GET SET TO RESURGE SMOKELESS FACTORIES IN MYANMAR IN FUTURE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Press Statement

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has observed that on several occasions some diplomats from Foreign Missions, officials from the Offices of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and International Organizations, government officials and legislators from foreign countries have been issuing remarks/statements regarding Myanmar's domestic political developments based on sweeping allegations, distorted and biased information emanating from unverifiable sources, anti-government and terrorist groups in Myanmar. Moreover, on some occasions, some foreign officials and legislators have made contacts and communications with representatives of the unlawful and terrorist associations – the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), the National Unity Government (NUG) and their subordinates, and extended support, inter alia, by allowing the establishment of representative offices in their territories and the adoption of the resolution at Parliaments in support of these terrorist groups.

In light of the above circumstances, the Ministry wishes to underscore the fact that such contacts and communications made by some foreign government officials and parliamentarians with those terrorist groups and allowing the terrorists to open their establishments in respective territories could give rise to abetting terrorism, hamper the Government's efforts to establish a genuine and discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system in Myanmar, and also lead to the interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. Such activities could also be tantamount to breaching the international counter-terrorism laws and practices.

SEE PAGE-2

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

India-donated 1 mln doses of Covishield vaccine arrive in Myanmar

THE Ministry of Health conducts the vaccination programme as per target groups across the nation in an effort to control the disease. Meanwhile, 1 million Covishield vaccines donated by India arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday, and Director-General Dr Myat Wunna Soe of the Medical Services/ Public Health Department received the vaccines.

The vaccines will be kept at the Central Cold Room. The officials of the Public Health Department monitor and supervise the vaccine storage to meet fixed standards constantly.

SEE PAGE-2

Covishield vaccines are unloaded at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Press Statement

FROM PAGE-1

The Ministry also wishes to refer to its previous official correspondences made to the diplomatic and the UN missions as well as to relevant authorities of countries having communications with those terrorist groups, by expressing strong protests and repeatedly reminding and advising them not to communicate, contact and support those terrorists and their affiliates to use their territories to carry out any illegal activities or terrorist acts against Myanmar, and to take all necessary preventive measures, including investigation and legal actions against those terrorists and elements.

The Ministry reiterates Myanmar's consistent position of condemning terrorism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations and reaffirms its determination to take legal actions under existing laws against those committing terrorist acts. The Ministry sincerely hopes that the international community will not condone terrorism and extremism, and will join hands with Myanmar in the fight against all forms of terrorism.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 9 October 2021

India-donated 1 mln doses of Covishield vaccine arrive in Myanmar

FROM PAGE-1

These vaccines will be distributed to regions and states based on requirements via road transport or with the help of Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanmar airways in the cold chain.

Moreover, these vaccines will be used for primary target groups and additional groups.

As of 9 October, a total of 18 million doses – two million doses of Covishield, 14 million doses of Sinopharm and two million doses of Sinovac purchased by the ministry have arrived in Myanmar. Moreover, the country received more than six million doses of vaccines donated by China, India and Russia.

The officials vaccinated a total of 9,574,393 people until 8 October while 4,083,337 people have been fully vaccinated and 5,491,056 people have received the first jabs of COVID-19 vaccines.

Therefore, the total doses of vaccine delivered are 13,657,730 in the country until 8 October.

The people are urged to receive the COVID-19 vaccines, and those who have already received the first dose are encouraged to go to the nearest immunization centres and receive the second dose on the scheduled immunization date or near the due date, as well as to actively participate in the vaccination drive. — MNA

The MoH officials monitor and supervise the storage of the Covishield vaccine at Central Cold Room.

WGDO Myanmar donates anti-COVID-19 equipment for MoH

WITH the supervision of the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, World Green Design Organization (WGDO) Myanmar of the People's Republic of China donated anti-COVID-19 equipment for the staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation and their family members on 8 October.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the donations from World Green Design Organization (WGDO) Myanmar of the People's Republic of China.

The WGDO handed over anti-COVID-19 devices and medical aids worth 4,254,800 Yuan (K1,063,700,000), including 1,000 sacks of Prescription Tea for Prevention of Covid-19, 12,000 sterilized air purifier masks, 11,000 N95 masks, 200 portable sterilizing kits, eight 10-litre oxygen concentrators and two Philips non-invasive ventilators to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 10:30 am on 8 October.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the donations, handed over certificates of honour to the donors and expressed words of thanks. – MNA

People aspire to the democratic election

THE general election is a very important process for a democratic nation, and those persons attempted to secure the victory in the election by turning a blind eye to the election process. The Tatmadaw emphasizes the desire of the people. But, they need to follow the disciplines. Although they can do anything in unison if their acts are not in line with the law, such acts cannot be done. All things must be done under the law.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 1/2021 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 27-9-2021)

National solidarity and peace negotiation committee holds meeting with political parties

THE National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPC) held a meeting with political parties yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by NSPC Chairperson Union Minister for Union Government Office Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and committee members, the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of 18 political parties and officials. At the meeting, Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Chairman of the Democratic Party (Myanmar) U Thu Wai on behalf of the political parties addressed the meeting. Afterwards, Secretary of the Committee Lt-Gen Min Naung and Committee Member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein explained the peace process and the current peace activities, and attendees discussed peace and electoral procedures.

Lisu National Development Party Chairperson U Shwe Min on behalf of the political parties and National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPC) Chairperson Lt-Gen Yar Pyae concluded the meeting.—MNA

The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee and political parties in progress.

Union Minister for Border Affairs inspects region, human resources development programmes in Kachin State

UNION MINISTER for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung visited the Theravada Central Buddhist Missionary Monastery in Putao Township together with Kachin State government officials, Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Aung Kyi Lin on the morning of 8 October and donated the offertories to Sayadaw Baddhanta Visara.

Then, the Union Minister and officials went to Putao District Development Supervisory Office and District Head reported on the border area development programmes conducted with an allocated budget of the 2020-2021 financial year, further work plans and administrative schemes. The Union Minister instructed the necessary things and inspected the staff housing in the office compound.

Then, the officials checked the lunch session of students at border youth development training centre (Putao), accommodation in line with COVID-19 health rules, training room, food storage, library and staff housing and also instructed to demolish the old and dangerous buildings and make plans to accept more students in coming academic years.

At noon, the Union Minister visited the women's vocational training school and inspected the dormitories, training room and kitchen. He instructed to sell the sewing machines using an instalment system to the trainees, to be proficient in subjects and to provide the needed assistance to make a living after completing the training.

Then, the Union Minister met with the staff of Putao District Development Supervisory Office, headmasters, instructors and students of training schools and provided cash assistance to the staff while the school uniforms and stationeries to the students. — MNA

1,448 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 October, total figure rises to 477,333

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 477,333 after 1,448 new cases were reported on 9 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 430,172 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,104 after 36 died..—MNA

MoI Union Minister inspects broadcasting industries, comforting artistes

UNION MINISTER for Information U Maung Maung Ohn greeted the artistes after inspecting the broadcasting sections of MRTV and Shwe Than Lwin Media.

Union Minister visited Studio A of MRTV on Pyay Road of Yangon on Friday evening and cordially met with the performers who will perform at the "Chit Tay Weisar Thadingyut Mingala" music programmes. He then inspected the Live broadcasting of a music show and gave the presents to the artistes.

He arrived at Hexagon Studio in Shwe Htut Tin Compound in Tamway Township of Yangon yesterday and the Senior Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Company and officials reported on the filming process conducted accordingly to the COVID-19 health rules.

MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn warmly greets the artistes at the Hexagon Studio in Shwe Htut Tin Compound in Yangon yesterday.

In his response to the explanation, the Union Minister said it should conduct the work programmes in line with the health rules. With the control of COVID-19 disease, the filming has been allowed to start as per the restrictions.

