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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.

Liquid Oxygen Plant (Nay Pyi Taw) starts running



Union Ministers view round Liquid Oxygen Plant (Nay Pyi Taw).

THE Liquid Oxygen Plant constructed in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Public Hospital (300-bed) in Tabin Shwehtee ward of Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw was launched yesterday.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Myo Tin, Nay Pyi Taw Council member Colonel Min Naung and other officials inspected the oxygen production processes of

(20) Ton Liquid Oxygen Factory

Liquid Oxygen Tank အလှူရှင်နှင့် ပစ္စည်းတင်သွင်းသည့် ကုမ္ပဏီ	Envirogreen Manufacturing Co.,Ltd.
ပစ္စည်းထုတ်လုပ်သည့်ကုမ္ပဏီ	Xinxiang Chengde Energy Technology Equipment Co., Ltd.
တပ်ဆင်ရေး၊ တည်ဆောက်ရေးနှင့် လုပ်ငန်းလည်ပတ်ရေး ဆောင်ရွက်မည့်ကုမ္ပဏီ	Kitajima Co., Ltd.

the plant. The medical superintendent and officials inspected the production processes including the production and distribu-

tion rates. Then, the Union Minister explained the plans and preparations to provide the needed liquid ox-

ygen and oxygen cylinders for the plant.

The steel structure Liquid Oxygen Plant (Nay Pyi Taw) includes two buildings—oxygen filling station, offices and warehouse facility. The plant can produce 10 40-litre cylinders per ten minutes and about 900 40-litre cylinders per day.

The oxygen cylinders will be primarily distributed to the public hospitals and military hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, and the surplus oxygen tanks to regions and states.—MNA

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Yangon Region Govt holds press briefing on COVID-19

THE Yangon Region government held a press conference on COVID-19 prevention and control activities yesterday.

Firstly, U Aung Than Oo, Region Minister for Economic Affairs presented the opening of COVID-19 centres, cooperation work with the donors, procedures to supply the oxygen and plans to be stable medicines, food and commodity prices.

The Yangon Region government provided medical treatment to the returnees from foreign countries at Phaunggyi and Yoma COVID-19 centres in accordance with the instructions of State Administration Council starting 17 February. A total of 40 health workers including military medics of Yangon Command offer medical services at Phaunggyi centre so far.

Starting the last week of June, Yangon Region faced the third wave of COVID-19 and the infection rate rose gradually in early July. Therefore, the region government prepared 300 beds for monks and 7,570 beds for civilians at Hlegu Phaunggyi centre, Botahtaung, Mayangon, Inya centre, MCC centre, Yoma



Yangon Region Minister for Economic Affairs U Aung Than Oo explains preventive and control measures of COVID-19. **PHOTO: KO KO ZAW**

Yeiktha centre in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Thuwunna centre in Thingangyun Township, Aung Myint Mo centre in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Hline centre, Yankin Education College, Insein Mindhamma Thiri Magga Sasana Beikman and Mayangon Kaba Aye Sangha Hospital.

He also said as the main requirement in third wave of COVID-19 is oxygen and so the officials connected the pipelines to provide oxygen in treatment centre including oxygen cylinders and flow meter. The well-wishers worked together with the officials

to import the oxygen concentrators. Moreover, the government provides daily meals to the monks, patients, Parahita groups doctors and nurses.

The major challenges of the third wave of COVID-19 are oxygen and human resources and the region government makes efforts to meet the need of oxygen in the region together with the donors. The region authority provides about 25 tonnes of oxygen to Yangon General Hospital, Medawi and Waibagi hospitals in North Okkalapa Township, Women's and Children's Hospital in

South Okkalapa and Thingangyun Hospital. Moreover, there is still demand of oxygen at district and township level hospitals of the region. The quarantine centres are used as centres for oxygen now.

The government also reduced the import tax rate to 1.5 per cent from 15 per cent for the imports of medicines, medical supplies and oxygen related materials currently. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce also permitted the imports without any taxes. The ministry also arranges to take the imports arrived at the

airports, jetty and border trade camps at once. The FDA also eases the restrictions on the import of medicine and raw materials.

The importers, pharmacy companies and Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association jointly supervise not to be higher medicine prices.

Departments concerned solved the rising of prices for egg. Currently, the officials are also making efforts to provide the proper medical treatment to the people despite the lack of human resources in treatment sectors. The ministries and region governments including the SAC and Tatmadaw negotiated daily and instructed the necessary things.

From 1 to 23 July, the death toll increased in respective regions and states including Yangon and the rate declined starting 24 July. Therefore, the third wave of COVID-19 was controlled to a certain extent.

Then, he replied the questions raised by the media and region Advocate-General U Htay Aung clarified the necessary things.—Mar Mar Gyi

Public request by Ministry of Health

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

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

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

Indian Embassy, IWAY donate medical supplies to Myanmar people from 130 villages in Bago Region

IN view of the serious Covid-19 situation in Myanmar which is causing a lot of pain and suffering to the people, the Embassy of India in collaboration with the Indian Women's Association of Yangon (IWAY) as part of latter's charity work will contribute medical supplies to the people to help them cope with

the pandemic. This modest contribution, which is a token of friendship, includes oximeters (260), N94 masks (2,600), surgical masks (19,500), PPEs (1,300), paracetamol tablets (127,500), vitamin C tablets (65,000), Zinc tablets (39,000), and multi-vitamin tablets (65,000). These medicines and

medical items will be distributed to around 130 villages in the Bago region through local bodies. Mrs. Smriti Srivastava, spouse of the Indian Ambassador and President of IWAY and board members, along with the Ambassador handed over the supplies for distribution at India House.—GNLM



We need to carry out preventive measures with consciousness and mindfulness

THE COVID-19 disease prevention, control and treatment activities are undertaken from the central level as well as in the respective states and regions while the rate of infection is found to be four to eight times faster with two to three variants at present. He added the need to release daily information on the actual disease control and treatment activities to reduce the public concerns.

(Excerpt from the speech of Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the coordination meeting on the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 on 24-7-2021)

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin participates in ASEAN-European Union Ministerial Meeting

U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, participated in the ASEAN-European Union Ministerial Meeting held via video conference at 3 pm on 6 August 2021 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore and Joseph Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The Meeting reviewed the ASEAN-EU cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues. The Union Minister stressed the importance for ASEAN and EU to engage and exchange views on future plans and hoped that the Summit in Brussels to commemorate the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations would chart a new chapter with broad, varied and constructive agenda to promote shared prosperity through inclusive economic growth, trade and investment, including on the implementation



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin addresses ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting via video conference.

of the IAI Work Plan IV, inclusively. He also extended appreciation for EU's contribution to combat the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate its impact in ASEAN.

On regional and international issues, he underscored several points related to the appointment of the special envoy of the ASEAN Chair and highlighted that any support that EU or any countries would be

providing must compliment the five-point consensus and the five-point roadmap and stressed that anything beyond the five-point consensus and five-point roadmap would not help the special envoy nor Myanmar. He also explained that Myanmar would not support the idea of engaging with CPRH and NUG since the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee on 8 May 2021 had declared

them and their subordinates as terrorist groups, including non-state actors as stated in the EU's spokesperson statement on the appointment of the special envoy because it would be a breach of the five-point consensus of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting.

He also explained that EU's interpretation of a "meaningful political dialogue" should not include non-state actors and un-

lawful associations which have been declared as the terrorist group because it would not bring peaceful resolution. He also expressed his hope that EU would continue to support Myanmar so that Myanmar could complete the five-point roadmap successfully and reinstate democracy in Myanmar. On humanitarian assistance, he reaffirmed that Myanmar would cooperate with AHA Centre in its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance related to COVID-19.

