

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 17 October 2021

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.

Press Release

THE Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin participated in the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held via videoconference on 15-10-2021. At the meeting, Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair briefed about the coordination processes done with the Government of Myanmar for his visit to Myanmar.

In response to the briefing by the Special Envoy, the Union Minister explained that Myanmar had closely cooperated and coordinated with the Special Envoy to materialize his very first trip to Myanmar. While considering the rule of law and internal stability, Myanmar has also extended its full facilitation for the success of his visit and for productive outcomes. While encouraging the special envoy to build trust and confidence with Myanmar during his first visit, the Union Minister reiterated the continued cooperation with the Special Envoy.

SEE PAGE-3

Yezin Chaung Bridge in Myeik Township completed 100%

CONSTRUCTION of the Yezin Chaung Bridge between villages in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region is now 100 per cent complete, and the Highways Department is continuing the work of the access road, according to the Ministry of Construction. The construction cost of K2,220 million is used for the soon-to-be-completed Yezin Chaung Bridge between Thara Mae-Shawngte-Kyaung-taung-San Hla Taung Road (2.2 km-2.4 km) in Myeik Township.

Six specialized engineers from the Construction Team (4), 13th Bridge Task Force, Department of Bridges, Ministry of Construction and 80 physical workers were on duty for the bridge construction. The new two-lane bridge will have a total length of 840 feet, with 24 feet of the carriageway and 3 feet of sidewalk.

The freeway is 104 feet wide and 3 metres high (9.843 feet) and the load capacity of the bridge is 75 tonnes per vehicle. As for the bridge room, the opening room is 60 feet wide. It is made up of 3 rooms 120 feet wide and 1 room 60 feet wide. The foundations of the bridge are made of concrete with a diameter of 1.2 metres and the trunk is made of reinforced concrete, Plate Girder and reinforced concrete flooring. In the past, locals relied heavily on waterways to transport crops and goods to Myeik. Villagers can only travel by boat after the tide, and there are delays as they can no longer travel at low tide.

According to the Ministry of Construction, the new Yezin Chaung Bridge is being built to improve access to education, health, social and economic ser-



An aerial view of the Yezin Chaung Bridge. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

vices, and improving the living standards of the villages.

If the new Yezin Chaung Bridge between the villages, which is already underway, will

be completed and opened, local products will be conveniently transported to Myeik and socio-economic development will be found in the villages, officials

said. According to the Ministry of Construction, the construction of the new bridge started on 15 November 2018.—Pwint Thitsar/ GNLM



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Importation of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical supplies continued

THE Ministry of Commerce is working hard to ensure people have access to essential medical supplies which are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, arranging the continuous importation by airways, sea and border trade points.

Yesterday, three vehicle containing 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 480 oxygen containers, 2 oxygen plants, 2 oxygen generators, were imported through Chinshwehaw and Myawady border trade points, and Yangon International Airport. One vehicle containing the liquid oxygen was transported to Yangon from Myawady, and two oxygen plants were sent to Loikaw from Chinshwehaw.

Between 1 and 16 October, 233 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 2 liquid oxygen containers, 3 xygen distributors, 14,201 oxygen cylinders, 36 oxygen plants, 6 oxygen



refills, 8 oxygen generators, 1,699 oxygen concentrators, 150,000 test kits, 86,475 PPE suits, 59 tonnes of gloves, and 432 tonnes of masks were imported.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is giving priority to the import of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment

of COVID-19 accordingly with the SOPs coordinated with the relevant departments in order to avoid delays, and announcements and notices related to the

import of medicines and related products have also been made available to the public on the Ministry's website, commerce.gov.—MNA

Flights to Kawthoung, Kalay resume under MoH guidelines

FLIGHTS for Yangon-Kawthoung and Yangon- Kalay routes, which was temporarily suspended due to the outbreak of COVID-19 disease, resumed yesterday under the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, according to the Myanmar National Airlines, the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Amid the spread of COVID-19 Delta Variant in Thailand and India, which border Kawthoung and Kalay respectively, the flights were suspended in June this year. As the Ministry of Health has finally lifted the suspension, flights to Kawthoung and Kalay from Yangon are running at the same rates as before to make it easier for locals to travel, according to



Passengers go on board one of the MNA flights.

the Chief Executive Officer of Myanmar National Airlines. Travellers are required to

follow the guidelines, rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health, by providing a COVID-19 disease-

free certificate of RT-PCR of RDT test kit at the places designated by the

Ministry of Health within 36 hours prior to departure, and by wearing face shields and masks.

It is reported that the flights to Kawthoung and Kalay are operated by Embraer 190 and ATR 72-600 aircrafts, and the tickets can be purchased at www.flymya.com by Credit Card, Debit Card, MPU card, or at the counter by using mobile banking or i-banking wallet in Kyat. Ticket prices are K 108,000 for Yangon-Kalay; K 113,00 for Kalay-Yangon; K 93,000 for Yangon - Kawthoung; K 91,000 for Kawthoung-Yangon. MNA Call Centre Phone +951 378603-04-06-07-08, and +951 377840-41-42 can be reached to inquire about ticket purchase and flight details.—Lin Yar Ma/ GNLM

Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They must be placed at well-ventilated sites.
4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.
8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Special care for not derailing NCA route

THE government is controlling all measures as much as possible with compassion not to harm the peace process, ethnic armed organizations need to take special care of not derailing the NCA route due to terror acts, destructive acts and instigations of local and foreign elements and media.

(Excerpt from the Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark Sixth Anniversary of signing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15-10-2021)

Press Release

FROM PAGE-1

At the meeting, some ASEAN Member States discussed the matter of Myanmar’s representation and the level of representation at the upcoming ASEAN Summit and related Summits.

In response, the Union Minister reminded that such discussions are not necessary as there is no provision in ASEAN Charter and its principles on such matters. The Union Minister stated that the legality and constitutionality of the Government of Myanmar should not be questioned as the Government has been undertaking State responsibilities in accord with the State Constitution. Linking the matter of Myanmar’s representation at the ASEAN Summit with the visit of the Special Envoy would be counterproductive as it is merely putting pressure on Myanmar. The Union Minister also put on the record of the meeting that Myanmar objected to the decision made by the ASEAN without reaching consensus.

Myanmar is extremely disappointed and strongly objected to the outcomes of the Emergency Foreign Ministers’ Meeting as the discussions and decision on Myanmar’s representation issue was done without consensus and was against the objectives of the ASEAN, the ASEAN Charter and its principles.

At the juncture of emerging strategic competition in the region, ignoring the ASEAN’s good traditions of fostering Unity in Diversity and resolving differences through consultations and consensus would greatly affect the unity and centrality of the ASEAN.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 16 October 2021

MoALI celebrates World Food Day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation held a ceremony to celebrate the World Food Day 2021 yesterday morning. The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers U Tin Htut Oo, U Hla Moe and U Khin Maung Yi, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi and officials. Diplomats, president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI) and its affiliated associations, Representatives from the Central Cooperative Society Limited, agricultural production and trade cooperatives, agricultural associations, and farmers joined the ceremony virtually.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Hla Moe read out the message sent from Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of World Food Day.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo said World Food Day is being celebrated annually



on 16 October in various parts of the World to raise awareness of the importance of food for human beings. This year marks the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) and the 41st anniversary of World Food Day, and Myanmar participated in the celebration every year.

The Union Minister emphasized that it is an urgent task to

change food production systems accordingly to the theme of 2021 World Food Day, “Our Actions are our Future. Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life”.

Myanmar, like the rest of the world, is experiencing climate change, natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, he said. He commended the farmers in the whole country who have contin-

ued their crop productions despite the difficulties during the COVID-19 crisis such as insufficient supply of inputs and affected supply routes.

Despite the unforeseen challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar’s agricultural and fishery productions and exports have not slowed down, he said. In the 2019-2020 FY, 2.58 million tonnes of rice, 1.6 million tonnes of pulses, 2.2

million tonnes of corn, 0.17 million tonnes of sesame seed, 0.67 million tonnes of fishery products, were exported, providing domestic and world food security.

