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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 216, 4th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1382 ME

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

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

State Counsellor chairs COVID-19 central committee meeting

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, attended the committee meeting yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Min Thu, U Thaung Tun, U Kyaw Tin, U Thein

Swe, and Dr Myint Htwe; Deputy Ministers U Sett Aung and U Kyaw Myo; and Secretaries of the Central Committee U Zaw Thin Than and Dr Thet Khaing Win.

Discussions at the meeting covered measures to prevent the COVID-19 infection spread rate in the last week of November due to public gatherings after the gener-

al elections; not to delay the discharge of COVID-19 patients from the hospital if they are ready; and COVID-19 containment measures in colder regions of Myanmar.

The meeting also discussed instances of people coming to the hospitals only after their attempts to treat themselves have failed; these people expire upon

reaching the hospital; the need to make sure that people are not afraid to come to the hospital for treatment; the need to make adequate preparations at the Yangon People's Hospital to provide treatments for COVID-19 disease; and to allow a family member/relative to accompany patients who are in critical condition; to take effective

legal action against unscrupulous group leaders, who are staging protests against the 4th round of public financial relief assistance from the Union Government, and to conduct public awareness programmes to protect participants in these protest groups from COVID-19 infection.

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276 Myanmar citizens brought back home from abroad by relief flights

THE 31st relief flight of Myanmar Airways International organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul landed in Yangon yesterday afternoon, with 101 citizens stranded in foreign countries.

They included 73 persons from South Korea, 1 from Indonesia, 1 from Italy, 1 from Brazil, 1 from Russia, 1 from Canada, 3 from Britain, 4 from Australia, 5 from Switzerland and 11 from the United States.

Moreover, 175 Myanmar nationals —135 seamen and 40 former detainees— arrived back home from Malaysia by a relief flight of Myanmar Airways International organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur in the same evening.

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.



Myanmar returnees are seen at Yangon International Airport on 17 November. PHOTO: MNA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating with the relevant ministries, Myanmar

embassies from respective countries, shipping companies and seamen organizations to

bring back the Myanmar citizens and seamen in accordance with the instructions from Na-

tional-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).—MNA

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General Secretary of Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, People's Republic of China and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway send Congratulatory messages to State Counsellor

The following are the congratulatory messages from Mr Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the People's Republic of China and Ms Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway sent to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for the successful General Election held on 8 November 2020.

Mr Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the People's Republic of China sends congratulatory message to the State Counsellor

I am pleased to learn the great results of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in the recent general elections in Myanmar. I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar. I am convinced that under your leadership, the National League for Democracy will continue to achieve greater successes in the noble tasks of achieving progress and prosperity of Myanmar.

Myanmar and China are good neighbours sharing mountains and rivers and enjoying Pauk-Phaw friendship. This year, our two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar. At the beginning

of this year, I paid a successful State Visit to Myanmar and reached consensus with Your Excellency to build a community of shared future which ushered a new era in our bilateral relationship. Our two countries and parties have effectively supported each other at the time of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak clearly demonstrating our spirit of a community of shared future.

The close and cordial bonds of friendship established between Chinese Communist Party and the National League for Democracy plays a pivotal role in the consolidation of bilateral relations and development of our two countries. China highly values the relationship of our two countries and two parties. I look

forward to working with Your Excellency to reinforce the political guidances in strengthening relations between the two countries and two parties, to deepen the mutual exchanges between the two ruling parties, to accelerate the pragmatic multifaceted cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiatives and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, to effectively safeguard the peace and stability along the common border, to bear fruitful results from the established China-Myanmar Community of Shared Future, and to serve the interests of our two countries and peoples.



Ms Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway sends congratulatory message to the State Counsellor

Congratulations to the National League for Democracy and Aung San Suu Kyi on winning the general elections in Myanmar. The high voter turnout shows people's commitment to the reform process. Norway expects the next government to use this mandate to achieve further democratic reform and inclusive development.

Three gates on east side of MDY Royal Wall to explore

THE Mandalay Royal Wall is impressive, with three gates on each side of the royal wall and each gate with its own name.

Three gates on the east side of the royal wall to explore are the Loon Kae Gate, the Oo Htake Gate and the Thaung Nyut Gate.

The names of the doors are recorded on a three-tiered brick crenellated wall at the left side of each entrance.

Mystic figures were buried in accordance with the traditions under the merlon of the corner of the Golden City walls.

The Loon Kae Gate, a northeastern gate, was built under the supervision of Mahar Min Hla Min Htin Kyaw. The words 'Loon Kae' were chosen to name the gate because of its auspiciousness that would be great forever.

The U Htake Gate, located in the middle of the east side of the city wall, was built under the supervision of Magway Minister Thato Mingyi Mahar Min Hla Thiha Thu. The gate was named after its location at the top of the wall.

Today it is known as the front door of the palace.

The Thaung Nyut Gate, located in the southern part of the eastern royal wall, was built under the supervision of Maha Min Hla Thiha Thu, the Mayor of Khan Pat town. The name "Thaung Nyut" was chosen, taking the auspiciousness that would conquer the whole island of Zabudipa (the whole world).

The names of the gates are to be studied for many purposes.—Nway Nadi (Myitnge)

(Translated by
Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Mandalay Royal Wall attractive to both locals and foreigners. **PHOTO: NWAY NADI (MYITNGE)**

State Counsellor chairs COVID-19 central committee meeting

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They also discussed the issuance of stay-at-home order from 21 November to 5 December and broadcast of more public entertainment programmes during this period, for the enjoyment and relaxation of the people.

The meeting also discussed the following points: a) for townships which are not in the “stay-at-home” restriction list, to permit restaurants and cafes in the “A” list to reopen at the end of November 2020; b) for sacred pagodas and religious buildings (such as “pahtos” and “cetis”) in States/Regions which are not in the “stay-at-home” list, to allow a limited number of devotees to pay homage at these places once in the mornings and once in the afternoons on a daily basis; c)

depending on the infection spread rate of COVID-19 during the last week of November, in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area, States/Regions in townships which are not includ-

... broadcasting entertainment programmes, singing contests and “Anyeint” dances from the MRTV and other TV channels for the public during Christmas festival and international New Year Festival period ...

ed in the “stay-at-home” list to allow not more than 30 devotees to observe Sabbath and perform prayer gatherings four times a month at monasteries, mosques and churches and to enable devotees to pay homage at pagodas and religious buildings (such as

“pathos” and “cetis”); to make advance preparations as needed; d) to make advance preparations for immediately re-imposing former restrictions depending on the in-

fection spread rate of COVID-19; e) for Christmas which falls on 25 December and international New Year festival which falls on 31 December, to allow congregations of not more than 50 persons at churches; f) not to allow carol singing during the Christmas

season but to allow singing of Christmas hymns only at churches and to draw up health standards and guidelines in coordination with relevant departments; g) broadcasting entertainment programmes, singing contests and “Anyeint” dances from the MRTV and other TV channels for the public during Christmas festival and international New Year Festival period for the entertainment and enjoyment of the people.

The discussions also touched on matters relating to resuming automobile registration services, relaxing the Stay-at-Home orders in the townships depending on the situation of COVID-19, resumption of domestic flights, and allowing visits to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other re-

gions and states; those who have to travel to these places need to have themselves tested at the health departments; they would be permitted to travel if they are tested negative; they are to show their “negative” health certificate at the respective inspection gates; to allow them to proceed on their journey without the need for further health tests or quarantine.

The State Counsellor gave necessary decisions and guidelines after which the meeting was concluded in the afternoon.

It is learnt that short and long-term plans for the economic development of the country, including plans for recovering from the economic impacts of COVID-19, will be issued this week.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoC discusses freight transport, mushroom cultivation

THE Ministry of Commerce virtually held a coordination meeting on freight transport for winter vegetables, and seeds and production techniques for mushroom farming yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Than Myint highlighted some of the difficulties of restaurants and shops in freight transport due to the COVID-19 restrictions, plans to overcome the economic impacts of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, quick access to agrochemicals and fertilizers, some hardships of melon farmers due to the restrictions at China border, suggestions that the farmers need to grow other plants and participations of the relevant departments and organizations to facilitate the logistic woes.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation then discussed the restrictions in the logistic sector during COVID-19 outbreak, better criteria and procedures, loans of Cooperative to provide the mushroom farming and the arrangements of the ministry including training to develop the mushroom cultivation.

