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.

To be able to reduce the use of firewood, it is necessary to increase the generation of electricity while setting cheap electric bills, Senior General says

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected Indagaw Industrial Zone of Bago Region.

At the briefing hall, Chairman of Myanmar Economic Holding Ltd Lt-Gen Hsan Oo reported to the Senior General on background history of the industrial zone, production of auto and parts, ACSR wires, electric meters and other related accessories at the zone, arrangements to resume the halted factories, CEO U Myo Aung of Ever Meter Factory on production of digital meters, installation of AMI system electric meters as of 2015, collection of meter bills through automatic billing system and automatic reading system, maintenance tasks, control of the tasks from the control centre, plans to produce advanced meters, weak points of analog meters and imported digital meters without communication system, needs to use the AMI system, loss of electricity to two per cent, up from 16 per cent due to use of AMI system meters, use of AMI system meters to collect electric

SEE PAGE-3

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the electric meters at Ever Meter Factory in Indagaw Industrial Zone of the Bago Region on 10 November 2021.

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Number of migratory birds expected to increase in Meiktila this winter
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
MoD Union minister joins ADMM Retreat and related meetings hosted by Brunei Darussalam
PAGE-4

NATIONAL
Health officials give 2nd dose of COVID vaccines to people in Kyaukpyu
PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS
Shwebo paddy, rice samples sent to Thai for laboratory testing
PAGE-7

LOCAL BUSINESS
Myanma Thanaka selling well on increasing demand
PAGE-7

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Central Bank of Myanmar Notification No 46/2021

7th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1383 ME
10 November 2021

THE Central Bank of Myanmar has amended paragraph 35 of the Foreign Exchange Management Regulations exercising the power stipulated in Section 49-A of the Foreign Exchange Management Law with the approval of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as follows: -

"Paragraph – the holder of a foreign currency trading licence shall inspect whether the exporters receive export earnings within three months from the date of the shipment of the goods accordingly to the evidence of the actual exports."

Than Nyein
Governor
Central Bank of Myanmar

Announcement of COVID-19 diagnostic programme for domestic passengers

THE third wave of the COVID-19 outbreak has been brought under control due to the rapid pace of treatment, and the restrictions on disease control have been gradually eased.

For the convenience of domestic passengers, RDT can be used to detect the presence of the COVID-19 virus within 48 hours prior to departure at the time of check-in:

(A) No more than 48 hours before departure, COVID-19 will be screened daily from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the offices of the relevant Township Public Health Department where the airport is located.
(B) In addition, laboratory tests can be performed at fixed rates at private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres permitted by the Ministry of Health in line with the procedures.

Ministry of Health
Date: 10 November 2021

Pyigyimandaing IPRD offers mobile library services for locals

Children are seen reading books from the IPRD mobile library.

THE Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) conducted a mobile library field visit in Pyigyimandaing town of Kawthoung District in Tanintharyi Region yesterday.

Officials led by Township Head of IPRD Daw Kay Khine Win provided book rental services with various kinds of 300 books, including general knowledge and fiction, in Lanthit, Kwatthit and construction staff housings.

The township IPRD launched story-reading shows, book-launching ceremony and talk shows online and also provided mobile library services to locals. — Kay Khine Win (IPRD)/GNLM

Fingerlings added into Bago-Sittoung Canal in Waw Township

THE Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation conducted a ceremony to free fish species into Bago-Sittoung Canal in Kandaw Ward of Waw Township yesterday.

The Bago District Fisheries Department Head U Zaw Myint Naing, township administrator U Win Maw, township administration body member Major Myo Win Aung, Township Fisheries Department head Daw Khin Myo Naing and other relevant officials added a total of 630,000 newborn fishes — 350,000 Labeo rohita and 280,000 Barbus fish. — Aung Myat Linn (IPRD)/GNLM

The ceremony to add fingerlings in progress.

Number of migratory birds expected to increase in Meiktila this winter

THE number of migratory birds in Meiktila this winter is expected to rise compared to the previous years, the bird observers said.

Those winged visitors returning to Lake Meiktila for the winter season will grow. Lake Meiktila water level increased due to the heavy rainfall in the late monsoon period. The Lake is filled with water every three to four years. The increased number of migratory birds often flock to the Lake then, said Ko Zaw Tun, a bird lover from Nantawgon Ward in Meiktila town.

The surrounding near Lake Meiktila is a habitat for migratory birds every year.

The migratory bird species including Lesser whistling-duck, common coot, Black-winged stilt and Grey-headed swamphen flock to the Lake in winter. Those birds are found in the Lake during mid-November to February-end period.

Every year, migratory birds from Russia, Siberia, and northern China flock to the freshwater lake, where there is abundant food, away from colder regions with frozen lakes and a short food supply that make it difficult for them to survive. — Chantha (Meiktila)/GNLM

Every year, migratory birds from Russia, Siberia, and northern China flock to the freshwater lake, where there is abundant food, away from colder regions with frozen lakes and a short food supply that make it difficult for them to survive.

Cementing the Union Spirit

EVERYBODY needs to notice a saying that **"If one does not know the past, one may commit mistakes again. Likewise if one is too eager to embrace the past, one may lose the road to the future"**. The government has decided to further promote the process of cementing the Union Spirit and peace process before the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Independence Day.

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

To be able to reduce the use of firewood, it is necessary to increase ...

The Senior General hears the reports on the background history and production processes of the Indagaw Industrial Zone.

FROM PAGE-1

bills in connection with the mobile banking systems, control of electricity loss to some extent, connection with other urban tasks, inspection on consumption of electricity in time, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo on needs of electric meters across the nation and supply of electricity.

In his response, the Senior General instructed officials to resume operation of the halted machines, systematically carry out the tasks not to lose the machinery at respective factories, efforts for sufficient production of quality electric cable meeting set standards with the use of quality raw materials at home for use of them at Myanmar's electrification in order to cut the spending of foreign exchange, relevant ministries to supervise illegal consumption of electricity, educate the people to use the electronic equipment for saving the energy to reduce their electric bills, arrange electrification across the nation, review the electric bills in comparison with those of ASEAN countries and the international community for creating cheap rate of electric bills for the people. The Senior General stressed the need to reduce the use of firewood in cooking at villages not to cause environmental impacts. To be able to reduce the use of firewood, it is necessary to increase the generation of electricity while

The Senior General views around the factories in the Indagaw Industrial Zone (top and left photos).

setting cheap electric bills. If each household consumes 100 units, it is estimated each unit will be charged at about K6,000. Hence, it is necessary to install a solar system in villages to consume electricity. The Senior General underlined the need to arrange generation of household use electricity through the solar system and strive for the production of solar panels at home, change the installation of AMI system electric meters in Yangon city and Mandalay city as well as regions and states, and strive for the enhancement of electric meter quality and reduction of electricity loss.

The Senior General directly viewed the use of electricity in Pabedan Township of Yangon Region where Ever meters are being used in the AMI system through the monitor. CEO U Myo Aung of Ever Meter factory explained salient points of electricity consumption.

Later, the Senior General viewed the production process of electric meters at Ever Meter Factory of UMHL and attended to the needs. —MNA

MoD Union minister joins ADMM Retreat and related meetings hosted by Brunei Darussalam

MYANMAR delegation led by State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo joined the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat (ADMM Retreat), ASEAN-ROK Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting and ASEAN-Australia Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting via videoconferencing together with Director-General U Zaw Naing Win of the Department of International Affairs and other officials yesterday. The ADMM Retreat was hosted by Brunei Darussalam.

During the meeting, the ASEAN Defence Ministers exchanged views on "regional security challenges emerging during the COVID-19 outbreak and future cooperation priorities of ADMM".

Moreover, during the ASEAN-ROK Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting and ASEAN-Australia Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, the leaders openly discussed the bilateral cooperation between the ASEAN countries and these two countries for defence and security affairs and other future activities.

Then, Maj-Gen (retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi Bin Haji MD Yussof, Minister of Defence II of Brunei Darussalam handed over the 2022 Chairmanship to General Tea Banh, Minister of Defence of Cambodia. — MNA

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Workshop, 5th Joint Coordination Meeting held

A workshop on regional rural development between member countries and Joint Coordination Meeting for 5th Mekong-Lancang to be hosted by Myanmar was held at 9 am yesterday at the Department of Rural Development in Nay Pyi Taw by virtual conferencing.

The meetings aimed to enhance partnership on rural development and poverty alleviation between Mekong-Lancang cooperation countries including Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development U Khant Zaw called for reducing the development gap and supporting the establishment of the ASEAN Community.

Mekong-Lancang cooperation projects aimed to promote cooperation between developing countries to increase the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2030, the Permanent Secretary said.

"Myanmar is co-chairing the 5th Mekong-Lancang Coordination Meeting, and a workshop on rural development experiences between countries in the region, as part of an experience exchange project to promote cooperation in rural development and poverty alleviation.

The workshops and meetings will share experiences on regional development and poverty alleviation efforts of countries in the region and discussed future cooperation plans," the Permanent Secretary added.

