

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 199, 1st Waning of Thadingyut 1382 ME

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

Sunday, 1 November 2020

Buddhist monks chant scriptures on Thadingyut Full Moon Day in Yangon



State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws recite Parittas at the Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut on 31 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws recited Parittas at the Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon

on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut yesterday. State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Sayadaw Thanlyin Minkyaung

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa led the recitation. The Sayadaws, who ob-

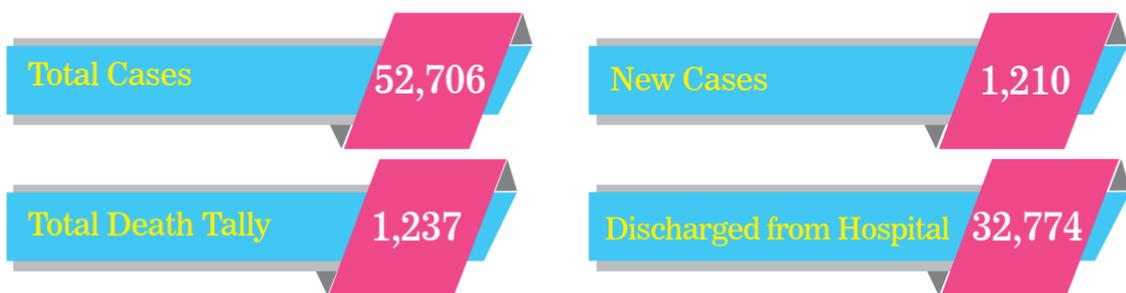
served Vassa (three-month rain retreat) at the Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill, also recited Parittas on 1st Waxing of

Tawthalin 1382 ME (17-9-2020) and Full Moon Day of Tawthalin (1-10-2020).—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

1,210 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 31 October, total figure rises to 52,706

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 52,706 after 1,210 new cases were reported on 31 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 52,706 confirmed cases, 1,237 died, 32,774 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 31 October 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Abhidhamma Day celebrated at Shwedagon Pagoda on Thadingyut Full Moon Day
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Myanmar community in US donates COVID-19 medical supplies
PAGE-2



NATIONAL
COVID protective gears from China arrive in Yangon, Mandalay
PAGE-3

LOCAL NEWS
Chilli nursery plants sell well in Yenangyaung Township
PAGE-4



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

7

Abhidhamma Day celebrated at Shwedagon Pagoda on Thadingyut Full Moon Day



Congregation pay homages to the Members of Sangha at the Dhamma Hall of the Shwedagon Pagoda on Thadingyut Full Moon Day on 31 October 2020. **PHOTO: TUN TUN KHINE**

A ceremony to mark the full moon day of Thadingyut, Abhidhamma Day was held at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, the treasurers of pagoda's board of trustees took the Five Pre-

cepts from State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilawka Bhivamsa of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Monastery.

Then, U Khin Maung Htay, the alternative chair of board's treasurer and U Nyunt Thin,

member of board presented religious affairs on behalf of the board and received words of advice from Ovadacariya Sayadaws.

After that, they donated the offertories and shared merits by pouring the water

of libation when the Pali University Nyaungdon Pariyatti Monastery's Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pavarabhivamsa finished preaching the sermon.

The ceremony was held in accordance with the health

rules of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).—Zaw Min Latt

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar community in US donates COVID-19 medical supplies

MYANMAR community and former Myanmar citizens living in Southern California in the United States of America donated medical supplies including 7,300 N95 face masks, 84,000 surgical and disposable face masks, 9,100 face shields and 540 disposable CPE Gown for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities.

Myanmar Consulate-General in Los Angeles accepted the donated medical supplies and transported to Myanmar on 25 October by Qatar Airways. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Sports received the donation upon arrival at the Yangon International Airport on 30 October 2020.—MNA



Myanmar nationals in the United States donate COVID-19 supplies for Myanmar on 30 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Please build up your strength for voting

As the elections become nearer, people need to abide by the rules and guidelines of COVID-19. Respective political parties need to follow these guidelines in their campaign activities not only for the health of the people but also for the victory of their party. So, it is advised to control their temper. Voting on 8 November is more important than energetic campaign activities. The voters who are eligible for advance voting can cast their votes before 8 November. Therefore, please build up your strength. Every political party will conduct its campaign in line with the rules. People might breach the rules during their participation in political campaigns of their party. It is requested to stay vigilant about this.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports on containment measures against COVID-19, on 24 October 2020)



COVID protective gears from China arrive in Yangon, Mandalay



Workers unload COVID-19 protective gears imported from China at the Yangon International Airport on 31 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Workers unload COVID-19 protective gears imported from China at the Mandalay International Airport on 31 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

COVID-19 medical devices for 2020 General Election, purchased from the People's Republic of China, reached the Yangon International Airport and

Mandalay International Airport by special flights yesterday. The KN95 masks, protective face masks, medical caps and PPE medical

protective clothing will be distributed to voters, polling station staff and volunteers, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease, in the Multiparty

General Election on 8 November 2020. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

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

CAMPAIGN speech of National United Democratic Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 1 November for the second time. — MNA

Myanmar earns nearly US\$800 mln from export of over 2.58 mln tonnes of rice in 2019-2020FY

MYANMAR earned nearly US\$800 mln from the export of over 2.58 million tonnes of rice including 0.9 million tonnes of broken rice during 2019-2020 (October/September) financial year, according to a news release from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The volume of rice export has risen this FY compared

to the same period of last FY. This year, the country earned nearly US\$800 million from the export of 2.58 million tonnes of rice and broken rice, said an official from MRF.

“Rice export target was set at 2.5 million tonnes in the early months of FY2019-2020 and later reduced to 2.4 million tonnes because of the outbreak

of the COVID-19 pandemic. But we, somehow, managed to exceed the target, thanks to the efforts exerted by all stakeholders,” said an official from MRF.

Myanmar exported 62 per cent of rice to 66 countries and 38 per cent of broken rice to 60 countries.

The country exports rice

primarily to ten countries, including China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Poland, Kenya and Togo. In contrast, Myanmar exports broken rice mainly to Belgium, China, Indonesia, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Thailand, India and Poland.

In 2019-2020FY, 16 per cent of rice exports were across land borders, while 84 per cent

was exported by sea.

We can export rice to foreign countries, even in the pandemic period. Also, the country has increased export of Myanmar rice to 10 more countries because of stockpiling of the rice in their countries.

— Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Printed 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.

Huawei Myanmar donates smartphones to Yangon COVID-19 Committee

HUAWEI Myanmar donated a total of 100 Huawei Y5P smartphones worth K11.9 million in contribution towards Yangon Region COVID-19 Protection, Control and Treatment Coordination Committee to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar.

Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Vice-Chairman of Yangon Region COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Coordination Committee, said, "Huawei's contribution of mobile devices is very helpful for us regarding the communication part and data record system, which are the important functions in controlling COVID-19. Now, we, healthcare specialists can perform the operation faster, especially in sharing information between positive areas, negative areas and clean areas via mobile devices – even reaching out to headquarters, quarantine centres and hospitals."

Mr Ding Zhaoyi, CEO of Huawei Myanmar, said, "Connectivity is one of the key components in fighting the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar. We



Dr Zaw Wai Soe (centre right) presents certificate of honour to CEO of Huawei Myanmar Mr. Ding Zhaoyi on 31 October 2020. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

hope this contribution will ease the whole procedure from on-ground infected areas to hospitals or quarantine centres as in the progress of quarantine. We are happy that we could be able

to help the government, and at the same time, looking after the local community."

Huawei Myanmar also donated technological services in Artificial Intelligence (AI),

videoconferencing and smartphones to Myanmar in July and N95 masks, hand sanitizers and three-layer masks to Mandalay Region Government a few months ago.—GNLM

Over 70 MDY businesspeople receive second COVID loans

ABOUT 75 businesspersons in Mandalay have received the COVID-19 loans for the second time, according to the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

Mandalay MRCCI shared the information to issue the second COVID-19 loans on 26 and 27 October.