Deputy Minister for Commerce talked about the further discussion to enhance the land trade with China and Thailand despite restrictions, the establishment of Cold Storage, Packing House and Logistic Commodity Exchange Centre to ease the trade flows, robust relations between economic attache's and traders and creating markets for the mushroom which is being



MoC holds virtual coordination meeting on freight transport, mushroom farming on 17 November PHOTO: MNA

cultivated mostly in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

The meeting was attended

by the Permanent Secretary, the Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General of the Ministry of

Commerce and other departmental personnels.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

38th AMEM and associated meetings hosted by Viet Nam

THE 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and Associated Meetings have been hosted by Viet Nam from 17-20 November via videoconferencing.

Myanmar’s delegation led by Ministry of Electricity and Energy Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw participated in the first-day meeting programme “SOME Preparatory Meeting for the 38th AMEM” via videoconferencing from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and Associated Meetings have been

held for four days. On 17 and 18 November, ASEAN senior energy officials have participated in the preparatory meeting for the 38th AMEM.

On 19 and 20 November, the AMEM and other associated meetings including the 14th EAS-EMM, the 17th ASEAN Plus Three (Japan-China-Republic of Korea) Summit, the 6th AM-EM-IEA, the 4th AMEM-IRENA and the 2020 ASEAN Energy Business Forum will be held.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



MoEE Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw joins in the SOME Preparatory Meeting for the 38th AMEM” via videoconferencing on 17 November. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 266/2020

3rd Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1382 ME
(17 November 2020)

Announcement on the final list of elected Hluttaw representatives in 2020 Multiparty General Election

1. The Union Election Commission organized the multiparty democracy general elections on 8 November 2020 in 315 constituencies for Pyithu Hluttaw, 161 constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw, 612 constituencies for Region/State Hluttaw and 29 constituencies for Region/State Hluttaw for ethnics, totalling in 1,117 constituencies.
2. Election sub-commissions from regions and states have approved the elected Hluttaw representatives in respective constituencies, and the Union Election Commission has published a total of 59 announcements in the numbers from 206/2020 to 264/2020 from 9-11-2020 to 15-11-2020.
3. The following table is the final list of elected Hluttaw representatives of political parties/individuals in 2020 Multiparty Democracy General Election.

Sr	Party Names/Individual	Pyithu Hluttaw	Amyotha Hluttaw	Region/State Hluttaw	Ethnic National	Total
1.	National League for Democracy	258	138	501	23	920
2.	Union Solidarity and Development Party	26	7	38	-	71
3.	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy	13	2	27	-	42
4.	Arakan National Party	4	4	7	-	15
5.	Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party	3	2	7	-	12
6.	Mon Unity Party	2	3	6	1	12
7.	Pa-O National Organization Party	3	1	7	-	11
8.	Kayah State Democratic Party	2	3	3	-	8
9.	Kachin State People's Party	1	-	3	-	4
10.	Arakan Front Party	1	-	2	-	3
11.	Wa National Party	1	-	2	-	3
12.	Lahu National Development Party	-	-	1	1	2
13.	Zomi Congress for Democracy Party	1	-	1	-	2
14.	Lisu National Development Party	-	-	1	1	2
15.	New Democracy Party (Kachin)	-	1	1	-	2
16.	Kayan National Party	-	-	-	1	1
17.	Kayin People's Party	-	-	1	-	1
18.	Shan Nationalities Democratic Party	-	-	1	-	1
19.	Chin National League for Democracy	-	-	1	-	1
20.	Individuals	-	-	2	2	4
	Total	315	161	612	29	1,117

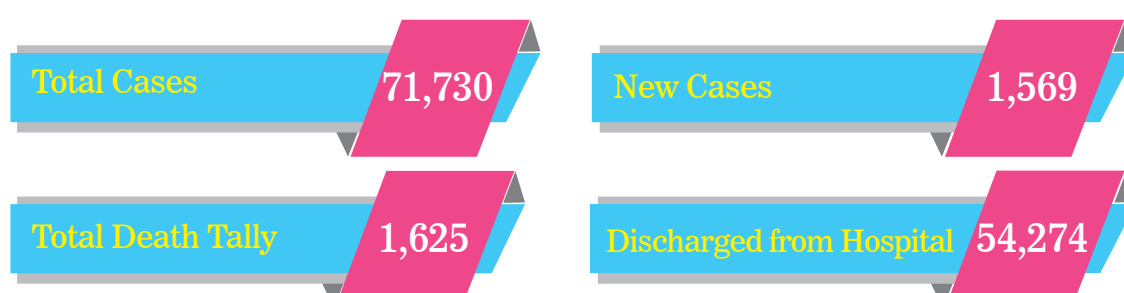
4. Therefore, 1,113 Hluttaw representatives who represent 19 political parties and 4 individual representatives in the above-mentioned paragraph 3 have been approved as the elected Hluttaw representatives in 2020 Multiparty Democracy General Election.

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

1,569 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 November, total figure rises to **71,730**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **71,730** after **1,569** new cases were reported on 17 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **71,730** confirmed cases, **1,625** died, **54,274** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 17 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 17-11-2020

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Ministry of Health and Sports

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 40/2020
2nd Waxing of Tazaungmon 1382 ME
(16 November 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 14 November 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Ma Khin Maw Oo who lives in Kyat Paung Chan ward, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 11 November 2020, police searched the house of Ma Khin Maw Oo, 36, daughter of U Kyaw Min, who lives in Kyat Paung Chan ward, Myitkyina Township, and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Myitkyina) MaYa (Pa) 173/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of people in Myothitgyi Kwat Thit ward, Myitkyina Township in Kachin State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 12 November 2020, police arrested Pho Tun, 50, son of U Kar Sin, who lives in Myothitgyi ward, Myitkyina Township together with heroin, on the ward road. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Myitkyina) MaYa (Pa) 174/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to the further investigation, police searched the house of Zaw Chan, 52, son of U Zaw Lae, who lives in the same ward and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Myitkyina) MaYa (Pa) 175/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of people in Abit-Khalae Dagondaing village road in Mudon Township, Mon State, selling, using and distributing.	In recent weeks, 22 cases have been identified and 37 male suspects have been charged with possession of illegal drugs. On 12 November 2020, according to a series of previous arrests, police stopped the motorbike ridden by Kaung Htet Lin, 21, son of U Ye Lin Htoo, who lives in Mandalay ward in Mawlamyine Township and Aye Min Khine, 31, son of U Aye Naing, who lives in Dine Won Kwin ward and arrested them together with WY stimulant tablets, on the Abit-Khalae Dagondaing village road. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwet) MaYa (Pa) 53/2020 under the Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also arrested Htet Myat Soe, 24, son of U Thet Min Htun, who lives in Myoma (1) ward in Mudon Township and Sitt Paing Hmu, 16, son of U Aung Naing, who lives in the same ward together with 11 WY stimulant tablets, on the same road. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwet) MaYa (Pa) 54/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