According to the second special fund set up by the People's Republic of China, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation will focus on agriculture under the Agriculture and Poverty Reduction sector. The project was implemented from 2018 to 2021.

The workshop and meeting were attended by representatives from the six members of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

Officials also exchanged information on national projects and future plans including Rural development and poverty alleviation plus lessons, achievements, experiences and challenges of the rural development and poverty alleviation during the COVID-19 outbreak. — MNA

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.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

National Literary Awards for 2020 announced

THE National Literary Award Selection Committee of the Ministry of Information has announced the recipients of the National Literary Awards for 2020, and authors U Maung Maung Latt (Naung), U Sein Hlaing (Thura Zaw), and Daw Cho Cho Tin (Ma Sandar) were awarded the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement for 2020.

The National Literary Award Selection Committee reviewed books published for the first time in 2020 and released a list of winners yesterday.

Author Ma Chuu Pwint won the novel category with "Pyauk-Sone-Thwar-Thaw-Hnin-Sat-Myar (or)- Hninsat-Ponepyin" (Tat Toe Publishing House); Chit Su Aung won the poem category (classic) for "Myin-Moe-Seik-Ku-Kabyar-Myar" (Sarpay Beikman); Aung Kaung Myit won the poem category (modern) for "Di-Nay-Pan-Tway-Pwint-Dai" (Seikku Cho Cho); Mya Than San won the literary miscellany award for "Parmokkha-Chote-Sayadaw-Doctor-Ashin Nandamala Bhivamsa-Ei- Bawakhayee-Hnit-Dama-Seemee" (Appa Marda magazine); Naing Zaw won the Myanmar culture and art category for "Shay-Haung-yinkyaymu-Asinalar-Amway-Anit-Takatho-Pyinnyar-Thinkyar-Khaiyarmyar (Thiri Wutsa Sar Pay); Ye Min Win won the translation category (knowledge) for "Pyit-Hmat" (Thar Nge Publishing House); Dr Aung Myint Oo won the knowledge category (art) for "Sarpay-Pinlae-Htaika-Kabyar-Hline-Kalay" (Aya Wun Publishing House); Dr U Hla Kyi (Kalay Kyan Mar Yay) won the knowledge category (applied science) for "Kalay-Kyanmar-Phwintphyo-Yay-Naing-Ngan-Totat-mhu-Hnit-Khae-Seik-Anayai" (Shin Mataung Sar Pay); Ma Nwet Ye (Maha Weizar) won the political literature award for "Bogyoke Aung San-Ei-Naing-Ngan-Yay-Thabaw-Tayar-Amyin-Myar" (Kanote-Pan Sarpay); Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung won the English Literature (general knowledge) category for "Papers from my Shoulder Bag" (Myanmar Book Centre); Aye Phyu won the English Literature (aesthetic) category for "A Motley Collection of My Works" (Mon Myat Thu Sar Pay); Naing Win Thi won the aesthetic literature (Essay) category for "Myo-Kalay-Yai-Opera-Essay-Myar" (Thiri Wutsa Sar Pay).

The National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement is accompanied by K10 million each, while the rest of the National Literary Awards by K3 million for each recipient. The selection was done systematically by a 28-member committee of experts from different professional fields through three stages.

Winners are urged to contact the secretary of the Sarpay Beikman Prize Selection Committee at 01-240048 and the Department of Administration at 01-381449.

They must bring two 5x8 inches colour photos and two passport-size colour photos along with a brief personal summary to the committee's office within one week of this announcement. The address of the committee is No 529/531, Merchant Street, Sarpay Beikman Building, Yangon.

The awards will be conferred at the award ceremony to be held at the Myawady Media Centre located on Mogaung Pagoda Road, Yankin Township in Yangon Region on 4 December 2021 (Saturday). — MNA

Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2020 announced

THE Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee announced the list of winning articles and authors of the 2020 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Competition hosted by the Sarpay Beikman of the Department of Printing and Publishing under the Ministry of Information yesterday.

In the novel category, the first prize went to Nyein Nyo for "Malin-Bai-Khar-Shi-Par-Malai", second prize to Kan Myint Maw for "Myitta-Shi-Yin-Swe-Mo-Lwai-Naing-Par-Bu-Shin", and third prize went to Tin Lin Zaw for "Lay-San-Thi-Ngat-Hlaing-Htet-Ka-Hlay".

In the collected short stories category, the first prize went to Thein Zaw (Shwe Li Oo) for "Phar-Weik-Zar-Hnit-Kyay-Ywar-Ahla-Wut-Htu-To-Myar", second prize went to Min La Pyae (Haka) for "Moe-Yan-Htet-Ga-Ahla-Pan-Myar-Hnit-Achar-Wut-Htu-To-Myar", and third prize went to Tin Taw for "Pae-Kine-Shin-Do-Ei-Hna-Lone-Thar-Ahla-Hnit-Wut-Htu-To-Myar-Su-Zee-Hmu".

In the collected poems category, the first prize went to Kaung Nwet for "Yar-Thi-Myone-Lone-Chin-Kabyar-Myar", second prize went to Kyaw Thet Khine (Monywa) for "Myanma-Ganhtaw-in-Yanant-Lat-Yway-Sin-Kabyar-Myar", and third prize went to Kanaung Naing Nwe Oo for "Nay-Hnit-Lamin-Alin-Thitsar-Kabyar-Myar".

In the general knowledge (art) category, the first prize went to Yin Yin Mon (Archaeology) for "Duttabaung-Mingyi-Hnit-Kabar-Amway-Ahnit-Sayin-Win-Sri Ksetra", second prize went to U Nyunt Wai (BA BED) for "Myanmar-Thuta-Pyinnyar-Yay-Hmat-Tine-Myar", and third prize went to Lwin Myanmar (Mann Takatho) for "PaO-Yoe-Yar-Done-Hlut-Chin-Dalay-Hnit-Bamar-Donechin-Kabyar-Myar".

In the general knowledge (science and applied science), the first prize went to Aung Soe (Agriculture/107) for "Ayeik-Ya-Pin-Hnit-Pann-Ahla-Pin-Myar", second prize went to Swe Swe Ohn (Yangon University) for "Thet-Sont-San-Phyar-Taung-Tat-Chin-Ar-Gazar", and third prize went to Ko Ko Too (Thayar Myaing) for "Thayay-Khwar-Yotelone-Thwin-Atat-Pyinnyar-Meiksat".

In the literary miscellany category, the first prize went to Myay Lat Minn Lwin for "Sai-Gita-Pyint-Tinepyi-Ahla-Sin-Gyin-(tho)- Alingar Kyawswar-Sein-Satin, second prize went to Zat Nyoon Academy Ko Ko Lay for "Seezar-Yatha-Sartan-Myar", and third prize went to Nanda Khin (Thakala Myay) for "Nar-Paung-Kaday-Sayar-Myay-Wai".

In the Myanmar culture and art category, the first prize went to Ashin Pyinnyar Tharmi for "Myanmar-Naingan-Atwinshi-Ashay-Pokay-in-Lumyo-Do-Ei-Yinkyaymu-Dalay-Htonesan-Hnit-Sarpay", second prize went to Min Shin Aung (Twantay) for "Kwat-Seik-Bayda-Thukhuma", and third prize went to Aung Soe (Veterinarian) for "Myanmar-Yinkyaymu-Sa-Na-La-Yarthi-Dalay-Htone-Sinlar-Sarmu-Myar".

The first prize for children's literature went to Wut Ye Khin (Bago) for "Myanmar-Myitta-Swan-Kabar-Ko-Hlwan-Say-Ya-Myi-Hnit-Kalay-Wut-Htu-To-Myar", the second prize went to Thet Oo Khin for "Hpoo-See-Wai-Lan-Yaung-Sone-Pankalay-Kabyar-Myar", and the third prize went to Nyunt Win (Nattalin) for "To-Lay-lay-Sarsar-The-Somai-Hnit-Achar-Wut-Htu-To-Myar".

The first prize for youth literature went to Yin Yin (Bat Ye) for "Kyal-Makyway-Thaw-Hto-Kaungkin", the second prize went to Thet Oo Khin for "Pann-Tapwint-Lann-Swint-Kai-Pe", and the third prize went to Nway Gan Gaw (Myo Hla) for "Thar-Tho-Pay-Sar-Myar".

Recipients of the Sarpay Beikman Awards will be awarded K1.5 million for the first prize, K1 million for the second prize, and K700,000 for the third prize.

It is learned that there were 259 entries submitted to the 2020 competition and the selection was made systematically by a 24-member committee of experts from different professional fields through three stages.

Winners are urged to contact the secretary of the Sarpay Beikman Prize Selection Committee at 01-240048 and the Department of Administration at 01-381449.

They must bring two 5x8 inches colour photos and two passport-size colour photos along with a brief personal summary to the committee's office within one week of this announcement. The address of the committee is No. 529/531, Merchant Street, Sarpay Beikman Building, Yangon.

The award will be conferred at the award ceremony to be held at the Myawady Media Centre located on Mogaung Pagoda Road, Yankin Township in Yangon Region on 4 December 2021 (Saturday).

