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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 158, 5th Waxing of Tawthalin 1382 ME www.gnlm.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Monday, 21 September 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 107/2020

4th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382
(20 September 2020)

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is exercising the rights in Article 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law to issue this order.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is continuously working on prevention measures for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and amid the discovery of new positive cases in Yangon Region including those who have not had contact with any positive cases and the rapid increase of cases in a short amount of time, stay-at-home measures are necessary for the people in each of the townships in Yangon Region.
2. Thus, all citizens in Yangon Region (excluding Cocogyun Township) are included in the stay-at-home programme.
3. This being the case, all people in Yangon Region (excluding Cocogyun Township) are to adhere to the following rules:

SEE PAGE-2

Over 200 nationals stranded in foreign countries return

SOME 100 nationals stranded in China (Taipei) due to the suspension of international flight returned by flight arranged by Myanmar Consulate-General Office in Hong Kong yesterday.

The relief flight from the China Airlines carrying the Myanmar nationals landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

Similarly, 113 stranded Myanmar nationals in the US and 14 in the Republic of Korea were also repatriated by a relief flight arranged by Myanmar embassies in Washington and Seoul.

The relief flight from the Myanmar Airways International carrying 127 Myanmar nationals landed at the Yangon International Airport at 8 pm yesterday.

At the Yangon International Airport, officials of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region Government have provided them with arrangements for 14-day quarantine at designated centres, seven-day home quarantine and medical check-ups in efforts to prevent the coronavirus infection.

Myanmar nationals returned from foreign countries line up for immigration service at the Yangon Internaitonal Airport on 20 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with the directives from the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment on COVID-19 to bring back Myanmar nationals stranded abroad due to the suspension of international flights.—MNA

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Mutual encouragement is required

It is important to know the rules and regulations which are published in the newspapers and broadcast on the television channels. Public awareness is being conducted all the time. The rules must be studied and followed strictly. It is important for the administrative sector. I am grateful to the civil service personnel for their efforts on the front-lines. People are advised to appreciate the efforts of civil service personnel. It is a good motivation for them. Mutual encouragement is required at present. Therefore, don't be remorseful. Don't put the blame for the spread of disease on others. After something has happened, the most important thing is to consider how to control the disease.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Report on status of COVID-19 infection spread in the country, on 16 September 2020)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 107/2020

4th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382
(20 September 2020)

FROM PAGE-1

(a) Relating to the stay-at-home order (for government departments in accordance with Letter No. 2354/264/COVID-19/Committee(2020) issued on 14-9-2020 by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Containment and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), to follow the directive for civil servants to rotate on a 2-week for office attendance and 2-week on work-from-home basis. Those in the private sector concerning banks and financial services, fuel refilling stations, food businesses and cold warehouses, pharmaceutical and medical equipment businesses, drinking water businesses, and factories producing daily hygiene products are not included).

(b) Organizations and companies are to work from home.

(c) Raw material and cut-make-pack(CMP) factories and workplaces are not allowed to have staff coming into the workplace between 24-9-2020 to 7-10-2020.

(d) Only one person per household can go outside to purchase essentials.

(e) Only two persons per household may go outside for hospital or clinical visits.

(f) Always wear facemasks/masks when going outside.

(g) Allow only vehicles transporting working people and permitted vehicles may enter any township.

(h) Within the ward, only the driver and one other person are permitted to go shopping and only the driver and two other persons are permitted to go to the hospital.

4. If the number of people exceed the limitations mentioned in Paragraph 3-(d), (e) and (h), or for any other emergency reasons, prior notice should be given to the relevant ward administrator and they in turn must only permit the people going from and returning to the ward and not allow people from outside the ward to enter or other people within the ward to leave.
5. Failure to comply with this order will have action taken in accordance with existing laws.
6. This order takes effect as of 8AM on 21-9-2020.
7. This order supersedes the Order 100/2020 issued on 1-9-2020 and Order 102/2020 issued on 9-9-2020 by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Sd/ Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister

■ ■ ■

MoSWRR provides humanitarian assistance to storm victims in Mon, Taninthayi, Bago

ALTHOUGH tropical storm NOUL, which started occurring in South China Sea has weakened into a land depression, the consequent gale, heavy rain and tidal waves killed three people and damaged more than 90 houses in Ye, Paung and Kyaikto townships in Mon State.

Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan, alongside officials of Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, yesterday visited Kyaikto Township to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims.

Similarly, more than 1,600 people from over 430 households in Kawthoung, Myeik, and Palaw townships in Taninthayi Region were evacuated to seven temporary camps and their relative homes after consequent floods.

Gale and tidal waves destroyed 50 houses and a religious school in Palaw Township. So, the Taninthayi Region Minister for Immigration and Human Resources, alongside Taninthayi Region Disaster Management Department's head and other officials, began providing humanitarian assistance to the victims in the township.

Similarly, more than 7,000 people from over 1,500 households in Kawa Township in Bago Region were evacuated to safe places because of floods caused by continuous heavy rain on 18 and 19 September, and high river tides.

Meanwhile, Disaster Management Department officials of the relevant states/regions, together with regional government officials and General Administration Department officials, have been visiting the sites and providing humanitarian assistance.

Those who need information or assistance regarding natural disasters can contact hot-line phones (067-3404666 and 067-3404777) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Rescuers evacuate local people from flooded area to safer places.
PHOTO: AYE AYE MAW (PALAW IPRD)

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

UNION ELECTION COMMISSION MYANMAR

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
48

KOFIH donates five portable X-ray machines to MoHS for COVID fight

THE Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) donated five portable X-ray machines worth US$ 175,000 to the Ministry of Health and Sports to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar.

One of the X-ray machines will be transported to Kyaukpyu Hospital in Rakhine State, and the remaining machines will be sent to COVID-19 Medical Centre in Phaunggyi and Kandawnadi Hospital in Mandalay.

MoHS said that it is hard to confirm the people infected with coronavirus depending on symptoms as 70 per cent of the positive patients showed no symptoms.

Therefore, if those who had contact with positive patients show no symptoms, their lungs are examined via chest with the portable X-ray machines so that further COVID-19 laboratory tests can be conducted.

After the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Myanmar in March, the Republic of Korea (ROK)'s government, departments, companies, NGOs and people formed 'Team Korea' and donated test kits and personal protective items to MoHS via Korean Embassy in Myanmar. —Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

South Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa hands over personal protective equipment to Director-General of Medical Research Department Prof Dr Zaw Than Htun at the Korean Embassy in Yangon on 24 March. **PHOTO: MIN THINT**

671 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 September, total figure rises to 5,541

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **5,541** after **671** new cases were reported on 20 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **5,541** confirmed cases, **92** died, **1,260** have been discharged from hospitals and **398** were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 20 September 2020

Total Cases	5,541
New Cases	671
Total Death Tally	92
Discharged from Hospital	1,260

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 20 September 2020

New PUIs	*398*

Ministry of Health and Sports

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

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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.

Officials from Kawthoung District Fisheries Department release stranded sea turtle into sea. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

Stranded endangered sea turtle released into sea in Kawthoung

DUE to the high tide caused by tropical storm NOUL, a rare sea turtle was found abandoned on Laymine Beach, and it was released into the sea, Kawthoung District Fisheries Department stated.

A turtle is 2 feet long and 2 feet 3 inches wide. It is the rare species (locally called Pyintha turtle species). The turtle was struggling with discarded fishingnet, and it was stranded on the beach, local maritime workers said. A philanthropic group called Kanni Aphyu Yaung rescued the sea turtle and informed the District Fisheries Department. The officials led by U Thant Zin, the head of the Department sent it back into the sea in the south of Thahtay Kyun (Island). —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Pansodan-Dala ferries slash service times

YANGON Pansodan-Dala ferry service has reduced the crossing schedule to 30 times in the working days of government offices from 12 September and 24 times during the weekends and public holidays from 19 September, owing to the declining number of ferry commuters with the coronavirus cases mounting in Yangon Region, according to the Inland Water Transport (Delta Division).