4	Information received of Nyi Htwe and Ma Nge who lives in Sin Ku Lann ward in Sittway, Rakhine State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 13 November 2020, police searched the house of Nyi Htwe (a) Haw Si, 38, son of U Aung Thein, who lives in Southern Lanmadaw ward and his wife Ma Nge (a) Ma Khin Aye, 46, daughter of U Tun Aung Phyu and arrested them along with Saw Than, 53, son of U Bwar Zan, who lives in Sin Ku Lann ward, Kyan Chaung Chen, 36, son of U Kyan Kwan Chen, San Win Aung, 38, son of U Shwe Tun Aung, who lives in Kyaung Gyi Lann ward and Ma Khine, 20, daughter of U Than Maung, who lives in Pauktaw township, together with WY/R stimulant tablets, heroin and marijuana. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Sittway) MaYa (Pa) 7/2020 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Kayin who lives in ward (1) of Thingangyun Township in Yangon Region, selling, using and distributing illegal drugs.	On 12 November 2020, police arrested Kayin (a) Than Lwin Oo, 42, son of U Sein Win who lives in ward (1) of Thingangyun Township, together with WY stimulant tablets at Commet Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Mingala Taungnyunt) MaYa (Pa) 39/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Kayin (a) Min Khant who lives in Taungni Village in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South), selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 13 November, 2020, police searched the house of Kayin (a) Min Khant, 30, son of U Aung San Tin, who lives in Taungni village in Taunggyi Township and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Nyaungshwe) MaYa (Pa) 48/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,407 cases have been opened files as of 14 November 2020. A total of 2,152 people, including 1,792 men and 360 women had been arrested with 10,829.9904 g of heroin, 1,489.42 g of ICE, 47,934.17886 g of opium, 1,407.96 g of low-quality opium, 54,901.74 g of speciosa powder, 54,597.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 685,471 stimulant tablets, 14881.88 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 640.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 28 firearms, different kinds of 669 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts:

Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

3 civilians killed, 6 injured when civilian vehicle hit landmine laid by ARSA

Three civilians were killed and six others injured when a civilian vehicle driving from Thayagon Village to Maungtaw Town, Rakhine State, hit a landmine in an area between Leikya Intersection and Htanchaung Bridge yesterday afternoon, according to Myanmar Police Force.

Around 1 pm on 17 November, the civilian vehicle driven by Kyaw Ye Aung and carrying eight Rakhine

ethnic people hit the landmine laid by the ARSA terrorist group. The car was flung about 50 feet away from the right side of the road, and a pit of about 7 feet deep and about 15 feet in circumference was formed in the middle of the road. A driver (man), a woman and a child were killed, and six others (a man, a woman and four children) were injured. The dead persons and the injured were taken to Maungtaw

Township Hospital.

The ARSA terrorist group has been committing terrorist acts on civilian vehicles and the residents on major public roads in northern Rakhine State. So, the authorities will take actions against them in accordance with the laws. —MNA

(Translated by
Maung Maung Swe)



20th ACCSM, 5th ACCSM Plus Three meetings held via videoconferencing

THE Senior Officials of Civil Service for the 20th ACCSM and the Senior Officials Meeting for the 5th ACCSM Plus Three or-



Director-General U Aung Tin Soe attends the ACCSM & related meetings via videoconferencing on 17 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

ganized by Office of Civil Service Commission, Thailand as the 2019-2020 rotated chair of ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) have been held via videoconferencing on yesterday morning and afternoon.

U Aung Tin Soe, Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department of the Union Civil Service Board, alongside all Senior Officials of Civil Service Matters from ASEAN Member States, attended these meetings. At the Opening Session, Dr Piyawat Sivarak, Deputy Secretary-General of Office of the Civil Service Commis-

sion, Thailand delivered opening remarks.

During the meetings, the Senior Officials of Civil Service discussed matters regarding the Civil Service Affairs particularly the consultations on review of ACCSM Plus Three Work Plan 2016-2020; giving suggestions and recommendations for next five years for the effective implementation based on assessing the working activities under the ACCSM Work Plan (2016-2020); adopting the progress of ACCSM deliverables achieved during the Thailand's ACCSM Chairmanship such as ACCSM Work Plan (2021-2025) and ASEAN Plus

Three Work Plan (2021-2025); considering on confirmed decisions from ACCSM sector and other relevant decisions from sectoral bodies' meetings and ASEAN Summits; and Preparation of the 5th ACCSM Plus Three Heads of Civil Service Meeting which will be held on 18 November 2020.

As the incoming 21st ACCSM chair is assigned to Vietnam, the Senior Official from Vietnam ACCSM has discussed about its preparation on its Chairmanship and related activities including the proposed theme, calendar of activities and venue. — MNA

5 new tour destinations promoted in Bagan-NyaungU

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan Branch) is working hard to reopen the tourist destinations as part of the government's tourism recovery plan in the post-COVID-19 period and it also makes efforts to designate new tour destinations for the travellers to Bagan ancient cultural zone in addition to Bagan-NyaungU cultural zone. The following are the five new tourist destinations where can be reached via Bagan.

(1) Kyauk Yay Kan

It is about 1 mile 7 furlongs from NyaungU to Tu Yin Taung. It is just a trekking tour which lasts about 30 minutes from a monastery located on Tu Yin Taung. It is convenient for those like trekking. Kyauk Yay Kan is 80 ft in length, 80 ft in width and about 30 ft in depth and it is a strange lake of Tu Yin Taung. There is Mya Kan in the west and ancient Bagan pagodas, Ayeyawady river and Tant Kyi Taung in the north-west of Kyauk Yay Kan. These places are the new tour sites which garner the interest of local and foreign tourists most.



NyaungU children with traditional topknot hairstyle. **PHOTO: PE LAIN (BAGAN)**

(2) Zee O Village

Zee O Village is located at 25°30'N latitude and 95°12' 15'E longitude and about 13 miles from NyaungU. The travellers can see the Sal trees (0.13 square mile) and purified wood conserved by the Forest Department. There is also about 900-year-old tamarind tree and iron furnace of 1st century in the village. The site can be supposed as a place for nature-based tourism.

(3) Set Set Yo Village

The village is about 2 miles from NaungU and located at 21°06'N latitude and 95°08' 04'E longitude. It can be reached via Byatta Pansat Road. The village conserves its ancient living styles, and the boys and girls adopt their coiffures like 'yaung pay soo', the traditional topknot style with a circular fringe until they attend the university. The village operates toddy climbing businesses and boasts of strange living styles. So, it is a must-see place for local and foreign photographers.

(4) Popa Taung (Mount Popa)

The Popa Taung is about 30

miles from Bagan-NyaungU and it is a 3 miles 6 furlongs trekking tour. It has about 120 monkeys out of 3 species of endangered Dust Leaf Monkey (Presbytis obscura) which inhabit at Nwar La Boh Taung, Say Kwin Taung and Mhan Pya Taung. So, it is a nice tour destination with full of nature of Popa Taung, rare birds, animals, orchids, flowers and herbs.

(5) Kyauk Myat Maw Pagoda

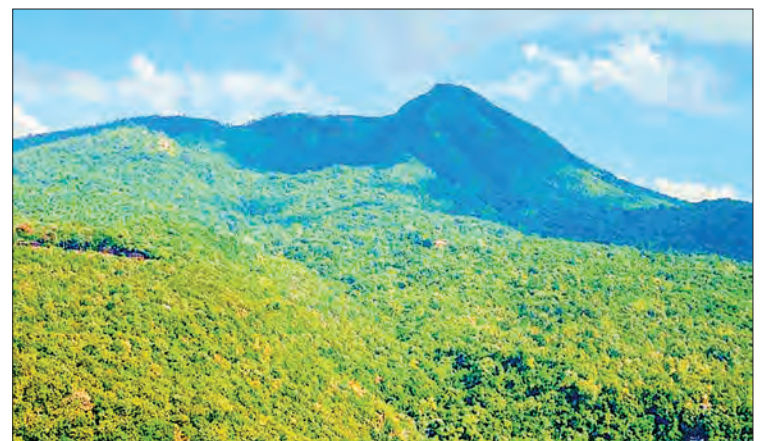
The Kyauk Myat Maw pagoda is located beside the Ayeyawady riverbank in the southern part of Myin Ka Bar village near the Soe Myin Gyi pagoda. The pagoda is in two-level structure on the same plinth, and the inner part bears octagonal structure with artworks of the Pyu era. The outside and inner parts of the pagoda are separated with pillars which are about 3 ft in width. According to the archaeologists, the pagoda was constructed at about 12-13 century AD. This site also attracts the interest of tourists with its stunning views of the sunset at Ayeyawady river and iconic views of Tant Kyi Taung. —Pe Lain (Bagan) (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



A 900-year-old tamarind tree in Zee O Village. **PHOTO: PE LAIN (BAGAN)**



Kyauk Myat Maw (a two-level stupa) Pagoda. **PHOTO: PE LAIN (BAGAN)**



Mount Popa is seen from far. **PHOTO: PE LAIN (BAGAN)**



Bird-eye view of Stone Lake (Kyauk Yay Kan). **PHOTO: PE LAIN (BAGAN)**

Myanmar Script Fund (MSF) 5th edition to take place online from 24 Nov to 9 Dec

Aimed at training and showcasing the country's next generation of filmmakers, and Myanmar Script Fund will take place exclusively online, with coaching and project presentation sessions with international film industry professionals.