He also stated that country specific issues should not be mentioned in the ASEAN common statement delivered by country coordinator and that it should be avoided in the future. Since developments in Myanmar still appeared in the ASEAN common statement under paragraph 27, Myanmar had disassociated itself from the paragraph 27 of the ASEAN common statement.

ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting was also attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



Vice-Chairman-1 of the Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) receives vaccination of COVID-19.

Members of Myanmar press council receive COVID-19 vaccine

MEMBERS of Myanmar Press Council, including the council Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, received the COVID-19 vaccines yesterday at the Mingaladon Township Public Health Department, Yangon.

"People should receive the vaccine. A writer urged his friends to get vaccinated after fighting against the COVID-19 as he had a hard time to recover from the disease since he didn't want to be vaccinated," said Vice-Chairman-1 of the Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe).

"We are grateful that the government has arranged the vaccination," he added.

The Ministry of Health has been administering the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines in respective regions and states to senior citizens over the age of 65, departmental staff, healthcare workers and volunteers. Yesterday, a total of 500 people were vaccinated at the Mingaladon Township Public Health Department.

The people will have to receive the second dose of the vaccine after 28 days since it is a two-dose regimen.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing participates in 14th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting via video conference

U KO KO HLAING, Union Minister for International Cooperation, attended the 14 Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which was held via video conference in the afternoon of 6th August 2021, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, Foreign Minister of Japan with the participation of Foreign Ministers of the member countries; Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam.

At the meeting, the Ministers reviewed the progress of Mekong-Japan Cooperation and exchanged views on future work of cooperation.

In the Statement, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing underscored the dissemination of benefits to the peoples in the Mekong region through various programmes of Mekong-Japan Cooperation during 14 years of cooperation, and highlighted the role of providing platform



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing participates in 14th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting via video conference.

for strengthening traditional friendship, mutual understanding and people-to-people affinity. He raised urgent need of vaccine, medicine for treatment and oxygen during third wave of COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar, and expressed special thanks to government of Japan for donation of ambulances, oxygen concentra-

tors and USD 280 million COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan for recovery of pandemic-hit economy. He also sought further assistance from Japan to receive COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX program to Myanmar.

The Union Minister commended the "Tokyo Strategy

2018" for the tangible achievements in assisting socio-economic development of Mekong region. He also suggested to promote digital connectivity and institutional harmonization such as mutual recognition of medical and vaccine certificates, streamlining travel procedures and standardization of required

documents in the new strategy of Mekong-Japan cooperation for future cooperation.

Moreover, the Union Minister stated that cooperation on joint vaccine research, assistance for vaccine production and equitable access to vaccine have to be given priority as part of the work to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). He also supported the idea to formulate "Joint Working Group on Economic Recovery" under the Mekong-Japan Cooperation and explained the current developments in Myanmar.

Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also presented at the meeting.

Mekong-Japan Cooperation has established between Mekong countries; Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Japan to facilitate socio economic development of Mekong Region with the funding and technical assistance from Japan.—MNA

Imports of anti-COVID-19 devices and medical supply accelerated

AS the Ministry of Commerce is making continuous efforts to make sure import of anti-COVID-19 medicines, equipment and necessary medical supplies are being shipped from overseas, loosening restrictions to facilitate imports, in collaboration with relevant ministries and providing continuous import on a daily basis.

The ministry is also reportedly making diplomatic arrangements with China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India to import the medicines and equipment through the border trade points.

Yesterday, a total of 3,389 oxygen concentrators were imported through the Yangon International Airport, while

95 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 2 tonnes of oxygen cylinders, 5,992 empty oxygen cylinders, one oxygen plant, 4 oxygen generators, 4,459 household oxygen concentrators, 36,880 PPE suits, 0.04 tonne of gloves and 54 tonnes of masks were imported through Muse, Myawady, Chinshwehaw, Tachilek and Kawthoung border trade points.

A total of 368 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 53 tonnes of oxygen cylinders, 39,458 empty oxygen cylinders, 5 oxygen plants, 9 oxygen generators, 38,099 household oxygen concentrators, 141,642 test kits, 231,902 PPEs, 38 tonnes of gloves and 502 tonnes of masks have been imported thus far

in August.

In July, a total of 1,294 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 114 tonnes of oxygen cylinder, 40,491 empty oxygen cylinders, 69,146 household oxygen concentrators, 8 oxygen plants, 11 oxygen generators, 4 hospital-used oxygen filling machines, 322,878 test kits, 1,104 tonnes of mask and 182,975 PPEs were imported.

In addition to the cooperation with relevant ministries, the Ministry of Commerce has posted contact persons and departmental announcements on the Ministry's website, Commerce.gov.mm, to access direct contact with relevant authorities if assistance is needed.—MNA



Cargotruck is carrying anti-COVID-19 devices and medical supplies imported from neighbouring countries.

Announcement released for those in past activities to contact as planned to close and withdraw files of lawsuits under the law

SOME students, youths, public service personnel and citizens evaded from the scenes with worries to face action taken due to participation in the protests and anti-government movements such as CDM activities incited and threatened by NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful and terrorist groups CRPH and NUG, persons and organizations from local and foreign countries who did not wish to see peace and stability of the State after 1 February 2021 when the Tatmadaw took the State duty.

At present, they wish to return home with trust in the endeavours of the State Administration Council and with anticipation to enjoy peace and stability by returning to the legal fold. However, they are in difficulty with facing worries and they do not know how to contact.

If service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, persons from various arenas and citizens who fled from the scenes, except for those who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosion and intentionally attacking security troops, some public service personnel and some people, destroying government-owned and private buildings, deeply participating in CDM activities with monetary and other measures, wish to return to the legal fold, opening the files of lawsuits against those persons will be withdrawn under the law. As such, they can trustfully contact the following telephone numbers.

If they contact, directives will be given on how to further do, and officials concerned will close and withdraw the cases under the law.

Hence, those wishing to return home of their own accord, except for those in the criminal cases mentioned in paragraph 3, may trustfully contact the following telephone numbers or nearby police stations, district and township administration bodies. — MNA

Contact phone numbers, Viber numbers and Email addresses for each region and state

