID-like symptoms

during the second wave. Most of the callers in first wave are from Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, and Rakhine State, Sagaing and Mandalay regions are included in the top-caller list besides Yangon and Ayeyawady regions in the second wave.

Forty three per cent of the callers are from rural areas. Rakhine Language was also added into the automated system.

The MOHS National COVID-19 Call Centre “2019” is open daily from 8am to 8pm answering the COVID-19 questions of the public with maximum call duration of 6 minutes per one.

The centre’s extension number 1 is about symptoms,



PHOTO: NAY LIN

2 is about ways of infection, 3 is about ways of prevention, 4 is about quarantine, and 5 is about

latest figures of COVID-19 cases. —Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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

CAMPAIGN speeches of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 19 October for the second time. — MNA

COVID-19: HEALTH NEWS BULLETIN

PROGRESSION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA

Covid peaked in India in Sept, can be controlled by Feb if safety norms followed — govt panel

IF the nationwide lockdown in India had not been imposed in March, the resultant peak of the Covid-19 pandemic would have been 15 times worse than the present circumstances, a government-appointed panel said Sunday.

The committee also said India saw the peak of the pandemic in September.

The Covid-19 Supermodel Committee, which was constituted by the Department of Science and Technology in June, said if the lockdown had been imposed in the beginning of April or May, the peak would have been smaller than one without any lockdown.

However, according to their calculations, it would still not have been better than the March lockdown.

“Had the lockdown been delayed to April or May, the number of active symptomatic cases would have peaked by July at 40-50 lakh. The total symptomatic infections by February 2021 would have reached 150-170 lakh and the number of deaths by August would have reached 6-10 lakh,” said Professor M. Vidyasagar from IIT Hyderabad, who headed the committee.

SOURCE: ANI



Representational image of children with healthcare workers at a Covid care centre | PHOTO: ANI

THE PATHOGEN SURVIVES ON HUMAN SKIN

Coronavirus can survive on human skin for up to nine hours, shows study

RESEARCHERS in Japan have found that the coronavirus can survive on human skin for up to nine hours, offering further proof that regular handwashing can curb the spread of Covid-19, according to a study published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

Scientists from the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine compared the survival times of the coronavirus and influenza A (flu) virus. They found that the pathogen that causes the flu survives on human skin for about 1.8 hours by comparison.

“The nine-hour survival of SARS-CoV-2 [the virus strain that causes Covid-19] on human skin may increase the risk of contact transmission in comparison with IAV [influenza A virus], thus accelerating the pandemic,” it said. “Proper hand hygiene is important to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infections.”

The research team tested skin collected from autopsy specimens no more than one day after the patient’s death. Both the coronavirus and the flu virus are inactivated within 15 seconds by applying ethanol,



Image for representation. | LEONARIEL/PIXABAY

which is used in hand sanitisers, the study showed.

Researchers also mixed samples with mucus to mimic a sneeze or cough. The coronavirus lasted 11.09 hours, while the influenza A lasted 1.69 hours, the study said. Both the Covid-19 virus and the influenza A virus were “completely inactivated” within 15 seconds of applying ethanol, it added.

Various scientists have time and again spoken about the viral transmission of the coronavirus. Earlier this month, a study published by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation researchers suggested SARS-CoV-2, the virus

that causes Covid-19, can survive up to 28 days on common surfaces.

The scientists found that at 20 degrees Celsius, SARS-CoV-2 was “extremely robust” on smooth surfaces like mobile phone screens, surviving for 28 days on glass, steel and plastic banknotes. At 30 degrees Celsius, the survival rate dropped to seven days and plunged to just 24 hours at 40 degrees Celsius.

In comparison, the virus survived for shorter periods on porous surfaces such as cotton – up to 14 days at the lowest temperatures and less than 16 hours at the highest – the researchers said. SOURCE: AFP/ANI

UK scientists warn reinfections with COVID-19 'to be expected'



Britain's coronavirus reproduction number, also known as the R number, has edged up slightly, the latest government figures showed Friday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE British government's science advisers have warned that reinfections with COVID-19 are "to be expected" as the virus continues to spread in the country, local media reported Saturday.

The conclusion by researchers on the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium is based on what is known about people's immunity to other coronaviruses that cause the common cold, according to a report by The Guardian newspaper on Saturday.

It was unclear how soon people who had recovered from COVID-19 could become vulnerable to reinfection, but emerging reports showed the time-frame was "relatively short," said the report.

Currently, there are seven

types of coronavirus that infect humans. Among them, Sars, Mers and Sars-Cov-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, are considered the deadliest. The four others cause common colds and can reinfect people six months after they have recovered from the same virus, according to the report.

Nearly two dozen cases of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 reinfections emerged across the globe, but the real number is thought to be far higher, since most reinfections are not recorded, said the report.

Another 16,171 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 705,428, according to official figures released

Saturday.

The coronavirus-related deaths in Britain rose by 150 to 43,579, the data showed.

Britain's coronavirus reproduction number, also known as the R number, has edged up slightly, the latest government figures showed Friday.

The government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) said the R number is now between 1.3 and 1.5, up from last week which was between 1.2 and 1.5. If the R number is above one, it means the number of cases will increase exponentially.

To bring life back to normal, countries such as Britain, China, Russia and the United States are racing against time to develop coronavirus vaccines.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Belarusians prepare to march despite police threat to open fire

BELARUSIAN protesters are due to stage a new march on Sunday against strongman Alexander Lukashenko in defiance of authorities' threat to open fire in an increasingly dangerous standoff between the opposition and the regime. The ex-Soviet nation of 9.5 million has been gripped by historic protests after Lukashenko claimed victory in August 9 elections over Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, a 38-year-old popular opposition candidate. The protest movement has kept up a series of large-scale demonstrations for the past two months, with around 100,000 peo-

ple or more taking to the streets every Sunday.

The new demonstration in the capital Minsk is set to take place after Tikhanovskaya, who was granted shelter in EU member Lithuania, said Lukashenko must quit power before October 25, warning he would otherwise face a crippling general strike.

Tikhanovskaya, who maintains she was the true winner of the August polls, also said Lukashenko must release political prisoners and halt the "state terror" unleashed by authorities against peaceful protesters.

SOURCE: AFP



Lukashenko took the oath of office once more on September 23 but the opposition has told him he must quit before October 25 or face a general strike. **PHOTO: AFP**

South Africa passes 700,000 coronavirus cases

THE number of people in South Africa who have tested positive for coronavirus has topped 700,000, official figures showed overnight, another grim milestone for the continent's worst-hit country. Statistics released by the health ministry showed 2,019 new Covid-19 cases on Friday, taking the country's total to 700,203.