The artistes should entertain the anxious public to get relief and the people from movies, television, music, Anyeint and Thabin fields should resume the artwork at the same time.

The Union Minister and party also inspected the specific studios inside the Hexagon Studio and operations of the Hexagon Complex.

The Ministry of Information is working with proper momentum in resuming the filming/production industries in line with the health rules together with the artistes to entertain the public.—MNA

Union Minister for Industry meets pharmaceuticals, medical devices manufacturers in Yangon

UNION MINISTER for Industry Dr Charlie Than met officials from Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Manufacturers Association at the Pharmaceuticals Factory (Insein) Conference Hall, Insein Township, Yangon Region on 8 October.

During the meeting, the Union Minister called for cooperation for the development of the pharmaceuticals sector.

"Basic medicines and other essential medicines and medical supplies required for the health care of the country shall be produced as per GMP Guidelines," the Union Minister said.

"Preparations must be made to produce the necessary medicines for the country in case of emergency. By producing imported medicines and medical supplies, the flow of foreign currency can be reduced.

Efforts must be made to produce new and more drugs for the public.

In Myanmar, only 10 per cent of the demand for medicines and medical supplies is produced and the rest of the medicines are imported.

We must cooperate to find solutions to the challenges encountered in carrying out our work.

The Ministry of Industry is assisting the development of private sector businesses, and if there is a need for the development of the pharmaceutical sector, we will assist. We must work together in a way that benefits all members," the Union Minister added.

The Union Minister called on the Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers to report any problems they face.

Next, U Zaw Moe Khaing, Chairman of the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Manufacturers Association, spoke about the operation and explained the difficulties and market conditions. — MNA

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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.

Govt to connect GAP chemical-free products with wholesale, retail markets

IT should promote the safety and environmental conservation of dams, distribution of dam water to the target acreage, dam water management and knowledge sharing programmes, said Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo during his visit to Nga Moe Yeik dam yesterday.

The Nga Moe Yeik dam constructed over Nga Moe Yeik creek near Phaunggyi Village of Hlegu Township in Yangon Region distributes more than 130 gallons of water to more than 30,000 acres of fields and city daily. During this rainy season, more than 35,000 acre-feet of water are stored in the dam. Moreover, the officials installed a 2 feet high wooden spillway and so the dam can store more than 20,000 acre-feet of water this year. Therefore, it can supply irrigation water to 4,000 acres of summer paddy. The Paunglin dam and Mahuyar dam which supply water to Nga Moe Yeik dam also store water in full this year and so many benefits can provide the livestock and breeding industries in Nga Moe Yeik dam water irrigated areas and greenery in Yangon.

The MoALI Union Minister makes an inspection tour around the Nga Moe Yeik dam yesterday.

Then, the Union Minister and party went to the organic vegetable garden of Sein Lan Cooperatives in Nyaung Hna Pin garden in Hmawbi Township and inspected the cultivation of GAP-certificated vegetables of 200 households of farmers who are members of Cooperatives.

Then, the Union Minister said the departmental officials provide proper techniques and link the farmers with wholesale and retail markets to increase the income of farmers as the numbers of consumers who emphasize safety and nutritious foods and the numbers of farmers who grow chemical-free GAP products are increasing. – MNA

K5 billion Bokpyin-Ohntawkan bridge nears 100% completion

THE Ministry of Construction is constructing a connecting bridge between Bokpyin Township and Ohntawkan village tract in Taninthayi Region with over K5 billion, and now it is almost completed, according to the Bridge Department.

The new Bokpyin-Ohntawkan bridge is a two-lane reinforced concrete bridge, 1,200 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 3 feet wide for sidewalks on each side, and 18 feet in height. Its water clearance is 83 feet wide and its load capacity is 60 tonnes per vehicle.

The bridge is being built by the Bridge Department Construction Team (4) and Bridge Task Force (13) at the cost of K5.434 billion. Construction of the bridge is nearly 100 per cent completed, and the work on the railings and finishing work is continuing, according to the Bridge Department.

The bridge is constructed with piers with a diameter of 1.2 metres and anti-corrosive paint is applied to construction rods accordingly to the specifications to ensure salt resistance in areas exposed to seawater.

The Construction of the bridge started on 18 April 2019. When the bridge is completed, locals from village tracts on the Ohntaw side will be able to travel to Bokpyin in a short time, and transporting crops and fishery products will be faster and easier than before. —Khine Htoo (IPRD)/GNLM

People in Monghkat receive Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine

HEALTHCARE officials launched a COVID-19 vaccination programme in Monhkat Township, Kengtung District, eastern Shan State on the morning of 8 October.

Following the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, field vaccination work is being carried out at five vaccination centres in Monghkat Township, and the vaccination site was inspected by U Myint Soe, Chairman of the COVID-19 Prevention and Control Committee.

The vaccination is being carried out in collaboration with staff from the Township Public Health Department, staff from the General Administration Department, departmental officials, ward administrators and social organizations.Vaccination in the township is being carried out by five groups in each of the designated areas.

Those who remain to be vaccinated in the township will be vaccinated next according to their age, officials said.—Township IPRD/GNLM

Above 18-year-old IDPs get vaccinated against COVID-19 in MraukU Township

HEALTHCARE officials gave Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to people over the age of 18 who are currently taking temporary shelters at IDP camps in MraukU Township, MraukU District, Rakhine State for the prevention and effective treatment of COVID-19 respiratory disease. COVID-19 vaccine (Sinopharm) is currently available across Myanmar.

The vaccines will be given next in all states, districts and townships, urban and rural areas accordingly to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, officials said. Vaccines were given systematically to the IDPs at new and old monasteries of Daikyi, and only those with normal conditions are vaccinated. Before the vaccination, healthcare staff and officials made records for the vaccinated people and gave general medical knowledge to the public.

Next, volunteers and healthcare workers measured the body temperature, blood pressure and oxygen level before the vaccination. As of yesterday morning, a total of 196 people have been vaccinated against the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine at the old Daikyi monastery and the new monastery separately.—Khin Maung Tun (IPRD)/GNLM

MoH Union Minister tours departments and hospitals in Yangon

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win made an inspection tour to the Department of Medical Research, Yangon Central Midwifery Training School, the Children's Hospital and the Nursing Training School yesterday in Yangon.

At the meeting with the Director-General of the Department of Medical Research Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun and department officers, the Union Minister said the need to speed up the COVID diagnosis with COVID-19 RT-PCR as well as Gene Sequencing for genetic mutations of the COVID-19. He instructed the officials to coordinate where necessary with the Ministry of Industry for the production of COVID-19 vaccines. He also asked to make arrangements for the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Medical Research Conference.

Afterwards, he met with the Principal, professors and students at the Central Midwifery Training School, and inspected the classrooms and laboratories in the school.

During his visit to the Yangon Children's Hospital, he met with the Hospital Superintendent, Professors/Medical Specialists, and said the funds required to repair and maintain hospital equipment are being fulfilled. He urged them to make sure there is no shortage of medicines, as well as to assist in vaccinating students of the basic education schools. He called for coordination to constantly provide medical treatment to emergency patients.

After the inspection tour to the Nursing Training School-Yangon, the Union Minister visited the Central Women's Hospital-Yangon and met with the hospital officials and health care professionals and specialists. The Union Minister expressed words of thanks to the healthcare workers for their efforts to bring health care services back to normal. To strengthen human resources in the health care sector, the Ministry is working on opening nursing training courses and postgraduate medical courses as well as recruiting new assistant doctors, he said.

He urged them to perform necessary surgeries for gynaecological patients as soon as possible and experienced nurses should be arranged to work together in the operating room. He called for a systematic review of the number of specialists/nurses in hospitals in Yangon for obstetrics and gynaecology.

It is reported that Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win also met with department officers of the Yangon Region Public Health Department on the morning of 8 October.—MNA

MoC allows imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment as usual

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airports and seaports with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 9 October, the three companies imported 100 empty oxygen cylinders, 2 oxygen generators, 2,750 PPE suits and 17-tonnes of masks using five vehicles.