No	Region / State	Phone number	Email addresses	Remark
1	Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory	067-550251, 067-550252, 067-550253, 067-550254, 067-550255, 09425283334 (Viber- Ottarathiri Township) 09450840888 (Viber- Dekkhinathiri Township)	mpf-naypyitaw@e-moha.gov.mm	
2	Kachin State	074-2526671, 074-2526672, 09794611351 (Viber- Myitkyina District), 0943042071 (Viber- Bhamo District) 09403739163 (Mohnyin District), 09250344219 (Viber- Putao District)	mpf-kachin@e-moha.gov.mm	
3	Kayah State	083-2224315, 083-2224316, 09777741980 (Viber- Loikaw District) 095194521 (Viber- Bawlakhe District)	mpf-kayar@e-moha.gov.mm	
4	Kayin State	058-2021096, 058-2021009, 09457777074 (Viber- Hpa-an), 09446735209 (Viber- Kawkareik District) 095132511 (Viber- Myawady District), 09400455156 (Viber- Papun District)	mpf-kayin@e-moha.gov.mm	
5	Chin State	070-2022111, 070-2022333, 095311693 (Viber- Mindat District), 09796436133 (Viber- Matupi District) 092300817 (Viber- Falam), 095262373 (Viber- Haka District)	mpf-chin@e-moha.gov.mm	
6	Sagaing Region	071-2026253, 071-2026254, 09420736827 (Viber- Sagaing District), 09258466668 (Viber- Shwebo District) 09675685156 (Viber- Kanbablu District), 09401557656 (Viber- Monywa District), 09951495409 (Yinmabin District), 09894437224 (Viber- Katha District), 09402508468 (Viber- Kalay District), 09880087340 (Viber-Khamti District), 095190481 (Viber- Mawlaik District), 09256596889 (Viber- Tamu District)	mpf-sagaing@e-moha.gov.mm	
7	Taninthayi Region	059-2024029, 059-2024030, 09251138577 (Dawei District), 09256445424 (Viber- Myeik District) 09895912169 (Viber- Kawthoung District)	mpf-tanintharyi@e-moha.gov.mm	
8	Bago Region	052-2201920, 052-2201921, 09400540140 (Bago District), 09250132656 (Toungoo District), 09443135520 (Viber-Pyay District), 09421723547 (Viber- Thayawady District)	mpf-bago@e-moha.gov.mm	
9	Magway Region	063-2028855, 063-2028856, 09954206061 (Magway District), 09400311110 (Minbu District), 09794447280 (Thayat District), 09257080098 (Pakokku District), 09451506026 (Viber- Gangaw District)	mpf-magway@e-moha.gov.mm	
10	Mandalay Region	02-4035891, 02-4035892, 02-4035893, 02-4035894, 02-4035895, 09969956472 (Viber-Mandalay District), 09-420760246 (Viber-PyinOoLwin District), 09-264628313 (Viber-Myingyan District), 09-885555090 (Viber-Meiktila District), 09-52157779 (Viber-Yamethin District), 09-5082615 (Viber-Kyaukse District), 09-250111838 (Viber-NyaungU District)	mpf-mandalay@e-moha.gov.mm	
11	Mon State	057-2027880, 057-2027884, 09-252839764 (Viber-Mawlamyine District) 09-451455526 (Viber-Thaton District)	mpf-mon@e-moha.gov.mm	
12	Rakhine State	043-2024557, 043-2021020, 09-421004218, (Viber-Sittway District) 09-789978373 (Viber-MraukU District), 09-402547244 (Viber-Maungtaw District) 09-401582236 (Viber-Kyaukpyu District), 09-254315299 (Viber-Thatdwe District)	mpf-rakhine@e-moha.gov.mm	
13	Yangon Region	01-8300011, 01-8300012, 01-8300013, 01-8300014, 01-8300015, 09-421128951 (Viber-Eastern District), 09-43137729 (Viber-Western District), 09-5194223 (Viber-Southern District) 09-786281456 (Viber-Northern District)	mpf-yangon@e-moha.gov.mm	
14	Shan State	081-202241, 081-202242, 09-459716155 (Viber-Lashio District), 09-450540034 (Viber-Kyaukme District) 09-260199434 (Viber-Taunggyi District), 09-420027076 (Viber-Langkho District), 09-784021521 (Viber-Loilem District), 09-5127882 (Viber-Kengtung District), 09-506818 (Viber-Tachilek District), 09-440268441 (Viber-Monghsat District), 09-454864734 (Viber-Muse District), 09-403747132 (Viber-Hopan District), 09-265295076 (Viber-Mongmit District)	mpf-shan@e-moha.gov.mm	
15	Ayeyawady Region	042-2023103, 042-2023106 09-43046443 (Viber-Pathein District) 09-259042330 (Viber-Hinthada District) 09-4544666667 (Viber-Myaungmya District) 09-950977376 (Viber-Labuttha District) 09-2019953 (Viber-Maubin District) 09-254436414 (Viber-Pyapon District)	mpf-ayeyarwaddy@e-moha.gov.mm	

Nay Pyi Taw council members visit model multiple agriculture and livestock farm



MEMBERS of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Min Naung, U Zeyar Lin and U Myint Soe accompanied by the District Administration Body chairmen and officials visited the model multiple agriculture and livestock farm of Nay Pyi Taw Command yesterday afternoon.

The visit was aimed at ensuring the successful development of agriculture and livestock in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

During the visit, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Myo Tin showed the party seasonal plantations in the farm, poultry farms and animal farms including fish farming, and explained the farming conditions and production of milk, egg and meat.

It is reported that the produced milk, meat and eggs are sold not only to the military families but also to the people.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council members and administrative officials view round model multiple agriculture and livestock farm.

COVID-19 vaccines distributed to Lashio in Shan State, Hpa-an in Kayin State

THE COVID-19 vaccines arrived from China are being distributed across the country. So far, the authorities have distributed 15,200 COVID-19 vaccine units to Lashio in northern Shan State and 10,700 units to Hpa-an in Kayin State, according to the Ministry of Health.

The Public Health Department, Ministry of Health, has allotted three million COVID-19 vaccines from Chain to Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, states and regions in time.

Regarding this matter, the COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Myeik and Bokpyin airports for Myeik, Bokpyin and Kawthaung townships, in Taninthayi region on 29 July.

Then, those vaccines were handed over to the relevant officials.

Likewise, COVID-19 vac-

cines for the people in Rakhine state were transported to Thandwe and Sittway airports by Tatmadaw aircraft starting from 30 July.

Similarly, on 27 July, about 16,000 vaccine units arrived in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 24,000 units in Bago region and 40,000 units in Ayeyawady region.

More vaccines are being distributed to other states and regions.

The health staff and civil service personnel were fully vaccinated across the country from 27 January to 21 July. Under the Myanmar National Vaccine Deployment Plan in accordance with the guidelines of the World Health Organization, the vaccination programme started with prioritized groups, according to the Ministry of Health.—ACM/GNLM

YGEA seeks approval from CBM for paper gold trading

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) submitted a proposal to the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) to allow for paper gold trading, said U Myo Myint, chairman of YGEA.

Paper gold is a kind of gold product traded on paper. It means the gold will be deposited at the bank and people are trading with the insurance card, issued by the bank.

“We will deposit the gold at the bank. It must be assured with the code number.

“We must also have to guarantee that it is 99.95% pure gold.

“Then, one of the insurance companies will check the gold

quality and the guarantee cards will be issued.

“The bank will take service and maintenance charges.

“The association members are trading the gold with its card. The gold has already deposited at the bank and the gold buyer only need to bring the cash to deposit at the bank.

“If we are trading the gold outside of the bank, the buyer can withdraw the gold from the bank anytime,” said U Myo Myint. Global countries are also practising paper gold trading, he added,

Therefore, the association is currently negotiating with the CBM to allow for paper gold

trading. And, the procedures and more laws need to be drafted.

Regarding with paper gold trading, there is no need to worry about the products and quality because those were already checked at the bank, said U Myo Myint. The domestic gold price currently hit at a high of K1,575,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogram) with the high record of the global gold price and US dollar exchange rate, according to YGEA.

The global gold price stood at US\$ 1,800 per ounce while the US dollar exchange rate against Myanmar Kyat is K1,665 per dollar.—NN/GNLM

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Subcommittee

FROM 2-8-2021 to 6-8-2021, local / foreign donors contributed 164.420 million Kyats to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 opened at the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account till 6-8-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 2-8-2021	30,994,844,615.39
Received amount of money from (2-8-2021 to 6-8-2021)	(+) 164,420,000.00
Closed balance on 6-8-2021	31,159,264,615.39

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 2-8-2021	164,162,149.53
Payment to Chinese Sinopharm Company to purchase Sinopharm vaccine (-)	14,000,000.00
Closed balance on 6-8-2021	150,162,149.53

3,588 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 August, total figure rises to 322,838

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **322,838** after **3,588 new cases** were reported on 6 August 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **234,454** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **11,262** after **274** died.—MNA

Myanmar attracts over \$428 mln of FDI from Singapore this FY

THIRTEEN Singapore-listed enterprises brought in US\$428 million into Myanmar between October 2020 and June 2021, according to the data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The UK-listed enterprise brought in large investments of \$2.5 million in May 2021 and became the top source of FDI in Myanmar. Singapore is placed as the second largest investor in Myanmar.

Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Those enterprises listed from Brunei, China, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Marshall Island, Samoa, Hong Kong (SAR) and China (Taipei) also made investments this year.

Myanmar has drawn for-



An industrial zone is seen with factories under operations.

eign direct investment of more than US\$3.76 billion during Oct-Jun period, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, DICA's statistics

indicated.