Its total number of coronavirus-related deaths rose to 18,370 after 61 more were registered over the 24-hour reporting period.

South Africa accounts for around 43 percent of the continent's diagnosed infections, followed by Morocco which has more than 160,000.

SOURCE: AFP

BrahMos supersonic cruise missile successfully test-fired

BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired on Sunday from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said on Sunday. The missile hit the target successfully with pin-point accuracy after performing high-level and extremely complex manoeuvres. BRAHMOS as 'prime strike weapon' will ensure the warship's

invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thus making the destroyer another lethal platform of Indian Navy. "BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired today on 18th October 2020 from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea. The missile hit the target successfully with pin-point accuracy," the DRDO said in a tweet.

SOURCE: ANI



The highly versatile BrahMos has been jointly designed, developed and produced by India and Russia. **PHOTO: PIB IMAGE/ANI**

Stay safe to ensure electoral integrity in 2020

WITH the arrival of first batch of COVID-19 protective equipment from China yesterday, the Union Government has taken another step to hold the general election on 8th November successfully.

Protective equipment from China will be shipped in 40 batches to Yangon and Mandalay international airports and they will be distributed to the polling stations nationwide as part of efforts protecting the health of voters who will cast their ballots in person and polling station workers and volunteers.

Arrangements for advanced voting for the voters aged 60 and above and for eligible voters in the areas which are under

the strict the stay-at-home orders will reduce the congestion at the polling places on the election day. But, polling officers, workers and volunteers must be prepared to sanitize those locations to protect the health of voters and for themselves.

At present, our country has over 1,000 positive cases daily. This reflects that we are not out of the woods yet, and people should not be negligent in protecting themselves from contracting the infection. It does not mean that we scare the people. People must do a better job of helping to reducing the spread of the deadly disease by strictly following all health guidelines until a vaccine is developed.

It is uncertain whether we will be able to totally contain the disease within the next few months, but there is no place for complacency in the war against this very

tricky virus, which is highly contagious, difficult to control and can spread before infected people show symptoms

It's time for us to elect a new government through the general elections on 8th November.

One of the key elements of a stable democracy is upholding the legitimacy of elections in the eyes of the public. We must prepare to participate in the elections by casting our votes. A free and fair election does not depend only on voting rights, but also people's participation. Every one is responsible to help the country to ensure integrity of the democratic process.

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SAFEGUARDING OUR HUMAN RESOURCES, THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATION, IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE.

The Greatest Strength of the Union through Law and Order

Meaning of 'human resource'

THE world is embellished with beauty by human-kind. The various age groups have added beauty to the earth's scenery. Little children's voices sound beautifully like a melodious, tinkling small bell while the elderly people gladly take the responsibility of taking good care of their offsprings at home. Meanwhile, the youths today are engaged in performing the national tasks, ranging from the family affairs to the local needs according to the dictates of time and circumstances. Today, the COVID-19 pandemic is imposing threats all over the world, demolishing precious human resources in no time. Inevitably, COVID-19 has been a threat to people with no discrimination of age, race or religion unless they take measures for preventing the spread of this virus.

Precious human resource, the strength of the State

I am of opinion that it is responsible for all citizens of over 50 million in our nation in order to strive towards the development and prosperity of our mother country. It is only the healthy citizens who will be able to build a modern, developed nation successfully. Before we have embarked upon the task of enhancing the reputation of our country, it is required to improve on our community centres by our-

selves at first. In order to succeed in this aspect, we need not only to get infected by any health and fitness but also to be endowed with high intelligence. Safeguarding our human resources, the strength of our nation, is of crucial importance.

Ways and means to prevent

We must protect ourselves so as not to get infected by any diseases such as communicable and non-communicable ones. There are a considerable number of sources that inform us about how to prevent these diseases from spreading so as to achieve well-being in our lives. If we strictly follow the instructions of medical officers and advisors in the disciplines of non-communicable diseases, then we will be able to carry on with our business transactions, enjoying longevity. During the outbreak of an epidemic, all mankind can escape from the disaster associated with diseases only if we abide by a set of rules and regulations issued by not only the State but also the health authorities. I would like to share an unpleasant experience in which cattle and property of the farmers in the rural areas were lost since they failed to obey the rules and guidelines laid down by the government and medical professionals. Since infections bovine diseases spread to the cattle in the village tract I was appointed to the post of veterinarian four decades ago. The department I

was then serving sent me to the area under threat to take the responsibility for reducing the impact of diseases. However, some local villagers with limited health knowledge refused to administer the vaccine to their farm animals, so only one third of bovid mammals were vaccinated against contagious diseases, regrettably. With the excuse that such a disease would never break out in all animals if they were not in this epidemic area, they spurned the vaccine injection despite the health talks. As a result, they lost all of their cattle, except the stocks administered to the vaccine.

I have learned from this incident that the rules and regulations promulgated by the authorities are not very strict, but lenient to some extent, but the animals' life could be safe only when the owners had complete trust in medical profession's undertaking during a fresh outbreak of epidemic.

Not a strict law

Our globe today is undergoing the threat of COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the most densely populated countries together with the countries with high population in the world have slightly managed to curb the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, so the number of positive coronavirus cases has been increasing rapidly and the COVID-19 pandemic has also brought disastrous consequences amidst societies

in these countries. Every nation has both the rich and the poor and the needy, as well. Daily workers have to earn their living by working hard in their daily life. In the present, some foreign donor nations are providing aids to those suffering the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. In Myanmar, the government in cooperation with local philanthropic organizations and international organizations has given a lot of aids to every township and village in the third round. It is incumbent upon all citizens living in our country to protect themselves against this disease threatening the lives of ones in our surroundings. For safeguarding the State and its national people, it is necessary for all national brethren to take responsibility of staying at home, avoiding the crowd, keeping social distancing while dwelling at home, putting on facemask and washing up the hands with soap. I think that haphazard unplanned living standard is likely to bring about the hazardous conditions on violators of mandatory COVID-19 orders. Going about out in the street with no masks or protective measures would be inviting danger to one and all. Staying indoors only for two weeks means enjoying leisure and relaxing, a pleasant break from our daily routines. During this break, we can seek for internal peace doing meditation or religious practices. Or we can enrich our store of knowledge by reading good books.

When we consider the need of observing the specific guideline to address COVID-19, it is actually supportive to our communities and cities. As family members have prevented the spread of the pandemic by practising healthcare guideline of working from home and keeping two meters (six feet) apart even at home, they possess a happy, healthy life.

