PLASTICS, UNDECAYED MATERIALS OCCURRING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

Conservation of the planet Earth and reduction of natural disaster risks cannot be implemented by one single country and one organization: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the occasion to mark the international day for disaster risk reduction 2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 October 2021.

THE cyclonic storm Nargis which hit in 2008 was the most destructive natural disaster recorded as the most terrible climate change for the history of natural disasters in Myanmar as well as in the Asian Continent after 1991, said Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 which took place at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said the United Nations set the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction-IDNDR from 1990 to 1999, aimed at effectively managing the reduction of natural disaster risks across the world. Hence, all global countries raise the tasks to mitigate the loss in natural disasters.

As the natural disaster risks could not decline remarkably, the First World Conference

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> It is necessary to take lessons from the past events to protect against loss and destruction of living beings and non-living ones, mitigate and reduce the disaster risks and develop the work process for raising the awareness of natural disasters.

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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)

Request to Public

THE Ministry of Health conducts vaccination programmes as per the target groups to effectively control the COVID-19. Till 12-10-2021, the officials vaccinated a total of 10.6 million people, while about 4.2 million people have been fully vaccinated and 6.4 million people have received the first jabs of COVID-19 vaccines, and a total dose of vaccines delivered is about 14.8 million in the country. The full coverage of the two doses has reached 12 per cent of the population aged 18 and above. The government keeps accelerating the momentum currently.

During this period, some people have been fully vaccinated, they joined the booster dose programmes that the government conducted for free. Those who have not received two doses of vaccines have a much higher risk of disease and death case than those who have received full doses. Giving priority to those who need to be vaccinated to prevent infection means no one is safe until everyone is safe. With the increase of vaccine coverage, it can effectively reduce the death toll. The WHO also suggested equitable access to vaccines.

The Ministry of Health will set the priority groups for booster dose when the vaccine coverage becomes high in each target community.

Therefore, those who are fully vaccinated should give priority to those who do not receive any vaccines and are also requested not to join the free booster dose programmes of the government to ensure high vaccine coverage in the country.

Ministry of Health

Shwebo seed processing plant to start operation in December

THE seed processing plant and warehouses constructed under the Seed Project of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Shwebo District of Sagaing Region are now complete and expected to run in December, said U Tin Maung Swe, head of the district agriculture department.

The construction of the seed processing plant and warehouses to promote the utilization of quality seed in the project area was started in the first week of October 2019 and completed in December 2020.

"We will conduct test runs in December especially in monsoon paddy season," he added.

The plant and warehouses are located in Wetlet, Shwebo and KhinU townships, categorizing Type A, B and C. Type A includes two dryers while type B has only one dryer. However, Type C does not have a dryer. A seed dryer can process 750 baskets within 12 hours.

"If we have such plants, the farmers can easily get the quality seeds. If they grow the quality seeds, the production rate will increase and there would be quality paddy. If so, they can get good prices. We mainly grow Shwebo Pawsan in Shwebo district. Shwebo Pawsan is such good quality rice and so we focus on preserving Shwebo Pawsan. The plant can process Ayeyar Min and other types of rice in addition to Shwebo Pawsan. Therefore, the local farmers can buy the quality seeds in time and grab achievements for have quality paddy," he continued.

The Seed Project was implemented in Shwebo, Wetlet, KhinU, Dabayin and Taze townships of Sagaing Region with JICA loans. The Agriculture Department, farmers, seed production organizations and other related companies are also working together to provide quality rice seeds to the farmers. — Lu Lay/GNLM

The Shwebo seed processing plant seen complete and ready to operate in December.

11 fires break out in Yangon in September

IN September 2021, 11 fires have been reported in the Yangon region, causing an estimated K98 million in property damage, according to Yangon Region Fire Services Department.

There were one stove fire and two power outages fire outbreak cases reported in the east Yangon district, destroying one house with a loss of K380,000. These three fire outbreaks forced two persons homeless.

The south Yangon district reported one power outages fire case that caused K1.8 million in property damage. There were also seven fire outbreak cases registered in the north Yangon district, destroying one house, two warehouses with a loss of over K96 million.

There was no fire outbreak in the western district in September.

Damage to property retards development. Most fire outbreaks are due to negligence, such as forgetting to put out cigarette butts, turn off ovens, or extinguish cooking fires.

People are urged to take fire safety precautions in order to perform control initiatives.

In 2019, Myanmar had nearly 2,500 fires, which killed 79 people and left 6,300 others homeless, Myanmar Fire Services Department stated. — Myo Min Thuya/GNLM

Conservation of the planet Earth and reduction of natural ...

FROM PAGE-1

on Natural Disaster took place in 1994 which adopted the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action.

The second conference was held in Hyogo of Japan in 2005 to adopt the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and the third conference in 2015 which adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Myanmar implemented the natural disaster risk reduction depending on geographical conditions of the nation and action plans in conformity with the resources in line with the Hyogo and Sendai frameworks. Myanmar marks the international day for disaster risk reduction as of 2010, and this year's ceremony will be held in accord with the theme: Only together...Can we save the planet!

The theme was set with the aim of raising international cooperation till 2030 so as to provide adequate assistance for the national level tasks of the developing countries in implementing the sixth vision of the Sendai Framework in 2021.

It is necessary to take lessons from the past events to protect against loss and destruction of living beings and non-living ones, mitigate and reduce the disaster risks and develop the work process for raising the awareness of natural disasters.

The cyclonic storm Nargis which hit in 2008 was the most destructive natural disaster recorded as the most terrible climate change for the history of natural disasters in Myanmar as well as in the Asian Continent after 1991.

The majority of the global countries followed the climate change convention, the Tokyo protocol, the Bali roadmap, the Paris agreement and many agreements that emerged from the First UN Environmental Conference in 1972 and the World Earth Summit in 1992.

Conservation of the planet Earth and reduction of natural disaster risks cannot be implemented by a single country and an organization. Only when all the people from the countries, organizations and individuals from various arenas follow the visions will the whole world and each country meet the goals to some extent.

The 7 Global Targets of the Sendai frameworks motivated the international aid organizations to give further aid to the developing countries. It is obvious that the global countries participate in the prevention, containment and treatment activities of COVID-19 in line with seven Global Targets of the Sendai frameworks.

Relevant departments and organizations need to emphasize the efficient use of local and international aid in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and manmade dangers. Region and state governments are urged to cooperate with Union ministries in operating the natural disaster management machinery for the country to have socio-economic development with the resilience of climate change.

Then, the video messages sent by the UN Secretary-General and the Chief of UN Office were presented. A video clip to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 was also presented. The Vice-Senior General then viewed the documentary books, pamphlets and booklets on disaster risk reduction.—MNA

Relevant departments and organizations need to emphasize the efficient use of local and international aid in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and manmade dangers. Region and state governments are urged to cooperate with Union ministries in operating the natural disaster management machinery for the country to have socio-economic development with the resilience of climate change.

44th Paying Respect Ceremony to Aged Film Artistes held in Yangon

THE 44th Paying Respect Ceremony to Aged Film Artistes was held at Myanmar Motion Picture Organization in Bahan Township yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by the artistes aged over 70, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung, other departmental officials and film stars.

First, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn handed over K10 million donated by the State Administration Council, Director-General U Aye Kywe of IPRD presented K10 million contributed by Information Ministry and other officials gave cash contributions including 10 oxygen concentrations donated by Forever Group and Shwe Than Lwin Company and Tamoeauk Social Welfare Organization to Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

Then, the Union Minister and attendees to the event paid respect to the old film stars and Academy Award winner Sithu Kyi Soe Tun expressed words of thanks.