Those who want to enter the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Competition for 2021 are urged to submit their articles to the Sarpay Beikman Office by 31.12.2021. — MNA

1,180 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 November, total figure rises to 509,771

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 509,771 after 1,180 new cases were reported on 10 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 481,161 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,869 after 14 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 9-11-2021, a total of 14,157,200 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 8,853,554 people have been vaccinated two times and 5,303,646 people once.—MNA

Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products 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 airports and seaports with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Anti-COVID-19 equipment and medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by two companies and transported by two vehicles yesterday.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser, two oxygen generators, and 86 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw trading zones and Yangon International Seaports.

One bowser transported liquid oxygen to Yangon via the Myawady trading post.

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

Health officials give 2nd dose of COVID vaccines to people in Kyaukpyu

A Kyaukpyu resident gets vaccinated against COVID-19.

HEALTHCARE officials gave the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to local people at Rammawaddy Hall in Asoeya Ward, Kyaukpyu Township in Rakhine State yesterday morning.

Over 18-year-old people, including Buddhist monks and nuns, came and got the vaccines.

Fire brigades and volunteers also assisted in the vaccination works, officials said.

Vaccination activities are documented by officials followed by measuring body temperatures, blood pressure, and monitoring oxygen level.

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

In Kyaukpyu Township, the COVID-19 vaccine is administered in designated areas, and as of 9 November, 16,062 people have been vaccinated twice and the remaining groups will be vaccinated shortly.

Major Tin Aung Kyaw, a member of the township administration body, and officials from various departments visited the vaccination area and gave words of encouragement. — Tin Htun Oo (IPRD)/GNLM

Over 40,000 people vaccinated once, 30,000 twice in Pakokku

AS of 9 November, more than 40,000 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 for the first time and more than 30,000 have been fully vaccinated in Pakokku Township, according to the township General Administration Department.

Four types of vaccines: Covishield, Sinovac, Vero Cell and Sinopharm are being administered to people in Pakokku Township, Magway Region starting from 11 March.

Vaccination is underway in Pakokku .

A total of 47,686 people, including 10,336 monks and nuns, 5,010 elderly people, 5,857 healthcare staff and family members, 2,067 volunteers, 300 prisoners, 537 factories and banking staff, 3,248 school children aged 12 and above, 20,331 local people who are in the priority groups have been vaccinated with the first dose of the COVID vaccines in the township.

Next, a total of 36,212 people, including 771 monks and nuns, 4,515 elderly people, 4,797 healthcare staff and family members, 1,404 volunteers, 283 prisoners, 239 factories and banking staff, and other 24,311 local people who are in the priority groups have been double jabbed against COVID-19 in Pakokku Township.

Before the vaccination, members of the township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, the Myanmar Fire Brigade, the Red Cross and volunteers, took temperature measurements and distributed masks to the local people in line with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

Those who remain to be vaccinated will be taken the upcoming vaccination programme, said U Moe Kyaw Thu, chairman of the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee in Pakokku Township.— Salai Ko Kee(IPRD)

44,318 people receive first dose of vaccines in Madaya Township

THE health officials implemented the vaccination programme for the people aged over 18 in Madaya Township of PyinOoLwin District in Mandalay Region at the respective vaccination sites yesterday.

The township administrator, staff of the health department, general administration department, ward/village-tract administrators, Fire Brigade members and Red Cross Society members participated in the vaccination processes.

A total of 44,318 people received their first dose of vaccines and 28,308 people received the second dose of vaccines in Madaya Township as of 9 November. —Soe Kyaw Thu Htwe (Madaya)/GNLM

Health staff inject the first dose of vaccines to locals in Madaya.

Shwebo paddy, rice samples sent to Thai for laboratory testing

THE paddy and rice samples were randomly collected from local farmers from seven townships of Shwebo and Kanbalu districts, Sagaing region and were sent to Thailand for laboratory testing, according to Myanmar's Shwebo Pawsanmhwe Growers and Exporters Association.

"To test the quality of Shwebo paddy and rice, the association randomly collected the paddy and rice from local farmers from seven townships such as Kanbalu township from Kanbalu district and Shwebo, Wetlet, KhinU, YeU, Taze and Dabayin townships from Shwebo district. Then, the samples of paddy and rice have been sent to Bureau Veritas Laboratory in Thailand," said a member of the association.

The samples are kept at Myanmar's Shwebo Pawsanmhwe Growers and Exporters Association office. If the laboratory results are obtained, the relevant townships will be informed.

"The association will be set up as a non-profit organization and they will never play a trading role," he added.

Myanmar's Shwebo Pawsanmhwe Growers and Exporters Association, with the support of GRET Myanmar together with France, is making efforts for Shwebo Pawsan to get the internationally recognized Geographical Indicating (GI) designation.

Pawsan rice was previously grown in the Ayeyawady delta region. Now, it is cultivated across the country. There are about 1.3 million acres of Pawsan rice crop every year. Pawsan varieties vary in different regions and harvest seasons. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Myanmar's Shwebo Pawsanmhwe Growers and Exporters Association, with the support of GRET Myanmar together with France, is making efforts for Shwebo Pawsan to get the internationally recognized Geographical Indicating (GI) designation.

Supply of fresh rice brings down rice crop price

At present, the price slid to between K25,000-K44,700 per bag depending on quality. There is therefore a gap of K2,000-K2,500 per bag in recent days.

THE price of rice crops has fallen following the supply of fresh rice in the market.

The monsoon rice crop which was grown in May-August started to enter the market.

This year, rice price has risen significantly since May. The price was quite stable in October when the newly harvested rice was going to flow into the market.

Last October, the prices of high-quality rice moved in the range of K44,600-K46,700 per bag, whereas the prices of low-quality rice stood at K28,000-K37,600 per bag.

At present, the price slid to between K25,000-K44,700 per bag depending on quality.

There is therefore a gap of K2,000-K2,500 per bag in recent days.

Normally, the rice fetches a lower rate before Thingyan Festival (Myanmar New Year Festival in April). Shortly thereafter, the price usually goes up, he added.

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and its affiliated associations sold about 5,000 rice bags at a fairer price in Yangon Region, MRF stated.

This scheme is implemented by MRF, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, rice wholesale centre (Wahdan), traders and brokers, with a view to offering the rice at a fairer price starting from 14 September 2021. About 5,000 108-pound rice bags have been sold as of 20 October 2021.

Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan, Pawkywel, short matured rice varieties (90 days) and sticky rice are being sold at a cheaper price between K23,500 and K54,000 per bag.

About one to five 108-pounds bags can be individually purchased. Those who want to buy them can come and buy at the Wahdan rice wholesale centre located at No 100 between Lanthit and Wahdan streets, Port Compound, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon City through the contact numbers 09421167474, 01218266-68 of the centre. — NN/GNLM

Myanma Thanaka selling well on increasing demand

THE Thanaka market has recovered since Thadingyut Festival (mid-October) after the market slowdown during the pandemic. Thanaka is selling well after Myanma Thanaka Day was marked, said U Kyaw Moe, chair of Myanmar Thanaka Planters and Producers Association.

Thanaka, a yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from ground bark, is a natural cosmetic in Myanmar.

"The fullmoon of Tabodwe is designated as Myanma Thanaka Day. After that, the number of consumers has significantly risen," he continued.

In addition to a piece of Thanaka, the value-added Thanaka products are also increasingly consumed in the market.

Earlier, the collapse of the market led Thanaka growers to change other crops. This year, they turned to Thanaka again on high domestic demand," U Kyaw Moe added.

There is a steady demand for Thanaka this year. The prices of a Thanaka plant move in the range of K5,000, K8,000 and K10,000. The collapse of the Thanaka amarket during the COVID-19 resulted in decreasing Thanaka farms. Therefore, the price rises a bit on low supply, he elaborated.

"Thanaka has grasped a market share in the domestic market. The neighbouring country Thailand is eyeing Thanaka powder and so, it has market potential," said a member of Myanmar Thanaka Planters and Producers Association.

Pakokku Thanaka warehouse, Mandalay Thanaka warehouse and Ayadaw Thanaka warehouse are the main suppliers of Myanma Thanaka, said the traders.

There are nearly 200,000 acres of Thanaka in Sagaing Region and Ayadaw Township has over 100,000 acres. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Improving coffee plantation carried out in Naga land

THE improving projects of coffee plantations are being carried out in the Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region, said U Win Hlaing Oo, the head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

"The coffee plantation is grown primarily in Homalin, Hkamti, Naga, Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik, Katha and Kawlin. We are carrying out to improve the coffee cultivation in the Naga area. We are providing coffee seeds and nursery plants. Initially, we are tried to develop the acreage of coffee plants because we are focusing on the income. At the same time, we are facing transport difficulties. But the coffee from the Naga is of such a high-quality one. But they have yet to receive the income that they deserve because of high transport charges. There are a few acres of a coffee plantation in the Naga area. If India opened their border checkpoints, there will be increased the coffee cultivation acres and income," said U Win Hlaing Oo.