"These second COVID-19

loans were issued to many enterprises. The loans provided this time contain the livestock enterprises," said an official from MRCCI.

The second COVID-19 loans were provided by the Committee for Remedial Works on Economic Impacts of COVID-19. The committee will issue the loans notification letter of the COV-

ID-19 on 2 November to those who are left to receive it.

The committee provided K21.22 billion loans for the second time to a total of 1,200 enterprises from across the country. The loans were issued mainly to businesses engaged in agriculture, livestock and fisheries, trade promotion and supply chains, food processing

as well as to overseas employment agencies and vocational training centres, according to the committee.

Loans of K100 billion have been issued to over 3,300 businesses since April 2020, with an interest rate of one per cent and the repayment period of one year.—Aye Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

Chilli nursery plants sell well in Yenangyaung Township

WITH the ushering in of chilli cultivation season, the chilli nursery plants are selling well in Yenangyaung Township, Magway Region, according to the local chilli growers.

Chilli plants are grown mostly in September and October, and the local growers cultivate the chilli with one-and-a-half-foot radius boundary between the plantings.

The market price of the chilli plant is K4,000 per plant, which is 10 feet high. The chilli plants are selling well in this season, and so the local farmers are growing the chilli.

We grow chilli annually. Last year, the yield of chilli was around 300 visses. We made the dried chilli and sold it to the traders. We have earned K4,000 per viss of dried chilli. We have earned income from chilli and are planning to grow the chilli this year as well," said Ko Tun, a local chilli grower. There are a few farmers who grow chilli with chilli seeds in Yenangyaung Township. Most of the growers are buying the chilli plants from farmers, who are selling the chilli plants separately.—San Nyunt (Yenangyaung)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



File picture shows a woman watering chilli plants. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Eligible voters for advance voting cast their ballots for 2020 General Election



A voter casts his advance ballots at a polling station in Hsihsen Township on 31 October 2020.



Advance voting continues in Kayah State on 31 October 2020.



An elderly woman casts her advance ballot at a polling station in Khawza Town on 31 October 2020.



A man casts his advance ballots at a polling station in Lailenpi Town on 31 October 2020.



Advance voters cast their advance ballots at a polling station in Pwintbyu on 31 October 2020.



An elderly man casts his advance votes at a polling station in Ye Township on 31 October 2020.

Myanmar seamen, nationals fly back home by relief flights

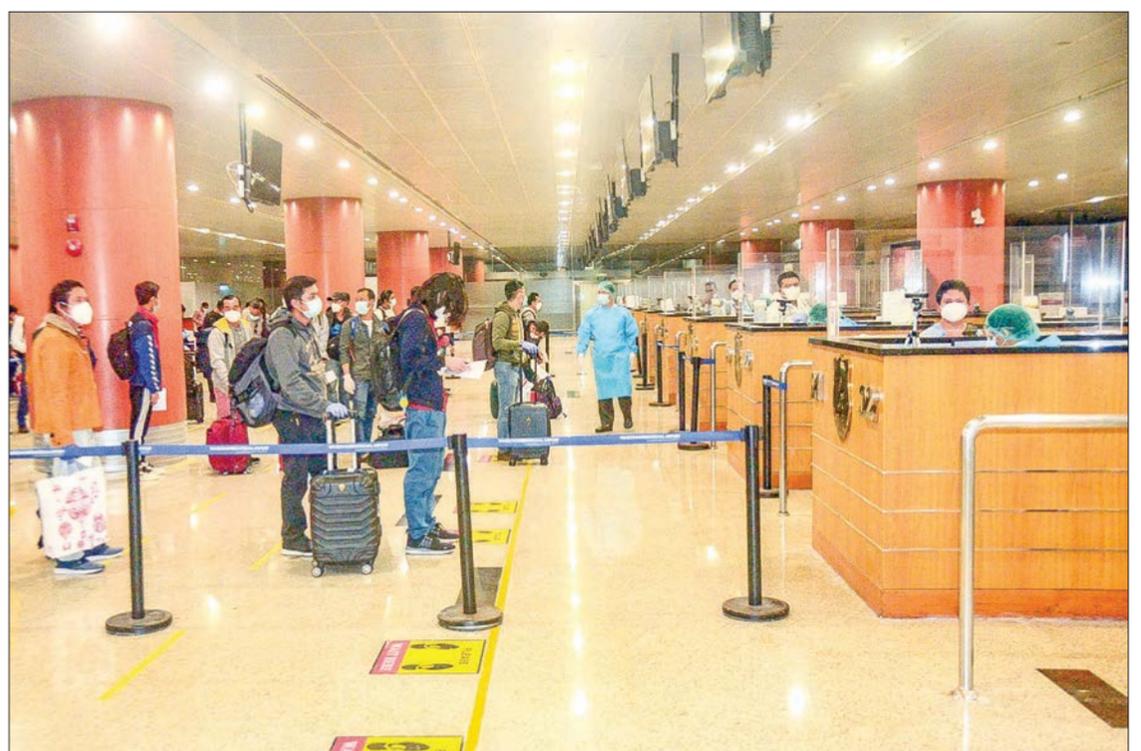
THE relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and Myanmar Seafarers' Federation, landed at the Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 106 Myanmar seamen after they were stranded abroad due to the suspension of international flights yesterday evening.

Among them, 92 seamen were from the Republic of Korea, 12 from South Africa, 1 from Spain and 1 from Qatar.

Similarly, the 12th relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh also brought back a total of 171 Myanmar nationals including 151 Myanmar seamen who were stranded in Oman, Bahrain and the UAE, yesterday morning.

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

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



Myanmar returnees are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 31 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

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.

REPORTS

England set for another virus lockdown



Number 10 had discussed announcing the lockdown on Friday but decided to hold back for fear of causing alarm. **PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP**

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson is considering imposing a new lockdown across England within days following warnings his localised restrictions strategy has failed to curb soaring coronavirus rates, reports said Saturday.

Johnson is expected to announce on Monday the stringent new rules closing all but “essential” stores, while keeping schools, colleges and universities open, *The Times* said.

The measures could come into effect as early as Wednesday and last until December 1, though no final decisions have yet been

reached, it added.

Johnson is set to discuss the situation over the weekend with senior advisers and ministers and hold a cabinet meeting on Sunday to sign off on any final decisions, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

The prospect of another nationwide lockdown comes after top scientific advisers said the virus was spreading significantly faster than their most dire predictions.

Documents released Friday from an October 8 meeting of the government’s Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

included warnings that infections and hospitalizations were “exceeding the reasonable worst-case scenario planning levels”.

The worst-case scenario, made in July, had predicted 85,000 more people could die during the winter wave of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, in its weekly study of Covid-19 prevalence also published Friday, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said it “continued to rise steeply”, with the number of people infected increasing to around one in 100 nationwide.

SOURCE: AFP

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Canada ups immigration targets to make up for pandemic shortfall

CANADA will aim to welcome 1.2 million immigrants from 2021 to 2023 to make up for a shortfall this year blamed on the pandemic, the immigration minister announced Friday. The plan calls for accepting 401,000 new permanent residents in 2021, 411,000 in 2022 and 421,000 in 2023 – an immigration

rate equal to about one per cent of Canada’s population.

“The key to both short-term economic recovery and long-term prosperity is immigration,” Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino told a news conference.

Canada had expected to bring in 341,000 skilled workers,

family members of Canadians and refugees this year. But because of closed borders and visa offices, quarantines and few available international flights, only a fraction came. “As with every other aspect of our lives, the pandemic has affected migration to Canada,” the minister commented. The new target is about 50,000 per year higher than the previous goal.

To help make up the shortfall, Mendicino said the government would offer permanent resident status to temporary foreign workers, international students and asylum claimants already in Canada. He noted that immigrants have been “critical” to Canada’s pandemic response, representing one in four health care workers in hospitals and elderly care homes. They also account for one-third of business owners in Canada.