Afterwards, the Union Minister made a speech highlighting the appreciation of the Prime Minister on the people from movie, Thabin, music and literacy fields including his instructions to provide assistance in health and social sectors of artistes. The Union Minister also said the artistes are facing difficulties as the industry is suspended during this period. The ministry will support in resuming the art industries and arrange to reopen the cinemas soon.

Then, the Union Minister talked about those who leave the movie industry for various reasons and urged the artistes to work together to promote the industry.

The 44th event to pay respect to the film artistes aged above 70 is held in Yangon on 13 October 2021.

After the ceremony, he cordially met the old movie stars.

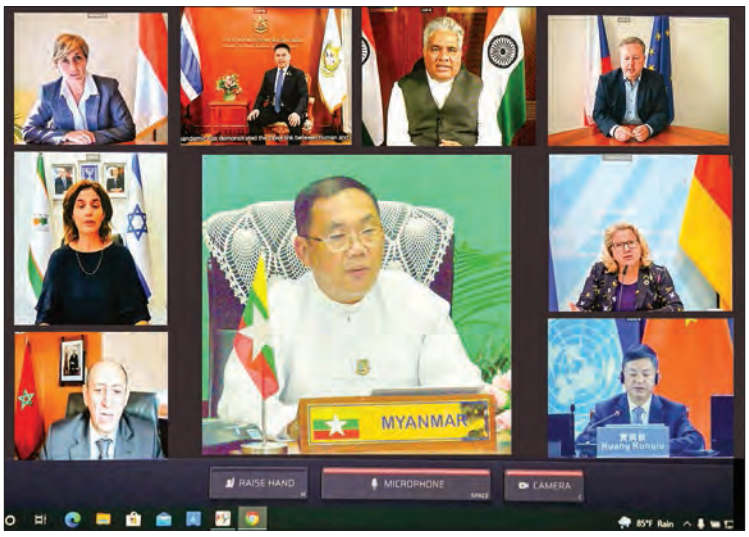
The first Myanmar movie 'Metta and Athura" was screened at the cinema on 13 October 1920 and paying respecting ceremony to elderly movie stars is annually held on 13 October and this year marks the 44th anniversary. — MNA

1,573 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 October, total figure rises to 482,803

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 482,803 after 1,573 new cases were reported on 13 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 435,361 have been discharged from hosp itals. Death toll reached 18,222 after 34 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 12-10-2021, a total of 10,591,609 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 4,201,630 people have been vaccinated two times and 6,389,979 people once.—MNA

15th Ministerial Meeting for United Nations Biodiversity Conference held



The MNREC Union Minister participates in the 15th Ministerial Meeting for United Nations Biodiversity Conference via videoconferencing.

THE 15th Ministerial Meeting for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference was held in Kunming, the People's Republic of China on the afternoon of 12 October under the title of "Ecological Transformation for a Shared Future for All Life on Earth".

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi and party attended the conference via videoconference system.

Minister of Ecology and Environment Mr Huang Runqiu of the People's Republic of China acted as a coordinator during the opening ceremony.

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Executive Director Ms Inger Anerson and Secretary-General of the Convention on Biological Diversity Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema gave the opening remarks.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi expressed issues on forest sustainability in Myanmar, degraded forests and restoration of ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, Myanmar's 10-year reforestation project to accelerate rural livelihoods and mitigate climate change mitigation.

"A 10-year plan for the restoration of habitats for wildlife is being implemented with state funds. At present, 46 natural reserves have been formed in 6.08 per cent of the national area and work is underway to expand to 10 per cent of the national area," the Union Minister said.

"Myanmar is actively participating in the plan as the United Nations "Decade of Ecological Restoration" begins in 2021. We are focusing on the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems and the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, by addressing environmental and forestry issues through nature-based solutions".

"In 2018, the "Law on the Protection of Biodiversity and Protected Areas was enacted" and discussions were being held to develop the management of protected areas with the participation of local people," the Union Minister added.

The meeting was attended by ministers and representatives from the UN Biodiversity Conference member countries, heads of UN agencies, and representatives from international organizations. — MNA

MoEE Union Minister meets Russian electricity and power officials

THE myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo who arrived in Russia to attend the Russian Energy Week International Forum (REW 2021) met the officials of electricity and power company on 12 October and discussed bilateral investment sector.

First, the Union Minister met the officials of TMK Company and inspected the construction of the inland oil pipeline and work experiences.

Then, he received Mr Sergey Kulagin of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association and discussed power and energy sector development, production and installation of INSET brand small and medium hydropower turbines and technical issue of high-quality thermal power generators.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party exchanged views on banking services, procedures, investment and engineering sector in drilling oil with the officials of PSB bank and CEO of STG-E Engineering.

He also met the officials of LLC (DOLSPECEXPORT) to discuss investment and technology development in the power and energy sectors. — MNA

Myanmar and Russian delegations hold talks on electricity and power.

Min Dhamma Quarantine Centre opened to accommodate returnees

MIN DHAMMA Quarantine Centre inside the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) compound on Min Dhamma Road, Mayangone Township was opened yesterday to accommodate returnees from abroad.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman (Mayor) U Bo Htay and Chairman of Myanmar-India Business Association U Zaw Zaw Naing cut a ribbon to open the centre.

Afterwards, the Yangon Region Chief Minister and party inspected the Min Dhamma Quarantine Centre.

MCC building accommoadates 250 returnees and three buildings donated by the Myanmar-India Business Association 180 returnees, totalling 430.

Mayor U Bo Htay and U Zaw Zaw Naing explained that three building are 115 feet long and 40 feet wide each and utensils and sanitary products for quarantined persons are ready to be used in the centre.

After that, Dr Daw San San Yee donated five Oxygen Concentrators to be used at the centre and received by the Chief Minister.

Next, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee (Mayor) U Bo Htay handed over anti-COVID-19 equipment, including 80 boxes of masks, 400 bottles of hand gel, 200 hoods, 50 face shields, 149 PPE suits donated by the region government.

Then, U Zaw Zaw Naing, Chairman of Myanmar-India Business Association explained the purpose of Min Dhamma Quarantine Center launching with the joint donation of well-wishers.

After that, the Chief Minister gave necessary instructions and coordination was made with the relevant departments to facilitate the further works. —San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/GNLM

Palm oil distributed at reasonable prices nationwide

THE Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at fairer prices in different states and regions for the public beginning 20 September. A total of 7,401,172 visses of palm oil equal to 12,093 tonnes have been sold in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Shan State to date.

The officials arrange oil tankers to sell in the wards of Yangon and will also provide trucks in regions and states.

The palm oil wholesalers will have to resell the oil not more than 2 per cent of net profit at retail outlets and the wholesalers and retailers can contact Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association (No. 104/108, Strand Street, Lutlat Yay Quarter, Ahlon Township) at 09- 444437295 and 09- 401527049 and Department of Consumer Affairs, Yangon Region at 01-250270 and 09- 43666668 to buy the palm oil. — MNA

Erratum

PLEASE read "Examination of the Union Farmer-Labour Force Party in progress" instead of "Examination of the People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers in progress" in the photo caption of the news item titled "UEC continues to examine activities of political parties" on page 4 of The Global New Light of Myanmar issue dated 13 October 2021.

China donates Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar

AN online handover ceremony was held yesterday to deliver 1 million units of vaccines out of 2 millions and 1,001,600 needles donated by the Chinese government to Myanmar.

First, the Chinese Ambassador expressed the usefulness of vaccines in promoting the public health sector of Myanmar while the country is conducting vaccination programmes as per target groups. The currently donated vaccines will be used for Myanmar students and so it will be an effective support in reopening the schools. During the third wave of COVID-19, the two countries cooperated in transporting anti-COVID-19 equipment and constructing the COVID-19 treatment centre at Muse-Ruili border trade camp 105th Mile camp. The two countries discussed producing liquid vaccines in Myanmar and good outcomes would come out.