Following the COVID-19 resurgence in the region, the drop in ferry commuters made the ferry run less frequently.

Under the reduced schedule, Dala ferry will run between 5 am and 9 pm in the weekdays, and it will ply the routes between 5:30 am and 8 pm every weekend.

Pansodan-Dala ferries reduce service because of COVID-19. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

At present, there are about 6,000 commuters in the weekdays amid the coronavirus concerns. During weekends, the number of commuters is sharply dropping.

The relevant health departments and philanthropic organizations are raising awareness for COVID-19 and giving out masks at the port. The Ministry of Health and Sports has warned the public to follow the COVID-19 guidelines.

Usually, the ferry service runs 46 times a day. Yangon Pansodan-Dala ferries were earlier packed with nearly 30,000 daily commuters.

The Pansodan-Dala ferry is an only transport option for the local people in southern Yangon — Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, Kungyangon townships to link with commercial hub Yangon. Three ferry boats named Cherry1, 2 and 3 donated by Japan are running 46 times a day for approximately 30,000 commuters. It is one of the crowded places in the city, generating revenues. — Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

140 Myanmar nationals from Thailand return home via Myawady border on 20 September 2020. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

140 Myanmar migrant workers come back home via Myawady border

A total of 140 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No.2 border bridge in Myawady, Kayin State, on 20 September, according to the local authorities.

Kayin State Hluttaw Representatives U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrative Officer U Tay Zar Aung, Myawady District Deputy Administrative officer U Aung Chan Nyein, and local authorities helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 78,346 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 88 males and 52 females from different states and regions and they were sent to respective quarantine centres successfully, according to the local authorities. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Commerce ministry negotiates with Saudi Arabia for export potential, including fishery products

THE Ministry of Commerce has called for export potential with Myanmar products to Saudi Arabia's market, the ministry stated.

The ministry recently negotiated with Saudi Arabian ambassador to Myanmar concerning the items identified as export potential, including honey, fish, prawn, fishery products.

At present, Saudi Arabia has received Myanmar's answers to the queries they sent regarding the new regulations. Suppose the cold storages and processing companies are found to be in accordance with the fishery import standards of Saudi Arabia. In that case, Myanmar can resume exports of the fishery products to Saudi Arabia.

Following the detection of two prawn diseases in imported marine products, Saudi Arabia has suspended fish imports from Myanmar, beginning April 2018. It is already reported to World Organisation for Animal Health that the disease was not found in freshwater prawns in 2018. However, Saudi kept imposing a ban on fish and prawn imports from Myanmar.

The suspension has severely affected rohu fish suppliers as Myanmar keeps typically only 25 per cent of rohu fish for local consumption and exports the remaining 75 per cent to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, as well as Bangladesh.

Before the suspension, Myanmar exports to Saudi Arabia accounted for 30 per cent of its farm-raised fish exports and 40 per cent of rohu exports and 60 per cent of river catfish. Earlier, Myanmar yearly earned estimated US$20-35 million from fishery products exports to Saudi Arabia.

Myanmar exports marine products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

Additionally, the wild-caught fish are sent to the UK, Italy, France, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Sweden, Greece, Belgium, and Germany markets.

Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were permitted to be exported to the EU market. As exports of Myanmar farmed fish to the European Union have now been allowed, breeders are undertaking necessary measures to ensure Myanmar fishery products meet the rules and regulations of the EU market, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

To ensure food safety, the European market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) certificates.

To meet EU import standards, fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries that are compliant with GAqP. The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAqP system.

(FILES) Workers process shrimps at a cold factory in Kawthoung on 8 May 2019. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

Export earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 11 September in the 2019-2020 financial year reached US$810.99 million, an increase of $119.8 million from the year-ago period, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's fisheries sector is hit hard by the coronavirus fallouts and the Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to explore more fish and seafood foreign market to effectively mitigate the impacts caused by the pandemic, Yangon Region Fisheries Department stated.

The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase marine export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Its fishery production including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish are far better than the regional countries. If the country can boost processing technology, it will contribute to the country's economy and earn more income for those stakeholders in the supply chain.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth $530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth $480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth $500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth $600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth $700 million in the 2017-2018FY, and over 580,000 tonnes worth $728.257 million in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Layer poultry breeders expect slump in hatching egg production this year

Layer poultry farming industry is likely to yield fertile egg production to around 105.4 million this year, the breeders said.

The economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 consequences led to the drop in layer poultry production this year.

The hatching egg production was registered 182.1 million in 2019 and 184.5 million in 2018, respectively. This being so, production is expected to decline by over 80 million eggs against the previous years.

Similarly, the broiler chicken industry can also experience the plunge in production.

Foreign markets sometimes import hatching eggs. They are incubated to meet rising demand. Egg hatching approximately costs around K1.5 to 10 million per size of farm.

The layer poultry farms are primarily found in Yangon Region, also in Bago and Mandalay regions and Shan State.

At present, the prices of poultry meat and egg have slightly risen on the back of growing demand amid the COVID-19 crisis.

However, the Myanmar Livestock Federation has affirmed that there is no need for people to concern with a possible shortage of poultry meat and eggs in the internal market during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, the rising demand drove the price up a bit.

In a bid to help meet the domestic needs and make the price regular, more than 1.9 million broiler chicks have been allowed for import between 15 May and 15 July 2020, according to Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Livestock and poultry production in Myanmar has been growing 10-15 per cent annually. Most breeders are using traditional methods, and some have shifted to modern forms. Moreover, integrated poultry and fish farming are widely seen in Myanmar.

According to the MLF, at present, 1.35 million broilers are being raised for meat, about 1.465 million semi-broilers, and more than 2.9 million layers for an egg at integrated poultry and fish farms.

The government is phasing in a ban on integrated poultry and fish farming to undergo Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) system, according to the Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

Currently, there are 211 livestock entrepreneurs employing 6,330 labourers in the integrated farming industry. It is estimated that about 37,980 people are relying on this industry, according to the MLF.

Additionally, the local products are now also facing pressure from foreign investors entering the sector. Local poultry breeding is mostly carried out on a small scale by farmers, but now investments from China, Thailand and India have entered the industry. That is why the local breeders need to shift to modern breeding methods and increase the production rate to keep up with foreign investors. —Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FINANCIAL BOOST

India to loan virus-hit Maldives $250m

The Asian Development Bank forecasts the Maldives' economy to contract by 20.5 percent this year, compared to growth of 5.9 percent last year. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDIA on Sunday announced a $250 million loan to the Maldives to boost its coronavirus-battered economy in a further bid to counter China's growing financial footprint in South Asia.

The Indian Ocean archipelago, renowned for its luxury resorts, has been badly hit by the pandemic, with foreign tourists failing to flock back in large numbers after international flights restarted in mid-July.

India's High Commission in the Maldives said the loan was being provided after a request by Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih for "financial assistance to overcome the difficult economic situation."

"The Maldives is at liberty to use the money in repairing the domestic economic situation in line with its own priorities," it said in a statement.

A sale of treasury bonds issued by the Maldives government to State Bank of India (SBI) will raise the money, with ten years given for repayment, the statement added.

The assistance follows a $500 million pledge by New Delhi in August to help build bridges and causeways in the nation of 1,192 islands located on major East-West shipping lanes.

Under former president Abdulla Yameen's administration, which was ousted in 2018 elections, the Maldives borrowed some $1.4 billion from Beijing for expensive infrastructure projects, according to Solih's government.