Of 44 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by MIC and the respective investment committees between 1 October and 30 June of the current FY, 23 enterprises

pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector.

Power sector received six large project and livestock and fisheries sector attracted six projects. Other service sector drew five projects while

agriculture sector pulled two projects and one foreign enterprise each entered industrial estate and the hotel and tourism sectors.

MIC intends to reach FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the current FY 2020-2021.

Singapore has stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar since 2012, pulling in the FDI of \$1.85 billion in the FY 2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY 2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013 FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after top investor Japan.—KH/GNLM

UMFCCI beefs up efforts to ensure smooth flow of essential medicines

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) is accelerating its effort to facilitate the inflow of essential medicines in the devastating time of the COVID-19 crisis, along with the related committees, departments concerned, traders and entrepreneurs.

The federation formed a task force on 25 July 2021, with an aim to ensure adequate stock of essential medicine for prevention, control and treatment of the COVID-19 and have a smooth trade flow.

The UMFCCI's task force led by secretary general U Aye Win includes vice president Dr Maung Maung Lay of

UMFCCI, general secretary Dr Win Sithu, joint general secretary Dr Aung Thein and central executive members Dr Myo Thant and U Zeya Thura Mon.

The task force is dealing with the import problems and seeking one-time permit of Food and Drug Administration. It will help facilitate the import process.

The task force office was launched on 28 July 2021, providing daily service for pharmaceutical imports and distribution.

Those importers, distributors and businesspersons can dial the mobile phone of UMFCCI: 09-677727403, 09-677727404 and 09-677727405.—UMFCCI/GNLM

Exports to Viet Nam cross \$150 mln in seven months

THE value of export to Viet Nam in the past seven months (October-April) of the current financial year 2020-2021 exceeded US\$150 million while import was valued at only \$25 million, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of trade between Myanmar and Viet Nam totalled \$375.35 million in the current FY.

Myanmar's export items to Viet Nam are base metal,

pulses, rice, broken rice, rubber, cigarette, garment, maize, tobacco and other products, whereas it imports electrical equipment and apparatus, transport equipment, plastics, mechanical appliances, paper, paperboard, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, cotton fabric, artificial and synthetic fabrics, woven fabrics, cotton fabric, chemical elements and compounds, dairy product and other products.

Bilateral trade with Viet Nam grew year over year, however the global pandemic affected the trade.

Viet Nam is listed as the eighth largest trade partner of Myanmar, with an estimated capital of \$2.224 billion as of June 2021, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Htet Myat /GNLM



Preparation is being made for unloading of imported goods at the port.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Public requests issued for prevention of COVID-19 again and again

THE Ministry of Health issues public requests, again and again, urging them to follow the health guidelines on how to live during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ministry noted that only when the people make cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. To have achievements in overcoming the COVID-19 challenges, all the people are urged to stay at home as much as possible as the great importance.

If the people stay at home for a set period, the infection chain of the disease can be cut off to some extent. Moreover, people should accept the guests for staying at the home. So also, they themselves should not pay visits to others.

The older persons from houses above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn the masks in the house as much as they can. To have good breathing, those older persons should be placed in well-ventilated areas.

The remaining restrictions for the people are the same issue in the past. People should wear masks and face shields whenever they go outside. They need to take care of washing hands with soap whenever they return home. While outside and inside the house, all family members need to follow the social distancing of about six feet in length.

The ministry also emphasizes that the people should avoid the crowds and public areas as the serious danger of visiting the crowds is as important as staying at home.

Currently, a large number of people are suffering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as seasonal flu. Hence, they need to wear masks and face shields, using gloves as much as possible. Hence, people need to systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment.

Nowadays, the government is striving for ensuring the availability of anti-COVID-19 vaccines to be injected into the people. Hence, people need to accept vaccinations full time.

The Health Ministry urged all the citizens to systematically cooperate in the prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise to be able to totally wipe out the disease from Myanmar's land.

WHO 'deeply concerned' by Long Covid

Little is known about why some people, after coming through the acute phase, struggle to recover and suffer ongoing symptoms including shortness of breath, extreme fatigue and brain fog as well as cardiac and neurological disorders.

WITH nearly 200 million people known to have had Covid-19, the WHO said it was deeply concerned by the unknown numbers who may still be suffering with Long Covid.

The World Health Organization urged people struggling with the after-effects of the virus – despite having recovered from the acute phase – to seek medical help.

Long Covid remains one of the most mysterious aspects of the pandemic.

“This post-Covid syndrome, or Long Covid, is something that WHO is deeply concerned about,” Maria Van Kerkhove, the UN health agency’s Covid-19 technical lead, told a press conference on Wednesday.

The WHO was “making sure that we have recognition of this, because this is real”.

She said of those infected with SARS-CoV-2 -- the virus which



Street artist Lapo Fatai, right, finishes a mural in honour of medical workers, next to the Auxological San Luca hospital in Milan, Italy, on April 30. PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP

causes Covid-19 disease -- “many are suffering from long term effects”.

“We don’t know for how long these effects last and we’re even working on a case definition to

better understand and describe what this post-Covid syndrome is,” said Van Kerkhove.

She said the WHO was working to have better rehabilitation programmes for Long Covid suf-

ferers plus broader research to gain a better understanding of what the syndrome is and how it can be managed.

The WHO has held a series of seminars this year aimed at

expanding understanding of post-Covid conditions, hearing not only from scientists and doctors but also directly from sufferers themselves.

Little is known about why some people, after coming through the acute phase, struggle to recover and suffer ongoing symptoms including shortness of breath, extreme fatigue and brain fog as well as cardiac and neurological disorders.

Janet Diaz, the clinical care lead in the WHO’s emergencies programme who leads the organisation’s Long Covid efforts, said there had been more than 200 reported symptoms.

They include chest pain, tingling and rashes, she told a WHO live social media session on Tuesday. Diaz said some patients had symptoms that dragged on from the acute phase; others got better and then relapsed, with conditions that could come and go; while oth-

ers had symptoms that only appeared after recovering from the acute phase.

Studies can only go back as far as the first patients to recover from Covid-19, which first emerged in China in December 2019. Diaz said some people seemed to have post-Covid conditions for three months, and others up to six months.

“We are concerned there may be a small proportion that go on to nine months -- and to longer than that,” said Diaz.

The US expert said it was not yet fully understood what caused the post-viral symptoms, with various hypotheses including neurological problems, the immune response to the infection, and the virus persisting in some organs.

Van Kerkhove said: “We advise anyone who is suffering from the long-term effects to seek help.”

SOURCE: AFP

Racial employment divide continues in recovering U.S. economy

The Federal Reserve has also pledged to keep interest rates low for longer to increase hiring of racial minorities something that took nearly a decade following the 2008 global financial crisis.

AS VACCINES help quell coronavirus infections, millions of Americans have gone back to work but fewer Black and Hispanic workers are being rehired, entrenching persistent inequalities in the United States.

The divides are fueled by long-running employment discrimination, experts say, worsened by unique, virus-related disruptions that have left many jobseekers unable to find work they can get to, or feel safe doing.

“We haven’t actually addressed those underlying power disparities in the economy,” said Kate Bahn, director of labor market policy with the Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

After skyrocketing to 14.7 percent in April 2020 when business restrictions to stop the virus from spreading were at their

tightest, the U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 5.9 percent in June, according to the Labor Department.

But the gains were not shared equally: the jobless rate for Black workers was 9.2 percent and for Hispanics 7.4 percent, compared with 5.2 percent for whites.

The racial and ethnic employment gaps in the world’s largest economy were present even when unemployment was at record lows before the pandemic. In Washington, the issue is receiving renewed attention from President Joe Biden, who has put forth massive spending plans he says will help reshape the economy and make it more inclusive.