He said his ministry is working together with private entrepreneurs and relevant ministries to provide effective support for the marketing, required technology assistance to increase the productivity and quality of agricultural products, and required capital. He added that Myanmar is a country that has traditionally been a staple food producer due to the export of agricultural and natural products to the neighbouring countries and the world.

As Myanmar is committed to the Government’s policies which focus on food security, increasing per capita income, and narrowing the gap between rich and poor in the country, this year’s theme of World Food Day is in line with these policies. He urged to work together for the better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life.—MNA

MoEE Union Minister meets officials of Russian ZARUBEZHNEFT JSC, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo, who arrived in Russian Federation, met the officials of ZARUBEZHNEFT JSC of the Russian government on 15 October and discussed close cooperation between two governments for inland/offshore oil exploration with working groups.

Then, Union Minister and party also received the Mr Vasily Viktorovich Shpak, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russia and the officials discussed capacity-buildings for engineers regarding oil and natural gas exploration and power generating, including the matters related to natural environment and renewable energy.—MNA

The MoEE Union Minister holds talks with Russian officials on power and energy.



Deputy Information Minister inspects broadcasting programmes of Thandwe, Taungup townships

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met the members of Thandwe District management and township management bodies at Thandwe airport on 15 October and instructed to cooperate with the ministry's staff in conducting media sectors and education programmes for the public.

Then, he visited the IPRD office of Ngapali Township and met the township administration officials.

He also inspected the MRTV retransmission station of Thandwe township and stressed the needs regarding with the security affairs, main-



tenance works and broadcasting sectors.

He met the Thandwe Dis-

trict and Ngapali Township heads and staff, in charge and employees of retransmission

station at community centre of Thandwe District and instructed the necessary things. Gwa and Kyeintali townships heads and department employees of Kyaukpyu and Manaung joined the meeting online.

He also inspected the construction of Thandwe Township community centre and highlighted the necessary things.

Moreover, the Deputy Minister met the Taungup township administrator, township police head and staff of IPRD including retransmission station at Taungup township office yesterday morning and also received the IPRD staff of Maei Township, township ad-

ministrators of An and Yanbye townships and staff of Lamu and Painnetaung retransmission stations.

During the visits, the Deputy Minister talked about the significant decline of COVID-19 infection rate, public participating in fight against riots, preparations to serve the information duties, plans to provide the true news despite the fake news of terrorists, cooperation work in conducting vaccination programmes for the reopening of schools, Pan Khinn projects, peace, security and region development programmes of the government and right concepts.—MNA

Tatmadaw aircraft transports vaccines to Rakhine State

TATMADAW aircraft transports COVID-19 vaccines to Rakhine State to conduct vaccination programmes for students aged 12 and above, and the vaccines arrived in Sittway and Thandwe townships yesterday.

The Sinovac vaccines kept at the cold chain storage facility in Min Dhamma Street of Yangon are delivered to regions and states by Tatmadaw aircraft as well as Cold Chain Delivery Logistics.

Thandwe township received 29,481 Sinovac vaccines and 57,600 vaccines in Sittway township yesterday. The respective township ministers and officials received the medical equipment and will allocate to other townships of Rakhine State and Paletwa township of Chin State.

The vaccines will be used for the target groups as quickly as possible.—Tin Tun (IPRD)/GNLM



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MoHT Union minister tours Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, Inlay lake in Shan State

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung toured Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, and Inlay in Shan State yesterday.

During the tour, the Union Minister met with Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Aung Kyi Win, department officials, the Chairman and members of the Kalaw Destination Management and the Chairman and members of the Hoteliers Association (Kalaw Zone) and hoteliers at Pine Hill Resort in Kalaw.

At the meeting, he said Kalaw can be said a tourist city with its beautiful scenery, forests and mountains, that attracts both domestic and foreign tourists. In developing Kalaw as a tourist city, it is necessary to implement in line with the facts of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that are suitable with the region, he said.



He urged the authority, private and the local people to work together for the socio-economic development of the region as

tourism affects all walks of life, adding that the Government also pays special attention to the hotel and industry, and it is

necessary to balance Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the hotel business. He also gave a presentation

on City Tourism Development, clarifying the research and suggestions on the impact of tourism in the cities conducted by the World Tourism Organization. He also clarified the activities that can attract travellers to mountain resorts, management of mountain resorts and three main goals to be followed for mountaineering tourism.

During his tour to Nyaungshwe and Inlay Lake, the Union Minister visited the Information Counter opened by the Ministry and the preparation of the Virtual Reality Tour Exhibition in Nyaungshwe, the training of Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol (HSP), preparations for the travellers at Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, and met with relevant officials and hoteliers at Aureum Palace Hotel. — MNA

Health officials give 1st dose of COVID vaccine to Kyunsu residents



A Kyunsu local gets the first shot.

HEALTHCARE officials gave the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines to over 18-year-old locals in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region on 13 October.

Officers from Myeik (5/100) Military Hospital, health officials, department heads and village administrator and officials from Kanmaw village The Chaung Village, Yekan Taung villages cooperated in the vaccination programme.

In Kyunsu Township, Sin-

opharm (CHINA) vaccine was given to 7,000 people over the age of 18 for vaccination including 1,200 people in The Chaung village, 1,200 people in Yekan Taung village and 4,000 people from nearby places.

As of 15 October, a total of 3,415 people has been vaccinated in these villages, and the rest of the vaccinations are being given in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health. —Si Thura Aung (Kyunsu)/GNLM

Locals in Mongyawng receive COVID-19 vaccines

HEALTHCARE officials gave Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to 1,050 local people in Mongyawng Township, Tachilek District, Eastern Shan State.

In order to facilitate the vaccination against COVID-19

disease, Tatmadaw officials, Police Force, Firefighters and Red Cross members, nurses, ward and village administration officials and social organizations assisted.

Chairman of the Town-

ship Management Committee U Nay Myat Thu, Major Zaw Naing Lin and officials visited the injection sites and coordinated the necessary works, officials said. —Sai Aung Zaw Lin/ GNLM

Second day of vaccination campaign continues in Salingyi Township

THE first dose of the third series of vaccinations was given to people over the age of 18 who have never been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Salingyi Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region yesterday.

The vaccination programme began on 15 October, officials said.

The vaccine is a Sinopharm vaccine type from the People's Republic of China. The first batch of 600 doses will be given to the local people in Salingyi Township. Each vaccine will be given to 3,000 people. On the second day, 150 people came and got the vaccines and the rest will be vaccinated next, officials added.

The vaccine was administered as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health. Health check-ups, body temper-

ature measurements, and blood pressure measurements were conducted before the vaccination. Officials also made records for the vaccinated persons.

Members of the township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, and officials from township admin-

istration and departments are monitoring the vaccination situation daily, and the township fire brigade and the township Red Cross members are assisting, according to the township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee. —Ohnmar Khaing/GNLM



Inoculation campaign in progress.

1,205 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 October, total figure rises to 486,851

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 486,851 after 1,205 new cases were reported on 16 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 439,146 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,329 after 32 died.—MNA

Above 12-year-old students receive COVID-19 vaccines in Nay Pyi Taw



No.20 BEHS, Pobbathiri.

TO provide students with educational opportunities, health-care officials gave COVID-19 vaccines to students aged 12 and above in Nay Pyi Taw Council area yesterday.

“There are a total of 10,092 middle and high school students aged 12 and above in 39 schools in Pobbathiri Township. From 12 to 15 October, 1,000 students have been vaccinated for the first time,” said Daw Wah Wah Khaing, Headmistress of No. (20) Basic Education High School, Pobbathiri Township, who is carrying out the COVID-19 vaccination processes.

“More than 500 students were vaccinated by the Department of Public Health at three designated places.