From 1 to 9 October, a total of 24 companies imported 78tonnes of liquid oxygen, 2 storage containers, 3 liquid oxygen distributors, 8,692 empty oxygen cylinders, 10 oxygen plants, 2 oxygen generators, 675 oxygen concentrators, 10,000 test kits, 2,750 PPE suits, 16 tonnes of gloves and 234 tonnes of masks using 57 trucks.

The 4 liquid oxygen Bowsers imported from 1to 9 October were headed to Yangon and of 10 oxygen plants, 5 were distributed to Yangon while 2 to Kume and one each to Mandalay, Homalin and Kyondoe townships.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including online registration for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

1,526 people receive 2nd dose of COVID jab in Yathedaung

HEALTHCARE officials gave the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to IDPs in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, from 9 am to 4 pm starting from 7 October.

U Naing Lin Htet, chairman of the township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, and members of the committee gave a speech in support of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Before the vaccination, healthcare staff and officials made records for the vaccinated people.

Next officials measured the body temperature, blood pressure and monitoring oxygen level before the vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccines were given to 1,526 local people over the age of 45 who were taking shelters in IDP camps at five designated areas in Yathedaung Township and the rest are still being vaccinated, officials said.—Yathedaung IPRD/GNLM

Domestic black bean price down K300,000 per tonne in ten days

THE black bean prices in the domestic market have declined by K300,000 per tonne in ten days, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Brokerage). Although the black bean touched a high of K2 million per tonne on 28 September, the price speedily fell to K1,660,000 on 8 October, which is a decrease of K340,000 per tonne in ten days. Myanmar Kyat depreciation against the US dollar is the main reason for decreasing black bean prices. Presently, the local dollar exchange rate was at over K3,000 per dollar on 28 September, but it downturned to over K2,000 per dollar on 8 October. Additionally, there are fewer stockpiles in the domestic market. Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black beans and pigeon peas, under the Indian government pulse foreign trade policy for 2015-2020.

At present, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India issued proclamation S.O.1858 (E) on 15 May 2021 that the three pulses have been changed from a restricted commodity to a free import commodity as of 31 October 2021. The issuance of bill of lading to import pigeon pea, green gram and black bean needs to be completed by 31 October 2021 and the port clearance of imported cargos should be completed by 30 November, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India notified. A memorandum of understanding was signed on 18 June to export a total of 350,000 tonnes of Myanmar pulses, including 250,000 tonnes of black bean and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea to India in five consecutive years (from the 2021-22FY to the 2025-26FY), according to the Ministry of Commerce. The exports of the country's various pulses to the international market recorded 2,013,125.777 tonnes from 1 October 2020 to 24 September 2021, generating revenue of US$1,556.659 million.

Out of them, Myanmar shipped over 668,633.659 tonnes of the black bean to foreign countries, generating an income of $518.749 million. The black bean plantations are yielding around 400,000 tonnes annually in Myanmar. Besides, Myanmar has also produced about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas yearly. The black bean, which is mainly bought from India, is mainly grown in Myanmar. Other pulses, including green gram and pigeon pea, are grown in Africa and Australia in addition to Myanmar, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/GNLM

Potato price soars in domestic market

On 1 September, the prices of potatoes moved in the range of K500-K1,200 per viss depending on the varieties. On 7 October, the potato dramatically rose to K1,050-K1,850 depending on the size and varieties.

THE price of potatoes, which is one of the staple vegetables, has been rising in the market, it is learnt. "The country is currently experiencing a sharp rise in potato prices because of the lack in supply of potatoes from China in the domestic market this year. Besides, the growers have not been able to grow the potato to meet their domestic demand," the potato growers said.

China has halted its border checkpoints this year amid a recent surge in case of COVID-19 infection. Last year, the price of potatoes has dropped due to the influx of potatoes from China, and the potato growers have not been able to get a price on their crops.

On 1 September, the prices of potatoes moved in the range of K500-K1,200 per viss depending on the varieties. On 7 October, the potato dramatically rose to K1,050-K1,850 depending on the size and varieties.

Additionally, the prices of kitchen utensils are rising in the domestic market depending on the strict restriction measures to contain the COVID-19, depreciation of Myanmar Kyat and foreign demand. After potatoes, the high cost of another staple vegetable, onion, is providing to be whammy for households.

In the market, the price of onion was ranged between K200 and K500 per viss on 1 September. But, the price rose to K450 and K950 per viss on 7 October.

The domestic onion price has risen in the market due to the higher demand of Myanmar onion from Bangladesh, said onion traders. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar gold price drip to K1.88 mln per tical

THE price of domestic gold bar dripped to K1,880,000 per tical (roughly 16.33 grammes), according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The price of domestic gold is dropped right now due to the devaluation of Kyat in the forex market. Although the domestic gold price stood at K2,220,000 per tical on 28 September and it is dramatically down to K1,880,000 per tical on 9 October. The figures show a gap of about K340,000 per tical within two weeks, as per the YGEA.

Although the domestic gold price stood at K2,220,000 per tical on 28 September and it is dramatically down to K1,880,000 per tical on 9 October.

In recent days, the gold prices were fluctuating in the domestic gold market. These are attributed to political development, high demand in the domestic gold market and shortage of raw gold metals. As a result of this, YGEA urged its members to regulate trading in dealing with market volatility. Besides, the shops are urged to sell only small pieces of gold bar. The association is also monitoring to stop accepting orders without raw gold material and to stop distance trading.

In January 2021, the gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). The price was registered the highest of K1,455,000 (30 April) and the lowest of K1,389,000 (1 April). The price reached an all-time highest of K1,709,000 (12 May) and the lowest of K1,447,000 in May. The price moved in the maximum of K1,575,500 (11 June) and the minimum of K1,543,000 (19 June). It fluctuated between K1,562,300 (26 July) and K1,587,000 (K1,587,000). Last month, the price of gold reached the lowest of K1,572,800 (3 August) and the highest of K2,220,000 (28 September), the gold traders said.

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal prices moved in the range of 1,280,000 (1 December) and 1,332,000 (28 December).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. —NN/GNLM

10 OCTOBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Get set to resurge smokeless factories in Myanmar in future

NATURAL lands with panoramic views are very important to attract local and foreign travellers to the tourism sector. A large number of beautiful and pleasant natural lands scatter the length and breadth of the nation.

Plans are underway to shape Putao, PyinOoLwin, Haka, Thantaunggyi and Kalaw as the hill resort stations in the country. Among them, Kalaw, located on the trade route between southern Shan State and plain regions, was a hill station in the colonial era.

Local people are responsible for the preservation of ancient cultural heritages such as forest reserves, pine forests, orange plantations, tea plantations, some ancient buildings of the colonial era, the railway and Kalaw station built by Portuguese prisoners of war in World War II.

> Myanmar gets ready to launch the tourism services in the post-COVID-19 period with the attractions of hill stations in Shan, Chin and Kayin states to catch the attention of the travellers. Destinations grant the travellers at home and abroad for satisfying their tours of sites decorated with natural and artificial works.

In fact, these ancient cultural heritages are capital investments to be used for a resurgence of the tourism services in Kalaw. Moreover, local people need to decorate the routes leading to the city with the natural scenic beauties with the trees which bear beautiful flowers such as pine, oak, gold mohur and cherry in order to catch the eyes of the travellers.

The city must be filled with natural beauties and created beauties for winning the heart of travellers. With regard to the created beauties, arrangements are being made to operate the train linked with the locomotive using pieces of coal for generating energy along the route between Myintaik and Heho centring at Kalaw. Surely, the coal-fired locomotive is very rare to cross the world, attracting international tourists. Not only the coal-fired locomotive but the Kalaw railway station will be tourist attractions in the city.