“When I started studying economics in 1963, the average Black family’s wealth was roughly 15

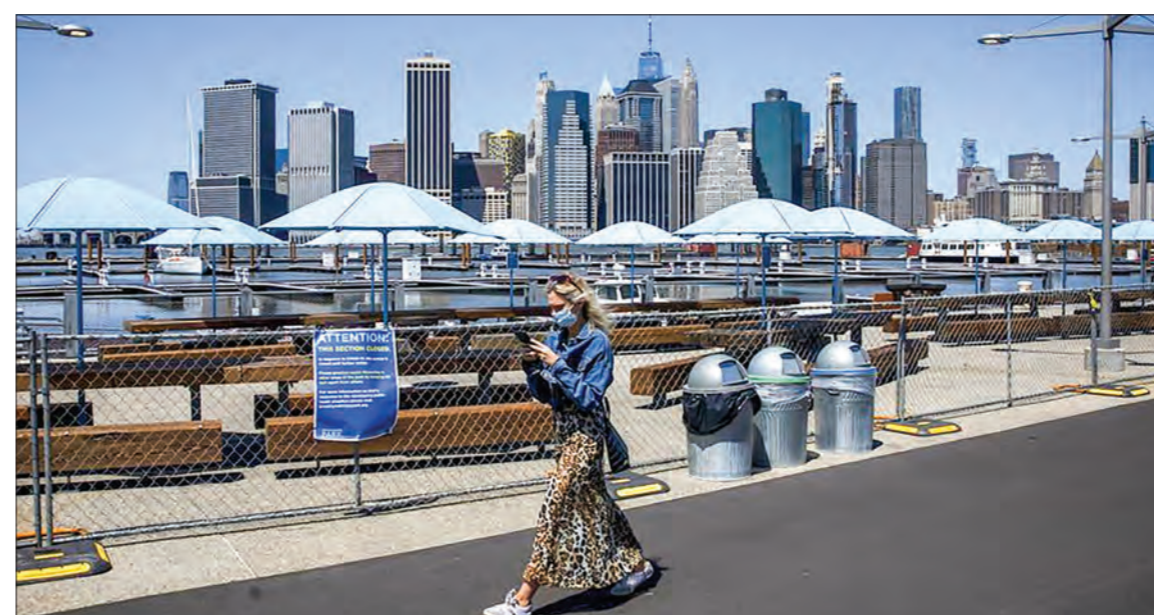
percent of the average white family’s,” Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday.

“What is surprising, however, is that it’s almost six decades later, and the data point has barely changed. It’s still 15 percent.”

The Federal Reserve has also pledged to keep interest rates low for longer to increase hiring of racial minorities something that took nearly a decade following the 2008 global financial crisis.

“We all do better when the pie is bigger, and you get the pie bigger by being aggressive about this,” William Spriggs, chief economist of the AFL-CIO trade union federation, told AFP.

The Labor Department is due to release the latest employment report on Friday, which some economists expect will show the economy gaining over one



A pedestrian wearing a face mask walks at Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York, the United States, on April 28, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

million jobs in July, lowering the unemployment rate to 5.6 percent as more businesses reopen.

The June data showed unem-

ployment for white women was five percent, despite losing jobs last year at about the same rate as Black workers, who have seen

much slower rehiring. The trend is similar for Hispanics.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Aye Zaw of No 2 Mining Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation on the expiry of one-year probationary period from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Kay Thwe Hlaing	Rector
Pro-Rector	University of Education, Yangon
University of Taunggyi	Higher Education Department
Higher Education Department	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
(b) Dr Tint Moe Thu Zar	Rector
Pro-Rector	Yadanabon University
Yadanabon University	Higher Education Department
Higher Education Department	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 6 August 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 7 August 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Wave height will be about (8 -11) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 August 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 August 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region.



Virgin Galactic spaceship seats rotated back in space, Oct. 15, 2021. PHOTO: VIRGIN GALACTIC/AFP

Virgin Galactic restarting space tickets from \$450,000

AFTER flying its founder Richard Branson to space, Virgin Galactic is restarting ticket sales beginning at \$450,000, the company announced Thursday.

The new price is about double the \$200,000 to \$250,000 paid by around 600 people who previously booked seats on Virgin's spaceship between 2005 and 2014, as the company looks to cash in on the success of last month's fully-crewed test flight.

"We are excited to announce

the reopening of sales effective today," said CEO Michael Colglazier in a statement, with first dibs going to people on a waiting list.

"As we endeavor to bring the wonder of space to a broad global population, we are delighted to open the door to an entirely new industry and consumer experience."

On July 11, Branson beat Blue Origin owner Jeff Bezos to space in a battle between the billionaires. Bezos achieved the

feat nine days later.

The next test flight will come in September and involve members of the Italian Air Force.

There will be one further test after the September mission, then the first commercial flights will take place in the third quarter of 2022, Colglazier said in an earnings call. The offerings for customers will include a single seat; multi-seats for couples, friends or family; and a full-flight buyout.—AFP ■

Japanese scientists develop freeze-dried mouse sperm postcards

GOOD news: Scientists won't have to worry about their mouse sperm vials breaking in transit ever again.

Researchers in Japan have developed a way to freeze dry rodent ejaculate between thin plastic sheets and sticky tape it to postcards, with the samples surviving long journeys to produce healthy pups.

The team from the University of Yamanashi were so delighted with their success one scientist even sent another a "Happy New Year" card with mouse sperm attached as a gift.

"Until now, storing or sending to other researchers of mouse sperm has required a freezing environment such as liquid nitrogen or dry ice," Daiyu Ito, first author of a paper in *iScience*, told AFP.

Ito is a PhD student at Professor Teruhiko Wakayama's lab, which had previously been the first team to succeed in freeze-drying mammal sperm, and send it to the International Space Station to study the effects of cosmic radiation.

The sperm originally had to be stored in tiny glass bottles that broke easily, rendering the sample unusable. With such pitfalls in mind, the team set about

working on a new method of preservation.

Plastic sheets were found to be a good way to seal the sperm, but it was also toxic to the DNA, and the scientists realized they needed another material to go inside. After testing various types of paper, they found that weighing paper had the highest offspring production rate. Using this technique, they were able to produce a "sperm book" made of postcards with different samples, "a completely new concept that no one has ever thought of before," said Ito.—AFP ■



A photo of a mouse made from semen sent by envelope. PHOTO: DAIYU ITO, UNIVERSITY OF YAMANASHI/KYODO

Djibouti's hidden rock art offers window to the past

FROM a distance, the black cliffs appear featureless, scorched by a blazing desert sun. But up close, the basalt reveals engravings of giraffe, ostrich and antelope made 7,000 years ago. These masterful works, etched onto stone in northern Djibouti, are among the most important examples of rock art in the Horn of Africa, a region rich in archaeological heritage and the birthplace of humanity.

Stretching three kilometres (almost two miles), some 900 panels at Abourma depict in wonderful relief prehistoric life in these parts, dramatic scenes of early man confronting wildlife, and droving cows. But these centuries-old images, rendered by flint onto igneous rock, also offer a valuable record of a bygone era — and a land drastically reshaped by millennia of climate change.

The wildlife illustrated are



Ibrahim Dabale Loubak, custodian of the rock art, narrates the story told by ancient depictions of wildlife and cultural practices, near the Djibouti-Ethiopia border. PHOTO: AFP

still found today on Africa's plains and grasslands, but not in Djibouti, a harsh desert landscape where water and greenery have been scarce for thousands of years. "Today, Abourma is something of a cemetery because we

don't have these animals here anymore. At the time, they roamed here because Djibouti was covered in forest," said Omar Mohamed Kamil, a young tour guide who takes visitors to Abourma.—AFP ■

Evacuation orders widened as California fire spreads

EVACUATION orders were widened Thursday as California's biggest wildfire raged through the state's tinder-dry landscape, laying waste to hundreds of square miles (kilometers).