He then appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Health and pledged to support Myanmar to reach 50 per cent of vaccine coverage and drop below 5 per cent of new cases.

Then, the Union Minister gave words of thanks expressing the effective use of received vaccines under the guidance of the State Administration Council. The country received 3.5 million Sinopharm doses from China and they are used in line with the National Vaccine Deployment Plan. The two countries are working hard in carrying out the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities. Among these vaccines, 1 million Sinopharm vaccines are used for those living in the border area.

The online handover event in progress.

One million doses of Sinovac vaccines donated by China arrive at Yangon International Airport on 13 October 2021.

The Union Minister also stressed the cooperation work between the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health and Myanmar entrepreneurs to meet the local vaccines needs using the Ready to Fill Bulk (RTF) technique of China, further work plans and promise to fight the pandemic together.

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

Till 13 October, a total of 18 million doses—2 million doses of Covishield, 14 million doses of Sinopharm and 2 million doses of Sinovac purchased by the ministry have arrived in Myanmar.

Moreover, the country received more than 7 million doses of vaccines donated by China, India and Russia.

The officials vaccinated a total of 10,591,609 people until 12 October while 4,201,630 people have been fully vaccinated and 6,389,979 people have received the first jabs of COVID-19 vaccines.

Therefore, the total dose of vaccines delivered is 14,793,239 in the country until 12 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 activities. — MNA

Dried shrimps, fishery products from Kyaukpyu sold online across Myanmar

MORE and more people are selling local aquatic products and dried shrimps online in Kyaukpyu township, Rakhine State, according to the owner of Hsu Family Dried Shrimps and Seafood Distribution, which has also a page on Facebook.

"We have started this business with 50 visses of Dried shrimps since the second wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar, intending to distribute them within Rakhine State, however, foreign people also buy our dried shrimps due to its excellent quality, and we have managed to start this bigger," said Daw Hsu Htet Aung, owner of the Hsu Family Dried Shrimps and Seafood Distribution.

In addition to the dried prawns, fish paste, dried fish and fish crackers are also distributed across the country by the cash-on-delivery system, as well as people can buy during the Facebook live sale.

Although very few people sell seafood online in Kyaukpyu Township before, sales have increased significantly since the outbreak of COVID-19, with over 15 online sellers in the township.

Although very few people sell seafood online in Kyaukpyu Township before, sales have increased significantly since the outbreak of COVID-19, with over 15 online sellers in the township.

Daw Zin Mar Min, a shrimp paste seller said, "It is a bit of a hassle to sell online, but I'm happy that customers call me that they like my products after they had received."

It is reported that dried-shrimps, fish paste, and dried fish are being sold not only in Rakhine State but also in big cities such as Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, PyinOoLwin, Pakokku, Magway, and that online sales are stronger than offline sales, according to those seafood traders. — Tin Htun Oo (IPRD)/GNLM

In addition to the dried shrimps, fish paste, dry fish and fish crackers are also distributed across the country by the cash-on-delivery system, as well as people can buy during the Facebook live sale.

Over-12s middle, high school students get jabbed against COVID-19 in Nay Pyi Taw

Above 12-year-old students receive vaccination in Ottarthiri, Dakkhinathiri and Zabuthiri townships in Nay Pyi Taw.

Dakkhinathiri

Zabuthiri

Ottarathiri

Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical aids continue

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 airport and seaports with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 13 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by two companies using five vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser, 1,713 empty oxygen cylinders, 12 oxygen plants, and 12 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady, Kampaiti and Chinshwehaw trading posts, and international seaports in Yangon.

One Oxygen (Liquid) Bowser led from Myawady to Yangon.

Out of 12 Oxygen Plant, 10 were imported from the seaport to Yangon and two from the Kampaiti trading post to Myitkyina.

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

Anti-Covid medical supplies are daily imported and transported by lorries (in picture) to states/regions.

Workers in Thongwa receive second dose of COVID vaccines

UNDER the auspices of the COVID-19 Disease Control and Emergency Response Committee, healthcare workers gave the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to workers outside the industrial zone at Myanmar Traditional Chin Lone Hall, Thongwa Township, Yangon Region on 12 October.

Recipients printed via the computer system were given as a record for the injection, officials said.

Next, the workers received the vaccines and they were monitored for side effects.

A total of 520 people received the COVID-19 vaccines on 11 October, and 726 people on 12 October, respectively.

Vaccination was carried out by members of the Township Administration Body, General Administration Department, the Department of Public Health, and the Red Cross, officials added. —MNA

Elderly people receive second dose of COVID vaccines in Thegon Township

HEALTHCARE officials gave second doses of COVID vaccines to over 55-year-old people in Thegon Township, Pyay District, Bago Region yesterday. Officials measured the body temperature, blood pressure and monitoring oxygen level before the vaccination.

Thegon local gets blood pressure measured before vaccination.

Vaccines were given systematically to the local people, and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated, officials said.

Under the supervision of the Chairman of the Township Administration Body, township health officials, members of the Fire Brigade, members of the Red Cross, Nursing Corps, and members of the philanthropic organizations provided necessary assistance during the vaccination.—Naing Lin (Thegon IPRD)/GNLM

First dose of COVID vaccination continues for third day in Hlaingbwe

THE fourth batch (first dose) of COVID-19 vaccine was given to people over 45-year-old, people with disabilities, battalions and troops from ethnic armed groups, migrant people from temporary camps, people with chronic and non-communicable diseases at Aung San Hall, Hlaingbwe Township, Hpa-an District, Kayin State yesterday morning.

Health workers, members of the Red Cross and other relevant authorities provided masks to those who received the COVID-19 vaccine.

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

Vaccines were given systematically to the people, and only those with normal conditions are vaccinated. After resting for about 15 minutes after being vaccinated, people were allowed to leave, officials said.

In Hlaingbwe Township, a total of 4,905 people were vaccinated at Aung San Hall of Hlaingbwe Township, Shwe Gun Station Hospital, Myaing Gyi Ngu Station Hospital and Paikyon Station Hospital as of 10 October. —Hlaingbwe IPRD/GNLM

A health staff injects the first dose of vaccine to a local in Hlaingbwe.

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14 OCTOBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Plastics, undecayed materials occurring environmental degradation

LARGE volumes of plastics cause environmental deterioration on land and at the seas, dreadfully harmful to the life of living beings, especially aquatic animals.

Everybody puts blame on plastics because of their undecayed properties for the dangers of environmental conservation for many years. In fact, plastics was innovated in 1959 with the aim of easing environmental degradation. Before the emergence of plastic, people used paper products to package something. At that time, the paper was made of woody pulp. As such, a large volume of wood was used for the production of paper which was a danger to deforestation.

Since its innovation, plastic was aimed to be used for disposable ones. But, nobody used it severally because abundant plastic bags could be bought easily at cheap prices. For many years, disposable plastic bags have been stockpiled in the world, causing danger to the environment.

At present, more than 60 countries adopted policies for control of using plastic bags so as to save the environment. So, despite plastic bags, people turned to the use of paper bags and textile bags.

Actually, using plastic bags as well as paper and textile bags may cause environmental deterioration to some extent. A lot of units of these products designed to cause environmental degradation can be manufactured easily and cheaply based on electricity and a large volume of water from the start of growing to the finished goods production process.