In the financial year 2020-2021, the Sagaing region started its coffee cultivation in June 2021. By the end of September, a total of 622 acres of coffee has been cultivated.

The coffee plants were cultivated 35 acres in Mawlaik district, 18 acres in Tamu district, 16 acres in Kalay district, 111 acres in Khamti district, 138 acres in Naga area, 260 acres in Katha district and 44 acres in Kawlin district, Sagaing region, according to the statistic report of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

There are ten thousand coffee plantations in the Sagaing region. To be able to increase coffee acreage, the Agriculture Department is raising awareness of land treatment, natural fertilizer, growing methods and coffee production.

Moreover, it is also reported that farmers are provided with coffee cultivation techniques and post-harvest technology. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Create pleasant and stable environs for experienced employees

THE majority of developing countries, as well as the least developed countries, are facing the great problem of shortages of human resources as skilled workers leave abroad to seek jobs for their livelihoods as migrant workers.

Currently, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic halted a short period on the outflow of experienced workers to foreign countries but the government of Myanmar legally allows outflow of experienced employees to work in other countries to be able to earn incomes both for themselves but for the State as the infection rate of the pandemic is on the decrease.

> Especially, the country needs to encourage education for the new generations. Otherwise, anyone cannot prevent the brain drain event of the experienced workers. For the created jobs, employers need to pay deserved salaries and other incentives to the employees depending on their skills and qualification.

In fact, the income sent back by those migrant workers to the motherlands could set a record in 2017, according to the statistics of the World Bank. As such, those workers are one of the pillars to the relevant countries in economic affairs.

The World Bank stated that employees from the poor countries working in Europe, Russia and the United States of America remitted their incomes to home. As such, these incomes were good support to the poor countries.

In Myanmar, many industries could create some amounts jobs for Myanmar citizens. Due to shortages of jobs at home, human resources leave Myanmar for neighbouring countries in addition to some countries which can create jobs for them.

The legal and illegal departure of Myanmar workers to other countries cause shortages of labour and brain drains in Myanmar. Consequently, whenever industries are established in Myanmar, these industries don't have the readiness of experienced labour for operations.

As such, the authorities need to emphasize the prevention of shortages of labour and brain drain in the country. It is necessary to create jobs for them at home by paying the reserved salaries. At the same time, the industries need to invest in the nurturing of new generations for their businesses.

Especially, the country needs to encourage education for the new generations. Otherwise, anyone cannot prevent the brain drain event of the experienced workers. For the created jobs, employers need to pay deserved salaries and other incentives to the employees depending on their skills and qualification.

Moreover, the motherland must restore political stability and create good images of the country in the international community. It means it is necessary to create pleasant environs for the experienced workers.

■ ■ ■

Festivals of Tazaungmon

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
(Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja, Sithu)

"Old man bent and double,
Don't die so soon,
To watch again the Pwe (festivals) at next
Tazaungmon full moon."

The above Myanmar nursery rhyme bespeaks that Tazaungmon, the 8th month of the Myanmar calendar, has many festivals. Coinciding with November, Tazaungmon is the first month of the cold season in Myanmar, which covers a four-month period – Tazaungmon (November), Nattaw (December), Pyatho (January) and Tabodwe (February). It is also the first month of the open season, in that rain has entirely passed out, and the Tazaungmon sky is cloudless and clear blue. The northeast wind passing through the icy lands of the north turns itself into a chill breeze as it enters Myanmar. It is this pleasant weather that favours the holding of many Pwes (festivals) in Tazaungmon.

'Bjeihsa' (Vrischika, Scorpio) as Tazaungmon is called in Myanmar astrology, it has scorpion as its zodiacal sign. The cold wind and the morning dew of Tazaungmon nourish a particular creeper species called in the Myanmar Language "Kha We" (angular luffa plant). Kha We grows wild or is grown in the gardens for its shoots and fruits which make nice vegetables for Myanmar dishes. Its flowers are soft golden yellow, full of delicate pollens producing light fragrance. The countryside in Tazaungmon is adorned with Kha We flowers, which Myanmar people traditionally regard as the flower of Tazaungmon month. At midnight in the dark blue firmament appears the asterism Kyattika in conjunction with the moon.

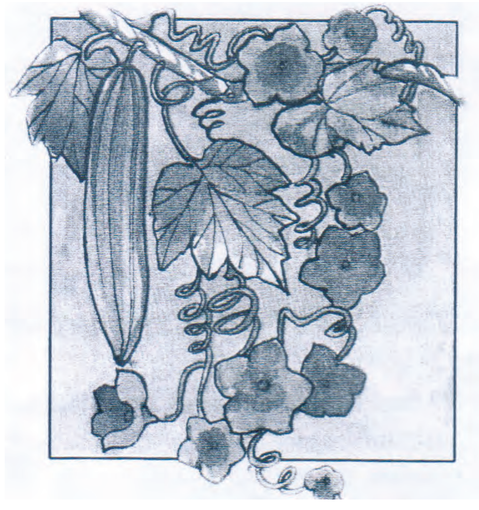
Festivals traditionally held in Tazaungmon may be classified into Pre-Buddhist, Buddhist, and Post-Buddha types. As this month has pleasant weather with a clear blue sky and all heavenly bodies are visible at night, Myanmar people of Pre-Buddhist time held the festival of constellations and planets, known as 'Netkhat Thabin'. Before Buddhism came to Myanmar, the people worshipped natural phenomena. Heavenly bodies were believed to exercise their influence upon human life and career. They were thus propitiated for the favour. According to Myanmar astrology, there are 27 constellations, all of which appear on the full moon night of Tazaungmon. They are (1) Asavani (2) Barani (3) Kyattika (4) Rohani (5) Migasi (6) Bhadra (7) Punnapusshu (8) Phussha (9) Assalissa (10) Magha (11) Pyubbaparagunni (12) Uttaraparagunni (13) Hassada (14) Cittra (15) Swadi (16) Visakha (17) Anurada (18) Jettha (19) Mula (20) Pruppasan (21) Uttarasan (22) Sarawun (23) Dhanasiddha (24) Sattabhissha (25) Pyuppabadrapaik (26) Uttarabadrapaik and (27) Revati. It is believed that each constellation is guarded by a deva. On the full moon night of Tazaungmon, a feast was held at which fruits, flowers, juice, honey, milk, rice cake and incense were offered to the heavenly bodies, followed by illuminations of light, musical and dance entertainment and all kinds of celebrations.

The name ' Tazaungmon' for this month, as some scholars think, is derived from the festival of constellations and planets. "Tazaung" means illumination by oil lamp and "Mon" means to embellish. So Tazaungmon is the month in which "Netkhat Thabin" is embellished by lights.

In Ommadanti Jataka, the celebration of Netkhat Thabin was mentioned as a state festival held on the full moon night of Tazaungmon. Ommadanti was an extremely beautiful girl born to a wealthy noble family. Everyone praised her beauty and said that she was worthy to be a queen. When King Thiwi of Arihtapura Kingdom heard of her, he sent his wise brahmans to her to see if she had the queenly qualities. At the dinner given in their honour, the brahmans saw Ommadanti and they were so bewitched by her beauty that they made a mess of everything at the dinner. Disturbed by their ill manners, Ommadanti ordered her servants to throw the boors out of her house. Ashamed and humiliated, the brahmans reported to the king that the lady was unworthy to be a queen. The king believed their report. Ommadanti was married to the king's general Abiparaka. Although Ommadanti was faithful and devoted to her husband she could never forgive and forget the slight the king had given her. With a feminine pride, she harboured vengeance upon the king.

On the full moon night of Tazaungmon, the whole Capital was illuminated to celebrate the royal Netkhat Thabin. Preparations were made for the pageant of the king. The general was put in charge of the king's security. Before he went on his duty, the general told his wife Ommadanti not to come out and show herself when the royal coach passed by their house, for he knew that her beauty would harm the king. But Ommadanti had made up her mind to turn the king mad by her charming beauty. When the royal coach came up in front of her house, she made her appearance at the open window, and with a captivating smile, she threw fragrant flowers at the king who looked up to get a glimpse of the feminine idol in perfect beauty. She immediately shut the window leaving the king in a state of extreme desire and love mania. The king cut short his city tour and returned to the palace where he shut himself in his chamber refusing to hold the daily audience but suffering alone. The general knew at once what had happened to the king. The general went to the king to tell him that he had consulted the guardian god of the Banyan Tree whose oracle told him that the king was infatuated with Ommadanti. Then the general magnanimously offered Ommadanti to the king. The king felt ashamed and repented because his evil desire was known to the tree god and his trusted general. He was brought back to his senses and he recovered from love mania. He ruled his kingdom justly till his old age.

The Ommadanti Jataka is the favourite story that is played at the Tazaungmon festival. It befits the occasion and its plot and characters appeal to the Myanmar youths and adults.