The Dixie Fire is already the sixth biggest in the state's history, and was still spreading thanks to gusting winds and record-low humidity.

This week it all-but wiped out the historic mining town of Greenville, a settlement of a few hundred people dating back to the mid-1800s Gold Rush.

"I'd say the majority of downtown Greenville is completely destroyed," tweeted wildfire photographer Stuart Palley, sharing images of the devastation.

"My heart is broken for this beautiful little town."

The Dixie Fire — just one of a welter of blazes wracking the western United States — has been raging in the dry forests of northern California since mid-July, part of a global warming climate crisis that has brought sweltering heat and an alarming drought to the region.

It has now engulfed around 500 square miles (1,300 square kilometers). Almost a fifth of that area was added overnight Wednesday into Thursday.

The blaze is so big that it has been generating its own weather system.

"We did everything we could," California fire department spokesman Mitch Matlow told reporters. "Sometimes it's just not enough."—AFP ■

England to drop quarantine rule for fully jabbed arrivals from France

THE UK government said late Wednesday it will ease English entry rules requiring arrivals from France to quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated, following its latest review of travel curbs.

The change -- which will come into effect at 4:00 am (0300 GMT) on Sunday -- puts France back on England's so-called "amber" list of countries under its traffic light system for arriving travellers.

The government last month eased the rules to allow people from amber countries fully jabbed with a vaccine approved by regulators in the United States and European Union to enter without having to self-isolate.

However, arrivals from

France were the exception.

Britain said it acted over fears about the prevalence of the Beta strain, even though it mainly affected France's overseas territories, particularly La Reunion.

But furious officials in Paris called the move "discriminatory".

France now rejoins dozens of other countries on the amber list -- including many EU members and the US -- which mandates virus tests before and after arrival for those jabbed in those territories.

Others must self-isolate at home for 10 days.

India, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE will be moved to amber after being on the red list, which requires a costly 10-day hotel



The UK government said late Wednesday it will ease English entry rules requiring arrivals from France to quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated, following its latest review of travel curbs. PHOTO: AFP

quarantine on arrival.

Other changes to the rules -- which are reviewed every three weeks -- will see Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, Romania and Norway added to the green list.

Travellers in that designation must only take Covid-19 tests before and after entering England, regardless of their vaccination status, and do not have to self-isolate.

Meanwhile Georgia, Mexi-

co, and France's Indian Ocean territories of La Reunion and Mayotte will be moved onto the red list.

"We are committed to opening up international travel safely," Britain's Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said in a statement.

"While we must continue to be cautious, today's changes reopen a range of different holiday destinations across the globe, which is good news for both the sector and travelling public."

The UK government in London determines health and travel policy for England. The devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland governments set their own and have broadly adopted the same measures.— AFP ■

Australia expands lockdowns as virus fight falters



Sydney has been under a five-week lockdown with daily cases at record levels. PHOTO: AFP

ALMOST two-thirds of Australia's 25 million people were in lockdown Thursday, as the country's faltering bid to bring a virulent Delta outbreak to heel prompted a new wave of restrictions.

The country's two largest cities received a double blow in their efforts to retain "Covid Zero" status, with authorities reporting a record number of new coronavirus infections in Sydney and imposing a sixth lockdown for virus-weary Melbourne.

In total, about 60 percent of the population -- in cities from Brisbane to Ballarat -- are now being told to stay at home.

Until now, Australia has dodged the worst ravages of the pandemic through a strategy of closing borders, lockdowns, mandatory travel quarantine, and aggressive testing and tracing.

But those tools appear blunted in the face of the highly transmissible Delta variant that is now threatening one of the world's last havens from Covid.

Since a Sydney driver was infected with Delta by an international flight crew in mid-June, the area has reported 4,319 cases and clusters have popped up across the country.

After six weeks of lockdown in Sydney, the number of new infections in New South Wales state grew to 262 Thursday, the largest daily tally since the pandemic began.

Health officials said almost all the new cases were in Sydney, but a handful of infections in other districts prompted state premier Gladys Berejiklian to widen stay-at-home restrictions to neighbouring areas.—AFP ■

More than 200 million coronavirus cases worldwide

MORE than 200 million cases of Covid-19 cases have now been registered worldwide since the novel coronavirus emerged in China in December 2019.

At least 200,065,905 cases have been officially recorded, but the actual number is believed to be even higher, since a large number of the less severe or asymptomatic cases remain undetected, despite intensified testing in many countries.

The number of infections is currently rising sharply, driven

primarily by the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, but the number of deaths is increasing at a slower rate, the data showed. The global average daily number of new infections over the past seven days stands at more than 600,000, an increase of 68 percent over the seven-day average in mid-June.

At the same time, the average number of daily deaths stands at 9,350, an increase of 20 percent compared with the beginning of July. The gap between

the number of infections and the number of deaths is most noticeable in the countries currently hardest hit by the pandemic.

In the United States, for example, the number of new cases has exploded by more than 820 percent, now standing at an average of 94,000 per day compared to 11,000 at the end of June.

But the rise in the daily number of deaths in the US is much slower, climbing 105 percent to 430 over the same period.—AFP ■

Indonesia's COVID-19 death toll surpasses 100,000

INDONESIA'S COVID-19 death toll has passed the 100,000 mark, according to government data released Wednesday. The Health Ministry recorded 1,747 new deaths of COVID-19, bringing the total number of deaths to 100,636. It also reported 35,867 new cases, bringing the total number of cases to some 3.53 million. The death toll was just over 80,000 on July 23 and 90,000 on July 29, and recently more than 1,500 have died every day. Indonesia has imposed a nationwide public activity restriction since early July, which will be extended until Aug. 9.—Kyodo ■



This handout picture taken and released on Wednesday by the Indonesian military shows military personnel and port workers unloading a large oxygen tank delivered as aid from Singapore to be used in the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic, at the port of Tanjung Priok, in Jakarta. PHOTO: INDONESIAN MILITARY / AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatar Airways 'ordered' to ground 13 Airbus planes

QATAR Airways said on Thursday that it had been ordered by regulators in the Gulf state to ground 13 of its Airbus A350 aircraft over the rapid degradation of fuselage surfaces.

The airline, one of the Gulf "big three" carriers, previously stopped accepting delivery of the aircraft over the issue, according to media reports in June.

Qatar Airways said in a statement that it had been forced to press out-of-service Airbus A330 aircraft back into operation to fill the gap left by the grounding of the 13 aircraft.

Qatar Airways has 34 A350-900 types and 19 A350-1000s in its fleet, according to an Airbus document.

"The airline is working with its regulator to ensure the continued safety of all passengers... and following the explicit written instruction of (the airline's) regulator, thirteen aircraft have now been grounded," the airline said.—AFP ■

Venezuela to slash six zeroes from currency

VENEZUELA will slash six zeroes off its inflation-battered currency the bolivar to make it easier to use, the central bank said on Thursday.

The change will take effect on October 1 with the issuance of new currency notes, called the digital bolivar.

"All monetary amounts expressed in national currency will be divided by one million," the central bank of President Nicolas Maduro's beleaguered leftist government said.

It said the goal of the change is to "facilitate" the use of the bolivar.

It is the third time in 13 years that Venezuela -- suffering the worst economic crisis in its modern era -- has used such a measure.

In August 2018, the government lopped five zeros off its bank notes, having taken off three in 2008.

In 2018, the government replaced the ironically named strong bolivar with the sovereign bolivar.

The once-wealthy oil producer is enduring its fourth year of hyperinflation and its eighth year of recession.—AFP ■

U.S. trade deficit in June hits record-high \$75.75 bil.

THE U.S. deficit in trade of goods and services widened 6.7 percent in June from the previous month to \$75.75 billion, the highest on record since comparable data became available in 1992, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

U.S. exports edged up 0.6 percent to \$207.67 billion, while imports rose 2.1 percent to \$283.42 billion, also a record high.