Everybody needs to keep the thought of saving the work and environment in their minds. But, their acts of saving are very expensive. Two options can be seen that the products they use may be harmful to the environment and the world but the production cost is very cheap. On the other hand, the products they use may not be harmful to the world and the environment but their production cost is very expensive.

So, the global people wishing to save the environment have the two best ways to save the world. It is important that they should not dispose the plastic waste into any water sources and they have to use any bags made of plastic, paper or textile many times. Now is the best time to improve the environment so as to save the living beings.

It is important that they should not dispose the plastic waste into any water sources and they have to use any bags made of plastic, paper or textile many times. Now is the best time to improve the environment so as to save the living beings.

■ ■ ■

Extra jab for those with weak immune systems: WHO

The World Health Organization's (WHO) vaccine advisers on Monday recommended people with weakened immune systems should be offered an additional dose of all WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccines.

THE United Nations (UN) health agency's experts also said over-60s fully immunized with China's Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines should be offered an additional third vaccine dose.

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) stressed it was not recommending an additional booster dose for the population at large, which is already being rolled out in some countries.

The WHO wants a moratorium on booster doses for the general population until the end of the year to prioritise first doses in the dozens of nations starved of vaccines.

The WHO's target of getting 10 per cent of the population in each country fully vaccinated by the end of September was missed by 56 states. However almost 90 per cent of high-income countries hit the target.

SAGE said it would review the issue of general booster doses on 11 November.

Several COVID-19 vaccines have been given WHO approval for emergency use during the pandemic: Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen, Moderna, Sinopharm, Sinovac and AstraZeneca.

They are all two-dose vaccines, except the Janssen jab.

The WHO is also on the verge of deciding whether to give emergency use listing (EUL) to India's Bharat Biotech jab.

SAGE held a four-day meeting last week to review the latest information and data on a range of vaccines for COVID-19 and other diseases.

"SAGE recommended that moderately and severely immunocompromised persons should be offered an additional dose of all WHO EUL COVID-19 vaccines as part of an extended primary series," the group said.

"These individuals are less likely to respond adequately to vaccination following a standard primary vaccine series and are at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease."

A woman (L) receives the Sinopharm COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine in Hanoi on 10 September, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kate O'Brien, the WHO's vaccines chief, said the extra dose now should be considered as part of the normal coronavirus immunisation course for people with weaker immune systems, to be administered after a wait of one to three months.

It should bring their level of protection up to that demonstrated to prevent against severe disease, hospitalisation and death in clinical trials – from which people with immunocompromised conditions were excluded.

Chinese Jabs And Over-60s

SAGE also said that for people fully immunised with Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines – both two-dose regimens – an additional third shot of the same jab "should be offered to persons aged 60 and above".

A different vaccine "may also be considered based on vaccine supply and access considerations".

SAGE added that when implementing this recommendation, countries should initially aim at maximising two-dose coverage in that population, and thereafter administer the third dose, starting in the oldest age groups.

"We have evidence of a more limited protection in the old population, particularly in the very old," SAGE secretary Joachim Hombach told a press conference.

The Sinopharm jab is used in 69 countries, while Sinovac has been rolled out in 36, according to an AFP count.

Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Pakistan and the Philippines are among the countries using both jabs, besides China.

Most of the information on which the new Sinovac and Sinopharm recommendations were made comes from studies in Latin America, said SAGE chair Alejandro Cravioto.

SOURCE: AFP

■ ■ ■

UK govt botched initial Covid response: MPs' probe

UK LAWMAKERS said Tuesday the government's response when Covid-19 swept into Europe cost thousands of lives and was "one of the most important public health failures" in the country's history.

In a damning assessment, a cross-party group of MPs found that official pandemic planning was "too narrowly and inflexibly based" on curbing influenza, and had failed to learn the lessons from prior outbreaks of SARS, MERS and Ebola.

The report said the government mistakenly implemented 'light-touch border controls' only on countries with high Covid rates. Travelers walk through Heathrow airport in London, on 3 June 2021. **PHOTO: DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/AFP**

Britain has suffered one of the highest tolls in Europe with nearly 138,000 coronavirus deaths since March last year, raising questions about why it has fared worse than comparable nations.

In their 145-page report, issued after months of hearings, the MPs from two parliamentary committees said Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government waited too long to act in early 2020.

Leading advisors were guilty of "groupthink" and pushed a "gradual and incremental approach" to interventions such as social distancing, isolation and lockdowns, said their report.

That approach was marked by "fatalism" about the spread of Covid and a belief that the British public would not tolerate the stringent measures taken in parts of east Asia, but had been proved "wrong" and led to a higher death toll.

"Decisions on lockdowns and social distancing during the early weeks of the pandemic -- and the advice that led to them -- rank as one of the most important public health failures the United Kingdom has ever experienced," the lawmakers wrote.

There were also "many thousands of deaths which could have been avoided" when elderly patients were discharged from hospitals into care homes without testing, in contrast to the stricter approaches taken by Germany and Hong Kong.

But the report also praised the government's rapid launch of a mass vaccination campaign against Covid in December, arguing that had "redeemed" some of the earlier failings.

'Slap in the face'

Hannah Brady, spokeswoman for the group Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, called that finding in the report "laughable".

"This is an attempt to ignore and gaslight bereaved families, who will see it as a slap in the face," she said.

The MPs said Britain had also mistakenly implemented "light-touch border controls" only on countries with high Covid rates, when most cases were coming from France and Spain.

Conservative MP Jeremy Hunt, a former health secretary who chairs one of the report committees, said the government had also failed to absorb the early experience of South Korea and Taiwan, which were quick to introduce mass test and trace systems.

East Asian countries with direct experience of SARS and MERS responded best in the first half of the pandemic, Hunt told BBC radio.

"We were always running to catch up," he said.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Director-General Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations as Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department under the same ministry on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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WORLD FOOD DAY 2021

Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 13 October 2021)

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

SPECIAL FEATURE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the severe tropical storm "Kompasu" over the South China Sea is crossing to the Hainan island and move to Westwards. It is forecast to cross upper Vietnam Coast.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan States, scattered in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Chin State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Rakhine, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7– 9) 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 Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHB0URING AREA FOR 14 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

External trade down $7.15 bln this FY

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 30 September in the financial year 2020-2021 indicated a significant down to US$ 29.58 billion, a sharp drop of over $ 7.15 billion compared to that of the last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, the trade stood at $36.73billion, according to data released by the ministry.

Over the past months, Myanmar's export was worth over $14.93 billion, which plunged from $17.68 billion registered a year-ago period. Meanwhile, the country's import was valued $14.66 billion, showing a significant decrease of $19.05 billion compared with the last FY.

An overseas-going container cargo vessel is seen docking at Yangon Port.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion and market diversification.

The external trade stood at $36.73 billion in the 2019-2020FY, $35.147 billion in the 2018-2019FY, $18.728 billion in the 2018 six-month interim period, $33.578 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $29.209 billion in the 2016-2017FY, respectively, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics. —GNLM

Black bean price drops K45,000 per bag in Mandalay market

BLACK bean prices have dropped by K45,000 per three-basket bag in the Mandalay pulses market these days due to currency fluctuation.

Besides, the other pulses such as pigeon pea, green gram, corn kernel have also declined by K10,000 per bag, according to the Mandalay pulses traders.

"The Mandalay bean trading is cool. The price of pulses keeps its downward trend because of the depreciation of Myanmar Kyat. The black bean price has declined by K45,000 per bag within a few days. Now, the price of black bean fetched K155,000 per bag while pigeon pea is sold for K122,000 per bag. The pigeon pea price was plunged by K28,000 per bag. The other verity of pulses are also dropped," said an official from Mandalay pulses trading depot.