"After 4 editions, MSF is clearly bearing fruit, as evidenced by several selections and prizes awarded to Myanmar film projects at international markets and festivals: it is crucial that this now well-established MSF program is not interrupted in order to maintain the momentum it has created and which is having a positive impact on Myanmar's film industry" declare Daw Swe Zin Htaik, actress, producer and faithful patron of MEMORY Festival.

Key international organizations of film industry have responded positively and will participate such as Cannes Festival Cinéfondation (France), Locarno Festival Open Doors (Switzerland), Rotterdam Festival Hubert Bals Fund (Netherlands), Cannes



Opening Ceremony of MEMORY! International Film Festival at the Waziya Theatre in Yangon, Myanmar on Nov 15, 2019: . In presence of the 2 patrons of MEMORY!, Isabelle Huppert (France) and Grace Swe Zin Htaik (Myanmar), alongside the prestigious Guests of Honour from Myanmar and abroad, including the MSF Jury. **PHOTO: CHRISTINE TAMALET/MEMORY**

Festival Semaine de la Critique (France), Ties That Bind (European consortium), CNC French Film Commission (France), Autumn Meetings (Vietnam), Busan Festival Asian Project Market (Korea), LIM Groupe Ouest

(France), La Fabrique Cinéma (France). "This year, everyone stays at home, but the world is coming to Myanmar" declare Séverine Wemaere, co-head of Myanmar Script Fund.

MSF 2020 will include 2 dif-

ferent sections; MSF Original for new projects and MSF Advanced for MSF Alumni. Both sections are selective through an online application, which started several weeks ago. The finalists of each section will be announced on No-

vember 23. Myanmar Script Fund is operated by MEMORY Cinema. MSF acts as a talent scouting for independent cinema in Myanmar. Since 2016, more than 70 talents have been trained, representing about 30 feature film projects. Beyond the competition, all finalists are then eligible for a customized follow-up, notably for future applications to international platforms that are crucial for the development of a film project.

The MSF programme is supported by the Union Ministry of Information of Myanmar, the French Embassy, the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), The European Union Delegation in Myanmar, CNC (Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée), Arte, the US Embassy, the Locarno Festival-Open Doors and Forever Group.

The event can be enjoyed on <https://www.facebook.com/memoryfilmfestivalyangon/>.—Christine Tamalet/MEMORY

Putao locals earn extra income from hunting bestselling rock-bugs

THERE are more and more people looking for rock-bug this year in Kachin State. Since the demand for this locally known 'Kyaukyapo' insect is high with a good price, some people are even leaving their jobs to hunt the bug at night, according to local people.

"Last year, the price was around 8,000 kyats to 10,000 kyats for a tin of the bug. This year, the local price is around 6,000 kyats. But people go for bug searching

to get extra income for the family. Some search with their family, as for us, almost everyone in the village searches the bug," said Ko Adiyio from Rigyawdi Village.

A genus of Kyaukyapo insects found only from November to March in Putao has two types as in small and large species this year. For the large one, the price is up to 50,000 kyats per viss whereas, for the small one, the price is up to 90,000 kyats per viss.



Rock-bug hunters are seen in a creek near Putao. **PHOTO: SANN NYUT (PUTAO)**



Rock-bugs are collected before sending to the market. **PHOTO: SANN NYUT (PUTAO)**

"Kyaukyapo hunters are booming along the Mula Creek, as the family earns a living and earns more than a day's wages in the evening. They don't need to go and sell because the buyers come and buy the bug at their homes," said Ma Archi, a Kyaukyapo hunter, herself.

"There are many collectors here because China is buying the insect. If one condensed-milk-tin-size can of the bug is 6,500 kyats, some family can

get two or three cans in a short period of time, so that they can earn about 15,000 kyats to 20,000 kyats a night. Some people leave their farming jobs and go for the bug hunting since the daily wage for farming is only 4,000 kyats at present, so the bug hunting is an opportunity for the family to earn a living." she added.

According to residents, China buys the rock-bug to use in medicine. In Putao, the price was only 200 kyats per tin five

years ago, but after 2018, it was more than 5,000 kyats per tin and now it is 6,500 kyats. This year, more and more people are going for the rock-bug hunting in Putao. These bugs are found in creeks, and creeks that are less accessible to people and it can be caught by a mosquito net, sieve and long sticks.—Sann Nyut (Putao)

(Translated by
Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Public participation is key to lessening govt's health burdens

DUE to some crowds celebrating the 8 November elections results without social distancing, the number of coronavirus positive cases is expected to rise next week.

Following the 8 November general elections, there were some crowds celebrating the results of the elections without following the social distancing regulations.

This negligence in following the health guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports could lead to a rise in the number of positive cases next week.

With the ongoing surge in coronavirus cases during the second wave of the fast-spreading virus, reaching over 71,700 cases and over 1,625 deaths yesterday, the demand for public cooperation is becoming greater day by day.

Deaths at the nation's hospitals have shown that many patients infected with COVID-19 arrived too late when seeking care. Too often, they were only taken to hospitals after their conditions became serious, and after they received medications at home, while under their own care.

Hence, the public is urged not to be anxious about seeking help at hospitals, as hospitals are specially equipped with necessary machines and supplied with medicines to treat COVID-19 patients. Also, one person would be allowed to stay with a patient at the hospital, if a patient's health condition is serious.

Meanwhile, we would like to remind the people that anyone violating the Health and Sports Ministry's order which has banned the gathering of 30 or more people since 6th August, 2020 would face legal punishment, as set out in the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

This limitation is difficult, but it is necessary to prevent the spread of the coronavirus across our country.

The fight against coronavirus stands or falls on whether the people follow the health guidelines. It is the duty of good citizens to follow the directives of the health authorities.

Abiding by the COVID-19 health guidelines is a civic duty to ensure that our country successfully controls the pandemic in order to get our economy back on track to save jobs and lives.



WHO CAUTIOUS DESPITE COVID VACCINE HOPES

No time for complacency as COVID-19 cases surge: WHO chief

Despite encouraging news about COVID-19 vaccines and cautious optimism over potential new tools against the disease, "this is not the time for complacency," the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Monday during his latest press briefing in Geneva.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the UN agency is "extremely concerned" by the surge in cases in some countries, particularly in Europe and the Americas, which is pushing health workers and health systems to breaking point.

"In this moment when some governments have put all of society restrictions in place, there is once again a narrow window of time to strengthen key systems," he told journalists.

'Playing with fire'

WHO and its partners are working with national authorities, to ensure health workers who fall ill will receive proper coverage and that health systems will be ready when safe and effective vaccines are rolled out.

Tedros again highlighted the actions that have helped to prevent COVID-19 spread, such as contact tracing and cluster investigations, noting that countries which have invested in these areas are facing much less disruption.

"Those countries that are letting the virus run unchecked are playing with fire," he stated

The WHO chief stressed the need for greater action to support health workers but also to keep schools open, protect the vulnerable and safeguard the economy.

"From calling up students, volunteers and even national guards to support the health response in times of crisis, to putting strict measures in place that allow pressure to be removed from the health system. There is no excuse for inaction. My message is very clear: act fast, act now, act decisively," he said

Encouraging but cautious

Although welcoming the latest news on COVID-19 vaccines, WHO is awaiting further data on these potential treatments.