By country, the U.S. goods trade deficit with Japan shrank 1.9 percent in June to \$4.93 billion.

The deficit with China,



A container truck driver passes containers stacked high at the Port of Los Angeles on March 26, 2020. PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / AFP/FILE

meanwhile, widened 5.8 percent to \$27.84 billion, while that with Mexico rose 3.7 percent to \$8.89

billion. In the first half of 2021, the U.S. deficit in trade of goods and services grew 46.4 percent

from the same period a year earlier to \$428.57 billion, with exports rising 14.3 percent to \$1.20 trillion and imports increasing 21.3 percent to \$1.63 trillion.

Goods trade deficit with Japan in the six-month period widened 25.7 percent to \$30.31 billion, while that with China expanded 20.8 percent to \$158.55 billion. The global trade figures are measured on a balance-of-payments basis after seasonal adjustment, and the country-by-country and regional breakdowns are based on unadjusted customs-cleared data.—Kyodo ■

Brexit and pandemic drive UK road haulage into crisis

MAJOR supermarket chains in Britain are offering cash bonuses for lorry drivers, as Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic leaves tens of thousands of jobs unfilled and shop shelves increasingly empty.

Industry warnings of a crisis affecting supplies of everything from milk to sweets and tonic water have intensified, along with demands for the government to act fast or risk disruption leading up to Christmas.

"It's a perfect storm," Rob Hollyman, director of the haulage company North West Cargo, told AFP in an interview.

His company owns 160 trucks, but is struggling to fill up to 30 vacancies for drivers across its three depots in north-west England.

Nationwide, according to the Road Haulage Association (RHA), the shortfall runs to 100,000 lorry drivers -- out of a total trucking workforce of 300,000. Like many other UK



Shoppers were faced with partially empty shelves at a supermarket in London on March 14, 2020 when the coronavirus outbreak led to stockpiling. PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP/FILE

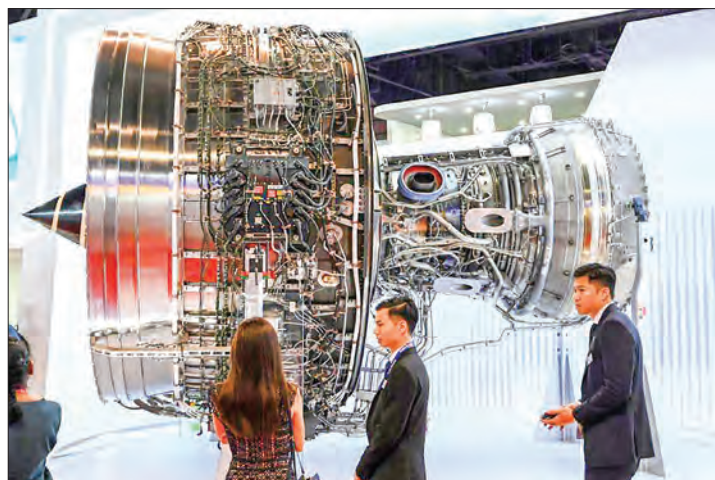
hauliers, North West Cargo used to fill its cabs with drivers from eastern Europe. But Britain's exit from the European Union and the introduction of onerous new visa rules triggered an exodus.

Meanwhile, an estimated 20,000 trainee British drivers are stuck in the pipeline, with the coronavirus pandemic causing a months-long backlog for licence tests.

And like other UK indus-

tries, road haulage is suffering a "pingdemic" caused by many drivers being told by a government app to self-isolate after coming into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.—AFP ■

Engine-maker Rolls-Royce flies back into profit



Visitors look at the Rolls Royce Trent XWB engine displayed during an airshow in Singapore. PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP

BRITISH aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce on Thursday announced a return to half-year profits on slashed costs after crashing into a huge loss one year earlier as the pandemic hammered aviation.

Rolls posted a net profit of £393 million (€461m) compared with a loss after tax totalling £5.38 billion in the first half of last year.

Rolls, which operates in the air, defence and energy sectors, has slashed thousands of jobs as it seeks to

navigate damaging fallout from the coronavirus outbreak. The company expects to save more than £1.0 billion this year, it said in the results statement.

"This leaner cost base together with a strong liquidity position gives us confidence in our ability to withstand uncertainties around the pace of recovery in international travel and benefit from the eventual rebound," added Rolls-Royce chief executive Warren East.—AFP ■

Adidas lifts outlook on Olympics, football seasons



Adidas expects the Olympics and the upcoming European and American football seasons to boost its sales. PHOTO: CHRISTOF STACHE/ AFP

GERMAN sportswear brand Adidas on Thursday bumped up its earnings outlook for the year, as it expects the Olympics and the upcoming European and American football seasons to boost its sales.

The Bavaria-based group recorded a net profit of €397 million between April and June, as pandemic restrictions eased and the football European Championships got going.

Its bottom-line was decisively up on the same period last year, when temporary shop closures in much of the world because of the COVID-19 pandemic

left the group with a €295 million loss.

Adidas now expects sales for the year to increase by 20 per cent across the board and for net profit to touch between €1.4 and €1.5 billion.

The optimistic prediction was made despite “COVID-19-related lockdowns, industry-wide supply chain challenges and the geo-political situation”, Adidas said in a statement. “Driven by the strength of our brand and better-than-expected demand for our products, we saw an acceleration in our top- and bottom-line,” Adidas

CEO Kasper Rorsted said in a press release. “This momentum gives us all the confidence to increase our full-year outlook despite the external challenges that our industry continues to face.” The group saw improved sales in all regions except China, which dipped by 16 per cent compared with the same three-month period, although the company said the drop reflected a strong recovery in the second quarter last year. By contrast, in Europe and North America, sales were up year on year by 99 per cent and 87 per cent, respectively.— AFP ■

Nintendo Q1 profit down as pandemic gaming boom slows

NINTENDO’S first-quarter net profit fell nearly 13 per cent as the video-game lockdown boom lost momentum, the Japanese firm said on Thursday, after reporting record earnings in the previous financial year.

Long periods of stay-at-home orders and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic fuelled a run of good fortune for game-makers worldwide. But analysts warn of a slowdown in demand for indoor entertainment as vaccines help life move towards normality, despite the spread of the Delta variant.

Nintendo said it gen-



Long periods of stay-at-home orders and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic fuelled a run of good fortune for game-makers worldwide. PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI/AFP

erated 92.7 billion yen (€712 million) for the three months to June, compared with 106.5 billion yen in the same period last year. It left its forecast for the year to March 2022 unchanged, still expecting to report a

340 billion yen net profit on sales of 1.6 trillion yen. The firm posted its highest ever annual profit in 2020-21, propelled by the runaway popularity of its Switch console and the family-friendly game ‘Animal Crossing’.

“Hardware and software sales in the first quarter of last fiscal year were substantially driven by the March 2020 release of ‘Animal Crossing: New Horizons’,” Nintendo said in a statement on Thursday. “So compared to then, hardware sales were down 21.7 per cent and software sales were down 10.2 per cent year-on-year.” Last month, Nintendo announced it would release a new model of the Switch in October – but analysts are divided over prospects for the Switch OLED, with the recommended price higher than that of the original console.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Siemens shrugs off supply chain woes to triple profits

GERMAN industrial giant Siemens on Thursday raised its earnings forecast for the year as profits almost tripled in the third quarter, having successfully navigated a global shortage in raw materials. Siemens, which makes products ranging from trains to factory equipment, said in a statement that it booked a bottom-line profit of €1.5 billion between April and June, up from €535 million in the same period last year.