Last September, the exported pulses such as black bean, pigeon pea and green price were up owing to the Kyat depreciation in the local foreign market.

Currently, India, the primary buyer of Myanmar pluses, has redefined black bean, green gram and pigeon pea from a restricted commodity to a free import commodity. Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black bean and pigeon pea 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.

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 black bean plantations are yielding around 400,000 tonnes annually in Myanmar. Moreover, Myanmar also produces about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon pea yearly. — ACM/GNLM

Besides, the other pulses such as pigeon pea, green gram, corn kernel have also declined by K10,000 per bag, according to the Mandalay pulses traders (in picture).

Chilli growers earn high profits as chilli prices soar

The chilli traders are purchasing the chilli from the market in Pyawbwe township. At the beginning of the chilli season this year, the chillies are priced at K2,800 per viss, while the dried chillies are sold for K3,300 per viss.

CHILLI growers from Pyawbwe township have been happy to see chilli prices soaring in the early harvesting season.

U Khin Maung Tint, a grower from Khin Gyi Ya village said that we have cultivated two acres of chilli plantation. After growing chilli for three months, the plants could start harvesting. The fertilizer needs to be sprayed onto the plants when it is necessary. The chilli plant could be harvested once a week and each time, it could yield about 100 dried chillies. As of today, we have yielded the chilli five times already. If we can take good care, the chilli plants could yield five or six more times.

The chilli traders are purchasing the chilli from the market in Pyawbwe township. At the beginning of the chilli season this year, the chillies are priced at K2,800 per viss, while the dried chillies are sold for K3,300 per viss.

Most of the growers dry the chilli under sunlight to make dried chillies while only a few people are using the chilli-drying ovens.

Myanmar also exports fresh chilli to China and Thailand. But, the fresh chillies are mainly exported to Thailand through the Myawady land border. — Min Min Htway (Pyawbwe)/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

YRIC endorses over $1.5 mln worth of one foreign project, two domestic projects

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one foreign enterprise and two domestic businesses in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US$1.5 million and K5.42 billion. Those enterprises are to create 372 jobs for the residents, as per the YRIC's video conferencing convened on 12 October.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, who also acts as chairman of YRIC, the committee members and the investors joined the video conferencing to ensure the foreign capital inflow during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those enterprises will execute manufacturing of footwear on Cutting-Making and Packaging (CMP) basis, production of value-added rice and selling of rice and broken rice and production of various pulses on a CMP basis.

Furthermore, the committee members met with 14 companies to discuss the general matters regarding the manufacturing of decorations, packing and gift wrapping, pet accessories, footwear, bags, parcel box and paper, purified water, clothes and dried beef.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million. The investors can inquire about the investment and submit a proposal by dialing (01-658263, 01-658264) of YRIC located on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township. The proposals worth more than K6 billion can contact the Myanmar Investment Commission located on Thitsar Road, Yankin Township via 01-658102 and 01-658103, YRIC stated.

The YRIC greenlights one FDI and two local businesses.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, containers box, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region. — Soe Myint Aung/GNLM

Black gram exports top $526 mln last FY

MYANMAR shipped over 677,526 tonnes of black gram (urad called in India) to foreign countries in the financial year 2020-2021, generating an income of US$526.7 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The price of black gram hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September following the Kyat weakening against the US dollar. At present, the exchange rate of a US dollar dipped to about K2,000 and the prices of black grams dropped to below K1.5 million accordingly, as per the data of Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre).

The Kyat depreciation in the forex market is a contributing factor to the price hike. A dollar is worth K3,000 in the black market on 29 September.

Furthermore, the main buyer India relaxed the quota on imports for black gram, pigeon pea and green gram.

India earlier set import quota on beans including black gram and pigeon pea starting from 2017. Myanmar earlier had to export black bean and pigeon pea under the quota system and limit period.

India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved not only black gram but also other pulses being imported from Myanmar that have a bill of lading up to October-end 2021, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 November 2021.

According to this statement, the previous notifications dated 19 March 2021 and 26 March 2021 were cancelled.

Additionally, Myanmar can export 250,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea under the G to G (government to government) pact during the April-March period between the 2021-2022 financial year and the 2025-2026FY, as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce and India's counterpart signed on 18 June. Myanmar has shipped over 655,314 tonnes of black grams to foreign countries as of 17 September 2021 since 1 October 2020, generating an income of US$507.37 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar yearly produces about 400,000 tonnes of black gram and 50,000 tonnes of pigeon pea.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black gram that India demands. Besides Myanmar, other beans such as pigeon pea, green gram and yellow pea, are also grown in Australia and Africa, Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated. — KK/GNLM

US$19 million worth of over 16,000-tonne palm oil to be sold at fairer prices

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that more than 16,000 tonnes of palm oil, with the estimated value of US$19 million, will be sold at fairer prices, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

The volume of palm oil that was sold at the subsidized price starting from 20 September is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

"The palm oil sector is entitled to buy the foreign currency ($19 million) at the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar. The palm oil is set to be distributed to K3,700 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). About 16,136 tonnes of palm oil which is equivalent to $19 million. The Consumer Affairs Department sells them directly at the fairer price," said an official of the department.

The department stated that over 10,000 tonnes of palm oil were distributed to the wholesalers and retailers at fair prices of K3,700 per viss (a viss is equal to 1.6 kg) between 20 September and 11 October 2021.

This plan proceeded to Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Bago regions and Shan State. The wholesalers and retailers must also resell them to the consumers with a gross profit of less than two per cent.

"The palm oil is distributed at K3,700 to the wholesalers. The retailers must sell them with a maximum profit of two per cent. Those shops in regions and states other than Yangon might set the price at K3,800-3,900 per viss due to the transportation costs. About 10,000 tonnes have been sold and 6,000 tonnes are left to be distributed. This plan will continue depending on the government subsidy. The CBM is steering the currency value in all possible ways. If the exchange rate on US dollar falls again, the oil price will go back to normalcy," said an official of the Consumer Affairs Department.

Under the plan of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, palm oil is sold at K3,800 with the mobile market trucks at present.

Those wholesalers and retailers who want to buy them can come and buy at the association's office located at No 104/108 on Strand Road, Ahlon Township through the contact numbers (09444437295 and 09401527049 of the association and 01250270, 0943666668 of the Yangon Region Consumer Affairs Department.

The price of palm oil hit a peak of above K5,000 per viss in the market, the association stated.

The price hike is attributed to the depreciation of the local currency in the forex market, traders stressed.

Additionally, the association notified the consumers not to worry over the supply of the edible oil on 15 July.

The association is also making concerted efforts with the organizations concerned and the related departments to secure the edible oil sufficiency and offer a reasonable price to the consumers, as per the statement.

The association is trying not to occur unnecessary issues regarding edible oil during the global pandemic impacts.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association is attempting to maintain price stability, prevent market manipulation, import palm oil from foreign countries sustainably for self-sufficiency and distribute the edible oil at a fair price to the consumers.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported. — NN/GNLM

G-20 finance chiefs to back int'l corporate tax reforms

FINANCE chiefs of the Group of 20 major economies are expected to back a set of corporate tax reforms to address tax avoidance by tech giants and other international companies when they meet in Washington on Wednesday.

The G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors are likely to affirm their cooperation on introducing in 2023 a 15 per cent global minimum corporate tax rate and a system for multinational companies to pay their fair share of tax regardless of their physical presence, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The G-20 members will release a joint statement after their one-day in-person meeting on the sidelines of gatherings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, with their agreement to be reported at a summit meeting at the end of this month in Rome, the sources said.

Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki will remain in Japan as he will attend a Diet session.

The meeting of the G-20 finance chiefs comes after 136 economies, led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, agreed last week on the reform package to overhaul the century-old international system.