Biotech company Moderna announced on Monday that its experimental vaccine has shown a nearly 95 per cent efficacy rate, according to interim results.

This follows a recent similar announcement by pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech.



Samples are tested by scientists at Oxford University's Jenner Institute as the development of a vaccine against the coronavirus continues. PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD/JOHN CAIRNS

Responding to a journalist's question, WHO Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan called the development "quite encouraging", while also expressing caution.

"Of course we need to wait and see what the final efficacy and the safety profile of this vaccine will be when the whole data is analyzed after they reach their primary endpoint, and also have enough follow-up of at least two months of

half the trial participants for the side effects. And that will then be submitted to the regulatory agencies", she said.

Ensuring equitable access

The Moderna vaccine is among nine candidates in the COVAX Facility: a global initiative for equitable vaccine access led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness

Innovations (CEPI), and WHO.

More than 170 countries have joined the Facility, including some 92 low and middle income nations.

Discussions with several vaccine manufacturers from across the world is ongoing, said Dr Swaminathan, who explained other considerations for procurement besides efficacy and safety.

"There is an independent prioritization group that is being

set up that will look at the dossiers, that will look at the data, that manufacturers are submitting," she told the briefing.

"Then there are the cost considerations as well. There is the affordability, and then there are practical considerations like the need for cold storage, the number of doses of vaccine that will be required, the number of doses that may be available early in 2021."

Limited supplies

Dr Swaminathan expressed hope that results from other vaccine trials currently underway will be released in the coming weeks.

She underscored the need for the COVAX Facility to have the widest possible selection of vaccine candidates as some will be more applicable in certain situations, or among sub-groups such as the elderly, for example.

"I think we're looking at at least the first half of next year; as being a period of very, very limited doses", she said.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

THE MODERNA VACCINE REDUCED THE RISK OF COVID-19 INFECTION BY 94.5%

In new breakthrough, Moderna's Covid vaccine nearly 95% effective

US biotech firm Moderna on Monday announced its experimental vaccine against Covid-19 was almost 95 percent effective, a result hailed by the country's top infectious disease scientist as "stunningly impressive."

MODERNA'S early results from a clinical trial with more than 30,000 participants marks a second major breakthrough in the quest to end the pandemic.

Last week, American pharmaceutical company Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech said their vaccine was 90 per cent effective.

Both frontrunners are based on new technology that uses synthetic versions of molecules called "messenger RNA" to hack into human cells, and effectively turn them into vaccine-making factories.

"The idea that we have a 94.5 per cent effective vaccine is stunningly impressive," Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, which co-developed the vaccine, told AFP.

"It is really a spectacular result that I don't think anybody had



Documents from the Moderna Research Centre of America, in Hollywood, Florida, on August 13, 2020. PHOTO: CHANDAN KHANNA/ AFP

anticipated would be this good."

"Today's news of a second vaccine is further reason to feel hopeful," tweeted President-elect

Joe Biden, but he cautioned that its widespread distribution was months away.

"Until then, Americans need

to continue to practise social-distancing and mask-wearing to get the virus under control," he said.

Moderna plans to submit ap-

plications for emergency approval around the world within weeks, and says it expects to have approximately 20 million doses ready to ship in the US by the end of the year.

The company, which has received \$2 billion from the US government under "Operation Warp Speed," added it is on track to manufacture between 500 million to a billion doses globally in 2021.

Global infections from Covid-19 have soared past 54 million with more than 1.3 million deaths since the virus emerged in China late last year.

Beginning of the end?

Moncef Slaoui, who leads Operation Warp Speed, told MSNBC he hoped the two vaccines would be approved "somewhere towards in the first half of December," with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine the next on the horizon early next year.

The Moderna vaccine is given in two doses 28 days apart, and the preliminary results are based on the 95 of the 30,000 volunteers who fell ill with Covid-19.

Of the 95, 90 had been in the trial's placebo group, and five in the group that received the drug, called mRNA-1273, translating to an efficacy rate of 94.5 per cent.

There were 11 people who fell severely ill, all of whom were in the placebo group.

A small fraction of people experienced severe symptoms such as fatigue, muscle and joint pains, or redness at the injection site, but these side-effects were short lasting.

Fauci said the next major step was convincing enough people to take the vaccine, particularly in the United States, where anti-vaccine sentiment runs high.

SOURCE: AFP

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World Children's Day
"ကလေးအားလုံးရဲ့ အနာဂတ်လှပဖို့ စိတ်ကူပံ့ပိုးဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့"
"A Day to Reimagine a Better Future for Every Child"
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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 17 November, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 18 November, 2020: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Eastern Shan States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and (Northern and Southern)Shan, Chin, Kayin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 November, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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

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Myanmar-Saemaul Geumgo conducts online training course on village treasury project

THE Myanmar- Saemaul Geumgo opened a three-day online training course on the village treasury project from the training room of the Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Centre in Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw on 16 November.

At the opening ceremony, the speech of Mr Park Cha Hoon, the chairman of Saemaul Geumgo from the Republic of Korea, was screened on a videoclip and Deputy Director-General U Thura Soe delivered an opening remark.

Under the Village Saving System Project jointly conducted by the Department of Agriculture in Myanmar and the Saemaul Geumgo from the Republic of Korea, a total of 34 treasuries have been set up in the villages included in

Myanmar- Saemaul Geumgo Project.

Families in this project could save their extra money by reducing unnecessary cost at the village treasuries, and the treasury committees would manage their savings in giving out loans for the capital of businesses in the respective villages. The interests are shared to the members of treasury or rural development projects.

The village treasury course has been conducted for one times in 2018 and two times in 2019, and it was attended by 190 village leaders and 62 agricultural staff members.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

YBS resumes over half of its fleet in Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 50 per cent of YBS buses are currently operating in Yangon region starting from the first week of November, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"Commencing from the first week of November, our YBS buses are operating 43 per cent in minimum and 56 per cent in maximum. We are worried about crowded buses. The bus lines are instructed to make the drivers and the passengers wear masks, and use hand gel. Although we have difficulty in social distancing, we are trying to arrange for mask-wearing and use of hand gel," he added.

In such a pandemic period like this, YBS operates more than 2,700 buses from 106 bus lines, providing service for over 400,000 passengers in Yangon Region. Before the outbreak of COV-



YBS buses are currently operating in Yangon region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ID-19, more than 4,500 YBS buses were running in Yangon region with 135 routes carrying approximately 1.8 million commuters, according to YRTA.

Besides, the number of passengers using the YBS

buses is a minimum of 12 per cent and a maximum of 26 per cent, compared to the previous percentage, he added.

The number of commuters onboard the buses had dropped after authorities had

declared the stay-at-home announcement in 44 townships in Yangon except for Cocogyun township when the COVID-19 second wave started.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Orange price in Shan South drops double amid COVID pandemic

THE price of orange produced from Shan State (South) has dropped double this year, compared to that of last year as a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak, according to the local farmers.

The truckloads of fruits are not easy to transport daily in such a pandemic period like this. So, the truck fares have hiked double. There is also less number of travellers who reached

the region, according to the local farmers.

"The oranges from Shan State (South) do not reach the market because the trucks could not leave the state without permission. The truck charges are also doubled. The traders also demand the fruits at a low price because of rising truck fares. Now, we are sending the oranges to Aungban at a lower price caused by declining demand.

We are facing difficulty to hire the trucks, said a local orange grower.

Last year, the price of big oranges was K2,000 per viss while a small one got K1,000 per viss. This year, the big oranges fetched K800 per viss while the small ones are sold for K400 per viss.

With the low price of orange this year, the local growers are selling the fruits by themselves

on the roadsides. However, they could not get much profit because there is less number of travellers in this period.

The oranges are grown mostly in Yegu village, Thitpingyi village and Htee Young village in Pinlaung township. Last year, the oranges from Pinlaung township were sent to Yangon, Mandalay, Aungban and Loikaw.—Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Yangon gold merchants seek large-scale trading permit

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) will exert its effort in seeking large-scale gold selling and buying permit with the local investments, said YGEA Chairperson U Myo Myint.