SOURCE: AFP



Canada announced it will offer permanent resident status to temporary foreign workers, international students and asylum claimants already in Canada, such as the family seen here crossing into Canada from the US in August 2017. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PROTESTS

Clashes in Barcelona over virus restrictions

PROTESTERS clashed with police in central Barcelona on Friday after hundreds gathered to demonstrate against new coronavirus restrictions, including a curfew and a ban on leaving the city over the holiday weekend.

A spokesman for the Mossos d’Esquadra regional police told AFP up to 700 protesters attended the rally which later turned violent when a group of some 50 people “began throwing dangerous objects” at police, prompting them to try and break up the crowd.

An AFP TV correspondent in the central Plaza Sant Jaume saw scores of demonstrators wearing face masks, many chanting “freedom”, hurling rocks and crowd control barriers at police in full riot gear as the surrounding streets filled with smoke from burning barricades.

Sirens wailed throughout

the city centre as police sought to disperse the protesters with batons and firefighters hosed down fires in several large wheelie bins.

Twenty police officers were injured in the clashes and twelve people were arrested, the regional police said on Twitter.

At least two establishments were looted and several police vehicles damaged, it added. A protest in the northern Spanish city of Burgos also turned violent when several dozen young protestors began throwing bottles and stones at police and torching rubbish bins, the *Diario de Burgos* news website reported.

“What’s happening in Burgos tonight only brings more pain and destruction. Anger won’t get us out of here,” tweeted Francisco Igea, number two in the Castilla y Leon region.

SOURCE: AFP



Clashes broke out in central Barcelona after hundreds gathered to demonstrate against new coronavirus restrictions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES TO CLOSE

Greek PM declares partial coronavirus lockdown

GREEK Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Saturday declared a one-month partial coronavirus lockdown, shutting restaurants and other leisure activities in Athens and other major cities from next week.

“We must act now, before intensive care units buckle under the strain of lives in danger,” Mitsotakis said in a televised address.

“The virus is attacking in waves, and we need to quickly adapt.” Greece has registered over 37,000 coronavirus cases since February, including nearly 1,700 on Friday. Accelerating from August onwards, the virus has caused 620 deaths to date.

Another 128 people are in intensive care.

The prime minister said eateries, cafes, clubs, cinemas, museums and gyms in worst-hit areas would close down from Tuesday, but retail businesses and schools would remain open, to soften the blow to the economy.

Hotels, hair salons and food delivery will also be allowed to operate. University classes will be held remotely, and half the workforce in the private and public sectors will work from home.

“A total lockdown would hurt the economy and society,” Mitsotakis said.

SOURCE: AFP

'POWER OF THE ARTS'

Tokyo int'l film festival kicks off but scaled-down amid pandemic

THE 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival kicked off in the capital Saturday, with a scaled-down red carpet procession as organizers found creative ways to celebrate filmmaking through online events despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

A total of 138 works, selected from 1,356 titles from 107 countries and regions, will be shown in Tokyo during the festival's run through Nov. 9.

Among those appearing on

the red carpet, which was held behind closed doors at Tokyo International Forum, was seasoned Japanese filmmaker Koji Fukada -- the featured director in this year's Japan Now section who won the Jury Prize at the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival in France for "Harmonium" in 2016.

Malaysian directors Edmund Yeo and Lim Kah Wai, who were two of the few inter-

national guests present, both completed two weeks of quarantine to re-enter Japan and attend the festival.

"In the current COVID-19 situation, we don't know what the future will bring. We may have to coexist with the virus, and therefore this film festival is a lesson for us," said veteran actor Koji Yakusho, this year's festival ambassador.

Acclaimed writer-director Christopher Nolan and Thi-

erry Fremaux, director of the Cannes Film Festival, were among the international stars who provided video messages for the opening ceremony.

"The fact that in these challenging times you've found a way to honor and enjoy watching films on the big screen is a source of inspiration for myself and other filmmakers around the world," said Nolan.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Actor Koji Yakusho at the opening ceremony of the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival on Oct. 31, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

BRACING FOR YEAR'S MOST POWERFUL STORM

Philippines evacuates nearly 1 million as Typhoon Goni nears



Rivers were already flooded due to heavy rains in Ilagan town, Isabela province north of Manila on Oct. 31, 2020, ahead of Typhoon Goni's landfall in the Philippines. PHOTO: AFP/VILLAMOR VISAYA

NEARLY a million people in the Philippines were evacuated from their homes Saturday as the most powerful typhoon of the year so far barreled toward the country, with authorities warning of "destructive" winds and flooding.

Typhoon Goni is expected to slam into Catanduanes Island Sunday morning with wind speeds of up to 205 kilometres per hour (127 miles per hour) before crossing the main island of Luzon, the state weather forecaster said.

It comes a week after Typhoon Molave hit the same region of the natural disaster-prone

archipelago, killing 22 people and flooding low-lying villages and farmland, before crossing the South China Sea to Vietnam.

"It looks like we will have really strong winds, increasing the chances of widespread flooding and landslides," Mark Timbal, spokesman for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, told local broadcaster ABS-CBN.

"Storm surges are imminent on our east coast. We are monitoring Mayon and Taal volcanoes for possible volcanic mud flows."

Civil Defense chief Ricardo Jalad said "almost a million"

people had left their homes in the Bicol region, which includes the southern part of Luzon and Catanduanes.

Authorities spent Saturday marshalling rescue vehicles, emergency response teams and relief goods ahead of the typhoon.

"Violent winds and intense rainfall" are expected that could trigger floods and landslides in an area of more than 20 million people, the weather service said.

There was a "high risk" of storm surges of more than three metres (10 feet) high along parts of the coast, it added.

SOURCE: AFP

HIGHEST SINCE 2012

Pandemic drives Brazil jobless rate to record 14.4%

Brazil's jobless rate hit a record 14.4 per cent in the June to August period as the coronavirus pandemic pounded Latin America's largest economy, the government reported Friday.

This is the highest level of unemployment recorded in Brazil since the government started measuring joblessness by three-month periods in 2012. For the May to July stretch it had reached 13.8 per cent, which was also a record, the Brazilian statistics institute said. It said that in June to August a record of nearly six million people simply gave up trying to find a job.

The pandemic has taken a crushing human toll in Brazil, killing more than 158,000 people.

That is the second-highest death toll worldwide, after the United States. The health crisis has also triggered a political fight in Brazil between state governors who support lockdown measures to save lives and far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, an ally of Donald Trump. Like the US president, Bolsonaro regularly downplays the risk of the virus and favours keeping the economy open.

4.3 million jobs lost

Brazil's economy lost 4.3 million jobs for the three-month period, bringing the total number of unemployed to 13.8 million people, the government said.

SOURCE: AFP

FUKUOKA STARTUP

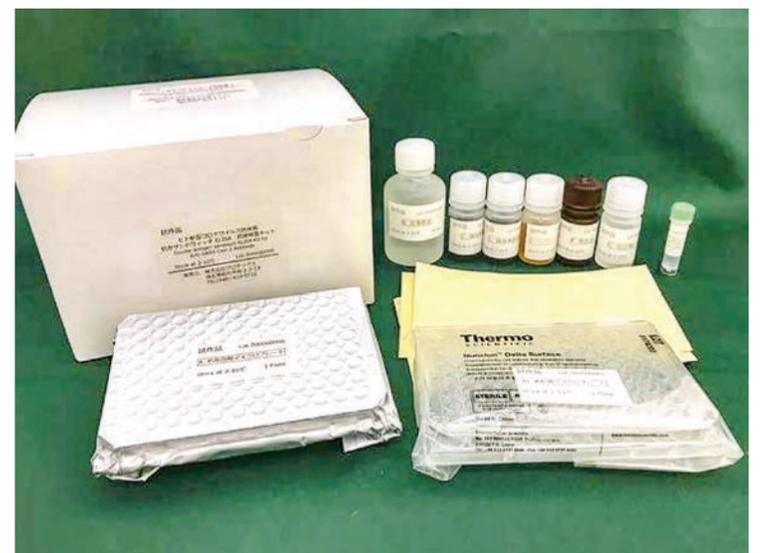
Univ. startup develops coronavirus antibody test kit using silkworms

A Kyushu University startup in the southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka has teamed up with a medical equipment maker to offer a coronavirus antibody test kit utilizing silkworms that allows people to take tests without visiting medical institutions.