Keeping up with time and the economic development

The COVID-19 pandemic originated in the city of Wuhan, the capital of Hubei, China in December 2019. The transmission route of COVID-19 coronavirus is through person-to-person contact during close contact with the infected person and is also a severe respiratory illness. The COVID-19 coronavirus can spread directly from person-to-person without practising healthcare guidelines

The Coronavirus pandemic has been spreading rapidly around the world from early 2020 until today. Currently, all medical practitioners such as doctors and nurses are incessantly providing quality healthcare services to all families and people in our nation without being worried about their lives.

In addition to those medical practitioners, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and philanthropic organizations are contributing to national health services with

might and main in accordance with the saying, "Many hands make light work". No one can say precisely when the COVID-19 coronavirus would be eradicated from the world. It is the people who are the key and who can put an end to the spread of the virus. If we fully abide by COVID-19 healthcare guidelines of wearing facemask, staying at home, accommodating social distancing, cleaning one's hand with soap and water frequently and avoiding the crowd, then we hope the entire national people will certainly escape from the devastating infectious diseases.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has spread for seven months in our country. Only when we follow the mandatory COVID-19 orders will the commercial enterprises which have drastically dropped be resilient in time. All the citizens must be patient and amenable to rules and regulations concerning the private and public sectors. That's why, we would like to acknowledge our heartfelt gratitude to our medical practitioners, philanthropists and members of the Red Cross Society who prevent the spread of this deadly pandemic and administer medication to patients with COVID-19 virus in the front line of combating the pandemic so as to prevent premature deaths and lead healthy lives of our citizens.

Dr. Si Thu Aung (Swan Arh - Nay Pyi Taw)

NUMEROUS AI SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND USED FOR FRONTLINE DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS

Researchers develop AI model to differentiate COVID-19 from other respiratory diseases



Doctors check the CT image of a patient's lungs at Leishenshan (Thunder God Mountain) Hospital in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 9, 2020. (PHOTO BY GAO XIANG/XINHUA)

CHINESE researchers have published a paper in the journal Nature Communications earlier this month proposing an artificial intelligence model that can help doctors quickly differentiate between COVID-19, influenza and other pneumonia with high accuracy.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, numerous AI systems have been developed and used for frontline detection and diagnosis, such as analyzing chest X-rays and CT scans. However, with flu season approaching, if

COVID-19 and influenza were to break out together, causing CT diagnosis workload to skyrocket, differentiating between the two respiratory illnesses would prove challenging for doctors.

A new AI model may provide the answer. Researchers from Tsinghua University and Wuhan-based Huazhong University of Science and Technology have developed and evaluated an AI system using a large dataset with more than 11,000 CT volumes from COVID-19, influenza, non-viral community-acquired

pneumonia and non-pneumonia.

According to the paper, CT volumes of COVID-19 patients were collected mainly from February to March at three hospitals in Wuhan, once the epicenter of the COVID-19 epidemic in China.

The AI model, known as a deep convolutional neural network-based system, turned detection experiences accumulated by experts into algorithms. Test results showed that it can differentiate COVID-19 and influenza from other pneumonia with an AUC of 97.8, indicating a high

degree of detection accuracy.

In further studies, the research team compared the diagnostic performance of this CT-based AI system with that of five radiologists, and results show that the performance of the system is greater than that of its human counterparts.

The AI model will help lessen the workload of doctors. The study shows that the average reading time of radiologists was 6.5 minutes, while that of the AI system was 2.73 seconds.

SOURCE: XINHUA

World Statistics Day
20-10-2020
"Connecting the world with data we can trust"
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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 18th October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and East central Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19th October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin, Shan (South and East), Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th October, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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MELBOURNE

Australia's second-biggest city eases lockdown as virus cases fall

LOCKDOWN restrictions in Australia's second-biggest city were eased slightly Sunday following a steady decline in new coronavirus cases, but officials stopped short of ending a controversial "stay-at-home" rule.

More than 100 days after the lockdown was imposed on Melbourne's five million residents to fight an out-of-control surge of Covid-19 cases, authorities said that as of midnight they were lifting a two-hour limit on the time people could spend outside their homes for permitted activities.

They also extended from five to 25 kilometres (3 to 15 miles) the distance people could travel from their homes for several activities, including exercise, shopping for essentials, socialising and work in essential professions. But Daniel Andrews, the premier of Victoria state which encompasses Melbourne, rejected growing calls for an end to all limits on people being able to leave their homes and for a broader reopening of restaurants and other retail businesses. He said the stay-at-home rule could be lifted and other business



Australia's Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews has said further restrictions will be eased if virus transmission stays under control. **PHOTO: AFP**

restrictions eased on November 1 if community transmission of the virus remains under control. "I'm not doing what is popular, I am doing what is safe, because we don't want to be back here again" if there is a new wave of infections, Andrews said.

The number of new daily coronavirus cases in Victoria has fallen to low single digits for the past several days, after running at up to several hundred in August. The outbreak in Victoria

came after other parts of Australia had successfully contained the epidemic and begun to reopen their economies, notably in neighbouring New South Wales, which includes Sydney.

Conservative politicians in other states, and the federal government, have been increasingly critical of Andrews' centre-left government for maintaining the strict lockdown in Victoria, saying it was undermining national recovery efforts.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Stages sit dark as US performance world struggles with cancelled seasons

RECENT weeks have seen the already painful situation facing live performance in the United States grow increasingly dire, with major companies along with Broadway somberly scrapping hope to re-open before next summer and scrambling to find ways to stay in the public eye.

New York's Metropolitan Opera was the first top outfit to cancel its entire 2020-21 season over the coronavirus pandemic, followed by the highly bankable Broadway theater district and the city's famed Philharmonic symphony.

Across the nation company directors are facing similar decisions, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra following the lead of its New York neighbors.

Elsewhere many organizations are still aiming to open in January as they pilot ways to stay fresh and avoid falling into the red -- but the future appears grim.

Many companies have already budgeted for a season sans spectators in a country where



Jaap van Zweden, musical director of New York's famed Philharmonic, shown here in 2018. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

the coronavirus caseload continues to add about 40,000 new infections daily.

Seattle anticipates a loss of \$6 million in revenue, as New York's Phil estimates to lose \$20 million and the Philadelphia Orchestra more than \$25 million.

The pandemic has forced layoffs, furloughs and pay cuts across the performing arts, as organizations including the Phil

and the Met are bargaining with unions to adapt musicians' contracts to the financial challenges of the moment.

Government subsidies are not the norm for American orchestras and operas, which rely on donations and wealthy patrons, and to a smaller extent ticket sales, to pay bills and keep endowments robust.