The loans added to critics' concerns that Chinese aid in Asia and beyond was saddling countries with unsustainable debts while expanding Beijing's sphere of influence.

The bond takes New Delhi's total pledged financial assistance to the Maldives to over $2 billion since Solih came to power, according to India's foreign ministry.

The country, which still has a nighttime curfew in place to combat the virus, has recorded more than 9,600 infections and 33 deaths from Covid-19.

The Asian Development Bank forecasts the Maldives' economy to contract by 20.5 per centthis year, compared to growth of 5.9 per cent last year.

SOURCE: AFP

VINEYARDS IN TROUBLE

Italy's 'Black Roosters' fight back as virus hit wine sales

TWO days before the coronavirus pandemic shut down Italy for two months, shattering wine exports and sales, the owner of one of its most historic vineyards headed back into the country a worried man.

Six months later Francesco Ricasoli and his wine-making team are leading the charge by Italy's "Black Roosters" -- the trademark for Chianti Classico -- to put the country's most famous label back on restaurant tables.

"These are probably some of the most turbulent times in Italy," said Ricasoli, 64, the 32nd Baron of Brolio whose family's roots to Tuscany stretches back to 1141.

"We've seen a strong decrease in wine sales -- particularly in restaurants and bars that specialise in the high end of the market," he told AFP at his winery with the same family name.

Hard hit by the virus that has killed more than 35,500 people in Italy, wine sales and consumption have been battered on a level not seen in 30 years, Italy's agricultural trade union Coldiretti said recently.

Exports too have slumped by 4.0 per centas the virus forced the closure of bars and restaurants in Italy -- which makes nearly a fifth of all the world's wine -- and elsewhere, it said.

SOURCE: AFP

ONE MILLION RESIDENTS

Madrid braces for partial lockdown as virus surges

On Sunday, people took to the streets in some of the affected districts in protest against the new measures. **PHOTO: OSCAR DEL POZO AFP**

NEARLY a million Madrid residents were bracing Sunday for a partial lockdown as Spanish authorities seek to put a brake on a second wave of Covid-19.

The restrictions, which kick off Monday for two weeks, affect 850,000 people living mainly in densely-populated, low-income neighbourhoods in the south -- or 13 per centof the population in and around the capital.

Like many countries in Europe, Spain is battling a coronavirus surge and, once again, Madrid is the worst-hit region.

"We're concerned with the data we're seeing, because the number of cases is double that of the national average and the number of hospital admissions... is triple the national average," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in a television interview Saturday.

But he stressed he was not contemplating a national lockdown.

Several districts of southern Madrid have counted more than 1,000 cases per 100,000 inhabitants -- around five times the national average, which in itself is the highest in the European Union.

Residents will be banned from leaving their district other than for essential travel like work, medical care or taking children to school, Madrid's regional government said Friday.

They will be allowed to move around freely inside their zone but no one from outside will be allowed in unless absolutely essential.

Parks will be closed but shops, bars and restaurants will remain open at 50 per centcapacity. Meanwhile, gatherings of more than six people will be banned in the entire region, down from ten currently.

SOURCE: AFP

POSITIVE RESULTS

Melbourne on track to lift lockdown

AUSTRALIA has reported the lowest number of new daily infections since 19 June. In the state of Victoria, with Melbourne as its capital, 14 cases were registered. A strict lockdown is in place to slow down a second wave. The government's aim was to keep numbers below 50 cases per day, and it seems like that goal will be reachable. If that is the case by the end of the month, the lockdown would be lifted.

Two cases were reported in New South Wales and Queensland. Other states haven't reported numbers yet, but they were close to zero over the past weeks.

SOURCE: AFP

The government's aim was to keep numbers below 50 cases per day, and it seems like that goal will be reachable. **PHOTO: AFP**

OSCE

Virus hits US election monitoring

THE OSCE, which monitors elections in many parts of the world, will only send a small team to observe the US polls in November due to the pandemic, it said on Saturday.

The news comes as the credibility of the American voting system faces its most serious threat in decades, fuelled by presidential rhetoric, fears over record mail-in voting due to the pandemic, worry about ageing machines, accusations of voter suppression and foreign interference.

"The safety concerns as well as continuing travel restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic are creating challenges for all our election-related activities and particularly for the deployment of long- and short-term observers," Katya Andrusz, OSCE spokeswoman, told AFP.

As a result, she said no short-term observers would be deployed to monitor the election on the day.

She added the team for the elections on November 3 would consist of just 14 analysts and 30 long-term observers.

SOURCE: AFP

US President Donald Trump arrives for a campaign rally at Smith-Reynolds Regional Airport in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on September 8, 2020. **PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN / AFP**

UNDER TOUGH NEW REGULATIONS

The rule will come into force on 28 September. Fines start at 1,000 pounds for first offences and can rise to 10,000 pounds for repeat offenders, or cases where employers threaten to sack staff who self-isolate rather than working. **PHOTO: AFP**

$13,000 fine for breaking virus rules in England

PEOPLE in England who refuse to self-isolate to stop the spread of coronavirus could face fines of up to £10,000 ($13,000, 11,000 euros) under tough new regulations announced Saturday to tackle a surge in cases.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said this week that Britain was seeing a second wave of Covid-19, and introduced new restrictions for millions of people across northwest, northern and central England.

In a further measure announced late Saturday, he said that from September 28 people will be legally obliged to self-isolate if they test positive or are told to by the National Health Service (NHS) tracing programme.

"The best way we can fight this virus is by everyone following the rules and self-isolating if they're at risk of passing on coronavirus," Johnson said in a statement.

"And so nobody underestimates just how important this is, new regulations will mean you are legally obliged to do so if you have the virus or have been asked to do so by NHS Test and Trace."

Currently people who have symptoms or test positive are asked to self-isolate for 10 days. Those who live with someone who either has symptoms or tests positive must self-isolate for 14 days. The new fines will start at £1,000 -- in line with breaking quarantine after international travel -- and rise to £10,000 for repeat offences and the worst breaches, including businesses that threaten self-isolating staff with redundancy, officials said.

SOURCE: AFP

SOARING INFECTIONS

Eastern EU members log record new virus count

POLAND on Saturday reported a record of 1,002 new coronavirus cases, while neighbouring EU members Lithuania and Slovakia also logged their largest daily tallies since the pandemic began.

The Eastern European figures are in line with a surge in cases across Europe since August that has caused many countries to move back towards tougher restrictions.

The increase in Poland brings the total of reported coronavirus cases in the nation of 38 million people to 78,330.

The ministry also reported Saturday 12 new Covid deaths, putting that total at close to 2,300.

In neighbouring Slovakia, a nation of 5.4 million people, the latest figure of 290 new infections brought its total to more than 6,500 cases.

Lithuania, a Baltic state with a population of 2.8 million, reported its highest daily count as well.

The 99 new infections put the country's total at more than 3,600 cases.

The Czech Republic for its part reported more than 2,100 new cases, a day after registering a record of 3,130 new infections.

SOURCE: AFP

AVOIDING RISKS OF BEING INFECTED

Japanese campsites draw crowds as people look to escape pandemic

CAMPING has been growing in popularity and sales of related goods rising in recent months in Japan as people wanting to go out with friends and family members during the COVID-19 pandemic turn to outdoor recreation.

During a weekend earlier this month, a campsite with about 40 pitches in Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, was packed with campers of all ages. "We can avoid risks of being infected with the virus in such an open and large site even though we came as a group," said a 22-year-old man who was setting up a tent with friends.

The coronavirus has apparently boosted sales of outdoor leisure goods following the government's declaration of a state of emergency in April, an official of a camping product manufacturer said.