However, with the introduction of Buddhism into Myanmar, and its prevalence among the people, the Tazaungmon festival assumed Buddhist character. Although lights were illuminated and a variety of fun-making was done, the festival of Netkhat Thabin was held no more. Its place was taken by Kahtein festival. The word 'Kahtein' is derived from a Pali word 'kathina' meaning firm or durable. Monks who receive Kahtein robe and monks who express their appreciation at the offering and receiving of Kahtein robe by uttering 'Sadhu' (well-done) three times, gain five durable merits. The five durable merits are the privileges of enjoying the relaxation of certain rules of Vinaya (Priestly Disciplines) governing the monks such as:

(1) monks can go out to the house of the donor who invites them for offering food, without informing the other monk nearby, even if the donor has inadvertently used improper language in inviting.

(2) monks who have resolved to practise the Ti-civara austerity (possessing a robe of three garments only) are permitted to go out without carrying the resolved robe with them.

(3) robes received can be worn by monks without performing certain religious procedures.

(4) even when an invitation for food offering comes in an improper manner, at least four monks and above can accept it.

(5) monks of the monastery where Kahtein robes are offered for the Sangha can wear these robes.

The donor of Kahtein robe attains the following merits: -

(1) there shall be no danger or disturbance wherever the donor travels;

(2) the donor will have plenty of good and healthy food. He will never suffer from food poison;

(3) the donor's property is safe from destruction, robbery, or theft;

(4) the donor will recover the long-forgotten property;

(5) the donor will get wealth without much difficulty; and

(6) the donor will have a good look.

There is no restriction regarding the offering of robes to the monks. Donors can offer robes, one-piece or the whole set to any monk at any time. But regarding the Kahtein robe, there is a set period and strict rules governing the Kahtein robe, the donor and recipient of Kahtein robe. From the first waning moon day of Thadingyut (October) to the full moon day of Tazaungmon (November) is the period allowed for the offering of Kahtein robe to the monks. The donor and the recipient must observe this time limit. One of the three pieces of the robe is offered as a Kahtein robe. The donor must have a good and sincere intention and must donate Kahtein robe out of his voluntary will. The donor offers Kahtein robe, not to an individual monk or monastery but the Sangha (all members of the Buddhist Order) as a whole. Monks must never request directly or indirectly anyone, even parents or relatives to donate robes to them. According to Vinaya, if monks are in need of robes and there is no donation of the robe, they must collect discarded clothes, wash them clean, dye them with bark, piece and sew them together to wear as a robe. Recipients of the Kahtein robe are selected in accordance with the rules regarding the Kahtein robe. Not any monk and not all monks are eligible to receive Kahtein robe. The deserving recipients are those who have: -

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 10 November 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal now lies over Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal during next (12) hrs and continuous to move West-Northwestwards and cross North Tamilnadu Coast and adjoining Sout Andhra Pradesh Coast (India) around (11.11.2021).Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 11 November 2021: Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Magway Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine States. Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and (Southern and Eastern) Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States.Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 –8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 November 2021: Isolated rain or thunder showers.Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 November 2021: Isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

Low Pressure Area Condition

ISSUED at (19:00) hours M.S.T on 10-11-2021

Low Pressure Area

ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal now lies over Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal during next (12) hrs and continuous to move West-Northwestwards and cross North Tamilnadu Coast and adjoining Sout Andhra Pradesh Coast (India) around (11.11.2021).

General caution

DUE to the Low Pressure Area, likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States during (10.11.2021) to (13.11.2021).

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
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New Zealand's APEC host Ardern calls for 'bold' climate action

Employees work at a wind turbine plant of Goldwind Science and Technology Co.,Ltd. in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 25 April 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHAO GE**

PACIFIC Rim trade and foreign ministers agreed to push for a freeze on fossil fuel subsidies at a virtual summit Wednesday but host Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand said more "bold" action on climate change was needed.

Ministers from the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group met online to discuss their Covid-19 response ahead of a meeting of national leaders on Saturday, including US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O'Connor said highlights included a plan to voluntarily freeze fossil fuel subsidies and commitments to liberalize tariffs on vaccines and other pandemic medical supplies.

Ardern hailed the move on fossil fuel subsidies, saying it had the potential to divert billions of dollars from a heavily polluting sector into green technology.

But as APEC leaders face pressure for meaningful action on climate change amid COP26 talks in Glasgow, Ardern said it did not go far enough.

"Do we need to be more ambitious than this? Absolutely," she said. "We would of course like to see a world where there are no fossil fuel subsidies in our economies, that's long been a position of New Zealand, which we will continue to advocate."

She added: "If the world is not ready to take bold action on climate change, then the world must be ready for the disastrous results of climate change." The issue was highlighted at the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, where the heads of 91 major global companies called for the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies.— AFP ■

Israel start-up offers virtual 'Clean Coins' for garbage

AS she walked her dog Luna near her northern Israel town, Elishya Ben Meir collected litter that had been reported through a new app which turns garbage into goods.

For each bag she fills in the valley near her home, she receives around 10 "Clean Coins", a virtual currency that can be redeemed for goods from participating businesses.

The green scheme aims to encourage citizens to pick up trash in a country ranked among the world's leading litter producers per capita.

"As soon as I get out to the valley, I see trash wherever I look," said Ben Meir, 18.

"People drink, barbecue and leave all their garbage outside. It's really unpleasant."

Before throwing her bags of garbage into a nearby bin, Ben Meir snapped pictures of her day's haul, which was worth around 30 Clean Coins.

"Each black dot on the map represents waste reported by a user," said Adam Ran, 35, co-founder and CEO of Clean Coin, demonstrating the app in his office in the northern port city of Haifa.

"By viewing the photos, I can really see the amount of trash, where exactly the trash is located, how many bags are approximately needed in order to collect it, and the amount of credit." The company said more than 16,000 users had already signed up, of whom some 1,200 are active each week.

'Everyone has an interest'

Gal Lahat, 21, co-founder and technical director, said he designed the app to be playful, with users earning points and unlocking different levels.

"You can see your progress compared to other users, but also when you search for the trash in the field, we want it to look like a game," Lahat said.— AFP ■

More than 25 brands have joined the network, Clean Coin co-founder Adam Ran said, allowing users to redeem coins for clothes, indoor climbing and hotel stays, among other options. **PHOTO: AFP**

Greenland passes law banning uranium mining

GREENLAND'S parliament voted Tuesday to ban uranium mining and exploration in the vast Danish territory, following through on a campaign promise from the ruling left-wing party which was elected earlier this year. The Inuit Ataqatigiit (IA) party won snap elections in April that were originally triggered by divisions over a controversial uranium and rare earth mining project.

The IA won 12 seats in the 31-seat Greenlandic national assembly, beating its rival Siumut, a social democratic party that had dominated politics in the island territory since it gained autonomy in 1979. On Tuesday 12 MPs in the national assembly voted to ban uranium mining, with nine voting against. The IA had campaigned against exploiting the Kuannersuit deposit, which is located in fjords in the island's south and is considered one of the world's richest in uranium and rare earth minerals.

Students emerge from the KTI mine-training facility in Sisimiut, Greenland. The country is banking on the emergence of a mining sector that would generate income and jobs. **PHOTO: KTI/AFP**

The project, led by the Chinese-owned Australian group Greenland Minerals, has not yet been officially abandoned.

But French group Orano announced in May it would not launch exploration despite holding permits to do so.

The massive natural riches of the vast island — measuring two million square kilometres (772,200 square miles), making it larger than Mexico — have been eyed by many, but few projects have been approved.

The island is currently home to two mines: one for anorthosite, whose deposits contain titanium, and one for rubies and pink sapphires.—AFP ■

Lions at Singapore wildlife park infected with coronavirus

FOUR lions at a Singapore wildlife park have tested positive for the coronavirus after coming into contact with infected zookeepers, and have symptoms including coughing and sneezing, officials said Wednesday.

The endangered Asiatic lions started displaying signs of illness at the weekend, prompting officials to order coronavirus tests.

The infected big cats along with five others at the Night Safari park have been placed in isolation in their den, the government's animal and veterinary service said.

"All the lions remain bright, alert and active," said Sonja Luz, from Mandai Wildlife Group, which operates the park.

"We expect that the lions will make a full recovery with minor supportive treatment."

Three zookeepers from the Night Safari are confirmed to have been infected. The park is an open-air zoo home to hundreds of animals, which welcomes visitors at night.

An African lion at Singapore Zoo — which is adjacent to the Night Safari — has also fallen sick, and officials have ordered virus tests.

Luz added the risk of animals passing the virus to humans is low.—AFP ■

Chinese city offers cash for clues in Covid 'people's war'

A Covid-hit Chinese city is offering thousands of dollars for anyone giving clues in tracing the source of its latest outbreak, as part of a "people's war" to stamp out one of the country's largest resurgences in months.

China reported 43 local cases on Tuesday in a Delta-driven surge that has fanned out to 20 provinces and regions, keeping new case numbers in the double-digits over the past three weeks.

As more countries lift Covid measures, Beijing officials have stuck stubbornly to a zero-Covid strategy that has maintained low infection numbers due to strict border closures, targeted lockdowns and long quarantines.

But the current outbreak has hit more than 40 cities, and

Beijing's rigorous anti-virus stance has been used as political capital to extol the virtues of China's leaders. **PHOTO: AFP**

officials in Heihe — a northern city on the border with Russia — said they would offer 100,000 yuan ($15,500) as a reward for information.