Everybody knows income from the tourism industry can be spent on development tasks. As a Myanmar saying goes: 'the pleasant house attracts guest', the residents wishing to attract the travellers need to green and beautify the pine forest land with clean roads, drains and streaming of springs to be created as pleasant area. If so, the land of Kalaw will be famous across the world.

Myanmar gets ready to launch the tourism services in the post-COVID-19 period with the attractions of hill stations in Shan, Chin and Kayin states to catch the attention of the travellers. Destinations grant the travellers at home and abroad for satisfying their tours of sites decorated with natural and artificial works.

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UN health agency issues definition of post-COVID-19 condition to aid treatment

Although several tests exist for the initial COVID-19 infection, there is no such solution for post COVID-19 condition, and it is still unclear exactly what triggers it in sufferers.

THE first official clinical definition of living with "post COVID" sickness, has been agreed upon following global consultation and released to help boost treatment for sufferers, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

The emerging illness, which is also referred to as "long COVID" among many other similar iterations, occurs in individuals who have had confirmed or probable new coronavirus infections, "usually three months on from the onset of the COVID-19 (and) with symptoms that last for at least two months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis" said Dr Janet Diaz, Head, Clinical Management, WHO.

Residents get their blood pressure checked before receiving the Sinovac COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine at a makeshift mass vaccination centre on a football field in Surabaya on 29 July 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Under the microscope

Until now, a lack of clarity among healthcare professionals about the condition has complicated efforts in advancing research and treatment, WHO explained, in a document detailing its reasons for pursuing a globally standardized clinical case definition.

Speaking at UN Geneva, the WHO official explained that symptoms include "fatigue, shortness of breath, cognitive disfunction, but also others which generally have an impact on everyday functioning. Symptoms may be new-onset, following the initial recovery from the acute episode, or persist from the initial illness. And then symptoms can also fluctuate or relapse over time."

In issuing the definition, WHO noted that most patients who suffer from COVID-19 fully recover, although some suffer "long-term effects on several body systems, including pulmonary, cardiovascular and nervous systems, as well as psychological effects". These effects can happen irrespective of the initial severity of infection; they also occur more frequently in women, middle age, and in those who displayed more symptoms initially.

Describing the new definition as "an important step forward" in standardizing the recognition of patients with post COVID-19 condition, Dr Diaz said it was the UN agency's hope that "it will help clinicians and health workers recognize patients and start them on appropriate treatments and interventions and clear pathways.

We hope that policymakers and health systems will set up and implement integrated health models to care for these patients."

No test

Although several tests exist for the initial COVID-19 infection, there is no such solution for post COVID-19 condition, and it is still unclear exactly what triggers it in sufferers.

"Is it viral persistence, and/or, is there microthrombosis (or) some problem with the vasculature," Dr Diaz said, outlining some of the current thinking among scientists carrying out research in the field. "And/or is there problems of autoimmunity, or the immune system that is disfunctioning and that's causing some of the symptoms?"

SOURCE: UN

■ ■ ■

India to re-open for tourists from 15 October

Tourist visas will be granted for foreigners arriving on charter flights from 15 October, and on other flights from 15 November, the home ministry said in a statement.

INDIA will re-open for tourists from 15 October after being closed for more than a year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the government said Thursday.

The country famous for the Taj Mahal, desert palaces, tiger reserves, elephants and beaches had barred all foreign tourists in March 2020 in a strict lockdown when the pandemic took off.

But after a horrendous spike in Covid-19 cases earlier this year, the number of cases has since fallen sharply and the government, under pressure from an industry that is an important pillar of the economy, on Thursday announced a loosening.

Tourist visas will be granted for foreigners arriving on charter flights from 15 October, and on other flights from 15 November, the home ministry said in a statement.

It stressed that all Covid-19 protocols "should be adhered to by the foreign tourists, carriers bringing them into India and all other stakeholders at landing stations".

Hospitals overwhelmed

India initially banned all foreigner arrivals. The restrictions were gradually eased for businesspeople, diplomats and others but borders remained shut for holidaymakers.

In April and May this year the country of 1.3 billion people was hit by a severe wave of coronavirus infections with about 400,000 cases and 4,000 deaths every day.

Hospitals were overwhelmed as more than 200,000 people died in a period of around 10 weeks, according to official numbers that are widely seen as an underestimate.

The spike was blamed on new virus variants and the government having lifted restrictions too soon and allowing sporting events and major celebrations for religious festivals to take place.

But cases have since slowed sharply to around 20,000 new daily infections and 200 to 300 deaths in recent weeks.

More than 250 million people have been double-vaccinated, although this equates to only around 20 per cent of the population, and experts warn that India could suffer another wave.

Tourism staggers back

Tourism is beginning to pick up in Europe and the Americas, with some 54 million tourists crossing international borders in July, the most since April 2020, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) said on Monday.

That was up 58 per cent compared with the level recorded in July 2020, but was still a drop of 67 per cent from July 2019. International arrivals were down 80 per cent in January-July compared to 2019.

The UN body said it was expecting to see a "rebound" in 2022 although global tourism is not expected to reach pre-pandemic levels until 2023 or 2024.

Elsewhere in Asia, the picture is mixed, with China and Japan still off-limits to foreign tourists.

But Indonesia on Monday announced that the resort island of Bali would open to select international travellers next week, while Thailand on Saturday said that fully vaccinated travellers from any country can now book holidays to tourism haven Phuket.

The Maldives has been open -- with some suspensions -- for tourists since July 2020. Sri Lanka opened to fully vaccinated tourists last month.

Indian slump

The Indian economy suffered one of the sharpest slumps among major economies as a result of the pandemic, with output suffering its worst drop since independence, pushing millions back into poverty.

The initial lockdown last March in particular was a catastrophe, leaving tens of millions of workers in the informal economy without work almost overnight.—***SOURCE: AFP***

A man walks along with his camels in the sand dunes of Thar Desert at Sam village in India's Rajasthan state on 7 October 2021. **PHOTO: SAJJAD HUSSAIN / AFP**

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 9 October 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and Eastcentral Bay and monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Topical strom "LIONROCK" over the Gulf of Tokin and is centered at about (230) miles East-Southeast of Hanoi (Vietnam) and (245) miles East- Northeast of Vinh (Vietnam). It is forecast to move Northwest wards slowly and cross the Upper Vietnam coasts on 11 October.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 10 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, and Mandalay regions, Southern Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan and Kayah states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8 – 10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHB0OURING AREA FOR 10 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Vaccination drive continues in Tatkon Township

THE first COVID-19 vaccination programme for above 18-year-old people was held for the fifth time at 9 am on 9 October at the No. (1) Basic Education High School campus, Aung Zeya Ward, Tatkon Township, Union Territory in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the vaccination campaign, the people who came to be vaccinated were transported to designated places.

Officials also provided necessary assistance and made a systematic recording for the vaccinated person.

A total of 6,156 local people including 998 people on the first day, 1,835 people on the second day, 1,788 people on the third day, and 1,535 people on the fourth day came and got the COVID vaccines.

The COVID-19 vaccine is given to local people over 18 years of age in Tatkon Township.

Departmental staff, volunteers, Township Health Department officials and the Military Medical Team from Tatkon and township officials assisted in the vaccination campaign following the health directives. — Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)/GNLM

Health officials administer COVID vaccines to people in Pyawbwe

THE first batch of COVID-19 vaccination is being carried out in Pyawbwe Township on 9 October and the vaccination campaign was launched at 8 am at Yarpyae Sasana Beikman in the township.

Vaccination was carried out at five designated places: Yarpyae Sasana Beikman in Shan Pwe Ward, Basic Education High School (Yan Aung), Basic Education High School (Yintaw), Basic Education High School (East Shaw Phyu Gone), and Basic Education High School (Taung Nyaung Gone) separately. Staff from the Township General Administration Department and other departments, and members of the Red Cross provided necessary assistance as needed, officials said.