“We want to link with global gold trading hubs. We want to get into global gold trading. That is

why we will again seek the gold trading permit for a large scale,” he added.

At present, trading worth above K200 million is considered as the large-sale trading in the domestic market. In contrast, middle-scale trading covers above K100 million and small-scale is meant for trading valued around K50 million.

“YGEA’s trading value

stands at above K200 million, with selling at least two visses of gold (a viss equals to 1.6 kg). Consequently, we are applying for the large-scale investment permit,” he highlighted.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation on 12 November responded to the YGEA upon its proposal for large-scale gold selling and buying. The associ-

ation forwarded its request at the work coordination meeting virtually held on 15 October.

“The permit or licence by Myanmar Investment Commission or Yangon City Development Committee is a must in gold trading at the One-Stop Service Centre for exports. It is not the regular business licence type. As per the rule 51 of Myanmar Mines Law, seeking

large-scale selling and buying permit with local investment is required the approval of the Department of Mines. Yet, the department has notified them of the temporary suspension on that,” the YGEA chair explained.

Thus, YGEA will reapply for the permit in the post-COVID-19 era.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar exports over 160,000 tonnes of rice as of 6 November

THE volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 6 November in the current financial year 2020-2021 reached 163,413 metric tons, worth over US\$60.67 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Maritime trade constitutes 54.9 per cent of rice exports, generating \$33 million from over 89,764 tonnes of rice, while border trade accounts for around 45 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the land border have generated an estimated income of \$27.55 million from over 73,649 tonnes of rice.

Myanmar’s rice is shipped to 26 foreign countries in October 2020. MRF expected to ship 2.4 million tonnes of rice, and broken rice in the last FY ended 30 September 2020. The country sur-

passed the export target, sending over 426,611 metric tons to neighbouring countries through border trade and over 2.15 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners via maritime trade, totalling over 2.58 million tonnes.

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

Myanmar targets to export 4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the current financial year 2020-2021, said U Aung Than Oo, vice president of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the FY2017-2018, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.3 million tonnes, in the FY2018-2019. —Ko Khant
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Workers load sacks of rice onto a truck in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Watermelon trucks stranded at Myanmar-China border

TIGHT security measures at Kyin San Kyawt and Mang Weing checkpoints on Myanmar-China

border have resulted in a slow-down in the entry/exit process and a hundred of trucks queu-

ing up at the checkpoint, fruit traders said.

During the previous weeks,

around 100 trucks of watermelons and muskmelons could pass through Kyin San Kyawt border checkpoint. The inspection at China’s checkpoint takes longer for drivers beginning from 16 November, and only 50 trucks can enter border crossing. If around 200 watermelon/muskmelon trucks enter the Muse land border, the traffic congestion will worsen. Muse depot traffic control is monitoring the trucks at its upmost, said the owner of Khwar Nyo Fruit Depot.

The prices of watermelon move in the range of 4,500-6,000 Yuan per tonne on 17 November, while muskmelon is priced 4,000-5,800 Yuan per tonne.

The COVID-19 resurgence in Myanmar directly affected the border trade, and some truck

drivers have 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.

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

Myanmar exports more than 800,000 tonnes of watermelons and 150,000 tonnes of muskmelons every year. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Watermelon are seen ready to export to China. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

TESTING AND ISOLATING

Over 2,000 migrants cleared from Paris camp amid Covid fears

FRENCH police on Tuesday cleared a migrant street camp outside the Stade de France stadium north of Paris where around 2,000 people, mainly Afghan and African, had been living in cramped tents.

Dozens of police were deployed to carry out the operation, which took place in the midst of a nationwide coronavirus lockdown.

The occupants of the camp, which had mushroomed in size in recent weeks, were taken by bus to Covid-19 testing centres.

Those who tested positive were to be placed in isolation while those who tested negative were to be taken to various shelters and sports halls around the French capital.

Paris is a key stop-off point on the European migrant route, with tented camps repeatedly sprouting up around the city only to be torn down by the police a few months later.



Dozens of police were deployed for the operation. **PHOTO: AFP**

Over the past year, migrants have decamped to the suburbs to try avoid being moved on by the police.

During the first anti-Covid lockdown in March-April, a smaller camp housing around 700 migrants was cleared in the

suburb of Aubervilliers, also close to the Stade de France.

SOURCE: AFP

UPSETTING FIGURES

Almost 90,000 sexual abuse claims expected against US Boy Scouts

ALMOST 90,000 victims of sexual abuse that took place in the

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) had come forward by Monday

evening, the deadline to receive compensation from the organization, a lawyer for the victims told AFP.

Attorney Michael Pfau said that there had been "88,000 claims filed to date. It will probably be 100,000 by day's end."

The figure, revealing the scale of alleged abuse committed over decades by scout leaders, dwarfs the roughly 11,000 complaints believed to have been filed in recent years against the Catholic Church.

"We are devastated by the number of lives impacted by past abuse in scouting and moved by the bravery of those who have come forward," the scouting organization said in a statement.

"We are heartbroken that we cannot undo their pain.

"We intentionally developed an open, accessible process to reach survivors and help them take an essential step toward receiving compensation. The response we have seen from survivors has been gut wrenching. We are deeply sorry," the BSA added.

The group, founded in 1910, has 2.2 million members between the ages of five and 21.

Rocked by accusations of sexual abuse, the BSA filed for bankruptcy in February in an effort to block settlement claims from hitting the organization directly and instead funneled them to a compensation fund.

SOURCE: AFP



Revelations of misconduct in the Boy Scouts of America came to widespread attention in 2012 when the Los Angeles Times published internal documents spelling out details of decades of sexual abuse. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE BIGGEST ART HEIST IN MODERN HISTORY

Three arrested over spectacular Dresden museum jewellery heist

GERMAN police on Tuesday arrested three suspects over a spectacular heist a year ago in which more than a dozen diamond-encrusted items were snatched from a state museum in Dresden.

Investigators were also raiding 18 properties in Berlin, including 10 apartments as well as garages and vehicles, police and

prosecutors said in a statement.

"The measures today are focused on the search for the stolen art treasures and possible evidence, such as data storage media, clothing and tools," they said.

In what local media have described as the biggest art heist in modern history, the robbers had launched their brazen raid

on Green Vault museum in Dresden's Royal Palace on November 25, 2019.

Having initiated a partial power cut and broken in through a window, they snatched priceless 18th-century jewellery from the collection of the Saxon ruler August the Strong.

Items stolen included a sword whose hilt is encrusted

with nine large and 770 smaller diamonds, and a shoulder-piece which contains the famous 49-carat Dresden white diamond, Dresden's Royal Palace had said.

Dramatic CCTV footage released at that time showed one of the robbers breaking into a display case with an axe.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS
IN BRIEF

"YANKEE GO HOME!"

Pompeo in Turkey for fraught visit with no official talks

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo paid a fraught visit to Istanbul on Tuesday that included no official meetings and an agenda focused on religious freedoms that Ankara dismissed as "irrelevant".

Ties between Washington and its strategic NATO ally have remained tense despite a personal friendship between US President Donald Trump and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

A group of 20 to 30 Turks shouted "Yankee go home!" as the evangelical Christian Pompeo headed in for a meeting with the Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople -- the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox world -- to express his "strong position" on religious freedoms.

SOURCE: AFP

'HUNGARY FIRST'

Hungary's 'Trump before Trump' PM Orban faces US reset

HUNGARIAN Prime Minister Viktor Orban is bracing for tougher treatment from a Joe Biden-led administration in Washington after his all-in bet on a win for President Donald Trump backfired.

Orban's hardline anti-immigration policies, such as building border fences, earned him praise from the President's former advisor Steve Bannon who called him "Trump before Trump".

The only EU leader to endorse Trump's campaign during the 2016 election, Orban praised the President in 2017 for "thinking precisely as we do when he says 'America First'".

"We say the same: 'Hungary first, and then everyone else'," he said in a speech.

Orban also often called mainstream media reports "fake news", a slur popularised by Trump. He applauded his hands-off approach to Hungary compared to the previous Obama administration, which was often more critical.