"In order to uncover the source of this virus outbreak as soon as possible and find out the chain of transmission, it is necessary to wage a people's war of epidemic prevention and control," the city government said in a notice.

Officials said cases of smuggling, illegal hunting and cross-border fishing should be reported immediately, adding that those who have bought imported goods online ought to "immediately sterilize" them and send them for tests.

The latest wave has seen millions put under lockdown and domestic travel rules tightened, with many planes and trains cancelled.

A cluster in central Henan province has been linked to schools, as health authorities urged more rapid vaccination of children.

Over 3.5 million vaccine doses have been given to children aged between three and 11, according to official data. — AFP ■

Singapore to stop paying medical bills for the 'unvaccinated by choice'

SINGAPORE will from next month stop paying coronavirus medical bills of those who are unvaccinated by choice, officials have said, as a fierce outbreak put the city-state's healthcare system under strain. The tiny country is experiencing its worst Covid-19 wave since the start of the pandemic, reporting around 2,000-3,000 cases a day and a handful of deaths. The government had always covered the medical bills of all Singaporeans and other residents in certain categories infected with the virus, except for those who tested positive soon after returning from overseas.

But from 8 December, authorities will begin charging Covid-19 patients who are unvaccinated by choice, the ministry of health said Monday.

"Unvaccinated persons make up a sizeable majority of those who require intensive inpatient care, and disproportionately contribute to the strain on our healthcare resources," the ministry said in a statement.

Those affected will still be able to use regular financing arrangements to cover the cost, such as private insurance.

Bills for those who are ineligible for vaccination — such as children under 12 or those with certain medical conditions — will still be fully paid.

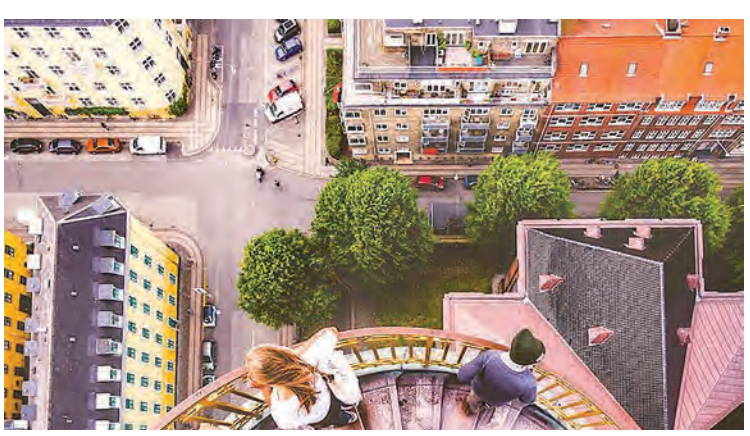
Singapore has one of the

Singapore has said it will stop paying the coronavirus medical bills of people who are unvaccinated by choice. **PHOTO: AFP**

world's highest vaccination rates, with 85 per cent of its 5.5 million population fully inoculated.

It has had a mild outbreak by global standards, and only faced a substantial virus wave in recent months after being hit by the Delta variant.— AFP ■

Denmark: Covid curbs reintroduced after just two months



Denmark will re-introduce a health pass because of a sharp rise in Covid-19 infections, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Monday, less than two months after scrapping controls. **PHOTO: UNSPLASH/AFP**

DENMARK will re-introduce a health pass because of a sharp rise in Covid-19 infections, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Monday, less than two months after scrapping controls.

The Epidemic Commission has recommended the government classify the coronavirus as a "socially threatening disease" and re-impose the pass, Frederiksen told journalists. "The government will follow this recommendation." Frederiksen acknowledged that the return of the pass would make life more difficult for those who were not vaccinated, but added: "That's how I think it should be." In Denmark, with a population of 5.8 million, 85.9 per cent of people over the age of 12 have been fully vaccinated. But at the end of last week, the authorities warned about the risk of hospitals being overwhelmed because of Covid-19, flu and other infectious diseases.

"The health authorities were expecting more people to be infected (by Covid) and hospitalized, but the things have gone faster than expected," Frederiksen added. The number of new coronavirus cases was higher than 2,000 again Monday, for the fifth day running. Medical staff are treating 26 people in intensive care. The health pass will be re-introduced in bars, restaurants and night clubs and will be obligatory for those aged 15 and above.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands protest Covid restrictions in New Zealand

THOUSANDS of demonstrators marched on the New Zealand parliament to protest against Covid-19 restrictions Tuesday, prompting a major police deployment at the Wellington building known as the Beehive.

About 3,000 people, most not wearing masks, made their way through the capital's city centre, including dozens of motorcyclists in biker gang regalia performing burnouts.

Some attendees carried "Trump 2020" flags, while others bore signs carrying messages from Maori groups, those impacted by lockdowns, and teachers who face losing their jobs if they refuse vaccination.

Others targeted Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern with slogans such as "Pro Choice, Anti Jacinda", with "Media Lies" and "Media Treason" also prominent.—AFP ■

Covid cases spike in Greece, hospitals buckle

GREECE is experiencing a fourth wave of Covid, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis warned Tuesday as daily infections hit their highest since the pandemic began, with hospitals starting to buckle under the pressure of rising infections.

The country notched up a record 8,613 new Covid-19 cases in 24 hours, the National Organization of Public Health said, after cases more than doubled in less than a fortnight.

Forty-six people died of the disease on Tuesday, after 65 a day earlier.

"We are facing a fourth wave," which "mainly concerns the unvaccinated," Mitsotakis said Tuesday evening after talks with his visiting Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte.

He said the government was "focused on increasing vaccination numbers" and "taking measures without resorting to a lockdown".

The north of the country, where inoculation rates are lower than in other regions, has been the worst hit in recent days.—AFP ■

China's slowdown raises questions for global economy

THE Chinese economy, weighed down by electricity shortages and a vast real estate crisis, has lost its luster recently, to the point where economists are starting to question its impact on the global growth it has helped drive for more than 20 years.

The difficulties of the real estate sector in China triggered by the troubles of giant Evergrande could pose risks for the world economy and affect the United States, the Federal Reserve warned in its report on financial stability released Monday.

That is a marked change of tone from September, when Fed Chairman Jerome Powell still believed the world's largest economy was not really directly exposed to difficulties in China.

Evergrande, estimated to be worth some 260 billion euros, is one of the biggest companies in China. Its financial situation is closely scrutinized because its collapse would deal a serious blow to the growth of the Asian giant.

The real estate sector is estimated to account for 25-30 per cent of China's GDP. In the third quarter, gross domestic product, suffering drag from the Evergrande crisis, grew by 4.9 per cent year-on-year, down from 7.9 per cent in the second quarter.

"So far, the likes of the Evergrande debacle has been contained by Chinese official sector buffering," said Padhraic Garvey, regional head of research for the Americas at financial institution ING.

This photo taken on 7 November 2021 shows workers processing pork meat at a facility in Huaian in China's eastern Jiangsu province. **PHOTO/AFP**

But he admitted there were "unknown risks."

And he said the Fed cannot ignore the fact that "China is right up there as a factor given its size, and the size of its financial sector."—AFP ■

White House channels infrastructure funds to snarled ports

Snarls at American ports have exacerbated supply chain woes that are threatening to wreak havoc on the 2021 Christmas shopping season.
PHOTO: AFP

SNARLS at American ports have exacerbated supply chain woes that are threatening to wreak havoc on the 2021 Christmas shopping season.

As overwhelmed American ports leave ships carrying goods for the Christmas shopping season idling, the White House on Tuesday said funds from a recently passed infrastructure overhaul would be used to sort out the snarls.

The $1.2 trillion bill Congress passed last week with both Democratic and Republican votes was a boost for President Joe Biden as he faces low approval ratings amid rising inflation driven in part by the troubles at ports nationwide. In a call with reporters, senior administration officials said ports will be allowed to direct leftover funds from other projects towards efforts to relieve congestion immediately.

While the president has yet to sign the bill into law, the officials said that within the next 60 days, the Army Corps of Engineers will begin designating port and inland waterway projects where $4 billion it allocates for their modernization can be spent.

The government will also begin the process of modernizing the country's border inspection facilities over the next 90 days.

"It's important to point out that the entire goods movement system is assisted greatly through the bipartisan bill," one of the officials told reporters.

The supply chain snarls are a global phenomenon spurred by economies reopening following the historic downturn last year, but they have been blamed for causing delays and shortages of goods that have pushed US inflation higher.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

France to restart building nuclear reactors

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron announced Tuesday evening that France will relaunch the construction of nuclear reactors to "guarantee France's energy independence".

In his address to the nation, Macron said "we will, for the first time in decades, relaunch the construction of nuclear reactors in our country and to continue to develop renewable energies," in response to soaring fuel prices and increasing gas and electricity bills that French people have faced in recent weeks.