Momentum for setting new universal taxation rules for businesses operating across borders has been increasing in recent years amid mounting criticism that major US tech companies such as Google LLC and Apple Inc. book profits in low-tax jurisdictions. The governments joining the deal, including all of the G-20 members and several low-tax jurisdictions that had initially resisted, such as Ireland and Hungary, are slated to formulate a multilateral treaty next year, while preparing for necessary revisions of domestic laws and regulations to put the new rules into practice in 2023.—Kyodo News ■

File photo shows a meeting of the Group of 20 finance chiefs in Italy in July 2021. **PHOTO: THE BRITISH TREASURY/ KYODO NEWS**

EU under pressure to act as energy crisis looms

Energy prices have taken off this year as economies bounce back from the effects of the Covid pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE EU on Wednesday will present a "toolbox" of measures to mitigate an energy crunch that threatens to send Europeans' power bills soaring.

The European Commission has been under pressure to act on the looming crisis, even though individual EU governments are more directly responsible for their energy sources and taxation.

Energy prices have taken off this year as economies bounce back from the effects of the Covid pandemic.

Wholesale natural gas prices, the leading indicator for overall consumer and industrial energy prices, have more than tripled this year in Europe, with storage tanks perilously low ahead of winter. Oil and coal prices have also jumped.

Some EU officials accuse Russia, source of most of the imported gas into the bloc, of "blackmail" by limiting supplies to try to force Germany to activate the newly completed Nord Stream 2 pipeline across the Baltic, bypassing Ukraine.

Outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel, however, has questioned that, suggesting there had been insufficient long-term gas contracts from European countries.

The issue will headline an EU leaders' summit next week.

But in a bid to first alleviate some of the pressure, Brussels is expected on Wednesday to urge member states to temporarily cut national taxes that heavily inflate the cost of energy to consumers and businesses.

The EU's commissioner for industry, Thierry Breton, said in a French radio interview on Monday that "all (EU) countries will — benefit from this situation because there are a lot of taxes on energy".

Brussels could also approve a provisional reduction in value-added tax and back initiatives such as "energy cheques" for the poorest households. A proposal for a US-style strategic gas reserve might also be raised.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK worker shortage threatens Christmas turkey supply

IN a dark wooden barn in the countryside of southeast England, farmer Patrick Deeley is surrounded by a throng of 600 white turkeys at feeding time.

But the typical sight at Flower Farm near Godstone, in Surrey, belies a crisis: a lack of seasonal workers that will leave Deeley struggling to meet high festive demand.

"I don't feel confident that I'll get sufficient staff to be able to do the job that I need before Christmas," Deeley told AFP. "The pressure will be on." Normally, Deeley could count on 12 seasonal workers by mid-December to help him pack, prepare and deliver the birds. For the last 15 years, he has recruited from Europe.

But Britain has now been out of the European Union for nearly 12 months. Free movement of people and workers across the bloc has ended, and tougher immigration rules have been introduced.—AFP ■

Algeria to reopen maritime links to France and Spain

ALGERIA has decided to reopen maritime passenger links to France and Spain after suspending them last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the transport ministry said on Tuesday.

The ENTMV Algerie Ferries company would resume services to Alicante, Spain from 21 October and to Marseille, France from 1 November, the ministry said in a statement.

"The possible scheduling of additional trips to other destinations will be examined by the authorities according to developments in the country's health situation," the ministry said.—AFP ■

Bangladesh plans another nuclear power plant

BANGLADESH wants to build another nuclear power plant after its first one is completed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday as work at the Rooppur plant reached a critical milestone.

"If we are able to build another nuclear power plant, we will no longer face a power crisis," she said after inaugurating the installation of the reactor pressure vessel at Rooppur 1. Hasina's words were reported by the country's official news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha after a briefing from her press secretary Ihsanul Karim on a meeting with Rosatom head Alexey Likhachov.

Likhachov and Hasina had both taken part in an event to mark the installation of the reactor pressure vessel of Rooppur unit 1, the first of two reactors at Bangladesh's first nuclear plant which is currently under construction.

Addressing the event from her official Ganabhaban residence, Hasina said the installation made it "a day of joy and pride" for the Bangladeshi people. From now on, she said "we affirm our position in the nuclear world and contribute to the peaceful use of nuclear technology."

Since nuclear power is low-carbon, Hasina continued, "it is therefore environmentally friendly and helps to combat the adverse effects of climate change.—ANI ■

Roopur 1's reactor pressure vessel is manoeuvred into position. **PHOTO : ROSATOM/ANI**

White House pushes 24-hour service to relieve US port snarls

The California ports are a key gateway for goods made in Asia. A Mediterranean Shipping Company cargo ship filled with containers waits offshore for entry to the Port of Los Angeles on 6 October. A record number of cargo ships have been stuck in limbo off the southern California coast waiting for entry. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / AFP**

THE Port of Los Angeles and its longshoreman union will provide 24-hour service to alleviate backlogs that have exacerbated global supply chain problems, senior Biden administration officials said Wednesday.

US President Joe Biden plans to announce the commitments at a meeting Wednesday with the leaders of the giant West Coast port and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

The White House has also won commitments from companies including Walmart, FedEx and UPS to work extended hours and move towards 24 hours a day in some operations, officials said.

While more costly in terms of providing overtime pay, there are benefits to companies providing round-the-clock service. For example, truckers working overnight will encounter less traffic, an administration official said. The announcements come as myriad supply chain and logistics problems pose fresh challenges to the global economic recovery from the worst months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund warned that supply chain disruptions are driving price increases as it trimmed its growth outlook in an increasingly uneven global recovery.

And US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urged Americans not to panic despite the rising prices and shortages of some goods, adding that price increases are not likely to last. There are several factors behind the shortages of key raw materials and finished goods now plaguing retailers, including factory outages in countries that have imposed lockdowns due to Covid-19; unexpected demand spikes for some goods as behaviour changed during the pandemic; and a nationwide labour crunch.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Apple cuts iPhone 13 output forecast on chip shortage: report

APPLE is unlikely to meet production goals for its new iPhone before the holidays because of a global electronic chip shortage, a report said Tuesday.

The firm had planned to produce 90 million iPhone 13s before the end of the year, but will have to settle with 80 million as suppliers Broadcom and Texas Instruments cannot meet demand, the Bloomberg News said, citing sources familiar with the matter who asked to remain anonymous.

Apple presented a new line of iPhones last month, with four new models, including the iPhone 13 Mini, which sells from $700, and the iPhone 13 Pro Max, which costs $1,100.

"We estimate that overall demand has been robust globally," Wedbush analyst Dan Ives said, highlighting strong demand in China and the United States especially.—AFP ■

Lebanese pound back in freefall after brief recovery

The Lebanese pound sold for more than 20,000 to the dollar on Wednesday, losing almost all the value it regained following the announcement of a new government last month.

The pound, officially pegged at 1,500 to the greenback since 1997, has lost more than 90 per cent of its black market value since the start of an unprecedented economic crisis in 2019. The plummeting pound sold for a record low of more than 23,000 to the dollar on the black market in July. – AFP ■

Japan's Itochu to expand industrial park in Indonesia

JAPANESE trading house Itochu Corp. has begun developing a 105 hectare site to be added to its industrial park in Indonesia, with an eye to selling it to Chinese and South Korean companies in addition to Japanese clients.

Itochu said it has decided to expand Karawang International Industrial City in Karawang Regency, West Java, as it has already sold more than 90 per cent of the existing plots, mostly to Japanese companies, at the industrial park about 60 kilometres east of central Jakarta.