SOURCE: AFP

PLEA FOR MORE AID

Biden calls for US stimulus after meeting with business leaders



President-elect Joe Biden on Monday called for a new stimulus package to help the United States recover from the damage caused by coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: ROBERTO SCHMIDT / AFP

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden on Monday called for a new stimulus package to help the United States recover from the damage caused by coronavirus pandemic.

Biden renewed his plea for more aid following a meeting with business and labor leaders to lay out his plans for the world's largest economy.

The type of massive stimulus spending only Washington lawmakers can approve is regarded as key in getting the US back on its feet after the mass layoffs and sharp downturn in growth caused by Covid-19, but Republicans

and Democrats have been unable to agree on a new package.

Biden, a Democrat who triumphed over Republican President Donald Trump in elections earlier this month, called for Congress to back a \$2.2 trillion measure approved by the Democrat-led House of Representatives.

"It has all the money and capacity to take care of each of those things now. Not tomorrow, now," Biden said in a speech in his hometown Wilmington, Delaware, the state he represented for three decades in the Senate.

But Republicans in

the Senate have refused to support a measure anywhere near that large, preferring to pass smaller bills targeted at specific needs, which Democratic leaders have rejected.

Congress in March approved the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act, which included a programme of loans and grants to aid small businesses as well as expanded payments to the workers who lost their jobs.

Those programmes were seen as crucial in helping sectors like retail sales recover from the downturn, but they expired over the summer, raising fears of a renewed slump

in economic activity.

"This is about keeping Americans afloat. Get them through this pandemic, get them through where they still — their businesses are able to come back," Biden said. "The money is there."

Two runoff elections in Georgia set for early January will decide if Democrats can take control of the Senate and give the party unified control of Congress, but Biden called for Republicans to overcome their opposition to a spending package in the weeks before the new Congress is seated.

SOURCE: AFP

EU IN CRISIS

Hungary, Poland block EU budget, virus recovery money

HUNGARY and Poland blocked approval on Monday of the EU's long-term budget and coronavirus rescue — a 1.8-trillion-euro package — and plunged the bloc into political crisis.

Warsaw and Budapest oppose tying EU funding to respect for the rule of law and their envoys vetoed any decision to proceed — effectively blocking the bloc's virus strategy.

"We have already lost a lot of time in view of the second pandemic wave and the severe economic damage," warned Ger-

man ambassador Michael Clauss, who chaired the meeting.

"It is crucial that the entire package is now adopted quickly, otherwise the EU will face a serious crisis."

Germany holds the EU's rotating presidency and wants to resolve the battle over the budget and recovery before its six months are up at the end of the year.

The matter will now be taken up by ministers from member states meeting by videoconference on Tuesday to prepare the

ground for an EU leaders' summit on Thursday.

"We will now continue our intensive consultations with all parties involved," Clauss said.

The vetoes triggered outrage in Brussels.

Manfred Weber, leader of the centre-right group in the European Parliament, declared: "If you respect the rule of law there is nothing to fear."

"Denying the whole of Europe crisis funding in the worst crisis since decades is irresponsible."

But Hungary was unrepentant.

'Political enslavement'

"Hungary has vetoed the budget," Zoltan Kovacs, a spokesman for Prime Minister Viktor Orban said, arguing that the package must reflect a deal reached in July.

"We cannot support the plan in its present form to tie rule of law criteria to budget decisions," he said.

EU leaders thought they had resolved dispute over the seven-year EU budget and associated stimulus plan at a marathon four-day-and-night summit in July.

SOURCE: AFP

A JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION

China specifies rules for copyright ownership

CHINA'S top court has issued a guideline on copyright protection, specifying the rules for claiming copyright ownership of a work.

Natural persons, legal persons and unincorporated organizations who sign their names in a work, performance or sound recording shall have the copyright ownership or ownership of the rights related to the copyright, according to the guideline issued by the Supreme People's Court.

Disputes over authorship should be solved based on factors including the nature, type and form of a work, it said.

The guideline also called for a precise defi-

inition of the type of a work according to the Copyright Law and proper handling of new types of cases, such as those involving sports game live streaming and infringement of data protection.

China's top legislature has adopted a decision to amend the Copyright Law, which rolls out tougher punishments for copyright infringement, an effort to further enhance the country's protection of intellectual property rights.

The top court has also released a judicial interpretation on civil litigation proof in cases concerning intellectual property rights.

SOURCE: XINHUA

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER No.1/2020-2021

- (1) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise Invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender in the United State Dollars.
 - (a) Cathode Copper (5000)M/T (22) Lot
 - Group (1) (1) Lot 100 Tonnes each, 5 Lot Monywa, Mine Site
 - Group (2) (1) Lot 200 Tonnes each, 10 Lot "
 - Group (3) (1) Lot 300 Tonnes each, 5 Lot "
 - Group (4) (1) Lot 500 Tonnes each, 2 Lot "
- Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the L.M.E price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
- (b) Lead Ore and other mixed 66.13 Ton Mandalay Branch, Mandalay
- (c) Lead Ore and other mixed 1.757 Ton Myeik Township, Mining (2) Store
- (2) Tender Closing Date and Time is 18th December, 2020 (14:00)hrs and Opening Tender (15:00)PM.
- (3) Tender document are available from Nay Pyi Taw, Office Building No.(19), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, the Procurement Department and Details can be asked to +95-(0)67- 3409162 within the office hours.

Tender Committee
No.(1) Mining Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0221-018N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0221-018N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

Myanmar earns nearly US\$850mln from fishery export in 2019-2020FY

By Kyaw Htike Soe

MYANMAR fetched US\$ 847.5 million from exporting over 600,000 tonnes of fisheries products during the period from 1 October 2019 to late September this financial year, an increase of some

US\$126 million from the year-ago period, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar's fisheries export was worth US\$721.865 million during the same period last year.

The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry

of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation set a record for foreign income from fishery exports over a period of ten years. The department is working closely in collaboration and coordination with foreign agencies such as FAO and JICA and other regional

and international organizations related to fisheries in order to strengthen capacity building on improving fishery statistics collection and interpretation. The department is closely working with the fish breeders, processors and exporters to ensure Myan-



Workers process fish at a seafood factory



Workers seen at a seafood processing factory in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: AYE THAN



ry on the outskirts of Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

mar marine products meet the rules and regulations of importing countries. At the same time, fishery officials are trying utmost to conserve fishery resources as well as ensure sustainable development in the country's fishery sector.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), part of the ASEAN Fisheries Federation, is trying to establish fish and prawn farming zones in cooperation with region and state governments while inviting foreign entrepreneurs to invest in the country's fishery industry. The MFF has said modern fish farms and cold-storage facilities would be built in cooperation with some foreign countries to earn about US\$3 billion from fisheries export annually. The MFF is also supporting aquaculture development in Myanmar. The MFF plans to establish fish lakes, aqua feedstuff processing factories, cold storages, and packaging factories, in cooperation with foreign companies and investors. The MFF is also seeking ways and means to explore new export markets and adopt an advanced farming system so as to boost the country's fish and prawn farming sector.

Myanmar mainly exports prawns, crabs, squid, shrimp, dried shrimp, and dried fish to its neighbouring countries through its border trade camps. The fishery sector is considered as the most important one after the agriculture sector to provide job opportunities for Myanmar people. Fish and shrimp production industry is the second prioritized business after agriculture sector in Myanmar. Myanmar's fishery sector has been the fourth largest contributor to the country's GDP, and the four largest source of foreign income in the past five years. The fishery sector employs about 3.5 million people in Myanmar, roughly 6% of the Southeast Asian country's workforce, according to a World Bank report in June 2019. There are around 248,000 acres of fish farms and 240,000 prawn farms throughout the country.