SOURCE: AFP

GREEN" COUNTRIES

UK travellers must isolate, says Israeli health ministry

TRAVELLERS from the UK to Israel will have to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival, according to an Israeli government website.

The UK was one of 31 "green" countries from which travellers who meet a series of special requirements could enter Israel without a mandatory quarantine period. However, infection rates across Britain have risen sharply in recent weeks, prompting the change to "red" status on 23 October,

according to the Israeli health ministry.

The UK will thus join 185 other countries and localities which have red status in Israel, implying high infection rates. Incoming Israeli travellers are also subject to mandatory self-isolation.

Israel has begun rolling back a second-wave lockdown that has helped reduce new cases, but borders still remain closed to most non-Israelis.

SOURCE: AFP

END OF THE PARTY

Paris empties under curfew



Public transport services continue operating to ferry people with no choice but to break curfew. **PHOTO: AFP**

SHORTLY before the clock struck 9 pm on Saturday, restaurant shutters in Paris came down and people dashed home to beat a strict new curfew to battle the coronavirus outbreak.

Police patrolled streets which would ordinarily be bustling with party-goers to enforce the new anti-mingling measure as the country notched up a record of more than 32,000 positive Covid-19 tests in 24 hours, with 1,868 people in intensive care.

Densely-populated Paris has been an infection hotspot, with bars already shuttered since October 6 although restaurants and other establishments that serve food were allowed to stay open.

Alcohol sales are prohibited from 10 pm and face masks are compulsory in public both indoors and

outside.

But there has been concern over people, especially youngsters, flouting face coverings and social distancing rules to gather in groups on restaurant terraces and in other public places.

This prompted the government to announce a 9 pm to 6 am curfew for Paris and a dozen other French cities -- some 20 million inhabitants in all -- and impose a limit of six on home gatherings blamed for a large proportion of new infections.

The curfew will remain in place for at least four weeks.

At 10 pm on Saturday, the streets of the City of Light were eerily empty apart from a few stragglers risking a 135-euro (\$158) fine unless they can provide a certificate to show they have good reason to be out and about. **SOURCE: AFP**

REVENUES STILL DROPPING

Airlines face tough winter as hoped-for pick-up fails to materialize



As the virus continues to hit the industry, airlines are in a "race against time" to stay afloat. **PHOTO: AFP**

AIRLINES face a long, hard winter after a much hoped for rebound from the coronavirus crisis failed to materialise, prompting savage cost cutting programmes and fresh calls for government support.

"We are in a race against time. The key thing is to have the cash... we need to move quickly, very quickly," said Stephane Albernhe, managing partner at Archery Strategy Consulting.

Airline revenues plunged 80 percent in the first six months of the year, according to industry body IATA, but they still had fixed costs to cover – crew, maintenance, fuel, airport levies and now aircraft storage.

After a slight recovery in July as coronavirus restrictions were eased, traffic fell again

in September while bookings for the winter season – which begins October 25 – are down 78 percent compared with a year earlier, promising more hardship to come.

One of the biggest disappointments has been the absence of highly lucrative business class travellers who prefer now to rely on tele-conferencing rather than run the risk of catching the virus.

Repeated efforts to reassure passengers that air travel is safe have failed to make much of a difference while government restrictions, including quarantines of up to 14 days for returning passengers, have only added to the pressures on the battered airline companies.

SOURCE: AFP

Amid e-commerce boom, anti-Amazon Shopify takes flight

THE pandemic has forced businesses worldwide to pivot online to survive, and many have turned to Shopify, a Canadian company that has emerged as a thriving alternative to Amazon.

Founded 15 years ago in Ottawa, Shopify allows businesses to create an e-commerce site in just a few clicks. Already growing with more than one million e-stores at the end of 2019, its user base has exploded.

"The retail world that would have existed in 2030 has really been pulled back into 2020," Shopify president Harley

Finkelstein said in an interview with AFP. "It feels like Covid has permanently accelerated the growth of online commerce."

Amid a lockdown of bricks and mortar stores, online commerce has boomed this year. Consumers have grown accustomed to buying over the internet, and industry giants, led by Amazon, have seen sales rocket.

At the same time, many businesses that did not have a presence or a direct online sales channel took the plunge as the pandemic took hold.

SOURCE: AFP

GUEST SERVICE CONSOLE

JTB sells chat system to reduce contact between hotel staff, guests

MAJOR travel agency JTB Corp. has started selling a system to lodging facilities in Japan that allows their guests to chat with staff using their own smartphones, in an effort to prevent the coronavirus spread by reducing face-to-face contact.

The system, "Kotozna In-room," jointly developed with Kotozna Inc., a multilingual chat service provider based in Tokyo, can translate 109 languages, enabling communication with foreign guests in their mother tongues. Although some lodging facilities use tablets installed at guest rooms for communication, the new system, put on sale Oct. 1, "can further alleviate the fear of infections as only owners touch their smartphones for personal use in most cases," said a JTB spokesperson.

Once guests at hotels, "ryokan" traditional Japanese inns and other accommodations,

scan a QR code for the service via their smartphones, they can chat with lodging staff from anywhere in the facilities without downloading an application.

The prolonged coronavirus outbreak has battered the tourism industry. The government is now implementing a subsidy program aimed at reviving domestic travel demand, and the industry is hoping to attract tourists while taking measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Even after restrictions on the entry of foreign tourists to Japan are lifted following containment of the pandemic, the system is expected to be useful in serving foreign guests as letters typed by them in their mother tongues will be automatically translated into Japanese for display on lodging staff terminals.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Supplied photo shows an image of the "Kotozna In-room" chat system. **(PHOTO COURTESY OF JTB CORP./KYODO)**

FARMERS PLAN AHEAD

UK families gobble up teenier turkeys for Covid Christmas



"Bronze" turkey hens are a smaller breed being favoured for downsized family dinners this Christmas. **PHOTO: AFP**

SQUABBLING over a treat of apples in autumnal sunshine, Mark Chilcott's feisty turkeys look pretty hefty. In fact, they're a smaller breed destined for downsized family dinners this Covid Christmas.

Chilcott, a 58-year-old organic farmer, prizes quality over quantity at his mixed farm

of 440 acres (180 hectares) in Dorset, southwest England.

In the spring, as the coronavirus pandemic took hold, he anticipated no let-up to government curbs on how many people can mix indoors through the end of the year.

So he opted in April for smaller hatchlings from the

"bronze" breed of turkey, favouring hens over the larger male stags, and a shrunken flock of 1,200 birds compared to the 1,500 he reared last year.

The hens will reach about 5-6 kilograms (11-13 pounds) in weight – half that of bronze stags, and one-third of the supersized supermarket turkeys which are the centrepiece for traditional British Christmas meals.