He explained that this is to "guarantee France's energy independence, to guarantee our country's electricity supply and to achieve our objectives, in particular carbon neutrality by 2050."—Xinhua ■

From Nigeria to India, Gen Z taps apps to invest

THERE'S a new generation of investors in town. They're young, they get their tips on YouTube, and they're armed with apps that make the stock markets more accessible than ever before.

US investment app Robinhood has made a splash in the West with its mission to open the markets to "everyday people", but from Nigeria to India, Gen Z are flocking to homegrown equivalents.

"I don't really care about my college, to be honest. It's all market, market and market," said Delhi student Ishan Srivastava, who started trading last December.—AFP ■

Australian gov't announces new investment fund for low emissions technology

THE Australian government has announced a new fund to finance investment in low emissions technology, including carbon capture and storage (CCS).

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction Angus Taylor on Wednesday launched the Low Emissions Technology Commercialization Fund.

The fund, which will be administered by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), will consist of 500 million Australian dollars (369 million U.S. dollars) each from the government and private investors. "Our Plan to reach net zero by 2050 is an Australian one that's focused on technology not taxes and this Fund backs in Australian companies to find new solutions," Morrison said in a statement. However, in order to establish the fund, the government must first pass legislation expanding the remit of the CEFC to allow it to invest in CCS.—Xinhua ■

A carbon capture and storage plant in Germany.
PHOTO : VATTENFALL/FLICKR/XINHUA

Silkworm cat grub smells like success

Scientists in Taiwan have developed cat food developed from silkworm pupae. **PHOTO: AFP**

LICKING its lips imperiously, a ginger cat mops up every last morsel of food from its curly whiskers, clearly undaunted by its supper's rather unusual base ingredient -- silkworm pupae.

The 15 feline residents of the Mao Thai Thai cat cafe in Chinese Taipei are among volunteer taste testers sampling a new cat food developed by silkworm experts.

As well as making use of what was previously just a byproduct of silk production, the scientists say the food eliminates harmful intestinal bacteria -- with the added bonus of reducing the odour of the cats' own byproducts.

"They have more energy and less smelly faeces, which is more than I expected," says the cafe's manager Rosa Su.

The food comes in various normal-sounding flavours -- tuna and milkfish, beef and chicken -- but the main protein component of the pink gloop is insect.

That doesn't seem to bother Su's cats, who clamour around her, impatient for their dinner.

The research team says much of the feedback from other owners involved in the trial has been positive too.

More than just fabric

At the century-old Miaoli Agricultural Research and Extension Station, where the food was created, hundreds of caterpillars wriggle around in trays as they munch on mulberry leaves.

The facility houses 136 different silkworm varieties from all over the world.— AFP ■

Beauty startup IPO mints India's seventh woman billionaire

INDIA'S only woman-led unicorn Nykaa made its market debut Wednesday, tripling founder Falguni Nayar's net worth and making her the country's newest self-made billionaire in an ongoing IPO boom.

Nayar, 58, joined only six other Indian women dollar billionaires as her beauty and fashion retailer Nykaa's parent company FSN floated on the Mumbai stock exchange, hitting a valuation of 1 trillion rupees ($13.5 billion) in the first five minutes of trade.

Investment banker Nayar turned entrepreneur at 50 with the launch of the e-commerce platform in 2012, selling beauty and personal care products via its mobile app and website. "I hope the Nykaa journey -- an Indian-born, Indian-owned and Indian-managed dream-come-true -- can inspire each of you," Nayar said at the listing ceremony on Wednesday.

Nykaa (the Sanskrit word for actress) quickly became popular with young tech-savvy Indians -- predominantly women -- who preferred the wide selection of brands compared with what was on offer at their local shops.

"The best part about Nykaa is that it lets me access so many global brands that had never been sold in India before," 30-year-old loyal customer Sanaeya told AFP.

"They have everything from major luxury brands to smaller niche ones and even lesser-known Korean skin care products. I always find something new there."—AFP ■

Falguni Nayar (L), with daughter Advaita at her company's IPO listing ceremony, launched the ecommerce platform in 2012. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (2162S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (2162S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK NARVIK VOY.NO. (142W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NARVIK VOY.NO. (142W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-11-2021** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SEA MASTER VOY.NO. (143S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEA MASTER VOY.NO. (143S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-11-2021** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1113)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1113)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK NORDDAL VOY.NO. (141S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NORDDAL VOY.NO. (141S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-11-2021** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TRANG AN 08

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRANG AN 08 VOY.NO. (2103)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Shuttered Morocco-Algeria border divides families

FATIMA Chaaoufi gazes across the sealed Moroccan border towards an Algerian village on the other side, home to family members she hasn't seen for years.

"We're so near yet so far," she sighs.

Chaaoufi's village of Oulad Bouarfa, east of the Moroccan city of Oujda, lies just a stone's throw from Boussfar, the Algerian village where her brother died a month ago.

Chaaoufi had not been able to see him since 1994, when the border was closed following a diplomatic crisis between the North African rivals.

"When I found out he had died, I couldn't control myself," she said, tears in her eyes. "I ran to the barbed wire. They tried to hold me back but (my grief) was stronger than me."

The 75-year-old, sitting in the yard of her family's modest farm wearing a hijab on her head and an apron around her waist, said she had been forced to watch the funeral procession from a distance, "impotent and in tears".

Chaaoufi's is just one of many families divided by a frontier that Algeria closed in 1994 after Morocco accused its neighbour of involvement in a jihadist attack on a Marrakesh hotel that killed two tourists.

The frontier has been sealed ever since, and there is little prospect of it opening soon as tensions mount once again between Rabat and Algiers.— AFP ■

Closed since 1994, the border between Algeria and Morocco has been tightly sealed since 2013 ending visits between the many families that straddle the frontier. **PHOTO: AFP**

Panama ex-president acquitted in espionage trial

The former Panamanian leader was accused of embezzling public funds to spy on his opponents when he was in power. **PHOTO: AFP**

PANAMA'S ex-president Ricardo Martinelli was acquitted on Tuesday in a trial for alleged espionage against opponents of his government when he was in power between 2009 and 2014.

It is the second time the former Panamanian leader has been acquitted on such charges.

He was also accused of embezzling public funds to spy on his opponents when he led the country, and the prosecution accused him of wiretapping more than 150 people, including politicians and journalists.

But the court ruled that the prosecution's evidence against Martinelli was insufficient.

"Justice, finally, was applied," Martinelli, 69, said as he left the court.

"Seven years of this torture. I thank God and the Panamanian justice system. I suffered a lot."

Carlos Herrera Moran, a lawyer for one of the victims of the alleged wiretapping, said the decision was "outside the law and the evidence presented."

Martinelli was acquitted of similar charges in 2019 but that was overturned last year, forcing a new trial in July.

He was first tried after being extradited from the United States in 2018, where he had resided for several years and evaded Panamanian justice.

The billionaire supermarket tycoon rose to the presidency in 2009 after winning an election campaign in which he gave a speech denouncing corruption and the country's political class.

He was later named in the "Pandora Papers" investigation into the creation of offshore shell companies meant to hide money in tax havens, but denied involvement in anything untoward.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan nurse who murdered patients gets life sentence: media

A former nurse who murdered three patients by contaminating their intravenous drips with disinfectant was sentenced to life in prison on Tuesday by a Japanese court, according to local media.

During her trial, 34-year-old Ayumi Kuboki admitted to killing the patients in their 70s and 80s five years ago in a case that shocked Japan.

She had previously told police she may have killed 20 people over just two months, but later told prosecutors she could not comment on that during the trial.

The presiding judge at the Yokohama district court said he had considered handing Kuboki the death sentence, public broadcaster NHK reported.— AFP ■

Islanders seek to revive Jersey's native tongue

OCTOGENARIAN Francois Le Maistre is one of the last native speakers of Jerriais, the ancient language of Jersey, the largest Channel island which is just minutes from the French coast.

"We're the last generation to speak it naturally," the 84-year-old told AFP. "It's so sad when you lose the very essence of your culture."

Lying just 14 miles (22 kilometres) from the French coast, Jersey is a self-governing British Crown Dependency, represented internationally by the UK government in London.

Due to the dominance of English, a dwindling number of people speak the French-influenced local language. Jerriais — also called Jersey French -- has existed for more than 1,000 years and traces its origins to nearby Normandy in northern France.— AFP ■

Women plant mangroves to bolster India's cyclone defences

WITH India facing ever more powerful cyclones, women in the world's largest mangrove forest are planting thousands of saplings to help protect their coastal communities from climate change.

The Sundarbans straddle the coastline into neighbouring Bangladesh and are home to some of the world's rarest creatures, including the Bengal tiger and the Irrawaddy dolphin.

The forest has been designated a World Heritage site but has in the past suffered from illegal logging and is regularly battered by intense monsoon storms.

Walking ankle-deep along a muddy shore, and balancing young plants on their heads, a group of local women last week began the long process of reforesting a bare stretch of coastline.

"This is an area prone to storms and cyclones," said Shivani Adhikari, one of the women involved in the initiative. "So to protect the embankments, all of us women are planting."

Mangroves protect coastlines from erosion and extreme weather events, improve water quality by filtering pollutants, and serve as nurseries for many marine creatures, according to the UN Environment Programme.