Kaico Ltd. and Protects Co. in Wako, Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo, have jointly developed the mail-in kit that requires people to send a small sample of blood, with Protects beginning the test service targeting companies and organizations on Oct. 12.

Each test kit is priced at around 5,000 yen (\$48) and it takes about a week for people to get results, according to the companies.

The national university is known for silkworm research



Supplied photo shows a coronavirus antibody test kit utilizing silkworms. PHOTO: PROTECTS CO./KYODO

going back about 100 years, and Takahiro Kusakabe, a professor in the Department of Biore-source Sciences, has discovered that a certain type of silkworm

among around 450 species studied at the university can produce a protein used in vaccine production.

SOURCE: Kyodo

The 2020 elections are more peaceful in retrospect

THERE'S a little over a week left until we cast our votes in our nation's third election since the 2008 Constitution came into effect.

While some critics have pointed out to faults during the NLD-led government's term, others acknowledge both their short-comings and the amount of progress they have achieved in so little a timeframe.

However, it is a good sign that people are voicing their opinions and pointing out with criticism. This is how a democracy should be where constructive observations support the development and keep a check and balance sort of relationship between the public and those in authority.

We can see three phases that accompany the elections of 2010, 2015 and now 2020. In the first election, the focus can be said to be on establishing the foundation of a democratic system as we re-established Hluttaws across the nation both at the Union level as well as at the region and state levels. The second election is more of a transition into civilian administration as many positions of government which were once held by military personnel were handed over to civilian personnel.

The third election, the one we will soon be experiencing, has so far had more political parties and voices focused on the diverse ethnic groups of Myanmar come out into the light. They have been making their voices heard for the past several decades, but this election is slightly different in that more and more people from urban areas are diversifying their support for candidates other than the major parties.

Yet, this period is also marked by calls of unfairness with elections cancelled in certain constituencies on the pretext of security reasons. There are arguments from both sides as some worry the lack of elections will cause political opinions to diminish while others doubt that democratic elections could bring an end to armed conflicts.

It is this writer's opinion that all stakeholders should carry out their duties and responsibility to uphold peace and development by doing what they think is right, within the boundaries of the law and morality.

responsibility to uphold peace and development by doing what they think is right, within the boundaries of the law and morality. The people should continue to voice their opinions even without elections in their constituencies as these voices can be broadcast loud and wide, especially in this age of advanced communications technologies. Authorities will also continue to do what they think is right in shaping the future of our nation for the prosperity of all who live within it.

So too, on the other side of the armed conflicts, they may have opposing views and aspirations but it is most likely that both sides are weary of fighting yet not ready to trust the other to pursue a more civil and political course of the dialogue.

But now is the time to work on our differences more than ever, as we have already made a decade-long march for the democratic system we have now, no matter how fledgling it may be. If people can devote more than 60 years to conflict, then surely we can all give the same or greater amount of time to pursuing the peaceful path of resolving our issues.

THINGS YOU CAN DO ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Countering the ravages of climate change on health

By Khin Maung Myint



Food safety is the assurance that food will not cause harm to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use". Foodborne diseases are widespread throughout the world. PHOTO: GNLM

IN my previous article that was published in the 27 October issue of the GNLM, I had mentioned the "impacts of the climate change on human health". Now, I deem it necessary to discuss the ways and means to counter those ravages of climate change.

When observed casually one might think that, as the health impacts on the human healths are the results of the climate change, if we can eradicate the climate change, those impacts will diminish. That is in theory of course, but in practice it is not as simple as that. The reason? Well, scientists have been endeavouring to keep the deteriorating climate under control since they first came to recognize that the global warming, the driving force behind the climate change, is affecting the environments and the ecosystem adversely, without significant success. According to historical records, the scientific discovery of the climate change was made in the early 19th century when ice ages and other natural changes in paleoclimate were first suspected and the natural greenhouse effect was first identified.

While the climate scientists around the world are relentlessly trying to find the best solutions to curb the worsening conditions of the climate change under close supervision of the United Nations, not much encouraging progress had been made. Thus we will still be plagued by the adverse effects of the impacts of the climate change on our healths. So, let us not leave it to the scientists and the governments to fight the climate change, but do what we can to contribute towards that goal.

What can be done to reduce the impacts of climate change?

We can responsibly manage the problems facing our environment by taking sensible steps toward protecting human health and safety. Whether measures are meant to reduce future climate change impacts or to address the health impacts of climate change that are happening already, early action provides the greatest health benefits. The most sensible thing we can do is to invest in creating the strongest climate-health adaptation and preparedness programmes. We need to make our communities less vulnerable to

climate change impacts. Many communities already have programmes to address climate-sensitive health issues.

Reducing the release of heat-trapping gases like CO2 can help protect our health and well-being by decreasing impacts on our climate system. Activities that reduce the amount of heat-trapping CO2 in the atmosphere are many of the same things we already know prevent health problems. Active modes of transport like biking or walking can help reduce traffic-related air pollution and encourage physical activity, which has public health benefits including reduced rates of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.

Prevention of heat aggravated disease.

In managing the health threats associated with extreme heat, there are approaches that worked. Heat wave early warning systems to communicate warnings related to heat wave risks and suggesting protective actions. Opening cooling centers where the public can gather for relief from the heat. Air-conditioning is the number-one protective factor against extreme heat, which is an essential health resource. Staying hydrated and avoiding strenuous outdoor exercise during heat alerts can protect individuals from adverse effects of extreme heat. Providing easy

access to public drinking water stations, swimming pools, and public showers.

Building designs and methods and landscaping can increase energy efficiency as well as improving the ability of buildings to provide protection against extreme heat events. The green roofs (roofs with plant cover) and strategically located shade trees can reduce indoor temperatures and improve buildings' energy efficiency. Urban forests, including street trees and wooded areas can contribute towards the mitigation of the extreme heat.

We should be mindful that increases in precipitation extremes, either heavy rainfall events or droughts, can impact our health. Warmer temperatures cause more water to evaporate into the air and allow that air to hold more water. This sets the stage for heavier downpours. At the same time, global temperatures influence the way heat and moisture move around the planet causing drier conditions to occur in some regions of the world.

Prevention of respiratory illness.

Climate change might also affect human health by making our air less healthy to breathe. Higher temperatures lead to an increase in allergens and harmful air pollutants. For instance, longer warm seasons can mean

longer pollen seasons - which can increase allergies and asthma that can diminish productive work and school days. Higher temperatures due to climate change can also lead to an increase in ozone, a harmful air pollutant.

Other hazards can appear after a storm has passed. For example, a damp or flooded building can develop mold that affects indoor air quality. The poor air quality and damp conditions has been shown to increase health problems. These health problems include aggravation of asthma and other upper respiratory tract symptoms such as coughing and wheezing. They also include lower respiratory tract infections like pneumonia.

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

When it comes to managing the health threats associated with air quality, a variety of effective public health responses are

bites by using insect repellent or covering exposed skin with long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats; to predict and pinpoint possible hot spots for insects outbreaks, so that the appropriate measures to protect public health can be taken.

Access to safe food and water.

As droughts, heavy rainfalls and flooding due to heavy rains can be very damaging to crops and animal breedings, preventive measures such as dams, reservoirs and canals for irrigation, fresh water supply and flood controls should be put in place. Those non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, who oftentimes oppose the construction of those infrastructure should be aware that the damages caused by the climate change greatly outweighs the adverse effects those infrastructures can cause to the environment and the society.