Chilcott says that is still plenty for a gathering under the government's "rule of six" in parts of England where households are still allowed to mix.

Restrictions are fast evolving, and many more families will likely be forbidden any visitors by December if infection rates remain high or rise further.

"If we run out of small sizes, then people have to have crowns or joints or half turkeys," the farmer told AFP after tossing fruit to his raucous black flock, a change on their usual diet of grain pellets.

SOURCE: AFP

2015 NUCLEAR DEAL

Iran says UN arms embargo on Tehran has been lifted

IRAN said a longstanding UN embargo on arms sales to and from the Islamic republic expired Sunday in line with a 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers from which Washington has withdrawn.

Tehran, which could now purchase weapons from Russia, China and elsewhere, has hailed the development as a diplomatic victory over its arch enemy the United States, which had tried to maintain an indefinite freeze on arms sales.

"As of today, all restrictions on the transfer of arms, related activities and financial services to and from the Islamic Republic of Iran... are all automatically terminated," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The embargo on the sale of conventional arms to Iran was due to start expiring progressively from Sunday, October 18, under the terms of the UN resolution that blessed the 2015 nuclear deal between the Islamic republic and world powers.

"As of today, the Islamic Republic may procure any necessary arms and equipment from any source without any legal restrictions, and solely based on its defensive needs," the ministry added in the statement sent out on Twitter.

It insisted that under the terms of the deal, struck with the United States, China, Britain, France, Germany and Russia, "the lifting of arms restrictions and the travel ban were designed



A file photo taken on February 2, 2019, shows Iranians visiting a weaponry and military equipment exhibition in the capital Tehran. PHOTO: AFP

to be automatic with no other action required."

US President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the nuclear deal in 2018 and has unilaterally begun reimposing sanctions on Iran.

But Washington suffered a setback in August when it failed

to win support from the United Nations Security Council to indefinitely extend the arms embargo.

- 'Momentous day' -

It was "a momentous day for the international community," the Iranian ministry said on Sunday, adding the world had

stood with Tehran "in defiance of the US regime's efforts".

But it stressed that "unconventional arms, weapons of mass destruction and a buying spree of conventional arms have no place in Iran's defense doctrine"

SOURCE: AFP.

RUN-OFF ELECTION

Turkish Cypriots vote for leader amid east Mediterranean tensions

TURKISH-held northern Cyprus, a breakaway state recognised only by Ankara, was voting Sunday for a new leader in a run-off election held amid heightened tensions in the eastern Mediterranean. The presidential vote pits incumbent Mustafa Akinci, 72 – who supports reunification with the majority Greek-speaking Republic of Cyprus in the south – against the right-wing Turkish nationalist Ersin Tatar.

Tatar, 60, who advocates a two-state solution, now holds the title of prime minister in the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).



Turkish-Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci and his wife Meral speak to reporters after voting in the northern part of Nicosia, the capital of the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

PHOTO: AFP

He has controversially received the open backing of Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Under Erdogan, Turkey has become an increasingly assertive regional power that is now engaged in a bitter dispute with EU states Greece and Cyprus over oil and gas reserves in eastern Mediterranean waters.

The European Union has deplored Turkey's move and warned Ankara against further "provocations", while multiple countries have staged military drills in the region in recent months. One voter, Said Kenan, 76, said Sunday's election was

"very important for me and for the community and for the Turkish Cypriots," adding that he backed Akinci's hopes for a "federal solution" for the island divided since 1974.

Sunday's second-round ballot was triggered after Tatar won 32 percent of the vote on October 11 ahead of Akinci, who garnered just under 30 percent in a field of 11 candidates.

But Akinci was seen to be in a stronger position now, having won the backing of Tufan Erhurman, a fellow Social Democrat, who came third last time around.

SOURCE: AFP

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Anti-Trump women's rallies draw thousands across US

THOUSANDS took to the streets across the United States for women's marches on Saturday, many wearing pink protest hats while issuing fervent calls against President Donald Trump and his conservative Supreme Court pick.

The rallies ahead of the November 3 election were inspired by the first Women's March in

Washington, a huge anti-Trump rally held a day after his 2017 inauguration. In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the demonstrations Saturday were considerably smaller, though protesters still turned out in cities across the country, according to organizers.

More than 100,000 people took part in some 430 marches

in locations from New York to Los Angeles and Chicago to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, organizers said.

They urged people worried about in-person participation to join in a "socially distant text-banking telethon" aimed at sending five million messages encouraging people to vote.

SOURCE: AFP

France to rally in solidarity after beheading of teacher

THE man suspected of beheading a French teacher who showed his students cartoons of the prophet Mohammed was an 18-year-old Chechen, a source said Saturday, in what President Emmanuel Macron called an "Islamist terror attack".

People will rally in Paris and other French cities Sunday in a show of solidarity and defiance after a teacher was

beheaded for showing pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

The murder of history teacher Samuel Paty in a Paris suburb on Friday has shocked the country and brought back memories of a wave of Islamist violence in 2015 sparked by satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo publishing caricatures of the prophet.

SOURCE: AFP

BIOMETRIC CHECKS

Singapore's world-first face scan plan sparks privacy fears

SINGAPORE will become the world's first country to use facial verification in its national ID scheme, but privacy advocates are alarmed by what they say is an intrusive system vulnerable to abuse.

From next year, millions of people living in the city-state will be able to access government agencies, banking services and other amenities with a quick face scan.

This biometric check will do away with the need to remember a password or security dongle when performing many everyday tasks, its creators say.

It is part of the financial hub's drive to harness technology, from ramping up the use of electronic payments to research on driverless transport.

"We want to be innovative in applying technology for the benefit of our citizens and

businesses," Kwok Quek Sin, who works on digital identification at Singapore's technology agency GovTech, told AFP.

Facial verification has already been adopted in various forms around the world, with Apple and Google implementing the technology for tasks like unlocking phones and making payments.

Governments have also deployed it at airports for security checks on travellers.

But Singapore's rollout is one of the most ambitious yet, and the first to attach facial verification to a national identification database.

The technology captures a series of photos of a person's face in various lights. These images are matched with other data already available to the government such as national identity cards, passports and employment passes.

SOURCE: AFP



Singapore will become the world's first country to use facial verification in its national ID scheme. PHOTO: AFP

EXPORT-CONTROL LISTS

China's top legislature adopts law on export control



The new law takes effect in December and allows Beijing to "take reciprocal measures" against countries that abuse export controls and pose a threat to national security. PHOTO: AFP

CHINA'S top legislature on Saturday passed a law on export control, which will go into effect on December 1.