Campers are setting up their tent at a campsite in Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture on Sept. 12, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"Our monthly sales have been growing by between 10 and 35 percent from a year earlier since May," said Yosuke Takanami, managing director of the outdoor goods development division at Captain Stag Co.

SOURCE: Kyodo

21 SEPTEMBER 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Tighten up new orders for action to curb infections in Yangon

AS CORONAVIRUS cases rise in Yangon Region, Ministry of Health and Sports has decided to replace new restrictions on daily life and businesses.

The new rules that came into effect at 8 am today (21st September, 2020) has imposed the Stay-At-Home on the region's townships, (except Cocogyun, an island township) and has ordered the staff of the organizations and companies to work from home. The order has also ordered the labour-intensive industries such as CMP garment factories to close for two weeks from 24 September to 7 October.

Essential businesses such as banks and financial services, fuel refilling stations, food and meat services, pharmaceutical and medical equipment production and distribution services, drinking water distribution services and daily personnel hygiene items production services are allowed to remain open but to maintain COVID-19 health guidelines.

> The new order with tight rules reflects that the authorities are doing everything they can to prepare, and are absolutely prepared to take whatever action is necessary to save lives and livelihood of the people.

The number of people diagnosed with coronavirus in our country is rising, having reached over 5,500 cases on Sunday, with 92 deaths. The vast majority of cases are in the Yangon Region.

Daily infections surged to over 670 on 20 September. Over the past seven days, our country saw 403 cases on 19 September, 424 cases on 18 September, 149 cases on 17 September, 319 cases on 16 September, 307 cases on 15 September, 263 cases on 14 September and 337 cases on 13 September respectively.

This situation has demanded the authorities to intensify its measures to fight off the second wave.

It's a real, contagious illness for which there is no vaccine and no proven treatment.

Announcing the new rules that came into effect today, the ministry has limited families to send only one member to buy essential things, and has tighten the daily life restrictions on communities.

It affects some people more seriously than others, but those with few symptoms are still liable to pass it on to the vulnerable.

The new order with tight rules reflects that the authorities are doing everything they can to prepare, and are absolutely prepared to take whatever action is necessary to save lives and livelihood of the people.

That's why we wish people would adhere to guidelines is a good way to combat the pandemic.

That's why, everyone must follow the order. Or, you will be breaking the law.

■ ■ ■

PROTECTING INDAWGYI LAKE, ONE OF THE LARGEST INLAND LAKES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Global Pandemic-2020 creates a new pathway of conservation strategy in Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar

By adapting the pandemic condition in 2020, Indawgi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary plans to promote a collaborative management with different stake holders for the journey of wintering birds, and also for the journey of Wetland community future generations.

By U Maung Win and Su San Win Pe

INDAWGYI lake from Myanmar, an ecologically significant area in Southeast Asia, involves as partnership site in (22) countries of East Asia-Australasian Flyway. Structure of landscape and variety of habitats including open lake, floating vegetation, seasonally flooded grasslands and surrounding paddy fields provide shelter and food for at least about 20,000 migratory birds annually. From birds survey conducted between 2000 and 2017, a total of (276) birds species were recorded including (17) globally threatened species such as Falcated duck, Baer's Pochard, Black-necked Stork, Oriental Darter and Sarus Crane.

Every year, migratory birds from Russia, Siberia, and northern China flock to the freshwater lake, away from colder regions with frozen lakes and short food supply that make it difficult for them to survive. **PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHIN MYAY)**

With the vision of CEPA strategy plan, Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary has been conducting conservation activities in collaboration with different stakeholders including Forest Department, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Inn Chit Thu (Community Organization), Community Forestry and local CSOs. Environmental friendly rice and Ecotourism projects were initiated at the region with supporting Donors including Darwin Initiative, Michael Succow Foundation, and Helmsley Charitable Trust. Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is providing financial support in various sectors of Wetland conservation activities including Community outreach conservation awareness, Waste Management and Sanitation, Organic farming and Community Forestry, Fish resource management and Ecotourism projects. Community surrounding the lake includes Shan and Kachin ethnics in a total of (36) villages and Wetland Education Center has been a main learning center for community. In 2020, the Center had to be closed due to Pandemic occurrence and alternative conservation approaches were developed among the stakeholders.

Sarus cranes, ferruginous ducks, and black-headed gulls have mostly returned to the lake. The migratory birds usually arrive in October every year, and they leave the lake by April-end. **PHOTO: EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP (EAAFP)**

Indawgyi Wetland youths Capacity building

During the period, regular work activity of Conservation Partners were effected including visitors' arrival to Indawgyi, pause of eco-tourism activities and regulations of the Education Center. However, on the other hand, there became more opportunities for local youths at the region to build capacity, spend time effectively at Covid period and learn for new skills they are interested to enhance. Between July and August, local youth trainings were offered from Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary with technical support from FFI including the topics; PES, Social surveys, Camera trapping, GPS use and GIS.

Visibility and Wetland IEC development

Due to the cancellation of public awareness talks, IEC development became one of the strategies in awareness raising by distributing IEC for target community and locations around the lake. Educational materials including Indawgyi Bio sphere booklets, IEC note books, Wetland related Vinyl, Bio diversities flash cards and stickers were developed for promoting awareness and communication purposes.

Home based awareness meetings

Based on National guidelines of meetings rules, most of the activities are adjusted as small group size meetings or individual household meetings instead of public gatherings. In the region, Indawgyi Wetland Education Center locates at Western region of the lake. Due to the road conditions, transportation barriers in past years and far distance, community from Northern and North-West did not have much opportunities to visit to the Center. Grasslands being located at Northern Indawgyi, it was discussed among stake holders to prioritize the region in community outreach awareness plan. Between June and August, individual household meetings were initiated with the Northern community including village representatives, religious leaders, farmers and fishermen. In July, awareness meetings related to Wetland Wise Use were conducted in (4) villages of Eastern and Western.

> Based on National guidelines of meetings rules, most of the activities are adjusted as small group size meetings or individual household meetings instead of public gatherings.

Wetland guardians-Indawgyi Wetland network

In Indawgyi, types of threats for Wetland birds include loss of nesting sites due to agricultural expansion, hunting with handmade gun, use of food poison for birds at winter period and being killed by abandoned ghost nets. From communication and awareness activities, community from diverse regions; especially those whose livelihoods depend on Wetland, started to involve as a small network informing about the threats of Wetlands birds, locations of Wildlife breeding site and sharing of their experience with surrounding nature. Around Northern grassland and surrounding forests, habitat of bio diversities including hog deer, turtles, peacocks and porcupines were assessed and identified through local community support. In August, Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary has initiated camera trapping activity in collaboration with FFI and local community.

Creating knowledge centers: "Little exhibitions of the lake"

During the period, governmental schools have been closed due to the Virus outbreak. Informal schooling system such as monastery schools, private free tuitions and operating village libraries locations were assessed to create small libraries or support in existing libraries for community. In September, panels displayed at Indawgyi Wetland Education Center are to be reproduced as Vinyl for creating a small exhibition at different region of the lake including village library, monastery school or public meeting area.

Identification of nesting sites (Surveys and assessments)

Between September and December, it is planned to continue household surveys, assessments and community outreach awareness activities. For the winter period of 2020, it also plans to observe main nesting site locations through assessments for migratory birds habitats protection.

It can be stated that sudden emergent of global pandemic in 2020 prevented most of day to day activities and cancelled planned activities of the year. However, it also creates new opportunities to Flyway Partners of the network from developing new pathways of conservation strategies. By adapting the pandemic condition in 2020, Indawgi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary plans to promote a collaborative management with different stake holders for the journey of wintering birds, and also for the journey of Wetland community future generations.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS
U Maung Win, Park Warden from Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Su San Win Pe, Project Manager – "Community Outreach Conservation Awareness", Indawgyi Program from Fauna & Flora International (Myanmar Programme).