The government aims to boost the seafood sector further because it recognizes its significance for local food security, poverty alleviation and the potential contribution to foreign exchange earnings. The primary objective is to increase seafood production for domestic

consumption and to export the surplus to overseas markets. The EU and North America account for about 45 per cent of Myanmar's aquaculture exports while China and Thailand account for the remaining 55 per cent. Myanmar's fisheries products from the sea are mainly exported to Europe and Asian countries while freshwater products are exported to Arab countries. Myanmar's marine products mainly go to more than 45 countries including the European Union, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and United States.

Myanmar freighted 360,000 tonnes of fishery products worth some US\$502 million in the financial year 2015-2016FY, exported 430,000 tonnes of fishery products worth US\$605 million in 2016-2017FY, shipped 560,000 tonnes of marine products valued at US\$711 million in 2017-2018FY, and transported 580,000 tonnes of fishery products worth around US\$730 million in 2018-2019FY, according to the statistics compiled by the ministry.

Wave Money sets record breaking 1.1 million monthly active users of WavePay

WAVE Money has set a new record as WavePay application crossed

1.1 million monthly active users in October. With a remittance value reaching 8 Trillion Myanmar Kyat (US\$5.9 billion) from January to September 2020, Myanmar's leading mobile financial services provider posted an impressive daily average growth of 162% in new WavePay registrations by comparison to January 2020.

Reported in accordance with the internationally-recognized metrics of the GSM Association (GSMA), Wave Money reflects the strong market opportunity and rapid adoption of mobile money in Myanmar. "This is a very exciting milestone because it's a positive indicator not only of our performance but the health of the industry as a whole and how people are embracing digital. In line with our vision of creating a fairer future for Myanmar, we couldn't be happier knowing that mobile money is now a big part of their daily lives," said Brad Jones, CEO of Wave Money.

An active mobile money account is a mobile money account which has been used to conduct at least one transaction during a certain period of time of either 30 days or 90 days, according to GSMA, the world's largest industry organization of mobile network operators.

In its 2019 State of the Industry Report (SOTIR), GSMA noted that customers used their mobile money accounts more often and as part of their daily activities. At the end of last year, 35.8% of some 372 million accounts were active on a 90-day basis.

The gap between activity on a 30-day and 90-day basis is narrowing, the report said, with 70% of 90-day active accounts now active on a monthly basis. GSMA predicts that by 2025, the number of monthly mobile

money customer accounts would surpass 370 million, the level where 90-day accounts were at last year.

"Although COVID-19 has no doubt heightened our digital dependence this year, the digital lifestyle is definitely here to stay. Mobile money usage will continue to rapidly rise even post-pandemic as the people are enjoying the many benefits—convenient, secure and safe cash remittances, quick and easy payment, and access to a wide range financial services particularly among the unbanked. In Myanmar greater financial inclusion has changed the lives of millions, including thousands of agents nationwide," Brad Jones added.

Wave Money paid more than 62 Billion Myanmar Kyat (US\$46 million) in commissions to agents during the January to September 2020 period alone. With coverage of 89% of the country, Wave Money is the largest MFS provider and undisputed market leader. Unparalleled service and expertise, cutting-edge technology, and a strong network of more than 64,000 agents has enabled the company to maintain the trust of customers: merchants, government agencies, non-government and humanitarian organizations.

Disbursements from the government and NGO sectors represented a substantial share of the total remittance value in 2020, driven largely by COVID-19 relief funds. As of the end of September, Wave Money transferred more than 17 billion Myanmar Kyat (US\$13 million) as payment partner of governments and NGOs. It has committed to waive all service fees for the disbursement of funds to those hard-hit by the pandemic for the duration of the crisis. Since March, hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people including garment workers, civil servants, and farmers, have been digitally receiving emergency funds using WavePay.—GNLM



COVID-19: French sports stadiums to keep ban on fans until January



Fans will not be allowed to return to French stadiums to watch sporting matches before January, and then with strict crowd limits depending on a venue's size, the French presidency said Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS — Fans will not be allowed to return to French stadiums to watch sporting matches before January, and then with strict crowd limits depending on a venue's size, the French presidency said Tuesday.

A return of spectators "is not possible in December" given the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in France, which led the government to announce a new partial lockdown last month, President Emmanuel Macron

told sports officials in a conference call.

But he said youth clubs might be allowed to reopen in December if the number of new daily coronavirus cases continues to decline, as long as reinforced measures are taken to avoid contagion risks, particularly indoors, his office said.

Macron also unveiled a 100 million euro plan for next year to finance a "sports pass" encouraging young people to take up

athletic activities, for example by paying club dues or buying equipment.

The funds could prove a lifeline for amateur clubs in particular, which have been hammered by the health crisis.

Government officials have indicated they hope to ease the lockdown from next month if the health crisis eases, in particular for hospitals dealing with a surge in intensive care patients.—AFP ■

England's Henderson and Sterling out of Iceland match

LONDON — Jordan Henderson and Raheem Sterling will miss England's Nations League fixture against Iceland on Wednesday, the Football Association has announced.

Liverpool captain Henderson suffered a knock during Sunday's loss away to Belgium, while Manchester City forward Sterling has withdrawn because of a calf problem.

An FA statement issued Monday said the two players had returned to their respective clubs for further assessment.

England manager Gareth Southgate will now continue his preparations for his side's final game of the year with a 22-man squad.—AFP ■



Iceland absentee- Manchester City's Raheem Sterling will miss England's final game of 2020. **PHOTO: CLIVE BRUNSKILL POOL/ AFP**

Elneny tests positive as international break sees spike in EPL virus cases

LONDON — Arsenal and Egypt midfielder Mohamed Elneny has tested positive for Covid-19, his agent said Monday, as figures published by the Premier League showed a sharp increase in cases coinciding with the international break.

Already unpopular with Premier League clubs because of the risk of injury to key players, the mood among the likes of Arsenal's Mikel Arteta and his fellow top-flight bosses is unlikely to be improved by figures from the November 9-15 latest round of weekly tests showing the Premier League returned 16 positive coronavirus cases from 1,207 players and staff tested.

This compares with four positives from 1,646 tests during the week of November 2-8 and a previous weekly high of 10 positives.

And while players who were away on international duty at the time would not have been included in the Premier League's latest figures, there may now be concerns that the knock-on effects of players returning from long-distance trips have led to a surge in reported cases.



Covid-19 positive - Arsenal and Egypt midfielder Mohamed Elneny. **PHOTO: OZAN KOSE /AFP**

Those who tested positive will now self-isolate for 10 days.

As has long been its policy, the Premier League refused to name the clubs or individuals involved.

But Alan Nazmy, Elneny's agent, tweeted: "Elneny Positive Cov19 get well soon."

Meanwhile, the Egyptian

Football Association confirmed in a Facebook post that Elneny was isolating in line with medical protocols.

His Covid-19 result came just three days after it was announced that Liverpool's Mohamed Salah had also tested positive while on international duty with Egypt.—AFP ■

Djokovic off to a flying start at ATP Finals as Medvedev battles past Zverev

LONDON — Novak Djokovic produced a masterclass on Monday to launch his campaign for a record-equalling sixth title at the ATP Finals as Daniil Medvedev outfought former champion Alexander Zverev.

The world number one crushed Argentine eighth seed Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-2 in the opening round-robin match

in Group Tokyo 1970 before Russia's Medvedev triumphed 6-3, 6-4.

Djokovic, who has already sealed the year-end number one spot for a record-equalling sixth time, is aiming to match the absent Roger Federer, who holds the record of six ATP Finals wins.

The Serbian, 33, has en-

joyed another sparkling season despite the coronavirus interruption, winning four titles including the Australian Open.

He came into the match at an empty O2 Arena with a 5-0 record against the diminutive Schwartzman but the debutant started impressively, breaking Djokovic in the third game.

However, the top seed broke back immediately and took his game up a notch, breaking again and converting his first set point with a powerful serve down the T.

Two more breaks in the second set were enough to take Djokovic to a comfortable win against his outclassed opponent.

The Serbian admitted he had started slowly but said he was pleased with his game as the match wore on. "In the second set I started swinging through the ball a bit more, but less hesitation from both corners and I was very pleased with the way I played in the second set especially," he said.—AFP ■