With detailed stipulations on export-control lists and measures, the law was adopted after the third reading at a bimonth-

ly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

China may take countermeasures against any

country or region that abuses export-control measures and poses a threat to China's national security and interests, according to the law.

The law also clarifies that technical documentation related to the items covered by the law is also subject to export-control stipulations.

Export control is a common international practice in which a country prohibits or restricts the export of specific items, such as nuclear materials, in order to fulfil its international obligations, such as non-proliferation, while safeguarding its own national security and development interests.

SOURCE: Xinhua

THE COVID-19 RENAISSANCE FACILITY

Sri Lanka's central bank approves COVID-19 relief loans worth 966 mln USD

THE Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has approved 966 million U.S. dollars worth of loans under a relief program for COVID-19 affected businesses, local media reported on Sunday. A total of 61,907 applications for loans under the Saubagya COVID-19 Renaissance facility has

been approved according to an official statement issued by the CBSL's Regional Development Department. Out of 966 million U.S. dollars which has been approved by the CBSL, a total of 723 million U.S. dollars has been disbursed through licensed banks to 45,581 businesses across

the country. The Saubagya COVID-19 Renaissance loan scheme was created to provide 814 million U.S. dollars worth of working capital with a 4-percent-per-annum interest, a 24-month repayment period, and six-month grace period to COVID-19 hit businesses. SOURCE: Xinhua

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 29th OCTOBER 2020 to 2nd NOVEMBER 2020 (Thadinkyut Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HR REVOLUTION

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HR REVOLUTION VOY. NO. (5294.001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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 TLD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OMINA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OMINA VOY. NO. (2209)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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 CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

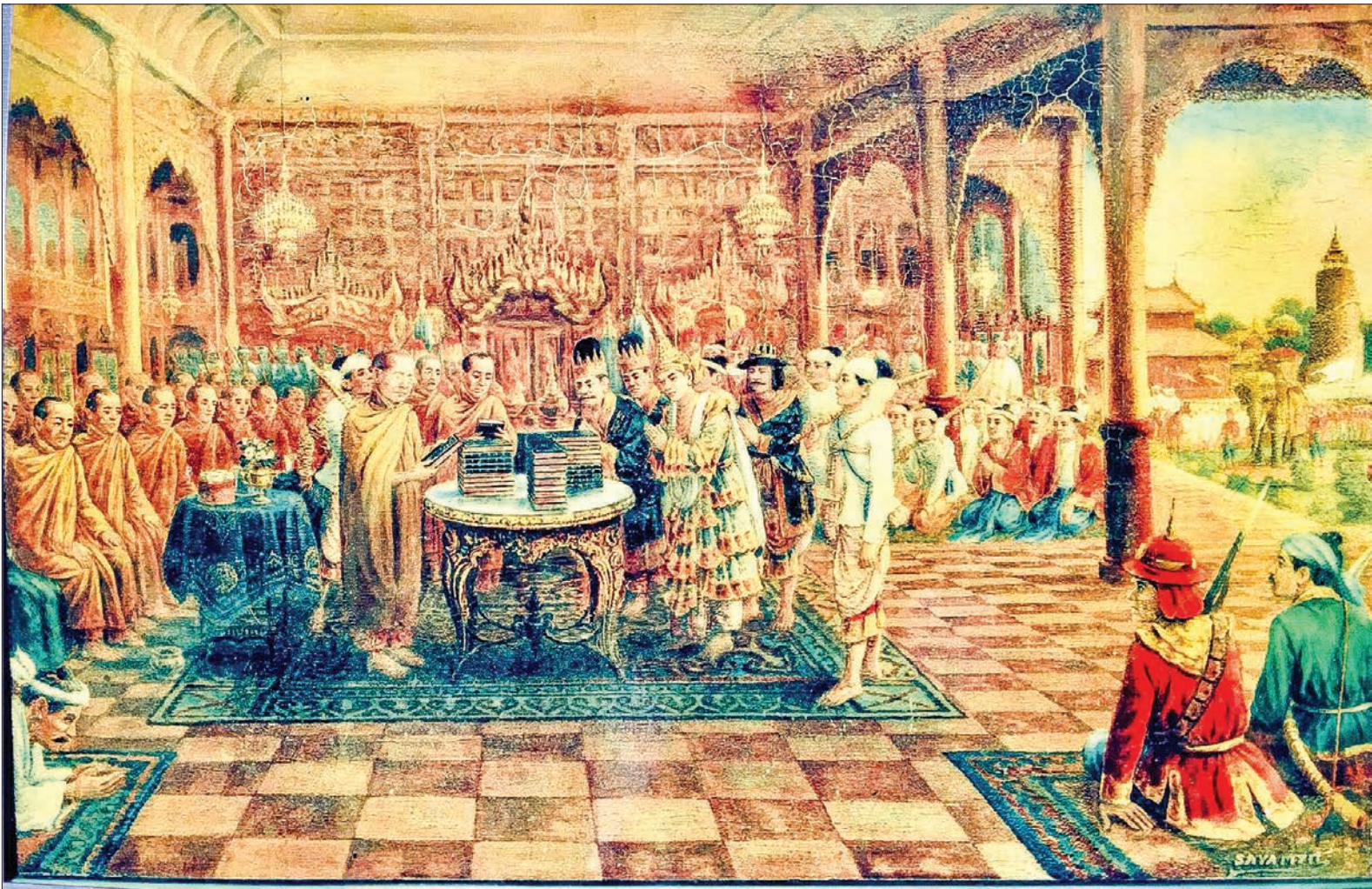
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(17/2020-2021)

- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective service in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-148 (20-21)CAP (Retender)	ရွှေပြည်သာ (၂) CNG အရောင်းဆိုင်ရှိ 500 KVA Transformer အား 1000 KVA Transformer ဖြင့် ပြောင်းလဲ အစားထိုးခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း	Ks

- The Open Tender forms including details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 19 October 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- 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 19 November 2020.
- Tender Closing Date & Time - 19-11-2020, 12:00 pm
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67-411206



Painting 3: Size 19 x 30 inches, Collection of Tarry Lee, Singapore

Discovering four valuable works of art by **Saya Myit**

By Aye Min Soe

IN Myanmar, whose art history reaches back more than 800 years, displaying different painting forms and techniques, valuable works have been discovered, sometimes in monasteries, old colonial houses and from owners who did not have enough knowledge to realize they were sitting on – or staring at—a cultural goldmine.

In 1994, a local artist and collector discovered four valuable works of art in an old house in downtown Yangon. The paintings had hung under dim lighting in the house for decades, and were partially covered with fungus, dust and thick black smoke from the kitchen.