■ ■ ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 20 September 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Northeast Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21 September 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Eastern Shan states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kayin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45) mph. Wave height will be about (8 – 14) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September 2020: Some rain or thundershowers . Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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Zomi Congress for Democracy presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Zomi Congress for Democracy Youth Organizer Lia Naing San Cing presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 20 September.

Mingalaba, everybody!

I am now able to deliver my speech in our own language from TV and radio thanks to the stance of our party. We are grateful for it.

Zomi people would be and will be proud of listening to the speeches in Zomi language delivered by the Zomi National Congress in 1990 for the first time, by the Zomi Congress for Democracy (ZCD) in 2015 for the second time, and by the ZNC again in 2020 for the third time from TV and radio.

The political policy and the flag of the party remain unchanged for 30 years until now. The following is the four-point policy ZNC has been adhering to for 30 years.

1) The use of the name "Zomi" as proof of our ancestral and local identity;
2) The emergence of a genuine democratic government;
3) The independent market economic system;
4) The promotion of Panglong Spirit.

I would now explain the points here.

1) We will stick to the first principle of our four-point policy;
2) As regards the emergence of a truly democratic government of the second point, democracy ensures the right to equality before the law among the people who accept the principle of equality between all humans. It guarantees the right to life, the freedom of innovation, the freedom of expression, and the freedom of association. Democracy is the government of people, by the people, for the people. But a genuine democracy has not clearly emerged yet in the country under the 2008 Constitution.
3) In connection with the third point, I would say that the country is rich in natural resources. Authentic quality goods will be available for the people at reasonable prices if the qualified citizens are entrusted with the independent powers for exploration, production, competition and marketing instead of permitting the monopolization of the whole business by a single government or a private organization.
4) As regards the fourth point, I would recount the pre-colonial period, during which ethnic races were independent people living under their own chieftains, local lords or community heads in accordance with their own culture and traditions. It is an undeniable fact that the today's Union was the result of the historic Panglong Agreement signed by Zomi leaders, Pu Thawng Za Khup, Pu Kio Mang and Pu Hlur Hmong, and Shan and Kachin leaders in 1947 following the encouragement of the General Aung San and leaders of ethnic peoples to collectively restore independence from the British and set up the Union of Burma as a single home for all.

Zomi is the people playing a pivotal role in the Union of Myanmar. They are the people who signed the Panglong Agreement the source of the Union. Moreover, they are also the people who sacrificed life and blood in defending the Union at the Battle of Insein when Myanmar was dubbed 'Yangon government'.

From ZNC to ZCD during 30 years

ZNC was included in the parties that won a set or seat in the 1990 election. But the then government, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, did not convene the parliament, and instead, it held the National Convention. Zomi Congress for Democracy continued political activities in cooperation with its partner parties for the realization of the results of the 1990 election during the hard times.

The party has the following five-year post-2020 programme:

1) The practical realization of the ethnic literature and culture projects;
2) The full protection of land ownership of the natives;
3) The flourishing of the federal democracy;
4) The lessening of poverty nationwide;
5) The restoration of internal peace and the stability of the political system through the continuation of the Union Peace Conference - the 21st Century Panglong;
6) The earliest implementation of the agreed points of the Union Accord reached the Union Peace Conference - the 21st Century Panglong and the issues passed by the Union Parliament;
7) The continuation of the four-point policy the Zomi Congress for Democracy has been adhering to for 30 years.

Zomi Forward!
Thank you.

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Campaign speeches of Myanmar Farmer's Development Party, United National Congress Party (UNC) and Democracy and Human Rights Party to be broadcast on 21 Sept, published on 22 Sept

CAMPAIGN speeches of Myanmar Farmer's Development Party, United National Congress Party (UNC) and Democracy and Human Rights Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 21 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 22 September. — 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.

Inn National Development Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Inn National Development Party Political Consultant U Thawdar presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

May all citizens, including all ethnic Inn people, the ethnic Inn people from Nyaungshwe Township, other ethnic people and those who love Inle Lake, have good health and happiness.

I am U Thawdar, political consultant of Inn National Development Party. I am also an electoral candidate of Inn National Development Party, and I will contest Shan State constituency 1 in Nyaungshwe Township in the 2020 General Elections. Our party was officially formed on 1 June 2010, with party registration number 27. Our party also stood for general elections in 2010 and 2015, and by-elections in 2017.

In the 2010 General Elections, our party won in Nyaungshwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency, and Shan State Hluttaw — Nyaungshwe Township Constituency 1 and 2, and Inn Nationality Constituency. As the first step to achieve autonomy for ethnic Inn people, we could hold Inntha (ethnic Inn people) national's get-together day in Inle Lake, with more than 40,000 people. We could manage to get a political base. With permission from Shan State government and our supervision, 50 per cent of total earnings from Inle Lake entrance fees could be spent for area development and the maintenance of Inle Lake. We could hand over K600 million to the government to buy a mud cleaning machine worth K1 billion.

Regarding the supply of the electricity in the Inle area in Nyaungshwe Township, our party took necessary efforts so that Khaungtine Village sub-power station, which was collectively built by the Inn people who are residents, could be officially launched on 30-7-2011. Consequently, within four years, more than 210 villages started getting electricity. Moreover, during (former) President U Thein Sein's visit to Inle area on 9-8-2015, we sought permission from the (former) President to build a sub-power station for Sanka area, which is southern part of the area of Inn people, and the request was recorded in the pledge register of the (former) President. Now, we can happily see that some villages in the southern part of the area of Inn people can access electricity.

Esteemed people

Our party's objective and national policies are:

(a) We will try to achieve equal development for all federal, ethnic people. We will make efforts to achieve progress with economics, education, health and social sectors to catch up with south-east Asian countries;
(b) We will try to establish a federal union system;
(c) We will always support all national ethnic groups' efforts to achieve equality and autonomy.

Our party's political policy is to use a multiparty democratic system. All political parties must have the same opportunities without discrimination. Political parties must respect each other.

Our party's economics policies are:

(a) We will use a market economic system. We will give higher priority to the development of the banking sector. We will encourage foreign banks to invest in our country;
(b) There must be no privileged class. The government must encourage private business owners to manufacture products and build roads and bridges;
(c) The government must provide guarantees on the official currency;
(d) Taxes must not be a burden for the citizens. We will provide appropriate assistance to the business persons and the citizens who regularly pay taxes.

Our party's political work programmes are:

(a) We will respect all countries and communicate with them on equal terms. We will cooperate with other countries especially in economics, social matters and transportation;

(b) We will actively cooperate with other countries in environmental conservation, anti-terrorism, and peacemaking;

(c) Our relations with neighbouring countries will be based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Our party's defence work programmes are:

(a) Tatmadaw will have a crucial role in protecting the country, and citizens will also take part in the task with patriotism;
(b) We will introduce national conscription by the consent from the citizens;
(c) We will make the Tatmadaw become a powerful modern patriotic Tatmadaw;
(d) We will promote our country's political, military and economic powers by good governance.

Our party's work programmes for ethnic affairs are:

(a) In accordance with Ethnic Rights Protection Law, we will work for ethnic people;
(b) We will cooperate with relevant ministries to promote handicrafts of ethnic people;
(c) We will give high priority to advancing the standard of living of ethnic minorities.

Our party's work programmes for workers' affairs are:

(a) In cooperation with the private sector, we will provide training to boost the skills and capacities of workers;
(b) We will impose laws to protect the rights and opportunities of Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries;
(c) We will modify the rules in line with the current situations to ensure rights regarding job stability, healthcare and social welfare.