Safety and well-being during extreme weather.

The safety and wellbeing of the people are of utmost importance during extreme weather. In the aftermaths of severe droughts, storms, rains and flooding, a multitude of diseases and illness will be abound. Preparations, provisions and implementations of healthcare services, rescue operations and relief works should be well planned ahead so as not be caught off-guard.

Prevention of disease caused by insects and arachnids.

The development and survival of ticks, their animal hosts, and the bacterium they carry that causes a certain disease are all strongly influenced by climatic factors, especially temperature, precipitation, and humidity. Also the worsening climate conditions are expanding the geographical area of their existence. West Nile virus is another example of a vector-borne disease that may be influenced by climate change. Preventing people from contracting West Nile virus is important, because there are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent this virus in humans, and recovery from severe disease may take weeks or months.

In managing the public health threats associated with vector-borne diseases, sensible steps include: avoiding bug

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 31 October 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal (off Myanmar coast) still persists. It is likely to move towards Bangladesh coast during next (48)hrs. Weather is partly cloudy over the Southwest and Westcentral Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1 November 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, and Bago regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (4-7) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 November, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 November 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 November 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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NET ZERO

Japan energy firms aiming to achieve Suga's 2050 zero carbon goal



Photo taken on Sept. 29, 2018, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a solar power plant operated by Mitsui Fudosan Co., a real estate firm, in Tomakomai, Hokkaido. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MAJOR Japanese electric power companies are aiming to strengthen power grids, increase solar and wind energy, and develop technologies to help achieve Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions in

the country to net zero by 2050.

They say revolutionary technological innovation is necessary to respond to the challenge, including expanding the use of next-generation energy sources such as hydrogen and ammonia, which does not emit carbon dioxide when burned.

Amid global concern on climate change, Japan has often drawn criticism for its dependence on coal-fired power plants, significant contributors to atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations.

A signatory to the 2015 Paris climate accord, Japan's reliance on renewable energy is low compared with other countries, taking up in fiscal 2018 only 16.9 per cent of the total power gen-

erated by the country.

In contrast, Italy's green energy share in 2017 compared with its total was 35.3 per cent, while it was 33.4 per cent for Germany, and 29.6 per cent for Britain, according to data tallied by the Japanese government.

Shikoku Electric Power Co. will set up on Nov. 1 an office tasked with tripling the utility's renewable energy production domestically and overseas to a total of 500,000 kilowatts by fiscal 2030.

Electric Power Development Co., or J-Power, is developing carbon-recycling technology for capturing CO2 to use it to generate commodities including chemicals, fuels and concrete products.

J-Power President Toshifumi Watanabe said, "We are going to achieve zero (CO2 emissions) using technology."

Jera Co., a joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. and Chubu Electric Power Co., is planning to shift its power generation to only using ammonia fuel in the future.

The venture at present generates power by mixing coal-fired technology with ammonia fuel, which does not emit CO2 when combusted.

The company also plans to use hydrogen from 2030 as an energy source for its power plants.

SOURCE: Kyodo

FRAMEWORK FOR SHIP OPERATIONS

US sets requirements for 'phased resumption' of cruises

THE US health authorities on Friday issued a detailed set of requirements that would allow cruise ships to resume services as early as next month.

The requirements for a "phased resumption" of cruise ship passenger operations were released by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In light of the continued spread of Covid-19, a "careful approach" was needed, the CDC said in releasing its "conditional sailing order."

This would include "simulated voyages to test cruise ship operators' ability to mitigate Covid-19 risk," it said.

"During the initial phases, cruise ship operators must demonstrate adherence to testing, quarantine and isolation, and social distancing requirements to protect crew members

while they build the laboratory capacity needed to test crew and future passengers," the CDC said.

Cruises could be no longer than seven days and social distancing would have to be respected during meals.

Cruises were halted in March after Covid-19 outbreaks aboard several ships and a "no-sail" order has been regularly renewed by the CDC. It expires on October 31.

One of the largest cruise operators, Carnival Cruise Line, has already canceled all voyages through November and December except for those between Miami and Port Canaveral in Florida.

Another major operator, Britain's P&O Cruises, does not plan to resume passenger operations before early 2021.

SOURCE: AFP



The requirements for a "phased resumption" of cruise ship passenger operations were released by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. **PHOTO: AFP**

PLANNED REOPENING

U.S. San Francisco to temporarily pause additional businesses reopening

U.S. San Francisco Mayor London Breed on Friday announced the city will temporarily pause reopening of additional businesses and activities scheduled to resume or expand on Tuesday.

The pause is due to an increase in COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations in San Francisco, coupled with the current increase in cases in California and across the United States.

According to the announcement, San Francisco will continue its strategy of a thoughtful and deliberate reopening, consistent with emerging scientific data, information and evidence, and will move forward in the safest way possible.

The city should take the time to pause now and assess the data than to keep reopening and risk needing to roll-back reopening at a future date, the



A job vacancy sign is posted in the window of a fast food restaurant on July 8, 2016 in San Francisco, California. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

announcement said.

The majority of activities and businesses that were scheduled to reopen or expand their capacity on Tuesday will be paused. These include opening indoor pools, bowling alleys, and locker rooms at fitness centres,

and expanding capacity at indoor dining establishments, places of worship, and museums, among other businesses and activities that are allowed only if a county at least reaches the orange tier under California's blueprint.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Inspire Brands says to buy Dunkin' Brands donut company for \$8.8 billion

Restaurant company Inspire Brands announced Friday it was buying Dunkin' Brands, owner of the Dunkin' donut and Baskin-Robbins ice cream chains, for \$8.8 billion.

Including debt, the transaction will rise to \$11.3 billion, the company said in a statement.

Inspire already owns the Arby's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Sonic

Drive-In and Jimmy John's restaurant chains.

The Dunkin' chain, created in 1950 in the US northeastern state of Massachusetts, is known for its variety of donuts as well as its coffee and breakfast sandwiches. Baskin-Robbins started in 1945 in California and is famous for its 31 flavours of ice cream.

The two brands account for

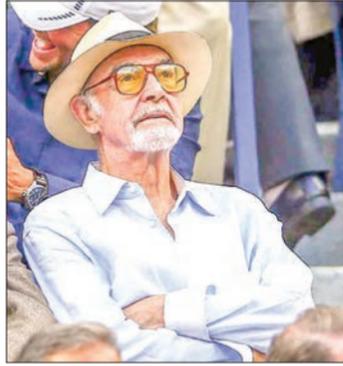
more than 20,000 distribution points in more than 60 countries.

They have suffered somewhat from the pandemic and the resulting temporary or permanent closures of stores, with turnover of their parent company having fallen by six per cent in total over the first nine months of the year.

SOURCE: AFP

OSCAR WINNER AND JAMES BOND STAR

Legendary British actor Sean Connery has died aged 90



File photo of actor Sean Connery attending the Men's Singles semi-finals match at the 2015 US Open. PHOTO: AFP/CLIVE BRUNSKILL

LEGENDARY actor Sean Connery, best known for playing fictional spy James Bond, has died at the age of 90, leading to an outpouring of tributes for one of Britain's best-loved screen heroes.

Sir Sean's son Jason told the BBC that his father died peacefully in his sleep overnight while in the Bahamas, having been "unwell for some time".

The Scottish actor, who was knighted in 2000, won numerous awards during his decades-spanning career, including an Oscar, three Golden Globes and two Bafta awards.

"He was and shall always be remembered as the original

James Bond," said the movie franchise's producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli.

"He revolutionised the world with his gritty and witty portrayal of the sexy and charismatic secret agent."

The pair added Connery was "undoubtedly largely responsible for the success of the film series and we shall be forever grateful to him."