“Schools are closed now. When I called to ask students to join the vaccination programme, some of the students were travelling and some of



No.20 BEHS, Pobbathiri.

them would be vaccinated when they arrive back.

“Some high school students are over 18 years old and have been vaccinated according to their community programme,” Daw Wah Wah Khaing added.

Hand-washing basins were also set up at the vaccination

sites to prevent COVID-19 disease. Officials also distributed masks and face shields before the vaccination.

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

Vaccines were given systematically by the physicians,

and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated.

“There are no side effects until the vaccine is given today. Because of the morning injections, only a few dizzy students were found as they haven’t had breakfast.

“When they were given snacks and rested for 10 minutes, they recovered. Don’t be afraid to get vaccinated.

“Students who have not yet been vaccinated are advised to join the vaccination campaign as healthcare specialists are conducting full medical examination during the vaccination,” said School Headmistress Daw Wha Wha Khaing.

School students will be vaccinated only with the consent of their parents and guardians, officials said.

“My daughter is a high school student. I have also been vaccinated against COVID vaccine twice. I’ve already known the benefits of the vaccine,” said Daw Mya Mya Win, a parent of a middle school student.

“As soon as I get the chance to get my daughter vaccinated, I come and get it today. We want the school to reopen as soon as possible after the students have been vaccinated.

“I was worried that the children would get upset if they left the classroom.

“As parents, we consider it best for our children to inherit an education. An educational heritage can guarantee a child’s future”, Daw Mya Mya Win added.

School students were allowed to leave after waiting for half an hour to find out if there were any abnormalities within 24 hours after the injection.

“My school teacher called to get vaccinated. Now, I have received the vaccine. I feel a slight pain while receiving the vaccine. I did not feel anymore after the vaccination.

“Thanks to health officials for providing this injection. I want to go back to school. Even if I’m studying at home, I don’t understand my lessons at all. It is difficult. I have to go back to school after getting vaccinated. I’m happy to be able to study with my teachers and to be reunited with my friends at school”, said Ma Thu Wai San, a middle school student.

In Nay Pyi Taw council area, students aged 12 years and above are vaccinated in townships which are designated for vaccination.

In addition to the daily census of students, there are also a number of people who have been vaccinated in the area.

Department staff and their family members are also being vaccinated by health workers in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention method.

Educational vinyl signs are also posted in public places where vaccines are available.

After the vaccination, officials arranged school buses for the transportation of the school students.

Security was also provided by the fire brigade and the Myanmar police during the vaccination, officials said. —Hein Gyine/ GNLM



No.7 BEHS, Zabuthiri. PHOTOS : KO KO HTAIN

Over 42 mln litres of fuel sold at reasonable prices in 22 days

MORE than 42 million litres of fuel were sold at reasonable prices in 22 days, according to the Consumer Affairs Department.

Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA), in cooperating with the Ministry of Commerce sold fuel at a fair price since 22 September, which is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar. The association sold a total of 42,858,142 litres of fuel from 22 September to 13 October. Out of them, the association vended 16,405,044 litres of 92 Ron, 10399175 litres of diesel and 16053923 litres of premium diesel.

At present, the fuel is being sold at reasonable prices in 129 stations, including 44 stations in Yangon, 19 stations in Mandalay, 15 stations in Ayeyawady, 12 sta-



Vehicles are seen at one of the petrol-filling stations in Yangon

tions in Bago, nine stations in Nay Pyi Taw, six stations in Mon State, five stations in Magway, four stations each in Shan and Rakhine state, three stations each in Taninthayi, Sagaing and Kachin State and one station

each in Kayah and Kayin states.

The name and addresses of the stations will be listed on the Ministry of commerce's website and those shops have to sell only fuel at fixed prices.

If the consumers find the

shops that are not being sold at the fixed price, they are urged to report to the Working Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, calling 09664075683, 09664596327 and 09676320816, to Yangon consum-

er affair department-01250270 and Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association- 09421006794.

The fuel was pegged at around K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market. Then, it remarkably climbed up to K1,455 for Octane 92, K1,490 for Octane 95, K1,465 for diesel and K1,470 for premium diesel on 26 September 2021, according to the local fuel market.

The price hike is attributed to the devaluation of Kyat in the foreign market. Currently, the US dollar exchange rate still reached a record high in Myanmar of around K2,000 per dollar.

Myanmar imports around 6 million tonnes of fuels yearly, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — NN/GNLM

Rubber prices rise to over K1,000 per pound due to foreign demand

THE price of rubber has gone up to over K1,000 per pound due to foreign demand, according to the domestic market.

At present, Myanmar local 3 sundried rubber fetched K1,060 per pound (0.45 kilogrammes) while the price of the local 3 ribbed smoked sheets (RSS) hit K1,080 per pound in the market.

The rubber products have been on an upward trend since last May and have been trading at a dealing price by buyers and sellers, rather than fixed prices due to lower supplies of raw rubber in the market until August when the rubber farmland closed.

Further, the rubber products price has also nearly doubled in rubber latex collection season due to the rising of foreign exchange currency and devaluation of Myanmar Kyat, the rubber entrepreneurs pointed out.

Currently, the market demand is rising when the global demands are on the high. As a result, the rub-

ber prices are inching upwards because there are many purchasing ways despite the closure of border crossings.

Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per the 2018-2019 rubber seasons' data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres, according to the MRPPA.

Besides, about 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber made in Myanmar goes to China.

It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar yearly exports over 200,000 tonnes of natural rubber to foreign countries, generating over US\$200 million. — NN/GNLM

Sesame price rises on strong demand

THE price of acid-free black sesame seeds which are newly harvested fetches a good price on the back of strong demand.

Additionally, the price of black sesame seeds remains in the bull market on the small stockpile when the market raised its head, the pulses traders from Mandalay market said.

The price of black sesame seeds stood only K145,000 per three-basket bag in July, whereas it increased up to K215,000 in mid-October, Soe Win Myint pulses depot in Mandalay stated.

Both raw sesame seeds and value-added sesame seeds are conveyed to China. When the COVID-19 cases fall and transportation barriers are eased, the sesame market will raise its head again for sure, a depot owner from Bayintnaung wholesale market said.

Myanmar's sesame seeds export earned US\$292.28 million in the past eight months (October-May) of the previous financial year 2020-2021, according to data released by Myanmar Customs Department.

Normally, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the main buyer of Myanmar sesame, which was also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Po-

land among the EU countries.

The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar. Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar were previously exported to South Korea and Japan.

China usually purchases various coloured sesame seeds from the country, yet, the trade is quite sluggish amid the restriction measures to contain the COVID-19 disease. This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar's sesame yet.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Man-

dalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation. About 600,000-800,000 tonnes of sesame seeds are yearly produced.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 metric tons, worth \$130 million, in the financial year 2015-2016; \$100,000 tonnes, worth \$145 million, in the FY2016-2017; 120,000 tonnes, worth \$147 million, in the FY2017-2018; 33,900 tonnes valued \$43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, 125,800 tonnes, worth \$212.5 million in the FY2018-2019 and over 150,000 tonnes of sesame, worth \$240 million in the FY2019-2020, the trade data of Central Statistical Organization indicated. — KK/GNLM



Normally, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the main buyer of Myanmar sesame, which was also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

Let's wake up from the dreams to fight against global warming

THE planet Earth is warming gradually. It started some 150 years ago when the human extracted to use fossil fuel underground the earth, they have been suffering from the impacts of climate change. Scientists noticed that the globe has been warming since about 1850.

From then on, industries using fuel such as coal, oil and natural gas emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere the global people

All the global people are responsible for protecting their property to be free from the impacts of the warming process. They all do not have any option except to fight against global warming. Let's wake up from the dreams! Go ahead to fight against the warming!

while urging the global people to mitigate the high temperature of the world.

The best effective tool to control global warming is to grow trees throughout the world while conserving the existing forests. The global people need to strive for greening the world under tree plantations to make the globe cold. Although they may face difficulties of facing hotness while growing the trees, upon completion of the project, they can enjoy the fruitful results of their endeavours.