They can help fight climate change by sequestering millions of tonnes of carbon each year in their leaves, trunks, roots and the soil.—AFP ■

This file picture from 2008 shows mangrove seedlings planted at a nursery in the Sunderbands. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kishida re-elected Japan PM by parliament after general election win

JAPAN'S Liberal Democratic Party President Fumio Kishida was re-elected Wednesday as prime minister in a special parliament session after his party secured a majority in the House of Representatives election on 31 October.

Prior to the three-day Diet session through Friday, his Cabinet resigned en masse as required by the Constitution. Kishida, who has served as premier for just over a month after taking office 4 October, will launch his second Cabinet in the afternoon.

"In a short period of time, the government has pushed forward policies with speed," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno in reflecting on the past month.

The government set up a number of committees for realizing Kishida's vision of a "new capitalism" that focuses on economic growth and redistribution of wealth, and he held phone talks with world leaders, including US President Joe Biden to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific region, Matsuno said at a press conference.

Lawmakers head to the parliament in Tokyo in the morning on 10 November 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

"The Kishida government's basic stance is to listen carefully to the voices of the people and speedily carry out policies to address their worries about the coronavirus, hopes for economic recovery and sense of crisis about the increasingly severe international situation," he added.

Kishida is expected to name as foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, a former education minister who heads a nonpartisan lawmakers' group that promotes Japan-China relations, while retaining most of the members of the current Cabinet launched last month.

Toshimitsu Motegi, who had held the foreign minister post since 2019, became the LDP's secretary general earlier this month to replace Akira Amari, who was unexpectedly defeated in his single-seat district in the lower house election before securing a seat through the proportional representation system.—Kyodo News ■

US Navy boosts monitoring of subs after falsified steel tests

Nuclear engineer Jonathan Toebbe and his wife Diana Toebbe are accused of trying to sell a foreign country secrets on the US Navy's nuclear powered Virginia-class submarines. **PHOTO: AFP/JORGE GUERRERO**

THE US Navy has stepped up monitoring of its submarines after a former metallurgist for a company that supplied steel for the vessels was found to have falsified test results.

Elaine Thomas, 67, of Auburn, Washington, pleaded guilty on Monday to falsifying test results that measured the strength and toughness of steel used in navy subs, the Justice Department said. Thomas, former director of metallurgy at Bradken Inc., a steel foundry in Washington state, admitted to carrying out the fraud for more than 30 years, assigning passing grades to steel that had failed tests.

Bradken is the leading supplier of cast high-yield steel used by prime contractors such as General Dynamics and Huntington Ingalls Industries to build submarine hulls.

The steel castings must meet "rigorous" navy specifications for strength and toughness and the Justice Department said about half of the Bradken castings had failed laboratory tests.

"(Thomas) falsified test results to hide the fact that the steel had failed the tests," the department said in a statement. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-president Hollande to testify in Paris attacks trial

FORMER French leader Francois Hollande will testify Wednesday in the trial over the November 2015 Paris terror attacks, facing questions over how a jihadist commando was able to evade detection while preparing the atrocities that would shake France to its core.

Hollande, president from 2012 to 2017, was attending a France-Germany football friendly on the night of 13 November 2015 at the Stade de France stadium in Paris when the first bomber detonated his vest, prompting security agents to whisk him away as two more blasts went off.

Gunmen later opened fire on cafes and restaurants in a lively part of the capital and stormed the Bataclan concert hall, killing indiscriminately and taking hostages.—AFP ■

France rescues more than 200 migrants in Channel

MORE than 200 migrants were rescued as they tried to cross the Channel in makeshift boats to reach Britain, French authorities said late Tuesday. In seven separate operations between Monday and Tuesday evening, 210 migrants, including four women and a child, were rescued and brought back to the north French coast after their boats were in difficulty, they said in a statement.

They were brought back to Calais, Dunkirk or Boulogne and taken care of by the border police and, in some cases, firefighters or the maritime emergency medical service.

Increasing numbers of migrants have tried to cross to Britain by sea since late 2018, despite authorities' warnings of the dangers in the busy shipping lane, which is also subject to strong currents and low temperatures.—AFP ■

Chile lower house OKs impeachment trial for President Pinera

CHILE'S lower house of congress on Tuesday approved an impeachment trial for President Sebastian Pinera over corruption allegations originating from the Pandora Papers leaks.

Lawmakers in the Chamber of Deputies garnered the 78 votes required to seek impeachment and advance proceedings to the Senate over Pinera's alleged involvement in the controversial sale of a mining company.

The call for the impeachment of Pinera — who is in the final stretch of a second non-consecutive term that began in March 2018 — was presented in early October by members of the opposition, including socialist deputy Jaime Naranjo. Naranjo took 15 hours on the floor Monday to read from the 1,300-page accusation against the president, arguing Pinera's "impunity" should end in the South American nation rattled by social unrest that broke out in 2019.—AFP ■

This is the second impeachment case brought against Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, who has faced waves of popular unrest. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar football, futsal teams to compete in Viet Nam SEA Games

BOTH Myanmar men and women teams of football and futsal will compete in the upcoming South East Asian (SEA) Games to be held in Viet Nam, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

There will be the futsal and beach soccer match at the Viet Nam SEA Games but Myanmar will only compete in football and futsal.

Viet Nam listed both men and women tourneys for football and futsal as the nation is in a good position to win medals in both events.

Myanmar is also planning to compete in all the competitions.

Men's football is a regular part of the SEA Games, but women's football and futsal are included depending on the host country.

The women's football tournament was introduced in 1985, but this is the 12th time it has been included, and the futsal tournament was introduced in 2007.

Futsal has only been included in the SEA Games four times: 2007, 2011, 2013, and 2017.

The futsal event was not included in the previous 2019 SEA Games in the Philippines.

Myanmar men's football teams have already won five gold medals, four silver medals and five bronze medals while women's football teams have garnered three silver medals and seven bronze medals in the SEA Games history.

Similarly, Myanmar Futsal Women's Team has collected one bronze medal while Men's Team has earned no medals in the SEA Games.

The Myanmar men's and women's football teams competed in international competitions at the end of this year, but the futsal teams have been away from international competitions for a few years. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Salah has two goals as African World Cup qualifying intensifies

Egypt captain Mohamed Salah (L) playing for Liverpool against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League at Anfield. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIVERPOOL marksman Mo Salah leads Egypt against Angola this weekend with the clear objective of ending his scoring drought to help lift his nation into the final stage of Africa World Cup qualifying.

Qualifying for the 2022 tournament in Qatar intensifies on the continent with the last two group rounds, with victory in Luanda moving Egypt into the next stage as Group F winners.

The two-time African Footballer of the Year wants to get back on the goal trail in Angola having failed to find the net in his last three appearances for the Merseysiders. Before his mini-slump, Salah had scored in 10 consecutive matches in all competitions for Liverpool.

Victory will take Salah and his team into the final qualifying phase to decide which five countries represent Africa in Qatar next year.—AFP ■

Sabalenka embracing top seed status at WTA Finals

ARYNA Sabalenka says she is relishing her top seed status at this week's WTA Tour Finals even if she is still getting to grips with the challenging tournament conditions at altitude in Guadalajara. The Belarusian star Sabalenka heads a depleted field at the season-ending tournament, which was moved to Mexico from its usual home in Shenzhen, China due to the pandemic.

The switch in venue means the tournament's eight finalists must adjust to the thin air of Guadalajara, which is around 5,100 feet (1,550 metres) above sea level, as they vie for the final title of 2021.

The 23-year-old Sabalenka, who notched wins in Abu Dhabi and Madrid this year and reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon and the US Open, said she had struggled to control the ball during her initial practice sessions in Guadalajara. "Well, first day I arrived here, I mean, I wasn't surprised but I was shocked that I cannot control anything," Sabalenka said Tuesday. "I was playing around the strings a little bit, found the perfect tension. I think with every day I feel better and better.

"I have another day because I start to play Thursday so I feel much better right now with the altitude and with the conditions here. Hopefully I'll be able to show my best on the first match," she 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.

Ferdinand says it is time for Solskjaer to leave Man Utd

Former Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand. **PHOTO: AFP/CARL RECINE/ POOL/FILE**

RIO Ferdinand has called for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to hand over the Manchester United manager's "baton" after a string of damaging results left the club well off the pace in the Premier League.

The Norwegian boss is under intense pressure after a 5-0 home thumping by Liverpool and a one-sided 2-0 defeat at the hands of Manchester City on Saturday.

Ferdinand has been one of many ex-United players to voice support for his former team-mate, who led the club to a second-place finish in the league last season. The ex-England defender said fans started the season full of hope after the high-profile signings of Cristiano Ronaldo, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane before results nosedived.

"I sit here now and I don't think we can challenge to win this league," Ferdinand said on his Vibe with Five podcast.

"I look at our team every week and I'm wondering what are we going to do tactically. I don't see any philosophy or an identity in the Man United way of playing, whatever that should be from the management. I sit here confused, looking at the team." — AFP ■