To date, 7,147 people have been vaccinated with a complete dose of COVID-19 vaccines in Pyawbwe Township. A total of 39,396 people in the township have been vaccinated with the first dose, according to the township COVID-19 Prevention and Emergency Response Committee. —Min Min Htwe (Pyawbwe)/GNLM

Sundried rubber selling well in Thaton Township

RUBBER growers in Thuwunnawadi town, Thaton Township, Mon State sell the sundried rubber sheets at the harvest time instead of the ribbed smoked sheet due to the narrow price gap.

"The price between the ribbed smoked sheet (RSS) and the sundried rubber is relatively small for now. The input cost for RSS production is higher than the sundried rubber sheets. The labour cost for tapping latex is estimated at K95,000 for a rubber farm (300 plants). Four workers are required to collect the latex. Only when the rubber price does not decrease less than the current rate, will the farm owners do well," said Daw Mee Nge, a farm owner working on a manageable skill in Winpa village.

"The sundried rubber sheet was priced K970 per pound while Ribbed Smoked Sheet (RSS) fetched K1,070 per pound in Mon State. About 15,000-20,000 pounds are daily traded", said Daw Htar Shwe, an owner of Shwelatsaung rubber depot in Thuwunnawadi town.

The opening price of the rubber was only K800 per pound last year, whereas it climbed up to K1,000 per pound. The prices vary depending on the rubber quality and the different regions and states. The local rubber growers are asking for price stability in the market. They called for the authority concerned to govern the market.—Khun (Winpa)/GNLM

CMP garment exports generate US$3.24 bln revenue in FY2020-2021

EXPORTS of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system touched a low of US$3.24 billion between 1 October and 31 August in the financial year 2020-2021, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector recorded an accelerated downturn in the previous months (July and August) as political changes and the COVID surge led to factory closures. The layoff is extended and some workers were forced to return to their hometowns. Turning to prices, higher material costs and unfavourable exchange rate movements contributed to a sharp increase in cost burdens, the HIS Markit stated.

The garment industry faced the cancellation of orders and slump in output, new orders, coupled with the market manipulation in the forex market. However, the industry is now getting back to normalcy after the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US.

The export value of CMP garments was only $850 million in the 2015-2016FY, but it has tripled over the past two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about $2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated amount of $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to $4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY and $4.8 billion in the 2019-2020FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. —KK/GNLM

WHO set to restart Russian Sputnik vaccine analysis

THE World Health Organization said on Thursday it was about to restart the process of approving Russia's Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine following a series of problems with the dossier.

WHO authorization has been sought for the Sputnik V jab created by Russia's Gamaleya research institute, which is already being used in 45 countries, according to an AFP count.

Several Covid-19 vaccines have been given the WHO green light for emergency use during the pandemic: Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen, Moderna, Sinopharm, Sinovac and AstraZeneca in various plants.

For Sputnik V, "the process was put on hold due to the lack of some legal procedures", said Mariangela Simao, the WHO assistant director-general for access to medicines, vaccines and pharmaceuticals.

"In negotiations with the Russian government, this problem is about to be sorted out," she told a press conference.

"As soon as the legal procedures are finished, we are able to restart the process."

WHO emergency use listing is the green light that gives countries, funders, procuring agencies and communities assurance that a vaccine has met international standards.

A nurse shows the Sputnik V (Gam-COVID-Vac) vaccine against the coronavirus at a clinic in Moscow. **PHOTO: AFP**

The listing paves the way for countries to approve and import a vaccine for distribution quickly, especially those states without an international-class regulator of their own.

Dossier incomplete

Sputnik V is already being used in countries including Algeria, Argentina, India, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Russia itself.

"There are still the issues around complete information on the dossier that has to be provided by the applicant," said Simao.

"Then there is also the issues regarding the final finalisation of the inspections in the different manufacturers in Russia, but I'm happy to say that the about the process is about to be restarted."

In June, the WHO said it conducted nine inspections of Sputnik V manufacturing sites and uncovered various problems at the Pharmstandard Ufa Vitamin Plant in Ufa, southern Russia.

Moscow insisted the problems had since been resolved.

Russia is among the countries hardest-hit by the coronavirus pandemic, with the fifth-highest number of recorded deaths according to an AFP tally on Thursday: 213,549 fatalities from 7,690,110 cases.—AFP ■

Migrant-dependent UK healthcare battle staffing crisis

BRITAIN'S National Health Service, which provides free healthcare funded from general taxation and welfare contributions, is one of the world's largest and most cosmopolitan employers.

But the NHS -- which listed 211 nationalities in England alone in 2020 -- faces chronic staff shortages.

By 2029, the state-run service in England will face a shortfall of 108,000 nurses, according to the Health Foundation think-tank.

Now there are fears the crisis will further deepen due to a combination of shocks depleting its substantial foreign workforce: retirement, the coronavirus pandemic, Brexit and tougher immigration rules.

Migration has long been a "stopgap solution" as Britain suffered "recurring crises" for 40 years, said Mark Dayan, policy analyst at the Nuffield Trust health think-tank.

Retired doctor Iftikhar Ali Syed left Pakistan for Britain in 1960 and spent 45 years working in Burnley, a northern English town defined by factory chimneys belching black smoke.

A doctor attends to a young patient at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, part of NHS England, in Wigan, a town in northwest England. **PHOTO: OLI SCARFF/AFP**

Syed, 86, belonged to a generation of medical professionals from ex-British colonies who filled labour shortages after World War II.

They were directed to poorer regions -- often ex-industrial heartlands like northern England and south Wales -- where recruitment was hardest and health needs greatest.— AFP ■

German exports in first drop since 2020 amid supply chain woes

A Volkswagen ID 3 electric car assembly line in Dresden, eastern Germany **PHOTO: JENS SCHLUETER / AFP**

GERMAN exports fell in August for the first time since April 2020, official data showed Friday, the latest indicator to turn red as supply bottlenecks stifle the economic recovery from the pandemic. Europe's top economy exported 113 billion euros ($130 billion) of goods in August, adjusted for the season, a 1.2 per cent drop on July, while imports were up 3.5 per cent to 100 billion euros, according to the federal statistics agency Destatis.

For Germany's export-driven economy the figures are a blow, and follow announcements this week that industrial orders and production, two key economic indicators, fell by 7.7 per cent and four per cent, respectively.

The drop in exports is the first since April 2020 when the pandemic caused figures to tumble by 23.6 per cent after a 12 per cent fall in March 2020.

Germany's businesses had to prepare for a "difficult autumn", said Joachim Lang, director general of the influential German industry lobby, the BDI.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ukraine introduces compulsory vaccinations for teachers

UKRAINE on Thursday ordered mandatory Covid-19 jabs for teachers and some government officials as the country faces growing infection rates and a sluggish vaccination drive.

Authorities in the ex-Soviet country of around 40 million people initially struggled with a lack of vaccines and are now fighting an uphill battle to convince a vaccine-sceptic population to get innoculated.

"The decision aims to protect the life and health of Ukrainians," health minister Viktor Lyashko said in a statement from his ministry.

School and university teachers and some civil servants will have one month to get their first dose of a vaccine or they will be "suspended from their duties" without pay, the ministry said. –AFP ■

'Uneven, tenuous' seen for Mideast recovery

The Middle East and North Africa are experiencing a tenuous and uneven economic recovery in 2021 as they get to grips with the coronavirus pandemic, the World Bank said Thursday.

The Washington-based institution said the pandemic had seen the region's economies shrink by 3.8 per cent in 2020, in part due to public health systems' lack of preparedness to deal with the health crisis.