The efforts to green the environment against climate change will be a good legacy of current global people. Their hardworking with sacrifices of life and blood will be invaluable forever. In fact, relentless efforts for fighting against global warming should start from now onward.

Climate change which launches the global warming the people face now is gradually worsening day by day. All the global people are responsible for protecting their property to be free from the impacts of the warming process. They all do not have any option except to fight against global warming. Let's wake up from the dreams! Go ahead to fight against the warming!

■ ■ ■

Can Covid vaccine technology help make a better flu jab?

The flu season is fast approaching— however advances spurred by the fight against Covid-19 are boosting hopes of finding a more reliable vaccine.

FLU JABS have long been available to fight off the seasonal virus, but their rate of effectiveness can vary from between 40 and 70 per cent.

They work by injecting an inactivated virus strain into humans to trigger immunity. That inactivated virus must be prepared well in advance, and this can cause problems if the strains don't match up.

But now drugmakers and laboratories are rushing to apply what has been learned about RNA jabs to the flu, motivated by the potential not only for more effective, life-saving vaccines but also the vast profits up for grabs.

RNA, or ribonucleic acid, is the lesser-known cousin of DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, the building block of genes.

Last month US pharmaceutical firm Pfizer began injecting humans with a flu vaccine that uses messenger RNA (or mRNA), which it already uses in its coronavirus vaccine.

Moderna, a US biotech company that makes a rival Covid vaccine using mRNA, launched its



Large-scale mRNA manufacturing development at the headquarters of Translate Bio, an mRNA therapeutics company in Lexington, Mass, recently acquired by Sanofi. PHOTO: SANOFI/AFP

own flu jab trials in July.

And French drugmaker Sanofi has started trials on a "monovalent" RNA vaccine—which means it targets a single strain of virus—and will begin trials on a

"quadrivalent" vaccine next year.

Immunologist Claude-Agnes Reynaud said that six months before flu season – "we assess which strains are circulating the most".

"Sometimes we get it wrong,

and this creates a significant excess of mortality," said the director of research at France's INSERM health and medical research institute.

"The problem with inactivat-

ing a virus to prepare a vaccine is that it can damage certain surface proteins," she added -- and it is those same proteins that trigger the immune response.

95 percent effective? -

Instead of carrying these virus proteins into the body, lab-generated mRNA tells human cells to create them, so that the immune system can recognise and fight a future infection.

The World Health Organization advises vaccine makers which strains of flu they should track.

"And if it warns of a change in the prevalent strains, we will be able to change much faster with RNA" technology, said Jean-Jacques Le Fur, analyst at Bryan, Garnier & Co.

On that basis, the effectiveness of the vaccines could be increased to as much as 95 per cent, the researcher said.

So the race is on to develop RNA-based flu vaccines.

Norbert Pardi, a vaccine specialist at the University of Pennsylvania, has used mRNA

to formulate several antigens in a single vaccine.

Antigens cause immune systems to produce antibodies, and Pardi hopes his approach, already tested on mice, will "induce protection from multiple, diverse flu strains".

"Such multivalent vaccines will likely induce broadly protective immune responses superior to currently used flu vaccines," he told AFP.

However the technology does pose additional problems, such as the need to be stored at very low temperatures, unlike current flu vaccines that can be kept in regular refrigerators.

For drugmakers, the prospect of producing an mRNA vaccine to ward off the flu is an appealing one, said Jamila El Bougrini, a biotech specialist at stock market analyst Invest Securities.

The market for flu jab sales hit \$5 billion in 2020, and this year could reach up to \$7 billion.

It is "a very attractive market for the big laboratories", Bougrini said.— AFP

TB deaths on the rise again globally due to Covid-19: WHO

Like Covid, tuberculosis is transmitted by air by infected people, for example by coughing.

TUBERCULOSIS is on the rise again globally for the first time in a decade, linked to disruptions in access to healthcare because of the Covid pandemic, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

The setback has erased years of progress toward tackling the curable disease, which affects millions of people worldwide.

WHO says around 4.1 million people have tuberculosis but have not been diagnosed or officially declared, up sharply from 2.9 million in 2019.

"This is alarming news that must serve as a global wake-up call to the urgent need for investments and innovation to close the gaps in diagnosis, treatment and care for the millions of people affected by this ancient but preventable and treatable disease," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said

in a statement.

"For the first time in over a decade WHO is reporting an increase in tuberculosis deaths," Tereza Kasaeva, the WHO's Global TB Programme Director told a news briefing. "Tuberculosis is the world's second top infectious killer after Covid-19, claiming close to 4,100 lives a day. Approximately 1.5 million people died from TB in 2020," Kasaeva said.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made the situation worse for people with tuberculosis, as health funds have been redirected toward tackling coronavirus and people have struggled to access care because of lockdowns.

There was also a drop in the number of people seeking preventative treatment, the report said, from 2.8 million people in 2020, down 21 per cent from 2019.

"This report confirms our fears that the disruption of essential health services

due to the pandemic could start to unravel years of progress against tuberculosis," Tedros said. Of the 1.5 million people who died from TB in 2020, 214,000 were HIV positive, according to the report.

That was up from 1.2 million in 2019, 209,000 of them HIV positive.

The increase in the number of TB deaths occurred mainly in the 30 countries with the highest burden of tuberculosis, it added.

Deaths could rise

Tuberculosis is caused by a bacteria that most often affects the lungs.

Like Covid, it is transmitted by air by infected people, for example by coughing.

Most TB cases occur in just 30 countries, many of them poorer nations in Africa and Asia, and more than half of all new cases are in adult men. Women account for 33 percent of cases and chil-



Tuberculosis the world's second top infectious killer. PHOTO: YANICK FOLLY/AFP/FILE

dren 11 percent.

The WHO's aim is to reduce deaths from TB by 90 per cent, and the incidence rate by 80 percent by 2030 compared to 2015, but the latest figures threaten to

jeopardise the strategy, it said.

And its modelling suggest the number of people developing the disease and dying from it could be "much higher in 2021 and 2022".— AFP



BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Coastal Andhra Pradesh has crossed to the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh (India). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Northern Shan State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Pwintbyu tomato growers enjoy fairer prices

THE growers from Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region are planting seasonal corps using irrigated water from the Meza-li Dam and underground water.

The tomato growers are happy as they are getting good prices. In these days, the tomatoes are sold at K1,500 per viss, according to the growers from Thamanyin village, Pwintbyu township.

The growers from Pwintbyu township are engaging with the agriculture and they are growing paddy, sesame, green gram, chickpea, sunflower, maize and other vegetables.

This year, the local farmers are happy because of the good yield following reasonable rains and availability of underground water in Pwinbyu township.



The growers from Pwintbyu township are engaging with the agriculture and they are growing paddy, sesame, green gram, chickpea, sunflower, maize and other vegetables.

“People in the township rely largely on agriculture because of good water supply in our township. Most of them are growing

tomato, chilli, onion, gourd, pumpkin, watermelon, eggplant, long bean, water spinach, Daikon and Kayl, which support their families’ income.

These days, the tomato growers are happy that tomato has touched K1,500 per viss these days.

Last month, the tomato price was sold for K400-500 per viss.

Earlier, our farmers grew the crops with traditional method. Now, our farmers are aware of the update cultivation methods by linking with agriculture companies,” said a local farmer from Thamanyin village, Pwintbyu township. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/GNLM

CBM needs to stabilize dollar exchange rate: MPTA



Myanmar imports around 6 million tonnes of fuels yearly, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

THE central bank of Myanmar (CBM) needs to stabilize dollar exchange rate, said U Win Myint, chairman of the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA).

“The main thing is the dollar exchange rate to be stable in the market. If the authorities can arrange this matter, it would be fine. Now people are only looking to buy US dollars in the foreign market, with almost no one willing to resell. That’s why, it would be good if the CBM could manage a stable market system to deal with this situation. We are not talking about to sell them at low price. The exchange rate should be selling at a reasonable price,” said U Win Myint.