Our party's work programmes for farmers are:

(a) We will set up the new Ministry of Farmers Affairs.
(b) We will give high priority to identify new arable lands.
(c) We will give confiscated lands back to original owners in line with their wishes.

(d) We will find new ways of how state-owned banks and private banks can cooperatively help farmers in agriculture.
(e) We will make efforts so that our county can produce seeds of various crops.

Our party's work programmes for education and healthcare are:

We will increase budgets for education and healthcare every year. We will seek public opinions on whether the current education and healthcare systems are effective or not and conduct reviews. We will rapidly make changes to achieve the most appropriate systems.

Our party's action plans for media sector

We will encourage newspapers, journals and magazines to be accountable, and promote press freedom. We will promote TV broadcasting and will provide technical assistance.

Inn National Development Party can confidently say that we have never wanted to separate from Shan State, and we will never separate from the Union.

In conclusion, please confidently elect us, who took efforts to lay the political foundation for ethnic Inn people and promote the dignity of the ethnic group, which is widely known around the world for rowing boats by using just legs. Please confidently vote for Inn National Development Party to achieve a Federal Union and autonomy. I wish you, all citizens and all ethnic Inn people, good health and wealth.

*****

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet 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.

Who will succeed Ginsburg on the US Supreme Court?

The death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, seen on September 20, 2017, leaves a vacancy on the Supreme Court bench. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON — The death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg offers US President Donald Trump an opportunity to replace the progressive Supreme Court justice with a staunch defender of conservative values— even if Democrats are girding for the political equivalent of trench warfare to oppose such a nominee.

Her successor, who would be Trump's third nomination to the high court, is expected to lastingly anchor the country's highest judicial body firmly on the political right. The president is counting on the Republican majority in the Senate to confirm his eventual choice.

Trump said Saturday he would nominate Ginsburg's successor "very soon," adding: "Most likely it would be a woman."

Ginsburg, so popular on the left that she has become a cultural icon, had fought cancer for years, and Trump has had ample time to weigh possible nominees for the 87-year-old's spot.

On September 9, he published a list of potential candidates, a move designed to reassure his political allies and mobilize conservative voters, notably those opposed to abortion rights. The list is not definitive. Indeed, the two men he has named to the high court -- Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Brett Kavanaugh in 2018 -- did not appear on an original list of candidates Trump released in 2016.—AFP ■

Italy defies virus for vote as far-right plots seismic change

ROME — Italians head to the polls Sunday — to the alarm of coronavirus experts — for a referendum and regional elections that could weaken the government and radically reshape the political landscape.

Just a week after a Herculean effort by schools to reopen in line with last-minute Covid-19 rules, classrooms across the country will be shut to pupils and transformed into ballot stations for the two-day vote.

A triumph for the far-right in this fiercely fought campaign would sound alarm bells in Brussels.

It will be the first test for Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's centre-left coalition government since it imposed an economically crippling nationwide lockdown to fight the virus, which has killed almost 36,000 people.

The referendum, on slashing the number of members of parliament— from 630 to 400 in the lower house, and 315 to 200 in the upper house — is expected to pass, though there has been a late uptick in the number of prominent 'no' declarations.

The cost-cutting reform is the brainchild of the co-governing Five Star Movement (M5S), but while its centre-left coalition Democratic Party (PD) partner and parties on the right are theoretically in favour, their support has been lacklustre at best.

Uncertain future

The regional battle is for governance of Campania, Liguria, Marche, Puglia, Tuscany, Valle d'Aosta and Veneto.

The right-wing coalition is set to easily retake Veneto and Liguria, and it could also snatch Marche and Puglia from the left.—AFP ■

Former interior minister Matteo Salvini and Lega party leader is a part of a centre-right coalition fighting the regional elections. **PHOTO; AFP**

Finnish cruise ship evacuated after running aground in Baltic sea

MARIEHAMN — A Finnish passenger cruise ship ran aground off the island of Aland in the Baltic Sea, the cruise line said Sunday, with emergency services adding they were preparing to evacuate the vessel.

The ship was headed towards Stockholm from Turku in Finland and ran aground around 12:50 am local time (0950 GMT) outside the city of Mariehamn on the autonomous Finnish island of Aland near the Swedish coast.

"There are no personal injuries and no one's life is in danger, and the situation aboard is stable," Eleonora Hansi, head of information for Viking Line Scandinavia, told AFP.

The ship, Amorella, is 169 metres long and does daily trips between Stockholm in Sweden and Turku in Finland.

Normally it carries between 1,800 and 2,000 passengers but due to the pandemic the number was heavily reduced, Hansi said.

"There are about 200 passengers and about 80 crew members onboard," Hansi said.

Local media reported that passengers had gathered on deck and were wearing life jackets.

Finnish maritime rescue services said on Twitter that the ship had moved closer to shore after the hit to "beach itself and stabilise the situation."

"Amorella stands firmly on the bottom. The 281 people onboard are in not in immediate danger but the captain has decided that all extra people be evacuated from the ship," the West Finland Coast Guard said.—AFP ■

The Amorella does daily trips from Stockholm to Turku in Finland. **PHOTO: LEHTIKUVA/AFP**

Iran victims of Iraq gas attack say horrors are a warning

TEHRAN —Thirty-three years have passed, but the survivors of an Iraqi poison gas attack on the Iranian town of Sardasht still suffer — and fight for international recognition of the horrific massacre.

"If someone lost a leg or an arm in the war, you can put a prosthesis on him," said Saleh Azizpour, who heads an association for victims of the attack.

"But when our lungs are burned, who will breathe for us?" he asked.

Tehran on Monday commemorates 40 years since Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein attacked Iran, launching a war that raged for eight years.

Iraq's June 28, 1987, gas attack on Sardasht, a Kurdish town in northwestern Iran, is considered to be the first time chemical weapons deliberately targeted civilians in an urban area.

"The dead and wounded range from a three-month-old to a 70-year-old man," Azizpour said. "All were civilians."

The official toll is 119 dead and 1,518 wounded.

But, according to Azizpour, who was 25 in 1987, many more were affected.

Some 8,000 people were exposed to what experts say was mustard gas and many who survived are struggling with long-term health complications.

"Even today, there is sometimes so much pressure on my lungs... that I really cannot sleep," said Mahmoud Assadpour, a 50-year-old teacher.—AFP ■

U.S. equities post 3rd straight weekly loss amid tech struggle, Fed decision

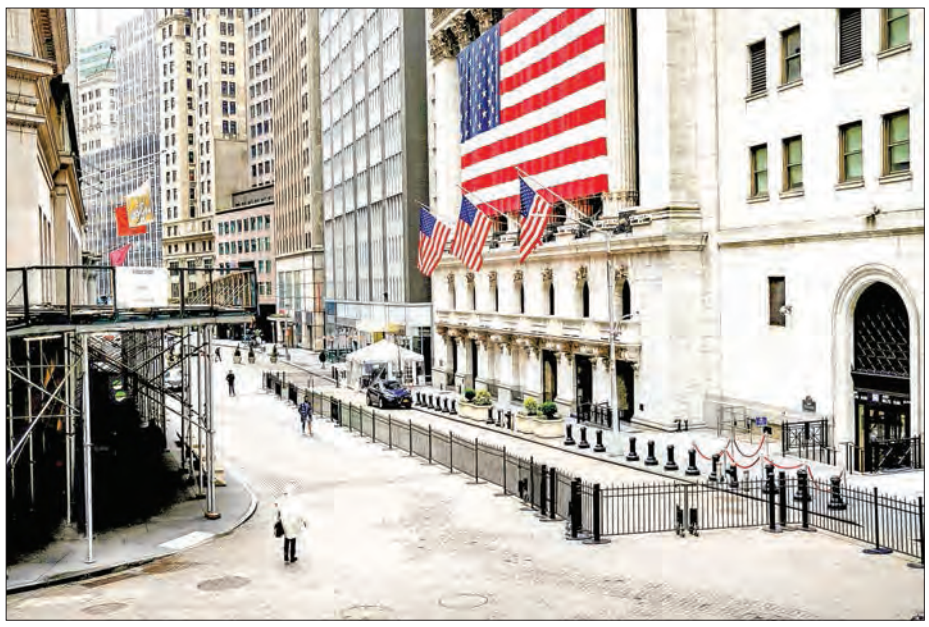
NEW YORK — Wall Street's major averages declined for a third straight week as investors continued to dump some tech-related shares while digesting the U.S. Federal Reserve's latest decision on monetary policy.