The World Bank projected 2.8 per cent growth for region's economy in 2021, with total losses from the pandemic estimated to reach almost $200 billion by the end of this year. GDP per capita is forecast to grow by only 1.1 per cent this year after declining by about 5.0 per cent in 2020. The health crisis inflicted heavy job losses and a sharp increase in the number of people living below the poverty line of less than $5.50 a day. "Stressed health systems have combined with global economic factors -- such as fluctuations in commodity prices, particularly oil -- to produce an uneven economic recovery for the region and a tenuous outlook," the World Bank said in a report.–AFP ■

US, China hold trade talks, with tariff removal among the agendas

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai held talks with her Chinese counterpart Liu He on Friday over a bilateral trade deal signed last year, with Beijing saying that the removal of punitive tariffs imposed by the United States was among the topics discussed.

The virtual meeting, the first such engagement between the two in months, took place as the U.S. administration of President Joe Biden seeks to realign its trade policy with Beijing after four years under his predecessor Donald Trump that saw the two countries enter into a tit-for-tat tariff war and the "phase one" trade deal that failed to fully tackle US concerns over China's unfair trade practices and policies.

According to the office of the USTR, Tai and Liu, during their "candid" exchange, acknowledged the "importance of the bilateral trade relationship and the impact that it has not only on the United States and China but also the global economy."

The two also reviewed the implementation of the phase one deal and agreed that the two sides would "consult on certain outstanding issues," the office added, without elaborating.

The two also reviewed the implementation of the phase one deal and agreed that the two sides would "consult on certain outstanding issues", the office added, without elaborating. **PHOTO: AFP**

While emphasizing U.S. concerns relating to China's state-led, nonmarket policies that harm American businesses, Tai noted that she looks forward to following up with Liu in the near future, according to the USTR office.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry, meanwhile, said Liu negotiated with Tai over the cancellation of tariffs and sanctions.

Following a months-long review of China trade policy, Tai outlined on Monday what the USTR office calls a "new approach" to trade relations between the world's two largest economies, which included starting engaging with her Chinese counterpart to hold Beijing accountable to the phase one deal.

She has also said the United States will raise concerns over China's state-centered and nonmarket trade practices that distort competition, which were not addressed in the phase one deal.

Under the trade agreement that took effect in February last year, China has agreed to increase its purchases of U.S. goods and services over two years by at least $200 billion, in a move that is expected to help reduce the chronic US trade deficit. — Kyodo ■

Delta wave tossed wrench into US job market in September

THE US economy was predicted to add hundreds of thousands of jobs last month but instead gained only 194,000 as the Delta variant of Covid-19 again denied President Joe Biden the soaring labor market he is banking on —at least for now.

Schools shed jobs, and the bars and restaurants that have become a barometer of the virus' threat to business added barely any positions in the Labor Department's September employment report released Friday, which at best presented a mixed verdict on the state of the world's largest economy.

On a more positive note, the unemployment rate ticked down more than expected to 4.8 percent, and the last two months' jobs gains have been revised upwards, underlining that the United States has come a long way from the devastating weeks last year when Covid caused tens of millions to lose their jobs.

A server wearing a mask and face shield takes orders from customers at a restaurant in Beverly Hills, California, US, 23 November 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Biden has been banking on an economic revival to build support for his presidency-defining spending bills while also fending off the Republican opposition's attempts to use the country's debt limit to force a retreat on his ambitious agenda.

The data underscores how the virus's fast-spreading variant has complicated those plans, though cases have declined nationwide since the cutoff for the report's data, in the first half of September.

Biden called the drop in the unemployment rate "a significant improvement from when I took office, and a sign that our recovery is moving forward, even in the face of a Covid pandemic."—AFP ■

Report touts benefits of secondary jobs for Japanese workers, firms

JAPAN'S largest business lobby recently released a report it says shows the benefits that can come from allowing people to take on secondary employment, with the arrangement delivering a happier and more productive workforce while addressing some of the nation's demographic challenges.

The report compiled by the Japan Business Federation, known as Keidanren, focused on the way increasing flexibility in allowing people to take on different, additional work can address labor shortages as well as dissatisfaction with the country's rigid corporate culture. Although just 22 per cent of about 500 companies in the country polled last year allow staff to take on second jobs, the report indicates a larger take-up of the arrangement could lead to people staying in the workforce for longer.

The practice could, to some extent, address Japan's shrinking labor force by giving workers new skills to potentially use in a post-retirement career, according to the report.

Importantly, the report makes clear it is focusing on workers who do not need to work a second job just for financial reasons, rather it looks at people who are dissatisfied and want a change.

The report gives the example of an IT systems engineer taking on a role as an educator as a way skills can be transferred for the common good. Another case study details how a human resources staffer was able to help small regional businesses develop more advanced personnel systems.— Kyodo ■

File photo taken 1 June 2021, shows Keidanren Hall (front), which houses the Japan Business Federation, the country's largest business lobby. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Final deal on OECD-led int'l tax reforms reached, will begin in 2023

THE majority of the world's economies on Friday sealed a deal on global tax reforms to be implemented from 2023 to ensure that major international firms pay their fair share of tax no matter where they are located, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said.

In a virtual meeting of an OECD-led project to review the century-old international tax system involving 140 countries, 136 nations agreed on the new rules that include setting a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent, one of the unresolved issues when an outline agreement was concluded in July.

A new tax will also be levied on multinational giants with global annual revenue of over 20 billion euros ($23 billion) and a profit margin of more than 10 per cent. Profit minus 10 per cent of sales will be taxed at 25 per cent, according to the Paris-based club of 38 mostly wealthy nations. The group vowed to abolish digital service taxes, which countries such as France, Italy and Britain have already introduced to secure more revenue, intending to target digital giants such as Google LLC and Apple Inc.—Kyodo ■

China, Chile implement AEO customs agreement

AN agreement on mutual authorized economic operator (AEO) status signed between China and Chile went into effect Friday, offering easier customs clearance for exporters from both countries, said the Chinese customs.

This is China's first AEO mutual recognition officially implemented in South America, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

Under the agreement, companies that obtain the AEO status in the two countries will enjoy simplified customs procedures, such as reduced examination and prioritized clearance, which will significantly shorten customs clearance time and reduce costs at ports as well as for insurance and logistics.

Chile is China's second-largest trade partner in South America. The trade volume between the two countries totaled 42.19 billion US dollars in the first eight months of the year, up 50.1 per cent year on year, GAC data showed.

During the period, a total of 883 Chinese companies with AEO status exported to Chile, with the combined export value accounting for about 18.9 per cent of China's total exports to Chile.

The AEO system, initiated by the World Customs Organization, is aimed at facilitating customs clearance for enterprises with outstanding records in terms of legal compliance, credit rating and safety.

By the end of August, China had signed AEO agreements with 46 countries and regions including Singapore, the Republic of Korea and the European Union member states. —Xinhua

Photo taken on 14 April 2020 shows containers at the Lianyungang Port in Lianyungang City, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: GENG YUHE/XINHUA**

India sells struggling Air India back to Tata conglomerate

TEA-TO-SOFTWARE Indian giant Tata is buying back Air India, 89 years after founding it as Tata Air and half a century following its nationalization, the government said Friday.

The 180-billion-rupee ($2.4-billion) deal marks the end of a lengthy effort to privatise the heavily-indebted flag carrier that according to the government has eaten up 1.1 trillion rupees ($14.7 billion) in public money since 2009.

The airline was founded in 1932 with the first flight piloted by Tata's eponymous chairman himself JRD Tata, flying mail and passengers in a single-propeller de Havilland Puss Moth from Karachi to Bombay, as the city was known then.

Air India operates 50 per cent of all international flights from India. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Tata Air offered a slice of the high life with Bollywood actresses in its adverts and at one point commissioning Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dali to design its ashtrays.

The airline was nationalized in the 1950s and in the decades that followed the "Maharaja of the Skies" became synonymous with the hopes and ambitions of the newly independent country.