The domestic fuel oil price hike is attributed to the devaluation of Kyat in the foreign market. Currently, the US dollar exchange rate still reached a record high in Myanmar of around K2,000 per dollar.

The fuel oil was pegged at around at K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market. Then, it remarkably climbed up to K1,455 for Octane 92, K1,490 for Octane 95, K1,465 for diesel and K1,470 for premium diesel on 26 September 2021, according to the local fuel oil market. There is a remarkable price gap of K800 per litre, according to the local

fuel oil market.

Starting from 22 September, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA), in cooperating with the Ministry of Commerce have sold fuel oil at fair prices, is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar, aiming to offer reasonable rate, according to the association.

The association sold about 44,500,000 litres of fuel oil from 22 September to 13 October. And, about 8.9 million litres remain to be sold in the market.

Myanmar imports around 6 million tonnes of fuels yearly, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — NN/GNLM

Handicraft businesses get extra income in Pwintbyu

DOMESTIC handicraft businesses are getting extra income for their family in Pwintbyu Township in Magway Region, said a local domestic handicraft maker in middle ward, Pwintbyu Township.

Those manufacturing the domestic handicrafts on a manageable scale are weaving baskets, handbags, shopping baskets and lunch box baskets to earn extra income.

“During the pandemic period, this domestic handicraft making business is a lucrative business that can generate extra income for the family.

This domestic handicraft business is highly interesting and being learned by the women who are seeking an extra income for their households by doing a manageable scale business. We create dif-

ferent designs of handicrafts such as baskets, handbags and shopping bags on a manageable scale,” said a handicraft maker from Pwintbyu Township.

“This domestic handicraft business is convenient for finding an extra income for my family in this coronavirus period. We are weaving the different designs of the baskets on a manageable scale by ordering raw materials from Thailand.

We are sharing these techniques for people who wish to learn to make these handicrafts. Weaving a basket costs K3,000-K4,000. Then, we sell it back at K5,000 or K6,000 depending upon the size and design. People can order the basket and handbag with their own designs and colours,” she added. — GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

Free Covid testing for all ends

FRANCE on Friday stopped offering Covid tests free of charge for everyone, in the government's latest effort to incite holdouts to get vaccinated against the virus.

A recent negative test, proof of recovery or full vaccination is needed to get a health pass which is required for access to cafes, restaurants, sports facilities and entertainment venues such as cinemas.

The tests were free of charge while France's vaccination drive got into full swing, but the government said it did not view them as an alternative to vaccinations once everybody

who wanted a jab could easily get one.

The nearly seven million adults in France who are not, or only partly, vaccinated will now have to pay between 22 and 44 euros (\$25-\$50) per test.

Tests will remain free for people with a medical prescription, who have had recent contact with an infected person, who have tested positive recently or who are certified as vaccine-intolerant.

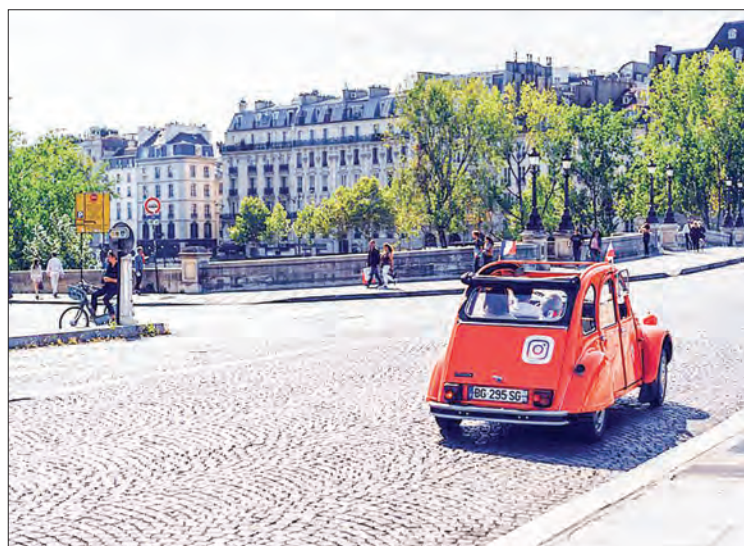
Apart from encouraging more people to get vaccinated, the measure will help the government rein in spending on Covid testing that is expected

to total 6.2 billion euros (\$7.2 billion) this year, up from 2.2 billion in 2020.

The move comes against a backdrop of a continuing slowdown of the pandemic.

The fourth coronavirus wave appears to be over, with French Covid cases below the alert level of 50 new weekly cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

On Thursday, the health authorities reported just over 5,000 new Covid cases in the previous 24 hours. Also starting Friday, some 2.7 people working in hospitals, clinics and care homes as well as firefighters and ambulance drivers must produce proof



France on Friday stopped offering Covid tests free of charge for everyone, in the government's latest effort to incite holdouts to get vaccinated against the virus. **PHOTO: UNSPLASH/AFP**

of full vaccination or risk having their work contract suspended and their pay docked.

Up to now, they only needed to show proof of at least one vaccine shot.—AFP ■

Protests and blockades greet new Italy Covid rules

PROTESTERS gathered at Italian ports on Friday as the country braced for widespread disruption over new coronavirus requirements for workers.

Roughly 300 people blocked an entrance to the port of Genoa in the northwest, causing delays in what was feared to be the start of a day of blockades and demonstrations.

Hundreds also demonstrated at the port of Trieste, a major hub in the northeast, but regional chief Massimiliano Fedriga insisted "the port is working".

From Friday, all workers must show a so-called Green Pass offering proof of vaccination, recent recovery from Covid-19 or a negative test -- or face being declared absent without pay. More than 86 per cent of Italians over the age of 12 have received at least one jab, thus

automatically qualifying for the certification.

But up to three million workers are estimated to be unvaccinated -- and most will only be able to work if they pay for their own tests either every 48 or 72 hours, depending on the type.

Ivano Russo, director general of trade group Confetra, told AFP that out of a total of 900,000 truck drivers, couriers and warehouse staff employed by members of his lobby, "25-30 per cent" do not have Covid certificates. Dock workers in Trieste have threatened to go on strike indefinitely, despite being offered free Covid tests.

In Genoa, the small blockade was peaceful early Friday, according to an AFP journalist, although some truck drivers reported delays.—AFP ■



From Friday, all workers must show a so-called Green Pass offering proof of immunity or a negative test. Members of the 'No Vax' movement take part in a demonstration against the introduction of a mandatory green pass at the Piazza del Popolo in central Rome on 7 August 2021. **PHOTO: ALBERTO PIZZOLI / AFP/FILE**

Moderna or Pfizer booster works better for people vaccinated with J&J: study



People who received Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine may benefit from a booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna, preliminary results of a US study published Wednesday showed. **PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP**

PEOPLE who received Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine may benefit from a booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna, preliminary results of a US study published Wednesday showed.

The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was eagerly awaited in the United States because it looked at the possibility of "mix-

ing" vaccines -- using a different vaccine than the initial doses for the booster shot -- which is not currently allowed in the country.

The study was conducted on 458 adults who had been vaccinated with one of three US-approved brands (Pfizer, Moderna or J&J) for at least 12 weeks.

These three groups were each divided into three new

groups to receive one of the available vaccines as a booster. The nine groups consisted of about 50 people each.

Researchers then analyzed antibody levels 15 days after the booster shot.

For people originally inoculated with J&J, antibody levels were four times higher after a J&J booster, 35 times higher after a Pfizer booster and 76 times higher after a Moderna booster.

And antibody levels for those who had originally received Moderna shots were higher "irrespective of the booster vaccine administered," when compared with those who had initially received Pfizer or J&J, the study said.

Additionally, "no safety concerns were identified" after booster doses were administered, it found.