What was discovered was the art of Saya Myit, a major painter of the traditional school in Myanmar, and a well known painter in Myanmar's art industry.

Myit was born in 1888 and died in Yangon in 1966, and was a prominent painter of Buddhist works, including Buddhist regional illustrations

for books and religious ceremonies.

In Myanmar, Myit is considered the rare artist who can detail every small human figure, along with other features in his paintings.

Fortunately, four works of art by Myit were discovered by a local art collector in an old house in downtown Yangon in 1994.

One day, Tin Win (Myanmar), now a prominent artist in Myanmar, was invited by a local antique collector to accompany him when he hoped to purchase an antique lamp in a house in Yangon's Chinatown.

Being an artist, Tin Win was attracted to the four paintings hanging in the dim light of the house, owned by the publisher of books about Buddhist literature. He bought the four paintings after negotiating with the owner. However, the negotiations for purchasing the antique lamp were unsuccessful.

The artist knew that Myit was famous for detailed por-



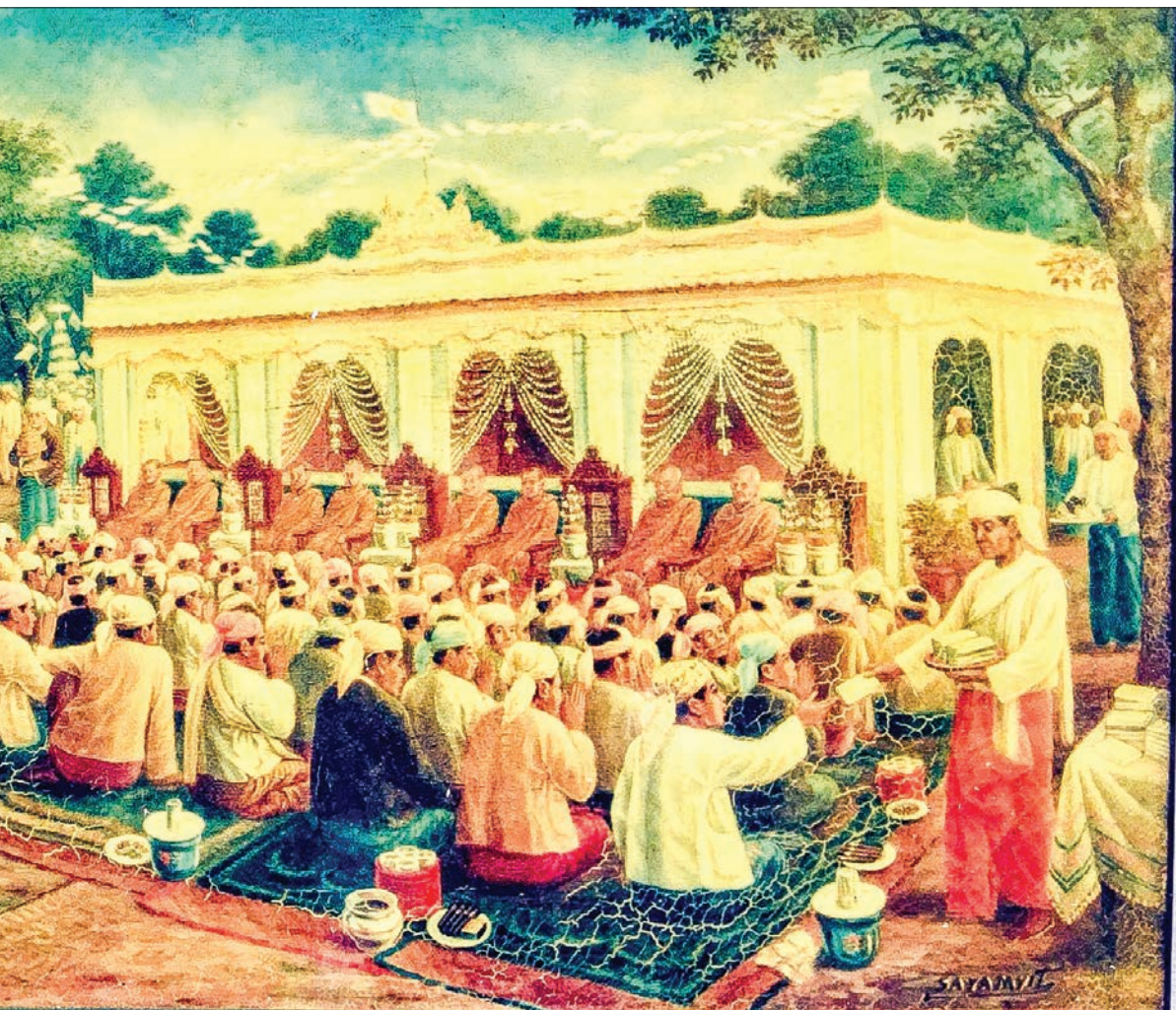
Painting 1: Size 19 x 30 inches, Collection of Win Aung Thu (Yangon) who established the Win Foundation welfare of artists in Myanmar.

trait paintings. But, the four paintings he purchased were an amazing surprise, because they reflected the late art master's creation and skill in creating a group of people with superior perspectives, ratios, individual movements and expressions. All four works were 19 x 30 inch oil paintings on

canvas.

Painting-1: The first painting depicted a religious ceremony, upon conveying the Three Tipitakas Books (Three Baskets of Learning taught by the Buddha) by a car. All the people in the painting are men during colonial times. The man in the left corner of the paint-

ing is seen as he points to give instructions to someone who is the sponsor of the ceremony. In the middle of the crowd there is a traditional orchestra and dancers. Behind the car, there is a modern orchestra with an accordion player and a violinist from those days. In the middle of the crowd, three wooden



Painting 4: Size 19 x 30 inches, Collection of Tarry Lee, Singapore



Painting 2: Size 19 x 30 inches, Collection of the National Gallery, Singapore

cupboards are shouldered by men, and the front cupboard is seen under the two golden umbrellas carried by two men. Atop the pile of books there is a dancing peacock. Each peacock is attached to both of the car's wind mirrors. The entrance car is decorated with jasmine garlands, and its number plate is 26412.

Painting-2: Painting-2 depicts the books of Three Tipitakas, the three baskets of teachings by the Buddha, being conveyed in a cart driven by two horses. The main sponsor of the religious ceremony is the man with the walking stick seen in the right corner of the

painting. Also in the painting are miniature trees decorated with cash and cupboards for the books. In the middle of the crowd, a modern orchestra is performing. The driver of the cart and the man who cares for the horse are seen to be bare foot, as a sign of respect for the religious books in the cart.