The industrial park is located about 80 kilometres from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, the main gateway to Jakarta, and around 60 kilometres from the port of Tanjung Priok. After the expansion, the total area of the industrial park will be about 1,500 hectares. Itochu has developed and operated the estate through its joint venture with Indonesian conglomerate Sinar Mas Group since construction began in 1993.—Kyodo News ■

Makoto Yamaguchi, president director of Karawang International Industrial City (2nd from R front) and Cellica Nurrachadiana, regent of Karawang Regency (3rd from R front), attend a ceremony marking the start of development work for additional land at KIIC, an industrial park in Karawang Regency in West Java, Indonesia, on 12 October 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (138S/140N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (138S/140N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2021** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Desperate Indians sell family gold to survive Covid cash crunch

IN Mumbai's jewellery bazaar, Kavita Jogani gingerly places her wedding bangles on the shopkeeper's scales, one of the thousands of Indians parting with their most cherished asset — gold. It was not an easy decision — Jogani was desperate after her garment business took a severe hit in the past year and a half with multiple coronavirus lockdowns, making it difficult to pay shop bills and the salaries of her 15 employees.

The headline growth numbers suggest Asia's third-largest economy is rebounding from the economic crisis unleashed by Covid-19, but there is no end yet to the financial pain for many Indians.

"I don't have any other option than selling the gold," said Jogani as she waited nervously for the shop owner to make her an offer.

"I bought these bangles before my wedding 23 years ago," the 45-year-old told AFP.

Business closures and job losses pushed more than 230 million Indians into poverty in the past year, according to a study by Azim Premji University, leaving many struggling to pay rent, school fees and hospital bills. — AFP ■

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Iran on agenda in Israeli PM's visit to Putin

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett will travel to Russia, a signatory to the Iran nuclear deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAEL'S prime minister will fly to Sochi in Russia next week to meet President Vladimir Putin for talks including on Iran's nuclear programme, Naftali Bennett's office said on Tuesday.

Moscow is one of the signatories to a 2015 deal that saw sanctions relief for Iran in exchange for limits to its nuclear capability.

"The two will discuss a series of diplomatic, security and economic issues involving both countries, as well as important regional matters, primarily Iran's nuclear programme," Bennett's office said.

Former US president Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 and reimposed harsh sanctions, leading Tehran to gradually roll back its commitments under the agreement.

Bennett told the United Nations General Assembly last month that Israel "will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon".

Tehran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

The UK, China, France and Germany are also parties to the 2015 agreement. After US President Joe Biden took office talks began in Vienna in April to revive the deal but they have been suspended since June when Iran elected ultra-conservative Ebrahim Raisi as president.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in Moscow last week, during talks with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, that he expects discussions to start again in Austria soon. Lavrov said the negotiations "should be resumed as soon as possible" and called on Washington to return to its obligations under the accord.—AFP ■

Russian gas disputes loom over EU-Ukraine summit

EU leaders meet Tuesday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who has fiercely opposed a new gas pipeline that bypasses his country and increases Europe's energy reliance on Russia.

European Council leader Charles Michel and European Commission leader Ursula von der Leyen are heading to Ukraine as Europe faces a gas crisis after a surge in prices and drop in reserves.

Ukraine's years-long war with Russian-backed separatists and reform efforts will also be on the agenda, but the gas crisis is likely to be at the forefront of talks. "This summit will take place in a very tense atmosphere," said Leonid Litra, an analyst at New Europe Centre, a Kiev-based think tank.

Ukraine — in conflict with Russia since Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea — wants to ensure it will remain a key transit country and Zelensky has spoken out against Nord Stream 2, a Baltic Sea pipeline set to double natural gas supplies from Russia to Germany.

The pipeline, which is still awaiting approval from a German regulator, diverts supplies from an existing route through Ukraine and is expected to deprive Europe's ally of an estimated one billion euros ($1.1 billion) annually in transit fees from Russia.

On Tuesday, Michel and von der Leyen will try to reassure Zelensky, a European official said on condition of anonymity.

They will insist on the European commitment to "of course" guarantee "the role of Ukraine as a gas transit country", the official told reporters.

No major advances are expected, however. Ahead of the summit, the EU on Monday imposed sanctions on eight officials accused of targeting opponents of Russia's seizure of Crimea.

Ukraine feels 'ignored'

Critics have accused Moscow of intentionally limiting gas supplies to Europe and driving up prices in an effort to hasten the launch of Nord Stream 2, a claim Russia has denied. — AFP ■

Ukraine's president has spoken out against Nord Stream 2, a Baltic Sea pipeline set to double natural gas supplies from Russia to Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trio win Nobel Economics Prize for 'natural experiments'

THREE US-based academics on Monday won the Nobel Economics Prize for research on the labour market using "natural experiments", or observational studies, that have revolutionised empirical research in the field, the jury said.

Canadian-American David Card, Israeli-American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens shared the prize for providing "new insights about the labour market" and showing "what conclusions about cause and effect can be drawn from natural experiments," the Nobel committee said in a statement.

The Economics Prize wrapped up a male-dominated 2021 Nobel season which saw a total of 12 men win prizes and only one woman.

Card won half of the 10-million-kronor ($1.1 million, one million euro) prize for work focused on the labour market effects of minimum wages, immigration and education.

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Nobel Economics Prize committee members announcing the winners of the 2021 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Stockholm, on 11 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Canadian-born professor at University of California at Berkeley commented on the honour in a self-effacing manner, saying in a statement that his "contributions are pretty modest."

In natural experiments, researchers study the result of chance events or policy changes on groups of people, unlike other experiments where scientists have control over their subjects.

"Most old-fashioned economists are very theoretical, but these days, a large fraction of economics is really very nuts-and-bolts, looking at subjects like education or health, or at the effects of immigration," Card said in a statement published by his university.

"These are really very, very simple things. So, my big contribution was to oversimplify the field," he added.—AFP ■

Macron announces 30-billion-euro plan to re-industrialise France

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday announced a plan worth 30 billion euros ($35 billion) to re-industrialise France, saying the country should reclaim its crown as a global leader in innovation.

Speaking at the Elysee Palace six months before a presidential election and one month ahead of a UN climate summit, Macron said France had taken key decisions "15-20 years later than some of our European neighbours" and now needed "to become a nation of innovation and research again".

The spending was to address "a kind of growth deficit" for France brought on by insufficient investment in the past, he told an audience of company leaders and university students.

France, he said, needed to return to "a virtuous cycle" which consisted of "innovating, producing and exporting and in that way finance our social model" as part of a new "France 2030" plan.

Over the next decade, France would aim to become a global leader in green hydrogen, which companies and governments are increasingly putting at the centre of efforts to de-carbonise economic sectors that rely most on fossil fuels for their energy needs.—AFP ■

Colombia to leave 'Havana Syndrome' embassy probe to US

Colombian President Ivan Duque delivers a speech at the Chamber of Commerce in Washington on 11 October 2021, during a three-day official visit to the United States. **PHOTO: COLOMBIA PRESIDENCY/AFP**

COLOMBIAN President Ivan Duque said Tuesday that his government is aware of cases of so-called "Havana Syndrome" at the US Embassy in Bogota, but is leaving the investigation to Washington. At least five US families associated with the embassy in Colombia have come down with symptoms associated with the mysterious affliction, which include headaches, nausea and possible brain damage, the Wall Street Journal reported.

"Of course we have knowledge of this situation but I want to leave it to the US authorities, who are doing their own investigation, because it is about their own personnel," Duque told reporters in New York during an official US visit in which he has also visited Washington.

The Colombia cases are only the latest of dozens of instances of "Havana Syndrome" experienced by US diplomats and intelligence officials since 2016 — first in Cuba then in China, Germany, Australia, Taiwan and the US capital.