The study, which has not yet been peer-reviewed, has several limitations, however.—AFP ■

US panel votes to authorize J&J Covid vaccine booster

A high level panel of US medical experts voted unanimously Friday to recommend authorizing a second shot of the Johnson & Johnson Covid vaccine.

The decision will help end a sense of limbo for 15 million Americans who received the first dose but were worried whether it was enough to protect them, particularly after the

rise of the Delta variant.

The committee members, convened by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), agreed with the pharmaceutical company that safety and efficacy evidence favored a second dose.

The recommendation may be tweaked further by the FDA and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

and an emergency use authorization should follow within days to weeks.

Several of the independent experts suggested that though J&J had applied to authorize a booster, a second J&J vaccine should in fact be regarded as an "additional" dose needed to achieve full vaccination.—AFP ■

WTO chief urges resolution on distortive agriculture subsidies



Massive agricultural subsidies, especially those used in rich countries, continue to distort global trade and create unfair competition for farmers in poor countries, WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said Friday.

PHOTO: WTO/FILE

MASSIVE agricultural subsidies, especially those used in rich countries, continue to distort global trade and create un-

fair competition for farmers in poor countries, WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said Friday.

"We have a very big prob-

lem," she said, urging nations to find a solution as domestic agricultural subsidies "are growing in leaps and bounds."

The comments, made during a discussion with World Bank President David Malpass, come as the global trade body works to reach a deal on the issue at the upcoming ministerial meeting in Geneva in late November.

United Nations agencies in a recent report estimated that global support to farm producers totals \$540 billion (457 billion euros) a year, and is expected to triple to nearly \$1.8 trillion by 2030.

And 87 percent of that aid -- \$470 billion -- is "price distorting and environmentally and socially harmful," the agencies said.

Ngozi said most WTO members want to "solve the problem."

The subsidies have long been a point of friction since the birth of the organization, which finally managed an agreement

to ban export subsidies in 2015.

The WTO chief worried about the impact on poor countries.

"We have to worry about how distortive these subsidies are, and whether they result in a barrier to competition," Ngozi said. "If we don't do something to take care of this there will be many poor countries who cannot compete because of large subsidies from rich countries."

Malpass noted that the issue also impacts the environment since subsidies for fertilizer can "distorts ... what crops are grown." "It's also expensive and the chemical runoff is a big part of ocean pollution," he said at the event held during the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. — AFP ■

Japan calls for developing world natural gas projects to be funded

JAPAN on Friday called on international financial institutions to continue supporting natural gas projects in developing countries if they are deemed in each case to be the most effective means to reduce greenhouse emissions.

The proposal was made during a virtual meeting of the Development Committee, a joint panel of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, according to the Japanese government.

Emphasizing the importance

of making "collective efforts" to reduce emissions in developing countries toward the Paris agreement's goal of limiting global warming to below 1.5 C, the Japanese government said the "most efficient measure" should be implemented by taking into account each country's circumstances. The Japanese government argued that if multilateral development banks are required to refrain from supporting projects just because they are related to natural gas, it would be a

worse outcome for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, adding, "It is not sensible."

Japan outlined criteria for providing aid in such cases, such as when there is no alternative option that can achieve lower cumulative emissions over the life of each project, and when it cannot be financed solely by a developing country itself or private funds.

Japan has made its position clear amid questions raised in the United States and elsewhere over whether international devel-



An employee turns a valve at the Nahr Bin Omar natural gas field, north of the southern Iraqi port of Basra. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

opment institutions should continue backing projects involving natural gas. When burned, the

fossil fuel emits carbon dioxide, but in a quantity that is lower than equivalent coal or oil.—Kyodo ■

Metal prices surge as energy costs soar



The prices of aluminium, zinc, tin and copper have all surged in recent days. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A key index tracking the prices of industrial metals, including aluminium, copper and zinc, has struck record heights as soaring energy prices reduces their

production.

The London Metal Exchange Index on Thursday reached an all-time peak at 4,623.4 points.

It represents a 35-percent jump for the LME index since the start of the year, while the increase is more than double from March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic took hold worldwide. "Rising oil and gas prices are once again putting pressure on energy intensive industries, forcing them to cut production in the face of spiralling costs and creating supply shortages," noted Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at traders CMC Markets UK.

Europe's benchmark gas price has more than tripled in just a few months, while oil futures have surged by about one-third since late August as economies reopen after pandemic lockdowns.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

\$590 mn in ransomware payments reported to US in 2021 as attacks surge

NEW data out Friday showed \$590 million in ransomware-related payments were reported to US authorities in the first half of 2021 alone, setting a pace to beat totals for the whole previous decade as cyber-extortion booms.

The figure is also 42 percent higher than the amount divulged by financial institutions for all of 2020, the US Treasury report said, and there are strong indicators the true cost could be in the billions.

"If current trends continue, (reports) filed in 2021 are projected to have a higher ransomware-related transaction value than... filed in the previous 10 years combined," said Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

The heists involve breaking into a company or institution's network to encrypt its data, then demanding a ransom, typically paid via cryptocurrency in exchange for the digital key to unlock it.

Washington has sought to crack down on a sharp rise in attacks, including issuing its first sanctions against an online exchange where illicit operators have allegedly swapped cryptocurrency for cash.—AFP ■

Variety of frozen food vending machines proving a hit amid pandemic



A woman purchases sliced frozen fish from a vending machine in Sapporo on Sept. 25, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

UNIQUE vending machines selling frozen food ranging from slices of fish to Swiss rolls have been gaining popularity

in northern Japan, providing a new source of income for pandemic-hit businesses while allowing customers to purchase

goods without the risk of contracting COVID-19.

One vending machine, installed by fish wholesaler Chibasuisan in a residential area of Sapporo on the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, supplies boneless slices of fish such as salmon and mackerel priced from 300 yen (\$2.70) to 1,500 yen.

“It’s nice to be able to take your time to decide what to get without having in-person interactions,” said Teruyuki Nagai, 49, who bought 500 grammes of salmon from the machine in late September.

The company, which normally provides fish for school lunches, launched sales via the vending machine in August as hospitals and nurseries that it had been catering to were temporarily closed due to the pandemic. The fish slices available in the machine have all been deboned, making the products convenient for cooking.

A variety of frozen cakes, such as Swiss rolls, can also be purchased for 500 yen in vending machines installed by confectionary firm Climb Inc. in Sapporo.—Kyodo ■

Tourist influx in Kashmir increasing gradually after Covid-19 pandemic

THE influx of tourists in Kashmir has started rising gradually months after the tourism sector came to a halt following the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the country last year.

With relaxations in the COVID norms, people from across the country are heading to the union territory for a leisurely experience. Before the pandemic, people from across the world visited the union territory proving it standing as a “paradise” tourist destination.

“We are seeing surge in high-end tourists. Almost all three and four

stars hotels are sold out till December. Unfortunately, the lower-end market segment is not picking up,” President of Travel Agents Association of Kashmir Farooq Khutoo told ANI.

Rauf Trambu, a renowned tour and travel operator reiterated the increased footfall of tourists and said that in the last 10-12 days, the number of tourists in the valley increased. “There is a gradual increase in the number of tourists. In autumn and winter, we are expecting that the tourism sector will be flooded with tourists,” he said.—ANI ■



Tourists enjoy in the snow at Gulmarg near Srinagar. PHOTO: TOURMYINDIA.COM/ANI

Chile to ban most non-electric vehicles from 2035

CHILE will ban sales of most internal combustion vehicles in support of electric vehicles starting in 2035, the Chilean government announced Friday as part of its National Electromobility Strategy.

All sales of light and medium vehicles, public

transit and large machinery, will be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

“Today is a historic day for Chile. We have a new electromobility strategy, which allows us to accelerate our goals and align ourselves with international standards,”

Chile’s Minister of Energy and Mining Juan Carlos Jobet told local media.