A message on a Twitter account maintained for fellow late Bond actor Roger Moore, who died in 2017, called the news of his passing "infinitely sad".

It added: "He and Roger were friends for many decades and Roger always maintained Sean was the best ever James Bond. RIP"

Hollywood star Hugh Jackman said: "I grew up idolizing #SeanConnery. A legend on screen, and off. Rest In Peace."

Connery, born in Edinburgh in 1930, claimed his sole Oscar in 1988 for best supporting actor for his role as an Irish cop in "The Untouchables".

He also starred in "The Hunt for Red October", "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" and "The Rock".

SOURCE: AFP

PROTEST EPICENTRE

Iraq reopens Tahrir Square, epicentre of revolt in Baghdad



Iraq's Lieutenant-General Qais al-Muhammadawi (C) oversaw the reopening of Al-Jumhuriya bridge in Baghdad after it had been blocked off during anti-government protests. PHOTO: SABAH ARAR/AFP

TENTS dismantled, photos of "martyrs" removed and demonstrators sent home -- in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, life returned to normal on Saturday after a year of anti-government protests.

Iraqi authorities undertook a major operation led by the army to remove the remnants of the protest movement that kicked off on October 2019 in the epicentres of Tahrir Square and Al-Jumhuriyah bridge.

Tahrir Square and its massive Freedom Monument

was at the heart of the movement that brought together hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, paralyzing the capital and southern Iraq for months.

The move sparked some emotional appeals on social media not to clear the square, while others at the site refused to speak to media amid a heavy police deployment.

Young people, who spearheaded the unprecedented revolt and saw many peers among the nearly 600 dead and 30,000 wounded in clashes with security forces, were in shock.

"What the excavators are taking away in Tahrir is not debris, but the history of a people written a year ago in October that is still being written," said one person on social media.

The movement had called for jobs, basic services, a total overhaul of the ruling class and an end to corruption.

But it lost momentum and then ground to a halt in the spring due to an outbreak of tensions between arch-foes the United States and Iran on Iraqi soil and the Covid-19 pandemic. SOURCE: AFP

ELECTION

Georgia opposition seeks to trounce billionaire's party in key poll

GEORGIA went to the polls Saturday in tightly contested parliamentary elections pitting an unlikely union of opposition forces against the increasingly unpopular ruling party led by the country's richest man.

Georgians voted Saturday in tightly contested parliamentary elections pitting an unlikely union

of opposition forces against the increasingly unpopular ruling party led by the country's richest man.

Two colourful personalities dominate politics in the tiny Caucasus country -- the former president Mikheil Saakashvili, who lives in exile in Ukraine, and the billionaire ex-prime minister

Bidzina Ivanishvili believed to be calling the shots in the pro-Western country.

In an unprecedented show of unity, Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM) and smaller opposition groups have joined forces to challenge the ruling Georgian Dream party chaired by Ivanishvili.

Dozens of voters queued in the autumn sunshine outside a polling station in the centre of the capital Tbilisi minutes after polls opened at 0400 GMT.

"I am very optimistic, Georgia will today get rid of Ivanishvili and his corrupt government," plumber Lasha Guruli told AFP after casting his ballot.

Another voter, mathematician Lamara Lagvilava, said she had also voted for the opposition.

"Georgia can't stand any longer the incompetence of the Georgian Dream government," she added.

But Ivanishvili said he was sure of his party's victory.

SOURCE: AFP

7.0 MAGNITUDE

26 dead, buildings collapse as major quake hits Turkey, Greece



Rescuers search for survivors among the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake in Turkey and Greece. PHOTO: AFP

A powerful earthquake hit Greece and Turkey on Friday, causing buildings to collapse and a sea surge that flooded streets in the Turkish resort city of Izmir.

Rescuers dug through heavy blocks of concrete with their bare hands Saturday in a desperate search for survivors from a powerful earthquake that levelled buildings across Greece and Turkey, killing at least 26 people.

The quake struck late Friday afternoon, causing a mini-tsunami on the Aegean island of Samos and a sea surge that turned streets into rushing rivers in a town on Turkey's west coast.

The US Geological Survey said the 7.0 magni-

tude tremor hit 14 kilometres (nine miles) off the Greek town of Karlovasi on Samos.

Felt in both Istanbul and Athens, it also created a diplomatic opening for the two historic rivals, with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis placing a rare call to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to offer his condolences and support.

Hospital patients on street

Much of the damage occurred in and around Turkey's Aegean resort city of Izmir, which has three million residents and is filled with high-rise apartment blocks.

SOURCE: AFP

SCIENCE JOURNAL

Lancet blasts Trump's virus 'disaster', urges vote for change

The Lancet has become the latest science journal to urge Americans to vote for change in next week's presidential election, publishing a scathing editorial Friday that described the US pandemic response under Donald Trump as "disastrous".

The medical journal did not explicitly back Democratic challenger Joe Biden in its commentary, focusing instead on the issues it said had hindered the US from adequately tackling the "greatest public health crisis in a century". It highlighted the country's "fraying social safety net, continual erosion of trust in the public sector, the perceived diminished responsibility of the federal government, and political interference with crucial public health apparatus" – particularly in the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. These it said "have culminated in the disastrous US response to the coronavirus pandemic". Trump's handling of the pandemic has been a key theme in the election campaign, with the president accused of undermining scien-



Trump has downplayed the dangerousness of the virus and called for businesses to reopen. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

tific institutions and spreading false information. America is the world's worst-hit country, with 8.94 million cases, and on Thursday it announced a record number of new coronavirus cases, topping the grim milestone of more than 90,000 diagnoses in 24 hours. The Lancet editorial said the US was experiencing a "continuing devaluation of science", as well as

a range of rights inequalities. The Trump administration had rolled back protections for individuals, workers and the environment, it said, adding that the country had turned inwards, with the US's intended withdrawal from international agreements and agencies like the World Health Organization. "With so much loss and still more at stake, the 2020

presidential election is the opportune moment for the American electorate to embrace change for the better," it said. It urged voters to "reject the stagnancy of complacency, to exchange a view bereft of intention with a vision of progress, and to rejoin the global community in the pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable future". SOURCE: AFP

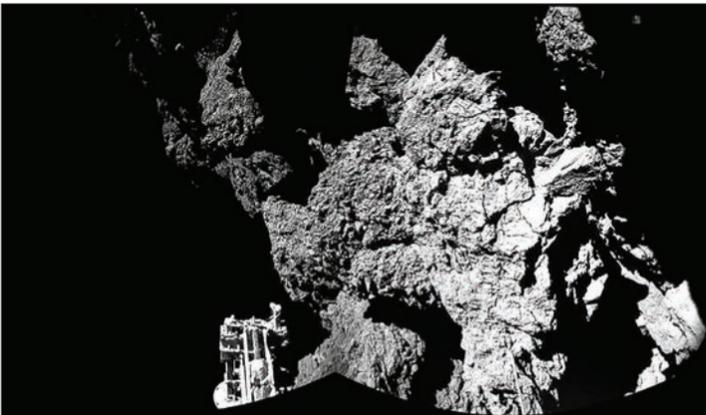
WORD OF WARNING

Nature loss means deadlier future pandemics, UN warns

FUTURE pandemics will happen more often, kill more people and wreak even worse damage to the global economy than Covid-19 without a fundamental shift in how humans treat nature, the United Nations' biodiversity panel said Thursday.

Warning that there are up to 850,000 viruses which, like the novel coronavirus, exist in animals and may be able to infect people, the panel known as IPBES said pandemics represented an "existential threat" to humanity. Authors of the special report on biodiversity and pandemics said that habitat destruction and insatiable consumption made animal-borne diseases far more likely to make the jump to people in future. SOURCE: AFP

SPACE DUST



Robotic spacecraft Osiris-Rex was able to stow a rock and dust sample scooped up from the asteroid Benu, after a flap that had wedged open put the mission at risk. PHOTO: NASA/AFP

NASA says probe successfully stowed sample from asteroid

NASA said Thursday its robotic spacecraft Osiris-Rex was able to stow a rock and dust sample scooped up from the asteroid Benu, after a flap that had wedged open put the mission at risk.