"Welcome back, Air India," Tata's patriarch chairman emeritus Ratan Tata tweeted on Friday, while admitting it "would take considerable effort to rebuild" the company. —AFP

California restricts gagging for employee complaints

A new law that will allow victims of workplace harassment or discrimination to speak freely, instead of being gagged by confidentiality clauses, has been signed into effect in California.

The "Silenced No More" act could have huge ramifications for global tech companies headquartered in the state—which critics say too readily resort to Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) when faced with claims of troubling behaviour from their staff.

Typically NDAs are imposed by companies as part of a financial settlement with an employee who has faced discrimination because of their race, gender or sexual orientation, for example.

Advocates say they allow the firm to address the complaint without airing their dirty laundry in public -- something no organization likes to do.

But commentators say it can allow bosses to cover things up, and to protect those responsible for the harassment. "Too often, NDAs can be used to silence somebody," says Lauren Topelsohn, a lawyer who specializes in employment law.—AFP

Tech Giants like Google have been accused of too readily using non-disclosure agreements when staffers complain about troubling corporate behaviour. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (350WA)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (350WA)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (236N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (236N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2021** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SKYLINE VOY.NO. (003N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SKYLINE VOY. NO. (003N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden to restore national monument protections slashed by Trump

THREE national US monuments will have their protected status restored Friday, continuing Joe Biden's efforts to roll back the environmental policies of his predecessor.

Under Donald Trump protections around natural areas—often home to endangered species or archaeological sites—were rolled back, outraging conservationists and Native American communities.

"President Biden will sign three proclamations restoring protections for Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments," the White House said Thursday.

Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante will return to its original size of 1.87 million acres, after Trump cut about 45 per cent of its land in 2017. Bears Ears will actually expand under Biden's plans.

In maritime areas -- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts -- the capture of red crabs and American lobsters will be slowly reduced under new fishing protections, until the practice is banned there from September 2023.—AFP ■

China's holiday box office surpasses 4.2 bln yuan

CHINA'S box office revenue during the National Day holiday topped 4.246 billion yuan (about 658 million U.S. dollars) as of 5 pm on Thursday, according to the preliminary statistics released by the China Film Administration.

The domestic historical epic "The Battle at Lake Changjin" led the sales chart, smashing the records of China's National Day holiday box office by raking in nearly 3.1 billion yuan in total as of Thursday afternoon, when the seven-day holiday almost approached its end.

Another blockbuster with a strong performance during the holiday is the star-studded patriotic anthology "My Country, My Parents," ranking second on the Chinese box office chart. It generated 940 million yuan during the period. Both films were released one day before the holiday and have ignited patriotic zeal among the Chinese public.

The week-long National Day holiday, which starts on 1 Oct , is usually a lucrative moviegoing period in China.—Xinhua ■

Poland defends EU membership amid backlash over ruling

POLAND'S government on Friday insisted it wanted the country to stay in the European Union as it faced a growing backlash against a court ruling that analysts said could lead to "Polexit".

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Poland must "fully and completely" implement EU law, while France's Europe Minister Clement Beaune said the ruling was an "attack against the EU".

Poland's Constitutional Court on Thursday challenged the primacy of EU law over Polish law by declaring several articles in the EU treaties "incompatible" with the country's constitution.

It also warned EU institutions not to "act beyond the scope of their competences" by interfering with reforms of Poland's judiciary -- a major bone of contention with Brussels.

But right-wing Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that the process of Poland and other Central European countries joining the EU in 2004 was "one of the highlights of the last decades".

"Poland's place is and will be in the European family of nations," he said in a Facebook post after former EU chief and now opposition leader Donald Tusk called for a major rally in Warsaw for Sunday "to defend a European Poland".

Brussels responded sternly on Thursday, with EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders warning that the EU would use "all the tools" at its disposal to ensure the primacy of EU law.

Before the ruling, the EU had warned that the case could have "consequences" for tens of billions of euros in pandemic recovery grants and cheap loans for Poland which have still not received approval from Brussels. Speaking to French network BFM-TV on Friday, Beaune said the ruling was "very serious" and there was "a risk of a de-facto exit" of Poland from the EU.

Maas told the Funke newspaper group: "If a country decides politically to be part of the EU, then it must ensure that the agreed rules are fully and completely implemented."—AFP ■

Poland's Constitutional Court on Thursday challenged the primacy of EU law over Polish law by declaring several articles in the EU treaties "incompatible" with the country's constitution. **PHOTO: AFP**

Philippines' Nobel Prize winner Ressa says award for 'all journalists'

Ressa, from the Philippines, and Muratov, from Russia, were praised by the Nobel committee for their efforts to safeguard the freedom of expression, "which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace." **PHOTO: AFP**

VETERAN Philippine journalist Maria Ressa on Saturday said her Nobel Peace Prize was for "all journalists around the world", as she vowed to continue her battle for press freedom.

"This is really for all journalists around the world," Ressa told AFP in an interview.

"We do need help on so many fronts -- it is so much more difficult and dangerous to be a journalist today."

Ressa, co-founder of news website Rappler, and Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for their efforts to "safeguard freedom of expression".

Philippine press groups and rights activists hailed Ressa's award as a "triumph" in a country ranked as one of the world's most dangerous for journalists.

Ressa, 58, said she hoped the prize would provide a protective shield for her and other journalists in the Philippines against physical attacks and online threats. "This 'us against them' was never the creation of the journalists, it was the creation of the people in power who wanted to use a type of leadership that divides society," Ressa said, describing the award "like a shot of adrenalin"—AFP ■

Sri Lanka allows sharp rise in food prices to ease shortages

THE Sri Lankan government on Friday ended price controls on essential foods in a bid to end black market trading as food shortages worsen amid a foreign currency crisis.

The cabinet decided to free prices for milk powder, wheat flour, sugar and liquified petroleum gas hoping it would increase supplies.

"Prices could go up by as much as 37 per cent across the board, but it is hoped dealers will not make unconscionable profits," a trade ministry official told AFP.

A shortage of foreign currency caused by a pandemic recession has unleashed the shortages of food, medicines and other essential items for the island nation of 21 million people.

The government declared a state of emergency over the food shortages on 31 August and imposed rationing.

It forced farmers to sell their rice to a state agency and seized some from private warehouses. But the shortages worsened and last week authorities lifted controls on rice hoping to get supplies into markets. Since then rice prices have risen by more than a third though people can buy as much as they want.

During rationing, state stores sold only one kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of rice for each person. Sugar and lentils were similarly rationed. Virtually all private traders withdrew from the market.—AFP ■

The Sri Lankan government ended price controls on essential foods in a bid to end black market trading. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chile president investigated after Pandora Papers leak

THE Chilean public prosecutor's office on Friday opened an investigation into President Sebastian Pinera over the sale of a mining company through a firm owned by his children, which appeared in the Pandora Papers leaks.

Attorney General Jorge Abbott opened the probe after the Pandora Papers revealed the sale of the Dominga mining company by a firm "linked to the family of President Pinera," said Marta Herrera, head of the anti-corruption unit in the public prosecutor's office.

Chilean President Sebastián Piñera delivers a press conference a day after he was mentioned in the Pandora Papers, a media investigation exposing world leaders' use of tax havens, at La Moneda presidential palace in Santiago, Chile, on 4 October. **PHOTO: JAVIER TORRES/AFP**

Pinera hit out at the move, claiming he had already been absolved of any guilt in a 2017 investigation.

"I have full confidence that the courts, as they have already done, will confirm there were no irregularities and also my total innocence," said Pinera.

The sale of the mine to one of Pinera's closest friends dates to 2010, during his previous term as president.

"As president of Chile I have never, never carried out any action nor management related to Dominga Mining," added Pinera, who took no questions from journalists.

Herrera said the public prosecutor's office took the decision to investigate because of the possibility that the deal involved "bribery, eventual tax crimes, matters that will all ultimately be the subject of an investigation."