“We will improve Chileans’ quality of life, contribute to our industries’ competitiveness, and provide a clean and optimal electrical grid for the development of electromo-

bility,” Jobet said.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Gloria Hutt said that the development of electromobility “is key to advancing toward more sustainable cities, where public transport plays a fundamental role.”—Xinhua ■

UK toy firms battle to prevent nightmare before Christmas

At a warehouse northwest of London, dozens of workers sort boxes of Christmas toys, scanning barcodes and moving them on fork-lift trucks. The depot for The Entertainer chain of toy shops is getting busier as the festive season approaches, running three shifts of 50 workers every day. But as Christmas nears, the company’s chairman, Gary Grant, is concerned about meeting sustained demand as the UK grapples with a supply chain crisis. “Our challenge is now releasing containers from the port, we’re struggling with lorry drivers,” he told AFP.

“We need more warehouse workers,” he added, shouting instructions to a foreman in the depot, one of the company’s two, that ship to their 172 shops across the country.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (069N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (069N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-10-2021** 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.

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Announcement to Shareholders

- We are pleased to announce that 29th Annual General Meeting (2020-2021 FY) of Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd. is soon to be held. The meeting will be arranged in accord with the bank's Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association. Thus some directors shall terminate at the end of their terms and new directors shall be elected for their places as per existing Articles of Association.
- Candidates shall have to submit their applications to the Central Bank of Myanmar in advance before the Meeting. Accordingly any Special Account Holders at Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and Security Account Holders at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) willing to be elected as the directors, among individuals with the shares of MMK 5,000,000 (Five Million Kyats) and above, and companies/associations with MMK 10,000,000 (Ten Million Kyats) and above at the closing on 25.10.2021 as set by MCB Board of Directors, may visit MCB at No-383, Maharbandula Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon and submit your applications by 16:30 on 02.11.2021.
- Candidates must meet the qualifications stated in sub-clause 1 to 8 of Clause 76 (b) of Section 10, the Financial Institutions Law.
- Please note to bring NRC (original), 1 photo (license photo size) and proof documents for the ownership of shares along with you at the time of application. We shall announce the time and venue of Annual General Meeting later. For More information, please contact our Administration Department at 01-8386023 and 01-8386029.

Board of Directors
Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd

THE CITIZENS' CHOICE



(L-R) Co-leader of Germany's Greens (Die Gruenen) Annalena Baerbock, German finance minister, vice chancellor and the Social Democratic SPD Party's candidate for chancellor Olaf Scholz and leader of Germany's free democratic FDP party Christian Lindner prepare to leave after giving a statement following a session of exploratory talks between leading members of the social democratic SPD party, the Greens and the free democratic FDP party on 15 October 2021 in Berlin. PHOTO: AFP

Germany parties agree initial deal for next government

GERMAN Finance Minister Olaf Scholz on Friday took a step closer to succeeding Angela Merkel as chancellor, as his Social Democrats, the Greens and liberal FDP announced a preliminary deal to form a new government.

The three parties have been holding talks since Scholz's centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) won the general elections on September 26 with Merkel's

conservatives in second place as she prepares to leave politics. "Overall, we can sense here that a new beginning is possible, brought about by the three parties that have come together here," Scholz told reporters. "We have agreed on a text from the exploratory talks," he said, calling it a "very good result that clearly shows that a government that aims to ensure we achieve progress can be formed in Ger-

many".

Greens co-leader Annalena Baerbock said the initial agreement heralds a "coalition of progress" to "really use the next decade as a decade of renewal". The agreement that will form the basis of formal coalition talks all but means that Merkel's CDU-CSU alliance is headed for the opposition benches after scoring their worst post-war election result. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norway attacker held in medical custody amid mental health doubts

A Norway court on Friday ordered the man who confessed to killing five people in a bow-and-arrow attack to be held in detention in a medical facility, as questions mounted about his mental health.

Espen Andersen Brathen, a Danish citizen who converted to Islam and is believed to have been radicalised, will be held for an initial period of four weeks, the first two in total isolation, judge Ann Mikalsen ruled.

A full psychiatric evaluation -- which can take several months, according to the prosecutor -- is necessary to determine whether Brathen can be held legally responsible for his actions.

"This indicates that things are not exactly as they should be," his lawyer, Fredrik Neumann said referring to his client's mental health.

"A complete judicial assessment will clarify that," he told Norwegian daily VG.

Brathen was not present in court on Friday, having not contested the detention request.

While authorities have said the attack appeared to be an act of terror, they have not ruled out that it may have been the act of a mentally unstable person. — AFP ■

Mexico City prosecutor to press homicide, other criminal charges for metro collapse

MEXICO City's attorney general said Thursday she will press charges of homicide, personal injury and property damage against people and companies linked to the collapse of a section of a metro line in the capital that left 26 dead in May.

"This attorney general's office has the elements to press charges against a series of companies and persons who were in charge of ensuring that the causes of the collapse did not arise," said prosecutor Ernestina Godoy in her final report on the accident that also left about 80 people injured.

The charges will be formalized shortly in hearings before local judicial authorities, which will then notify and summon those charged, Godoy said.

She pointed out, however, that her office has encouraged cases against companies to be channeled through "reparation agreements" with the victims' families under the understanding that the process "can offer better options to accelerate comprehensive reparation" for the injured parties.

Godoy pointed out that some companies that participated in the construction of Line 12 of the Mexico City metro have "from the outset" shown interest in mitigating and making reparations for the impact of the collapse.

In June, Mexican magnate Carlos Slim, owner of the company that built most of the damaged stretch, promised to pay for its reconstruction, according to Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. — AFP ■

Lebanon on edge after deadly sectarian flare-up



A member of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement fires his gun during the funeral Friday of members who were killed during violence in the Tayouneh neighbourhood of the capital Beirut a day earlier. PHOTO: AFP

LEBANON prepared to bury the victims of its deadliest sectarian unrest in years Friday after gunfire gripped central Beirut for hours and revived the ghosts of the civil war.

Seven people were killed and dozens wounded Thursday

when violence erupted following a rally by Shiite protesters demanding the removal of the judge investigating last year's devastating Beirut port blast.

The Shiite movements Amal and Hezbollah that organised the protest in front the Justice

Palace accused the Lebanese Forces (LF) Christian party of engineering the chaos by aiming sniper fire at the demonstrators.

The front page of the Al-Akhbar daily, which is close to Hezbollah, carried a portrait of LF leader Samir Geagea donning Adolf Hitler's uniform and toothbrush moustache with a headline that read "No doubt".

"Samir Geagea, you were the first to know what happened yesterday... because you planned, prepared and executed... a major crime," the newspaper wrote.

The LF strenuously denied any involvement in Thursday's flare-up and said Hezbollah was "invading" off-limits neighbourhoods when the violence broke out.

A heavy army presence was visible on the streets Friday amid fears of an escalation. —AFP ■

Vibrant Afghan radio reduced to religious relic

RADIO station Urooj once teemed with journalists producing news bulletins, but since the Taliban came to town, Ebrahim Parhar sits alone, broadcasting hours of religious sermons.

Parhar launched Urooj, which means "The Rising" in Pashto, in the western city of Farah six years ago, carefully selecting a diverse range of programmes for an audience long deprived of media.

"We had religious, political, social, and music programmes," he told AFP, adding that up until two months ago, the station broadcast different programmes for 19 hours a day. But when the



Ebrahim Parhar said the authorities had sent him several letters warning that he was 'a potential target' / © AFP

hardline Islamist Taliban swept to power mid-August, vowing to restore sharia law, everything changed. —AFP ■

EU says rift over with US on French submarines

A bitter transatlantic rift is over, the European Union's top diplomat declared Friday, a month after France was infuriated with the United States over losing a massive submarine contract in Australia.

"We are not going to be masochist and insist once again in our own problems," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on a visit to Washington.

"It has been an incident, it has been some misunderstanding, it has been a lack of communication," he told reporters.

"That's it, that's over. Let's move forward." France last month recalled its ambassadors, accusing the United States of deceit and Australia of backstabbing, after Canberra scrapped a multi-billion-dollar contract for French conventional submarines.