"We are here to announce today that we've successfully completed that operation," said Rich Burns, the mission's project manager. The probe is on a mission to collect fragments that scientists hope will help unravel the origins of our solar system, but hit a snag after it picked up too big of a sample.

Fragments from the asteroid's surface in a collector at the end of the probe's three-metre (10-foot) arm had been slowly escaping into space because some rocks prevented the compartment from closing completely. That arm is what came into contact with Benu for a few seconds last Tuesday in the culmination of a mission launched from Earth some four years ago. On Thursday, NASA said it had been able a day earlier to manoeuvre the robotic arm holding the leaking particles to a storage capsule near the centre of the spacecraft, drop off the sample and close the capsule's lid.

SOURCE: AFP

CLIMATE CHANGE

Australia bushfire inquiry warns 'compounding disasters' to come

AUSTRALIANS should be ready for "compounding" overlapping crises as they face more frequent, costly and severe climate change-worsened disasters, an inquiry into the nation's recent historic bushfires warned Friday.

Following devastating 2019-2020 blazes that killed 33 people and burned an area the size of the United Kingdom or Ghana, a Royal Commission told Australians "what was unprecedented is now

our future". Predicting a future in which disasters "will regrettably be more frequent and more severe", the commission said: "We can also expect more concurrent and consecutive hazard events."

"In the last 12 months, there was drought, heatwaves and bushfires, followed by severe storms, flooding and a pandemic." By the time the bushfires had ended in March, they had killed or displaced nearly three billion

animals and cost the economy an estimated US\$7 billion. But the commission warned the annual cost of disasters is likely to rise to around \$27 billion by 2050, even before accounting for worsening global warming. The report focused heavily on the impact of climate change in producing more extreme weather and noted: "Further global warming over the next two decades is inevitable." SOURCE: AFP



Australia's devastating 2019-2020 bushfires killed or displaced nearly three billion animals and cost the economy an estimated US\$7 billion. PHOTO: AFP

LEGAL BATTLE

US jury tells Apple to pay \$503 mn in patent case

A jury in Texas on Friday decided that Apple should pay \$503 million for infringing virtual private network technology patented by software security firm VirnetX. The legal battle between Apple and Nevada-based VirnetX involved data transmission security in devices such as iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, according to court documents.

"We thank the jury for their time and appreciate their consideration but are disappointed with the verdict and plan to appeal," Apple said in reply to an AFP inquiry. "This case has been going on for over a decade, with patents that are unrelated to the core operations of our products and have been found to be invalid by the patent office." VirnetX contended in the suit that Apple VPN On Demand functions used its patented technology. VirnetX is based in Nevada, but patent suits are typically filed in states where jurors have been found more inclined to rule against Silicon Valley giants. Apple had challenged the validity of the VirnetX patent.

SOURCE: AFP



The legal battle between Apple and Nevada-based VirnetX involved data transmission security in devices such as iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, according to court documents. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

RECOVERY

China manufacturing growth eases in October but remains strong



Demand for protective products used in the fight against the pandemic has helped China see strong growth in manufacturing. PHOTO: AFP

FACTORY activity in China dipped slightly in October, according to official data published Saturday, but remained in growth territory as the world's second-largest economy continued its recovery after being hammered by the coronavirus.

The closely watched

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a key gauge of manufacturing activity in China, which has largely bounced back after plunging in February because of tough pandemic-control measures.

In October, the PMI figure stood at 51.4, slightly below the reading of 51.5

for September. Any figure above the 50-point mark represents growth while below it signals a contraction.

Zhao Qinghe, a senior statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), said this month's figures, with increases in several key indices including ex-

ports, imports and new orders, demonstrated a "quick recovery".

"Manufacturing in major economies is bouncing back... and a recovery in demand has driven up prices," Zhao said.

Textiles, chemical raw materials, chemical products, rubber and plastic products used in the fight against the pandemic saw the biggest increase in demand, he added.

In February, China's manufacturing PMI plunged to 35.7 points after the coronavirus brought much of China to a standstill. Non-manufacturing PMI came in at 55.2 points -- an increase of 0.3 percentage points from September, showing further signs of an economic rebound. China is expected to be the only major economy to record positive growth this year.

SOURCE: AFP

BRANDENBURG AIRPORT

Berlin's beleaguered new airport set for first flights

PASSENGER flights are to begin landing Saturday at Berlin's new international airport, a moment many Germans thought they might never see after years of embarrassing delays and spiralling costs.

Two special flights operated by EasyJet and Lufthansa are to touch down at Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER) at 2:00 pm (1300 GMT), with regular flights scheduled to follow five hours later.

The EasyJet plane is to fly over from nearby Tegel airport, while the Lufthansa jet is to take off from Munich, airport officials said.

The new airport, which is to replace ageing Tegel, along with Schoenefeld which is next door, is opening nine years late, staggeringly over budget and in the middle of a global pandemic.

As a result, "We will simply open, we will not have a party," said Engelbert Luetke Daldrup,



The airport has been granted millions in state aid to help safeguard jobs until year end -- but opening in the middle of a global pandemic threatens to be a challenge. PHOTO: AFP

president of the airport's management company.

The day will nonetheless be a watershed moment for the project, intended as a symbol of German unity and engineering prowess as the country came together after being divided for nearly half a century.

Economy Minister Peter Altmaier spoke Friday of his "joy and happi-

ness" at the airport finally being able to open.

"It weighed on all of us that there were no prospects of (the airport) getting up and running for many years," he said. "We are obviously glad that it is now possible."

Financial black hole

Since construction began in 2006, the project has been dogged by one failure after another that

turned it into a financial black hole and a national laughing stock.

The airport, located in the southeast corner of the capital, was originally due to open in 2011. Operations are now getting underway in the middle of the worst aviation crisis ever, as Covid-19 restrictions continue to suffocate air travel.

SOURCE: AFP

US DISTRICT COURT

US judge sets up fresh roadblock in Trump bid to ban TikTok

A US federal judge on Friday issued an injunction temporarily blocking an executive order by President Donald Trump aimed at banning TikTok, throwing up a legal roadblock ahead of a November 12 deadline.

The order would have knocked the Chinese-owned video-sharing app offline by cutting it off from US businesses providing website hosting, data storage and other fundamentals needed to operate.

But TikTok influencers suing the president over the ban convinced US District Court Wendy Beetlestone to issue the injunction against it.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HOSEI CROWN VOY. NO. (EAL7)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HOSEI CROWN VOY. NO. (EAL7) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-11-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-2 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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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERETT ASIA LINE PTE LTD

New navigation signal and Yangon River

BY SHIN NAW (PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR)

YANGON is still keeping up a development momentum despite suffering setbacks triggered by Covid-19 pandemic. Yangon is a commercial hub of the country, and so Yangon's development plays a major role in the progress of economy of the State. Transport serves a major player in striving for the economic development of the State and carrying out trade activities with foreign countries. In doing trade activities with foreign countries, Yangon is in use of road, airway and waterway links. Almost 90 % of import goods are transported to the country by means of the waterway.

A good transport link ensures timely distribution of locally-made products to the domestic markets. Motorway, airway and waterway are means of transport, of which waterway is able to transport a very large number of tonnes

of cargo costing little money. Yangon River plays a crucial part in times of exporting the goods from Yangon to foreign countries and importing the products from overseas nations into the country.

Loading and unloading of cargoes

The sea-going vessels transporting the goods of export and import have to be berthed at Yangon jetty, an international seaport, in order to load and unload cargoes there. To be able to enter Yangon jetty, Yangon waterway has to be used from the mouth of the river where it meets the sea. The sea-going vessels have to rely on Yangon River to transport the cargoes to and from Yangon port. To do so, existing signals and marks in Yangon River are needed to be upgraded so that the sea-going vessels would well understand them. The existing signals and marks formerly used in

Yangon River are now outdated because of being old-fashioned and affected by the weather and therefore they should be substituted with highly sophisticated devices.