For the week ending Friday, the Dow was down 0.03 per cent, the S&P 500 slid 0.64 per cent, and the Nasdaq fell 0.56 per cent.

The S&P U.S. Listed China 50 index, which is designed to track the performance of the 50 largest Chinese companies listed on U.S. exchanges by total market cap, logged a weekly gain of 0.8 per cent.

It was another wild week on Wall Street as tech sell-off continued.

The S&P 500 tech sector decreased more than 1 per cent week to date, following a 4.4-per cent slump in the prior week. "Volatility has arrived and with it comes many fears and unknowns," Mitch Zacks, CEO at Zacks Investment Management, said in a note on Saturday. "With the election fast approaching and uncertainty about the growth trajectory of the U.S. economy, I expect volatility to continue apace in the coming months," Zacks said, adding investors are recommended to stick to the hard data and key fundamentals in order to navigate the turbulent time.



Wall Street's major averages declined for a third straight week as investors continued to dump some tech-related shares while digesting the U.S. Federal Reserve's latest decision on monetary policy. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The Fed's September meeting was a major focus for investors during the week. The U.S. central bank on Wednesday held its benchmark interest rate steady at the record-low level of near zero and promised to maintain this target range until labor market conditions have improved to reach maximum employment and inflation has picked up to its desirable level.—Xinhua

Libya's state-owned oil firm lifts force majeure on "safe" oil facilities

TRIPOLI — The state-owned National Oil Corporation (NOC) of Libya's UN-backed government on Saturday lifted the state of force majeure on the country's "safe" oil facilities.

"The National Oil Corporation announces lifting the state of force majeure on the safe oilfields and ports," the NOC said in a statement.

"The state of force majeure shall remain on the oilfields and ports where presence of members of Wagner gangs and other armed groups, which are obstructing the activities and operations of the National Oil Corporation, is confirmed," the statement said. Khalifa Haftar, commander of the eastern-based army of Libya, on Friday agreed to resume oil production and exports with conditions after months of closure.

"It has been decided to resume production and export of oil with all necessary conditions and procedural measures that guarantee fair distribution of the financial revenues, not to use them to support terrorism, or not being subjected to embezzlement," Haftar said in a televised speech.

Demanding fair distribution of the oil revenues, the eastern-based army since January has been blocking oil production and exports, Libya's main source of income.—AFP

A Libyan oil worker from the Libyan National Oil Corporation checks an oil pipelines at the Zawiya oil installation on 22 August, 2013 in Zawiya, Libya. **PHOTO: AFP**

Moscow slams 'illegitimate' US claims on Iran sanctions

MOSCOW — The Russian foreign ministry on Sunday condemned the unilateral declaration by the United States that UN sanctions on Iran are back in force as "illegitimate" and "unacceptable". "The illegitimate initiatives and actions of the United States by definition cannot have international legal consequences for other countries," the foreign ministry said in a statement. Russia, a key ally of Iran, accused Washington of putting on a "theatrical performance" and insisted that the US statements "do not correspond to reality."

It accused the US of "trying to force everyone to wear virtual reality goggles" and accept its version of events, adding: "The world is not an American computer game."—AFP

China approves investment projects worth 13 bln USD in August

BEIJING — China's top economic planner approved six fixed-asset investment projects with combined investment totaling 88.2 billion yuan (about 13 billion U.S. dollars) in August, official data showed.

The projects were mainly in the transportation and information industries, according to Meng Wei, spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission. Earlier data showed China's fixed-asset investment edged down 0.3 percent year on year during the January-August period, with the decline narrowing from the 1.6-percent fall in the first seven months. Fixed-asset investment includes spending in infrastructure, property, machinery and other physical assets. — Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11/2020-2021)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats / US Dollars.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-193(20-21)	System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Hlaw Gar GCS (1) Lot	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-194(20-21)	Maintenance, Inspection and Spares Requirements for PLC Daw Nyein (1) Lot	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-195(20-21)	Maintenance, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Kanbauk GRS (1) Lot	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-196(20-21)	System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Thaton GCS (1) Lot	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-197(20-21)	Mechanical Accessories (3) Groups	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-198(20-21)	Assorted Kind of Valves and Pressure Gauge (11) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-199(20-21)	Spares for Water Pump and Crude Pump (6) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 21 September 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 21 October 2020.
4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 21-10-2020, 12:00 pm

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1034W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1034W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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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A Short Visit to Aungban (2)

By Thiha Lulin
(Thiha, the Traveller)

Massive unusual cave temple included circular path.

Aungban Haw Nan

I was amazed that there is a Haw Nan in Aungban. I haven't read the history book and did not know about the Haw Nan in Aungban as I think it is a new city, and no one says about it. In reality, there is a Naw Nan in Aungban. But I think it needs to conduct renovation works. U Khum Yone constructed the Haw Nan. The current Haw Nan is not that one. I mean the one established by Thar Mine Kham Sawbwa Sao Tun Aye. When it was constructed, it included a tennis court, garden and horse riding course. It was built of teak.

He was married to three women. They all lived in that Haw Nan. Two out of his three wives are from Taunggyi, but they returned to their native town as they could not live here. One wife gave birth to a daughter. Maha Devi was Saw Kyi Htoo, a daughter of Sakar Sawbwa. They didn't have any child.

The Sawbwa's family and his sister's family lived together in that Haw Nan. Then, it was the office of Cooperative. Now, it is just a vegetable wholesale centre rather than being a visit place to the public.

There is no ancient utensil inside the Haw Nan anymore, and it is totally destroyed. The bulging floor seemed to collapse soon.

Pine Row

The Pine row in Aungban is picturesque. There are sometimes couples in the Pine row in the evening. The entire mountain with a lot of Pines is pleasant locating along the mountain route to Mae Kho Taung Monastery and is a photo spot as well.

Lwal Mal Taung and Chan Tha Gyi Pagoda

The peak of Lwal Mal Taung can be reached through the stairways and the road. There are monasteries and pagodas at the top of the mountain. Chan Tha Gyi pagoda can be seen at the foot of the mountain. The beauty of Aungban can be viewed from the top of the Lwal Mel Taung.

Pinhme Monastery

Pinhme Monastery is located in Pinhme Village near Aungban. The monastery is very long and was a home for many ancient Buddha images.

Aungban Haw Nan.

rare to find in Shan State, and it seems that the pagoda was high and around 60 feet big. The pagoda needs to be preserved systematically as some people used to renovate in a hurry. I heard that the local people pay special attention to renovating the pagoda.

Thaye U-Min Pagoda

Thaye U-Min Pagoda which situated in Thaye Village can be reached through the stairways to the cave.

Aungban Station

As Aungban was the terminus of the railway, there are still colonial buildings and the train maintenance places near the station.

Aungban market

The market is alive with seasonal fruits, locating in the centre of the town.

Clock Tower, Mingalar

Some art works still visible from above.