Painting-3: Painting-3 depicts a religious ceremony in which a king during the Yadanapon era donates the Three Pitakas books to the Members of the Sangha. In the centre-right of the painting, an elephant, which conveys the books, is standing, and a royal tower in the compound

of Yadanapon Palace can be seen behind the elephant. Myit detailed the entourage of the king, Buddhist monks, a flower vase on the table and more.

Painting-4: Painting-4 depicts a novitiation or monastic ordination of boys. In the top-left side of the painting, boys to be ordained as novices are being conveyed on horses and under the golden umbrellas. At the rear of the procession, there are people carrying a tree-style donation created with cash. On the carpet, cups, water containers, betel containers, cheroots, matches and handkerchiefs can be seen.

Designs on fragments of Pyu earthenware pottery

Historic Period Pyu Earthenware

The Pyu civilization flourished in Myanmar from the early years of the first century AD to about the ninth century AD. Bagan itself was reputedly a Pyu town before it became the capital of a unified Myanmar in the eleventh century. The Pyu were still in Bagan as late as AD 1113 as the Pyu script formed one of the four faces in four languages (Mon, Pali, Myanmar and Pyu) of the inscription set up by Prince Rajakumar, the son of King Kyanzittha in dedicating the Gubyaukgyi temple at Myinkaba in Bagan.

The Pyu later merged with the Myanmar and died out as a separate ethnic identity. Earthenware played an important role in Pyu culture. It was used for: (1) Storing food and water (2) Ceremonial, ritualistic and religious performance, (3) Decoration (4) Toys for children (5) Accompanying the dead, and to store cremated bones and ashes.

Earthenware in various forms, both unglazed and glazed has played a very important part in the lives of Myanmar people from the prehistoric period to historic and modern times.

For the historian pottery and ceramics are important relics useful for interpreting the lives and times of people of the past.

Following are the fragments of clay pots unearthed in Sri Ksetra, located along the Ayeyawady River, was once a prominent Pyu settlement.—GNLM



Dave Leduc ranks first in Lethwei Cruiserweight: WLC

CANADIAN LETHWEI FIGHTER Dave Leduc is currently standing first amidst the Cruiserweight fighters of the Myanma Lethwei in WLC-World Lethwei Championship Rankings according to the WLC announcement on 13 October.

The 28-years-old fighter has won Myanmar's former Lethwei Champion Tun Tun Min to claim the Cruiserweight World Champion in Air KBZ Aung Lan Championship 2016 and also possessed undefeated record in the Myanmar Lethwei history. Not only in Myanmar but the defending WLC Cruis-

erweight champion took victory in Japan.

Dave defended his championship title for the first time against veteran Lethwei fighter Phoe Kay in the special Lethwei event organized by the International Lethwei Federation of Japan headlined "Lethwei in Japan 2" at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan on 16 February 2017.

Next, Dave Leduc successfully defended his championship belt again in 2018 Air KBZ Grand Final Myanmar Championship by fighting a draw match against former champion Tun



WLC Cruiserweight Lethwei Champion Dave Leduc who is currently undefeated in Myanma Lethwei tourneys. **PHOTO: DAVE LEDUC FACEBOOK PAGE**

Tun Min on 12 December 2018.

Dave was also nominated as 2019 Best Sports Programme Winner headlined at World Leth-

wei Championship.

Next, in the Middleweight class of WLC, Uzbekistan Lethwei fighter Naimjon Tuhtaboyev

was ranked first while Myanmar's Too Too was ranked second, according to the WLC. — Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

American Lopez stuns Lomachenko in lightweight unification title fight

LAS VEGAS—Unbeaten Teofimo Lopez upset Vasily Lomachenko by a unanimous decision on Saturday to become the undisputed world lightweight champion in Las Vegas.

Lopez defended his 135-pound IBF lightweight title and seized the WBC, WBO and WBA belts from Ukraine's Lomachenko who suffered his first loss in six years.

"I am ready to take over the world," said Lopez, who won by scores of 119-109, 117-111 and 116-112. Lopez, 16-0 with 12 knockouts, became the lightweight king in a fight that appeared to be closer than the lopsided judges' scorecards indicated at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. In the biggest fight of his career, Lopez, of the US, dominated the first half before Lomachenko came storming back in the later rounds to set the stage for a thrilling final



Teofimo Lopez celebrates after winning a bout at the end of 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

round. At 23, Lopez is the youngest fighter to become a four belt undisputed champion. He did it in an empty MGM arena where spectators were banned because

of the coronavirus pandemic.

Lopez received a nasty cut over the right eye from an accidental head butt in the final round but was able to continue.—AFP ■

Man Utd back on track as Fernandes, Maguire enjoy redemption

NEWCASTLE—United Kingdom: Manchester United got back on track as Bruno Fernandes and Harry Maguire enjoyed sweet moments of redemption in their side's 4-1 win at Newcastle on Saturday (Oct 17).

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side suffered a humiliating 6-1 defeat against Tottenham at Old Trafford just before the international break.

But they made partial amends for that embarrassment with a much-needed second win of the Premier League season.

After Luke Shaw's own goal gave Newcastle an early lead, United captain Maguire scored the equaliser just days after he was widely criticised for his red card in England's Nations League defeat against Denmark at Wembley.—AFP ■

Ibrahimovic double pulls AC Milan top, 10-man Juve held at Crotone

MILAN—Zlatan Ibrahimovic struck twice in his first match back from coronavirus on Saturday as AC Milan beat city rivals Inter Milan 2-1 to take top spot in Serie A ahead of Atalanta who slumped 4-1 at Napoli.

But champions Juventus, playing without quarantined Cristiano Ronaldo, were held 1-1 at promoted Crotone whose first top-flight point this season moved the southerners off the bottom of the table. "I was so hungry and it showed," said Ibrahimovic who bagged his second double in as many league matches. "They locked the wrong animal at home for two weeks. 'It's not easy mental-

ly to always be at home coming off a very high pace, the body is shaking because it wants to work, it wants to play. 'I lost my sense of taste a little bit, but I had a swab every three days and nobody was going to stop me playing the derby.

"This derby was very important, AC Milan hadn't won for four years." The 39-year-old stamped his mark on the game early, having also scored back in February only for Inter to win 4-2. He missed a 13th-minute penalty but turned in the rebound, with a perfect Rafael Leao cross setting up the Swede for the second three minutes later.—AFP



Milan's Simon Kjær (L) in action against Inter's Lautaro Martinez (R) during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and AC Milan at Giuseppe Meazza stadium in Milan, Italy, 17 October 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**