US President Joe Biden on Friday signed a law providing financial support for victims of the mysterious illness.

The Havana Act provides financial compensation for members of the State Department and CIA who suffer brain injury from what officials suspect may be directed microwave attacks.

The cause of the illnesses has not been fully diagnosed and the identity of the attacker, if there is one, has not been revealed.

The Cuban government investigated the matter and has repeatedly rejected US statements on the matter as disinformation.—AFP ■

Israel, UAE ministers in US as Biden seeks to expand normalization

THE top diplomats from Israel and the United Arab Emirates are set to hold three-way talks in Washington Wednesday as President Joe Biden's administration embraces and looks to expand a normalization drive.

Concerns about Iran — the specter of which helped bring together Israel and Gulf states when they established relations last year as part of the Abraham Accords — are expected to be high on the agenda after Biden's early diplomatic overtures to Tehran bore little immediate fruit.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet separately and together with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, following a similar virtual event last month.

Former president Donald Trump considered the so-called Abraham Accords to be a crowning achievement for his administration as the United Arab Emirates, followed shortly afterward by Bahrain and Morocco, became the first Arab states to normalize relations with Israel in decades.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid gives remarks after being welcomed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. **PHOTO: AFP**

Despite their myriad policy differences, the Biden team has given credit to the Trump administration over the Abraham Accords, dismissing criticism that normalization ignores the plight of the Palestinians. Trump's approach was also seen as transactional as he agreed to sell state-of-the-art fighter-jets to the UAE and recognize Morocco's controversial claim over Western Sahara — moves that Biden has not changed. —AFP ■

US, Japan, Australia, India begin joint naval drill amid China rise

Supplied photo shows the Malabar joint exercise by the naval forces of the United States, Japan, Australia and India in the Bay of Bengal on 12 October 2021. **PHOTO: THE INDIAN NAVY/ KYODO NEWS**

THE naval forces of the United States, Japan, Australia and India have started a joint exercise, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said Tuesday, in the face of China's maritime assertiveness in the region. The four nations, known as the "Quad," will hold the Malabar exercise until Thursday in the Bay of Bengal in the northeastern Indian Ocean, according to Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.

The exercise involves two Japanese escort vessels, the US Navy's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Carl Vinson, an Australian frigate and an Indian destroyer, the MSDF said. The Quad nations are working together to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific region and counter China's growing economic and military clout. The four countries also held a joint drill in late August as they bolster security cooperation.

In a joint statement released after the leaders of the four nations met in September, they said, "Together, we recommit to promoting the free, open, rules-based order, rooted in international law and undaunted by coercion, to bolster security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond."—Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Algeria court jails brother of deposed president Bouteflika

THE powerful younger brother of deposed late Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika was sentenced Tuesday to two years in prison for "obstructing the course of justice", the official APS news agency reported. President Bouteflika was forced to resign in the face of mass protests against his bid for a fifth term in office in 2019, and died in September aged 84. His departure was followed by a string of prosecutions against senior members of his inner circle, most prominently his brother Said who had been seen as the real power behind the throne after the longtime ruler suffered a stroke in 2013.

The prosecution had called for seven years' jail for Said, who was charged with other former officials for "abuse of office", "inciting the falsification of official documents", "obstruction of justice" and "contempt of court".–AFP ■

US Supreme Court weighs death sentence for Boston marathon bomber

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's opposition to capital punishment will be put to the side Wednesday when the US Justice Department tries to convince the Supreme Court to reinstate the death penalty for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

Tsarnaev, 28, was 19 when he and his older brother Tamerlan Tsarnaev planted two homemade bombs near the finish line of the 15 April 2013 race, killing three people and injuring 264 others.

On the run, the two also killed a policeman. Tamerlan was then killed in a gunfight with police. In 2015 Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was convicted on 30 counts and given the death penalty as well as sentences of life in prison. The case was appealed on issues of alleged trial irregularities including in the jury. In July 2020 the appeals court left in place most of the convictions but annulled the death sentence and ordered the lower court to hold a new sentencing trial with a new jury.–AFP ■

Myanmar team prepares for AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers

THE Myanmar U-23 team is making final preparations for the Asian Cup U-23 Championship Qualifiers to be played in the last week of this month.

The Myanmar U-23 team is currently under training with 26 preliminary players and Myanmar football authorities will select 23 finalists soon for the tournament.

The Myanmar U-23 team has been under training at the camp since early September, reducing some players within a month, leaving only 26 players.

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Myanmar U-23 team has not been able to compete in long-term international tournaments and other qualifiers and thus the team is planning to play an international friendly match before the tourney.

The Myanmar U-23 team is planning to travel to an Asian country to play a friendly match before heading to Kyrgyzstan for the tournament, officials said.

The 2022 Asian Cup U-23 Group I matches will be held from 27 October to 2 November.

Group I comprised with team Myanmar, Viet Nam and China Taipei team.

The Myanmar team has been planning to play a friendly match in the third week of October and will travel to Kyrgyzstan after the friendly match.

The Myanmar team will play against China Taipei on 30 October and Viet Nam on 2 November in the Asian Cup U-23 Championship Qualifiers.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Japan revive World Cup hopes, South Korea frustrated by Iran

Japan's players celebrated wildly after Australia defender Aziz Behich scored an own goal that handed the Japanese three valuable points. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAPAN manager Hajime Moriyasu urged his side to build on the 2-1 win over Australia that jolted their World Cup qualifying campaign into life as Son Heung-min scored in South Korea's 1-1 draw with Iran on Tuesday.

Japan went into the crunch home match having lost two of their opening three games in Group B, but took three crucial points thanks to an 85th-minute own goal from Australia's Aziz Behich.

Japan still trail Australia and Saudi Arabia in the battle for the group's two automatic spots for Qatar 2022, but the win blew Group B wide open and ended the visitors' record of 11 straight victories in one World Cup qualifying campaign.

Group A is tight though after Tottenham star Son Heung-min scored for South Korea before they conceded with 14 minutes remaining against Iran.

Embattled Japan boss Moriyasu said: "We kept fighting until the end and never gave up. We are determined to get to the World Cup and we showed that tonight.

"It was a great win but we still have a lot of tough games to come. We have to make sure we use this win and build on it."

Japanese media had speculated that Moriyasu could lose his job unless his side beat in-form Australia, and the manager made a special point of applauding fans after the final whistle in Saitama.

"It was a very difficult game, but the fact that the players kept going to the end was down to the support they got from the crowd," he said.—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.

Composed Zverev slips past Murray, women's top seeds fall in Indian Wells

ALEXANDER Zverev won the clash of the two most recent Olympic gold medallists at the ATP Indian Wells on Tuesday, holding off a fierce challenge from Andy Murray despite an equipment malfunction.

The 24-year-old German advanced to the fourth round, coming from behind in both sets to beat two time Olympic gold medal winner Murray 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) in the combined women's and men's tennis tournament in the California desert. Zverev won the Olympic gold medal at the recent Tokyo Games and former world No. 1 Murray won gold at both the 2012 London Olympics and in 2016 in Rio.

Third-seeded Zverev will next face the winner of another third round match between Gael Monfils of France and hard-hitting South African Kevin Anderson. Murray tossed his racquet several times Tuesday after missing easy shots. The outbursts were in contrast to Zverev who maintained his concentration in the seventh game of the second set when he had a shoe malfunction. With the match tied 3-3, Zverev busted a lace on his left shoe running down a ball. He continued to play with the wobbly shoe but then had to take an extra long break between games so he could swap out the laces. Murray seized the opportunity for a bathroom break.—AFP ■