Later, they are preserved behind bars to protect from the thief. Many Buddha images and some commodities can be seen in the monastery.

Ngone Thone Ancient Pagodas

The most striking thing in my visit to Aungban this time was the ancient pagoda near Ngone Thone Village. It is said that the architecture style of this pagoda is from the Nyaung Yan period. The stupa shape is

Pond and Bahtoo Park

The clock tower was moved to the park, but it is sad that the tower is not as splendid as the one in Kalaw. Both the pond and the clock tower are in the park which is renovated and full of people doing sport, fishing and resting.

Aungban Chinese Temple

A beautiful Chinese Vegetarian Temple can be seen on Aungban-Taungyi road. The place is a photo spot and can be visited inside too.

Monuments

Monuments such as Aungban Town Sign, Bogyoke Aung San statue, Colonel Ba Htoo monument and Pa-O Drum.

Other visiting places

There are also trekking, hiking and camping activities in Aungban. I will write more about trekking.

Foods in Aungban

The very delicious pickled pork and fish rice are recommended to try in Aungban. The restaurant is called Shwe Chan Thar, and it is well-known for its cleanliness and the unique taste of pickled pork. The restaurant is open around 1 pm, and the foods run out so fast. If you are late, then you will have to wait the next day. The fritter shop at the corner of Ba Htoo park and Mingalar pond is also a special place for local people.

Where to stay?

There are only a few popular hotels in Aungban. Most travellers usually stay in Kalaw, but actually, hotels in Aungban are friendly to stay and affordable too. Hotel Hnin Shwe Yi is one of them. The hotel is located on the famous Pyidaungsu road of Aungban, and it seems like an average hotel at first. There are not only hotel buildings but also bungalow types and the swimming pool. The breakfast is well prepared with both local and Myanmar foods. The place is so clean, and the price is reasonable. A superior room is 35,000 kyats, and the deluxe bungalow is 55,000 kyats. It has regular customers who always come and stay, and I also would like to recommend it as it arranges sightseeing and trekking tours as well as camping plan. You can reach to 09780832575 and 09968882800 for booking at the hotel.

Aungban has more historical stories, but most travellers usually skip the town, thinking it doesn't have anything to visit. There are many places to visit and for activities near Aungban. Let me recommend you again to stay and visit in Aungban.

May you all have an enjoyable trip!

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

The only statue that remains intact.

Clock tower, Mingalar pond and Ba Htoo park.

Yadanarbon beat Magway 4-2 in MNL Week-17

YADANARBON FC defeated Magway FC by a score of 4-2 in Week-17 match of Myanmar National League which was played yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Head coach, U Aung Kyaw Moe's Yadanarbon FC, lined up with key players including captain Hlaing Bo Bo, veteran player Myo Ko Tun, youth star Win Naing Soe, Aung Thu who was also known as Myanmar Messi and another youth star Aung Wunna Soe.

In the meantime, head coach U Aung Zaw Myo's Magway FC used essential players including goalie Soe Arkar, captain Naing Naing Kyaw, Sitt Mone, Wai Phyo, Kyat Thu Tun, Pyae Moe and Nay Moe Naing.

Magway forced to play at the start with neat and tidy tackling, but Yadanarbon became the aggressor with a potent, sustained attack.

Even at the 4-minute mark, Yadanarbon got an opening goal scored by veteran player Myo Ko Tun. But, two minutes later, Magway made an equalizer with a score of crucial player Naing Naing Kyaw.

After 1-1, the match became good and excited one for football fans who were watching via My-Cujoo application.

Taking advantage of Magwe's freezing defence line, Yadanabon FC got another leading goal at 14 minutes with the quick action and score of Win Naing Soe. Unluckily, Magway let Yadanarbon score another goal over penalty kick as the team's defenders played roughly in the opponent's penalty area.

The penalty kick was successfully made by youth star Win Naing Soe to give another leading goal for Yadanarbon.

The match was 3-1 win for Yadanarbon at the end of the first half.

The match intensified in the second half with equal play.

Though Magway tried more for their equalizers, the strikers could not convert their immediate goal chances in the early minutes-mark.

Yadnarbon found their fourth and final goal at 69 minutes and star player Hlaing Bo Bo scored the goal.

Next, with a stable play, Magway got their second or consolation goal at 76 minutes, and Aung Zaw Myint scored the goal at 76 minutes.

There were no more goals till the final whistle, and the 4-2 win was enough for Yadanarbon to celebrate their victory.

For the win, Yadanarbon now jumps to fifth place with 19 points from 15 matches played and Magwe FC still sitting in the eighth place with 10 points in total from 15 games played.

On 23 September, Magway FC will take on Southern Myanmar FC at Yangon United Sports Complex, and Yadanarbon FC will face Hantharwady United at Thuwunna Stadium on the same day.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Yadanarbon's Arkar (blue) vies for the ball against Magway's Aung Tun Tun (yellow) during their Week-17 match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 20 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

'Hungry' Bale targets trophies on return to Tottenham

Gareth Bale in his Real Madrid days. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Gareth Bale believes his trophy-winning experience at Real Madrid can help Tottenham end a 12-year wait for silverware after completing his return to Spurs on a season-long loan deal on Saturday.

Bale will not be fit to make his second debut for the club until late October due to an injury.

But after being frozen out by coach Zinedine Zidane at the Spanish champions, the Welshman said he is motivated to prove he remains one of the world's best players.

"I always thought when I did leave that one day I would love to come back, and the opportunity has now arisen," Bale told the Tottenham website. "I feel like it's a good fit, it's a good time for me, I'm hungry, I'm motivated, I want to do well and can't wait to get started." Bale, 31, won four Champions League and two La Liga titles with Madrid after moving for a then world-record fee of £85 million (today $110 million, 93 million euros) in 2013.

"Our club wishes good luck to a player who has been part of one of the most successful stages of our history," Madrid said in a statement.—AFP

Leicester sign Roma winger Under on loan

LONDON — Leicester signed Turkey winger Cengiz Under on a season-long loan from Roma on Sunday.

The move is subject to Premier League and international clearance, with Leicester reported to have an option to buy Under when his loan expires.

The 23-year-old is due to join up with his new teammates and manager Brendan Rodgers ahead of Sunday's Premier League game against Burnley.

"I can't wait to go to Leicester and start training. I've always wanted to play in England and this is a great opportunity to play in the Premier League," Under told Leicester's website.

Under made his debut for Turkey aged 19 and will now play alongside his international team-mate Caglar Soyuncu.

"I will try to help my teammates on the pitch and off the pitch and I believe that I can improve my performance every day," Under said.

"I feel very good because my best friend plays for Leicester City. I am very happy to be able to play with Caglar and I always watched Leicester's games because of him."— AFP

Roma's Turkish forward Cengiz Under has joined Leicester on loan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nadal crashes out, Djokovic battles into Italian Open semi-finals

ROME — Clay court king Rafael Nadal crashed out of the Italian Open on Saturday, falling to a straight sets defeat to Argentine Diego Schwartzman in a tournament the Spaniard had won nine times.

Eight-seeded Schwartzman meted out a punishing 6-2, 7-5 loss in Nadal's final warm-up before his bid for a 13th French Open, and record-equalling 20th Grand Slam in just over a week.

Top men's seed Novak Djokovic also stumbled on the Roman clay but recovered to win through 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 against German qualifier Dominik Koepfer.

"It was not my night at all," said Nadal, who had won all nine previous meetings against 28-year-old Schwartzman, but could not match his rival's stunning game on the red clay of the Foro Italico.

"He played a great match, not me, when this happens you have to lose," continued the 34-year-old.

"It's not a moment for excuses. I've spent a long time without competing, I played two good matches."—AFP