A new nuclear submarine called "Suffren" is seen in the Naval Group shipyard in Cherbourg, northwestern France, ahead of its unveiling ceremony on 12 July 2019. **PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP/FILE**

Australia said it had decided to pursue nuclear submarines amid rising tensions with China and won the right to the technology as part of a new three-way alliance with

the United States and Britain.

Tensions began to ease when US President Joe Biden spoke by telephone with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and said that Washing-

ton could have communicated better with its historic ally.

Borrell at the time voiced solidarity with France, alongside Germany a top power in the 27-nation bloc.—AFP ■

Macron marks 60 years since Paris Algeria protest massacre

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron on Saturday will become the first French head of state to take part in commemorations of the massacre by Paris police of protesters at a rally 60 years ago against France's rule in its then-colony Algeria.

The events of October 17, 1961 were covered up for decades and the final death toll remains unclear. But many historians believe it could amount to several hundred. The rally was called in the final year of France's increasingly violent attempt to retain Algeria as a north African colony, and in the middle of a bombing campaign targeting mainland France by pro-independence militants.—AFP ■

At least 47 killed in mosque blast in southern Afghanistan: AP

An explosion struck a Shiite mosque in southern Afghanistan in an apparent suicide attack on Friday, killing at least 47 people and injuring 70 others, according to The Associated Press.

Usually about 500 people gather there for weekly Friday prayers, the AP said. No claim of responsibility has been confirmed. A local reporter who went to the scene of the blast said multiple men blew themselves up in and outside the mosque.

Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban, which have launched a provisional government in the country after seizing control of the capital Kabul in mid-August.—Kyodo ■

Security under spotlight after British MP stabbed to death

THE fatal stabbing of British lawmaker David Amess was a terrorist incident, police said Saturday, as MPs pressed for tougher security in the wake of the second killing of a UK politician while meeting constituents in just over five years.

Veteran Conservative MP David Amess, 69, was talking with voters at a church in the small town of Leigh-on-Sea east of London when he was stabbed to death on Friday.

Police said they arrested a 25-year-old suspect and were investigating "a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism". Police have said the investigation is in the "very ear-

ly stages", though multiple UK media outlets, citing sources, reported that the suspect was believed to be a British national with Somali heritage.

Britain's politicians were stunned by the highly public attack, which recalled the murder of a pro-EU lawmaker ahead of the Brexit referendum.

In June 2016, Labour MP Jo Cox was killed by a far-right extremist, prompting demands for action against what lawmakers said was "a rising tide" of public abuse and threats against elected representatives.

Cox's sister Kim Leadbeater, who became an MP in the same constituency this year,



Police forensics officers were seen working at the scene of the fatal stabbing. **PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP**

said Amess' death had left her "scared and frightened".

"This is the risk we are all

taking and so many MPs will be scared by this," she added.

—AFP ■



Former first lady Simone Gbagbo has launched her own party, "Mouvement de Generation Capable," as she harbours her own ambitions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Gbagbo takes new step to I.Coast presidency as new party holds congress

LAURENT Gbagbo, with a decade-long exile behind him, this weekend embarks on a path he hopes will return him to Ivory Coast's presidency at the helm of a new party.

"This is the grand return of Laurent Gbagbo to the political scene," his spokesman Justin Kone Katinan told AFP ahead of the launch.

Gbagbo will oversee the new party's congress on Saturday and Sunday as he seeks to "reunite the left" and use the

occasion as a springboard to the 2025 presidential election.

The 76-year-old, whose 2000-2011 rule was marked by turbulence and division in the world's biggest cocoa producer, has been very visible since returning to his homeland on June 17. He was removed from office in April 2011 after a short civil war that claimed 3,000 lives, sparked by his refusal to accept electoral defeat by current President Alassane Ouattara.

Gbagbo was then flown

to the International Criminal Court in The Hague to face charges of crimes against humanity resulting from the conflict but eventually acquitted.

He has occupied himself by visiting former president and also rival Henri Konan Bedie, held "reconciliation" talks with Ouattara but has fallen out for good with his former prime minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who heads a faction of his former Ivorian Popular Front (FPI).—AFP ■

France marks first anniversary since teacher killed over Mohammed cartoon

FRANCE will pay tribute to schoolteacher Samuel Paty on Saturday, one year after he was beheaded by an extremist after showing his class cartoons of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed. Paty, 47, was stabbed and then decapitated after leaving the middle school where he taught history and geography in the tranquil Paris suburb of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine on the evening of 16 October 2020.—AFP ■

2023 Asian Cup Third Round Qualifiers
Draw Ceremony to be held on 21 October

THE draw ceremony for the 2023 Asian Cup third round qualifiers will be held on 21 October, according to the Asian Football Confederation.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will set the group stage draw with 24 teams as all the teams qualifying for the third round have been announced.

The third round matches will be played in four groups of six teams from February to September 2022.

According to the sedan criteria for the group vote, Myanmar national football team is in Pot-2.

According to sedan specifications, Pot-1 includes Bahrain, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, and India.

Team Myanmar is included in Pot-2 with Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Tajikistan, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Pot-3 includes Hong Kong, Yemen, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Maldives, and Singapore while Pot-4 includes Nepal, Indonesia, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

After the second round, including China, which will host the final round of the 2023 Asian Cup, the top eight teams

in the group and the top four runners-up, Japan, South Korea, Qatar, Australia, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Oman, Viet Nam, the UAE, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia will be able to advance directly to the finals without having to compete in the third round

Myanmar competed in the second round of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers and collected two matches, six defeats with six points and stood at the bottom of the group, but they were able to compete in the third round directly due to the format of the tournament. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Veteran Azarenka books spot in Indian Wells final against Badosa

VICTORIA Azarenka, who is hoping to become the first three-time WTA winner in Indian Wells, punched her ticket to Sunday's final by rallying to beat former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 on Friday.

Two-time Australian Open winner Azarenka continued her solid play in the California desert as she goes for her first title of 2021 and 22nd of her career. The 32-year-old arrived in the semi-finals without dropping a set and after losing the first one to Ostapenko on Friday night she settled in and found her form. Azarenka will face Spaniard Paula Badosa, who defeated Ons Jabeur in straight sets 6-3, 6-3. Azarenka is seeking to win the tournament for the third time after victories in 2012 and 2016.

She is the only former champion left in either the women's or men's field, and with another victory can separate herself from the list of women who have won the trophy twice – which includes Martina Navratilova, Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova. — AFP ■



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus celebrates after defeating Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia in their semi-final match in Indian Wells, California. PHOTO: 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.

Leicester pile pressure on Solskjaer as ‘not good enough’ Man Utd crash

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer admitted the pressure is building as the beleaguered boss questioned Manchester United's desire after Saturday's damaging 4-2 defeat at Leicester. Solskjaer will face renewed scrutiny after United's collapse at the King Power Stadium left them without a win in their last three Premier League games. "The whole performance was not good enough with and without the ball," Solskjaer said.

The United manager saw Mason Greenwood open the scoring early on, only for Leicester's Youri Tielemans to equalize before half-time. Caglar Soyuncu put Leicester in front in the closing stages before Marcus Rashford marked his first appearance this season after shoulder sur-

gery with United's leveller.

In a dramatic denouement, Leicester ended United's English league record 29-game unbeaten run away from home with goals from Jamie Vardy and Patson Daka in the last seven minutes. It was a bitter blow for Solskjaer, who had already endured criticism after United were beaten by Aston Villa and held by Everton in their final games before the recent international break.

While Solskjaer may not be in immediate danger of the sack, the Norwegian must emerge with some notable victories from a testing period featuring matches against Liverpool, Tottenham, Manchester City and Atalanta twice in the Champions League.— AFP ■



Leicester City's Turkish defender Caglar Soyuncu (C) celebrates scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and Manchester United at King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England on 16 October 2021. PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS / AFP