Myanmar Port Authority under the Ministry of Transport and Communications partnered with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for upgrading to navigation signals and marks for ensuring smooth and secure navigation in Yangon River.

Feasibility study conducted

Feasibility studies have been conducted in Yangon River since 2017. The studies included navigation support signals and marks in the river and those on land and estimated calculation of high tide and low tide.

Occurrences of shallowness spotted in Yangon River

Yangon River is 42 nautical

miles long from Yangon Port to the mouth of the river where it meets the sea. Yangon Port is an international one, but not a deep seaport, and it is built on the bank of Yangon River. It's natural that a river doesn't have a regular depth, but have curves and bends with creeks and channels. Accordingly, it results in sand and mud left and blocked in the river. The sea-going vessels carrying a large number of tonnes of cargo are the long ones in size, and it is not easy for them to bend in the narrow river. The sea-going vessels can't go in or go out if sounding or the depth of the water is not enough. The sounding is allowed to be 9 metre deep in Yangon River.

Just a difficulty

It is natural that shallowness occurs in the rivers. Shallowness causes two shoals—inner shoal and outer shoal in the river. Sand and mud are silted up in an inner



place of the river where creeks and channels meet, which results in the inner shoal. The outer shoal occurs at the mouth of the sea where the seawater and the river water





meet. As a result of that, the sandbank happens once at the inner shoal and another at the outer shoal. Forming sandbank is just a difficulty facing every jetty existing along the river.

Yangon jetty also has inner shoal and outer shoal, and both are mixed that cannot be separated. The outer shoal is located at the mouth of the sea at the meeting point of Bago



river, Pazuntaung creek and Yangon River and this place is called Thanhlayet Monkey Point.

Designation of marks

Markings have to be designated for large sea-going vessels to sail along Yangon River. Sounding may be deep or not though its water surface is wide.

Maintenance to keep up standardization

Yangon port is an international one, and so according to the IALA Chart A designated by International Association of Lighthouse Authorities, the entering vessels have to show red light (red navigational buoy) on the left of the vessel and green light (green navigational buoy) on the right of the vessel. It is IALA a buoyage system for mariners. With the passage of time, navigational buoys became old and were damaged, and the cost of maintenance to keep up international standardization was higher as well.

International buoyage systems are being adapted in order to make it suitable for a new situation. The red navigational buoy is illustrated with the shape of a cylinder and the green navigational buoy with the shape of a funnel. For that reason the navigational signals currently operational in Yangon river call for installation of these systems.

Construction of new tide gauge

As stated by the plan of the JICA, navigational signals, light buoys and navigational markings existing along the bank of Yangon river damaged by weather are to be upgraded. The JICA's upgrade plan also includes the major repair of tide gauge at Monkey Point and the construction of a new tide gauge at Elephant Point at the mouth of the sea.

By doing so, the project will enhance safety and efficiency of navigation along the Yangon river, and It is going to bizarrely emerge before long alongside already-upgraded international navigational systems and large sea-going vessels.

Translated by Htut Htut
(Twantay)



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

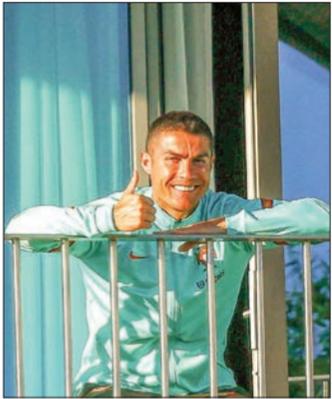
SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Football: Ronaldo recovers from COVID-19



Cristiano Ronaldo tested positive while on international duty with Portugal on October 13. **PHOTO: AFP/DIOGO PINTO**

MILAN—Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo has tested negative for coronavirus, the club confirmed on Friday (Oct 30).

“Ronaldo carried out a check with a diagnostic test (swab) for COVID-19. The exam provided a negative result,” the Italian champions said in a statement.

“The player has, therefore, recovered after 19 days and is no longer subjected to home isolation.”

Ronaldo first tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct 13 while playing with Portugal. He had been in self-isolation since returning to Italy.

The 35-year-old has missed four games including Wednesday’s 2-0 Champions League defeat to Lionel Messi’s Barcelona.

Nine-time reigning Italian champions Juventus, are fifth in Serie A, four points behind leaders AC Milan after five games, and next play at promoted Spezia on Sunday.—AFP ■

Shan United contributes K2 million to COVID-19 centres

DEFENDING champions of the Myanmar National League, Shan United Football Club recently donated a total of K2 million for COVID-19 centres in Yangon, according to the statement with the football club.

Firstly, Shan United Football Club contributed K1 million to the Ayeyawady Centre for combatting COVID-19 pandemic across the country, announced by Shan United FC on their official social media page.

The donation was made by the team’s captain and goalkeeper Thiha Sithu on behalf of the football club and its fans.

Next, Shan United also donated K1 million to the Inya Centre for better support of doctors, nurses, patients and volunteers

working at the centre.

Officials of the COVID-19 centres presented the certificates of honour to the Shan United football star Thiha Sithu for the team’s donations.

Previously, other Myanmar National League football clubs: Yangon United and Ayeyawady United respectively contributed to the COVID-19 centres in Yangon to combat the threatening of the pandemic.

The Ministry of Health and Sports also gave full permission to run the temporary healthcare centres in Yangon, and the ministry has also contributed medical equipment for the centres, according to the statement with the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Shan United’s keeper Thiha Sithu (left) receiving the certificate of honour for his football club’s donation to Ayeyawady Centre. **PHOTO: SUFC**

Pele Wishes ‘Great Friend’ Maradona A Happy 60th

BUENOS AIRES—Fresh off celebrating a milestone birthday of his own, Brazilian

football great Pele wished his fellow legend Diego Maradona a happy birthday Friday as the

mercurial Argentine celebrated his 60th.

“My great friend, Mara-

dona. I will always applaud you. I will always root for you. May your journey be long and may you always smile, and make me smile too! Happy Birthday!” Pele wrote on Instagram, along with a picture of him and Maradona.

The message came a week after Maradona wished Pele a happy birthday on his 80th, joining what he called “the universal tribute to the King.”

Pele and Maradona often vie for the title of best footballer in history. The Brazilian and Argentine were jointly named best player of the 20th century by FIFA in 2000. Afflicted with various health issues, both spent their birthdays this year in self-isolation because of the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■



Pele and Maradona often vie for the title of best footballer in history. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

‘I did what I came for’: Djokovic suffers heaviest loss but securing top spot priority

VIENNA—Novak Djokovic shrugged off his heaviest defeat on Friday by insisting he had achieved his goal of wrapping up the year-end world number one spot for a record-equalling sixth time.

Djokovic was stunned 6-2, 6-1 by Italian lucky loser Loren-

zo Sonego in the quarter-finals of the Vienna ATP tournament.

But having won two rounds in the Austrian capital, 33-year-old Djokovic is virtually guaranteed equalling Pete Sampras’s record of securing the year-ending top ranking for the sixth time.

“Clinching the year-end

number one had an effect on me,” Djokovic told a news conference.

“I have done what I came here for, securing the number one. And I’m completely fine with today’s result.

“I’m healthy and looking forward to a strong finish in

London (the season-ending ATP Finals)”.

Italian Sonego, ranked 42 and who had initially lost in qualifying last weekend, is the first lucky loser ever to beat Djokovic.

The only other time Djokovic had won just three games was at the 2005 Australian Open

at the hands of Marat Safin in a best-of-five set encounter.

“He just blew me off the court, that’s all,” Djokovic told atptour.com.

“He was better in every segment of the game. It was a pretty bad match from my side, but amazing from his side.—AFP ■