The case is due to be led by the public prosecutor in the region of Valparaiso, to the north of the capital Santiago.

Herrera said bribery convictions carried a prison sentence of five years.

According to an investigation by two local media, CIPER and LaBot that are part of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) that produced the so-called Pandora Papers, Dominga was sold to businessman Carlos Alberto Delano, a friend of Pinera's, for $152 million in a deal carried out in the British Virgin Islands, a well-known tax haven.—AFP ■

US says to hold first in-person talks with Taliban since Afghan withdrawal

Taliban fighters working as a police force stand guard next to a Humvee vehicle at the entrance gate of a police district in Kabul on 3 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE United States and the Taliban will hold their first in-person talks since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan starting Saturday, the State Department said. The US delegation will meet Saturday and Sunday in the Qatari capital Doha with senior Taliban representatives, a State Department spokesperson said.

The United States has remained in contact with the Taliban since the longtime foes seized Kabul in August as US troops pulled out but the meeting will be the first that is face to face.

"We will press the Taliban to respect the rights of all Afghans, including women and girls, and to form an inclusive government with broad support," the spokesperson said Friday.

"As Afghanistan faces the prospect of a severe economic contraction and possible humanitarian crisis, we will also press the Taliban to allow humanitarian agencies free access to areas of need," he said.

The State Department stressed that the meeting did not indicate that the United States was recognizing Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

"We remain clear that any legitimacy must be earned through the Taliban's own actions," the spokesperson said.

The US team will also press President Joe Biden's key priority of letting US citizens and Afghan allies during the 20-year military operation leave the country.

The United States says that the Taliban have largely cooperated on letting out US citizens. Around 100 remain, predominantly US citizens with roots in Afghanistan who are undecided on whether to leave, according to US officials.—AFP ■

Ethiopia forces bombard rebels in 'massive move' in Amhara

ETHIOPIAN troops and their allies are waging air and ground strikes against Tigray rebels in the northern region of Amhara, humanitarian and rebel sources told AFP.

The bombardments hit several areas of Amhara on Thursday and Friday, the humanitarian sources said, amid growing speculation of a major push by government forces against the rebels.

There is a "massive move" against the rebels, said Getachew Reda, spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which has been locked in a brutal conflict with pro-government forces in northern Ethiopia for almost 11 months.

The reports come just days after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was sworn in for a new term on Monday, vowing to stand strong and defend "Ethiopia's honour" despite mounting international criticism of the conflict and alarm about the humanitarian crisis it has triggered.

Getachew said there had been "mostly air, drone and artillery bombardment" of TPLF rebels, and reported a major troop build-up, saying "tens of thousands are amassed" in northern parts of Amhara including the North Gondar and North Wollo zones.—AFP ■

Ethiopian soldiers train in the field of Dabat, mortheast of the city of Gondar, on 15 September. **PHOTO:AMANUEL SILESHI/AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lisbon hosts NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 67th session

THE COVID-19 pandemic and the situation in Afghanistan top the agenda of the 67th annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which is hosted by the Parliament of Portugal between 8 and 11 October.

The event is attended by Portuguese government officials, NATO representatives, defense experts, legislators from the 30 NATO member states and representatives of the alliance's partner countries.

The participants are also scheduled to assess NATO's relations with Russia and China, and the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. They will discuss global action on climate change and the fight against "misinformation" about the pandemic.—Xinhua ■

At least 50 killed in mosque blast in Afghanistan›s north

AN explosion tore through a Shiite mosque in northern Afghanistan on Friday, killing at least 50 people and leaving scores of others injured, according to a Taliban source.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the deadly attack through its affiliate news website, while Reuters reported the death toll could exceed 70, citing officials from local health authorities.

The blast at the mosque in Kunduz Province during the weekly Friday prayers marked the deadliest incident since the Taliban launched a provisional government last month.

State media said over 180 people were either killed or injured.

The Taliban have started investigating the blast, which may have been the work of a suicide bomber.—Kyodo ■

France pit their restored pride against youthful Spain in Nations League final

Theo Hernandez and Kylian Mbappe were the architects of France's come-from-behind win over Belgium. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRANCE have got their groove back as they prepare for the Nations League final against Spain on the back of a thrilling comeback win over Belgium which helped ease the pain of a poor Euro 2020.

Down by two goals at half-time on Thursday following quickfire strikes from Yannick Carrasco and Romelu Lukaku, a demoralizing run of results and performances appeared set to continue in Turin.

However, driven by an exceptional display by Kylian Mbappe on his 50th France appearance, Les Bleus fought back to level and in a thrilling finale Theo Hernandez crashed home the last-minute winner which set up an exciting final at the San Siro on Sunday.

The Nations League might not be anywhere near as important as the World Cup or European Championship but the wild celebrations among the players and small pocket of France fans at the Allianz Stadium showed just how good it felt to play like world champions again.

Asked where the win ranked on the list of his triumphs as France coach, Didier Deschamps said it was "one of the best".

"We had one of the best, if not the best teams in the world in front of us... but despite everything, and in a difficult situation we had both quality and pride, character when things don't go our way," he told reporters.

Thursday's win in Deschamps' old stomping ground of Turin felt like catharsis following a fraught summer marked by the last-16 elimination from the Euro at the hands of Switzerland.

Mbappe in particular put in the sort of performance banished memories of the penalty miss that cost France against the Swiss and reminded people why Real Madrid tried to prise him away from Paris Saint-Germain after the Euro, setting up France's first and netting the spot-kick which took them level.—AFP ■

US Open champ Raducanu loses opening match at Indian Wells

EMMA Raducanu crashed out of the WTA Indian Wells tournament in the second round on Friday, losing 6-2, 6-4 to Aliaksandra Sasnovich in her first match since her stunning US Open triumph in September.

On September 11, the British 18-year-old shocked the tennis world at Flushing Meadows by becoming the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam title.

But on Friday, she looked rusty in her first match since that win.

Raducanu won the first game of the opening set, but it was all Sasnovich after that in the first career meeting between the two.

"There is going to be disappointment after any loss," Raducanu said.

"Going into the match I didn't put any pressure on myself because in my mind I am so inexperienced. I am 18 years old. I need to cut myself some slack.

Britain's Emma Raducanu returns a shot to Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus during the WTA Indian Wells tournament in Southern California. **PHOTO: AFP**

"You could tell she was more experienced than me and she went out there and executed her game plan better than I did."

The unseeded Sasnovich won three straight points to reach 40-0 in the final game, then clinched the match when Raducanu hit a backhand long.

The Belarusian blasted one ace and won 67 per cent of her first-serve points, taking advantage of Raducanu's soft second serve and inability to hit winners on easy shots.

"I really enjoy playing here," said Sasnovich. "Emma just won the US Open and I lost there in the first round. So it was a little bit different."—AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Ko maintains lead at suspended LPGA Founders Cup

SOUTH Korea's Ko Jin-young maintained her three-shot lead with four holes to play on Friday as darkness halted play in the fog-hit LPGA Founders Cup.

World number two Ko had matched her career-low round with an eight-under par 63 on Thursday that gave her a three-shot edge over Germany's Sandra Gal when darkness fell on the opening day at Mountain Ridge Country Club in New Jersey. On Friday, when dense morning fog caused another delay of more than two hours, she had a bogey and three birdies in her first 14 holes and at 10-under par was three ahead of three players on seven-under.

Ko teed off on 10 and followed a bogey at the 17th with birdies at 18, two and three.

"On the front nine, I had a lot of missed shots but I made a lot of good saves, so it's fine," Ko said. "I had a lot of good opportunity for birdies and left four holes for tomorrow. "I will just take a rest tonight and then I will get better for tomorrow." American Lindsey Weaver was in the clubhouse on seven-under 135.

She played in the only afternoon group to finish the second round and after hurrying to her final hole, the ninth, she finished with a bogey that capped a four-under par 67.—AFP ■