Increasing prices for raw materials and the shortage of key components, such as semiconductors, which are widely used in new technologies, have disrupted the operations of major companies globally. Siemens was, however, “mastering a difficult environment” in relation to supply-chain issues, chief executive Roland Busch said in a press release. On the back of this strong performance, the company raised its projection for net profit for the fiscal year to between €6.1-6.4 billion, above the previous estimate of between €5.7-6.2bn announced in the last quarter. “We are continuing the very positive business development of the first half of the year and are once again delivering strong results despite the continuing challenging environment,” Busch said. “Consequently, we are again raising our outlook for fiscal 2021.”—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V QUANG MINH 5 VOY.NO. (09/21)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V QUANG MINH 5 VOY.NO. (09/21)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-8-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC KYOTO VOY.NO. (129S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC KYOTO VOY.NO. (129S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-8-2021** 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 CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (230N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (230N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-8-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

NEWS IN
BRIEFIsrael conducts first
Lebanon strikes in
seven years: military

THE Israeli air force said it carried out its first air strikes on neighbouring Lebanon in seven years Thursday following a second day of rocket fire across the border.

Lebanon condemned the strikes as an “escalation” that could mark a change of tactics by Israel, while UN peacekeepers urged restraint. “Earlier today (Thursday), rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory,” the Israeli air force tweeted. “In response... fighter jets struck the launch sites and infrastructure used for terror in Lebanon from which the rockets were launched. “An additional target in the area from which rockets have been launched in the past was struck as well.”

Israeli aircraft routinely strike Palestinian militant targets in Gaza and suspected Hezbollah or Iranian targets in Syria but it was the first time since 2014 that they had hit targets in Lebanon, the air force confirmed.—AFP ■

Canada warns citizens
about possible Hong
Kong exit bans

CANADA warned its citizens on Thursday that Hong Kong authorities can prevent people leaving the city under a new law that has raised fears of Chinese mainland-style exit bans.

The law, granting the immigration chief powers to bar people from boarding planes to and from the city, came into effect on Sunday.

“Under this amendment, individuals, including foreigners, might be unable to leave the territory,” Canada’s travel advisory Twitter account said. The tweet linked to an updated advisory Ottawa published on Tuesday that specifically mentioned the new rules.

“You may not be aware that you are the subject of movement restrictions until you try to leave Hong Kong,” the advisory stated.

“In the absence of clarifying legislation, these new powers may relate to investigations into an individual, their family or an employer, and criminal and civil matters.”

So-called “exit bans” are often used by mainland China against activists who challenge authorities.—AFP ■

India flexes muscles with new
aircraft carrier, task force

The 262-metre (860-foot) INS Vikrant began trials off Kerala on Wednesday. PHOTO: INDIAN NAVY/AFP

INDIA is flexing its maritime muscles to counter growing Chinese influence, conducting sea trials on its first indigenous

aircraft carrier and dispatching a task force for joint exercises with the United States and other allies.

The INS Vikrant, which began trials off the southern state of Kerala on Wednesday, will be India’s second aircraft carrier

in operation.

The Indian Navy said the country can now “join a select group of nations with the capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier, which will be a real testimony to the ‘Make in India’ thrust of the Indian Government.”

The new 262-metre (860-foot) carrier joins the INS Vikramaditya, the Soviet-made Admiral Gorshkov that India bought in 2004.

The navy said 44 other ships and submarines were being built indigenously. It is also pressing the government for a third carrier, with Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh saying the force could not remain “tethered”.

China, vying for influence in the Indian Ocean where New Delhi has traditionally held sway, is currently building its third aircraft carrier.—AFP

UK govt aims to relocate 2,500 Afghan translators and families

THE UK government said on Wednesday it aimed to resettle hundreds more Afghan translators and their families, after criticism from former military top brass it was not doing enough.

Defense Secretary Ben Wallace and Home Secretary Priti Patel said they were committed to relocating the families of 500 staff who supported British troops in Afghanistan “as soon as possible” — some 2,500 individuals in total.

The pledge came after published criticism from senior defense figures, urging a review

of the relocation scheme in the face of escalating violence in Afghanistan and threats to former local staff.

“There has been considerable misreporting of the scheme in the media, feeding the impression the Government is not supporting our former and current Afghan staff,” Wallace and Patel wrote.

“This could not be further from the truth and since the US announced its withdrawal we have been at the forefront of nations relocating people,” they added.—AFP ■



The Taliban onslaught seems to have intensified with the start of the final withdrawal of US and NATO troops in late April. PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka walks back fertiliser ban over political fallout fears



The U-turn comes despite warnings from farmers of food shortages and severe damage to the massive tea industry. PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka’s government on Thursday walked back the lifting of an import ban on most chemical fertilisers over fears of a political fallout, despite warnings from farmers of food shortages and severe damage to the massive tea industry.

The South Asian nation has been struggling with a cash crunch worsened by the pandemic, with the central bank imposing sweeping import bans since March last year to reduce the outflow of foreign currency.

The ban on chemical fertil-

isers -- widely used in the tea and rice industries -- was opposed by farmers who staged protests after reporting failing vegetable crops as existing stocks began to run out in recent weeks.

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, the younger brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, had lifted the ban on Tuesday. The president had earlier touted the policy, including on the international stage, as helping Sri Lankan agriculture become “100-percent organic”.—AFP ■

Japan marks Hiroshima bomb anniversary with low-key ceremonies

JAPAN on Friday marked 76 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack, with low-key ceremonies and disappointment over a refusal by Olympics organisers to hold a minute's silence. Survivors, relatives and a handful of foreign dignitaries attended this year's main event in Hiroshima to pray for those killed or wounded in the bombing and call for world peace. Virus concerns meant the general public were once again kept away, with the ceremony instead broadcast online.

Participants, many dressed in black and wearing face masks, offered a silent prayer at 8:15 am (2315 GMT Thursday), the time the first nuclear weapon used in wartime was dropped over the city. An estimated 140,000 people were killed in the bombing of Hiroshima, which was followed three days later by the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.



People offer prayers by the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima. PHOTO: AFP

On Friday, Hiroshima's mayor warned "experience has taught humanity that threatening others for self-defence benefits no one". He also called for leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to "achieve a deeper

understanding of the bombings".

International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach made a trip to Hiroshima before the Games began, to mark the start of an Olympic truce that urges a halt to fighting worldwide to

allow the safe passage of athletes. But organisers stopped short of granting a request from bomb survivors and the city for athletes to join a minute of silent prayer on Friday morning. — AFP ■

Notorious Afghan warlord returns to fight for besieged home

INFAMOUS warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum has returned to Afghanistan as the Taliban inch closer to taking control of his longtime stronghold in the north and fight for control of a string of cities elsewhere.

Ehsan Nero, a spokesman for the former army paratrooper, told AFP that Dostum arrived in Kabul on Wednesday night and was meeting senior

officials to talk about security in Sheberghan, capital of Jawzjan province. The former vice president has been in Turkey for months, where he was believed to be receiving medical treatment. "He is waiting to meet President Ashraf Ghani," Nero said Thursday.

Dostum has overseen one of the largest militias in the north, which garnered a fear-



Former Afghan vice president Abdul Rashid Dostum pictured in 2018. PHOTO: AFP

some reputation in its fight against the Taliban in the 1990s -- along with accusations that

his forces massacred thousands of insurgent prisoners of war. — AFP ■

Tigray rebels take control of UNESCO site Lalibela: residents



World heritage: The church of St. Mercurius is one of Lalibela's rock-hewn treasures. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

REBELS from Ethiopia's war-torn Tigray region on Thursday

seized Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the

neighbouring Amhara region famed for its 12th-century rock-hewn churches, residents told AFP.

The development came as a senior Amhara official told AFP the rebels, known as the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), were pushing "deep" into Amhara territory and hinted at possible retaliation.

"I believe now, enough is enough. Because the TPLF is no more in Tigray. TPLF is moving deep into Amhara territories," said Amhara deputy president Fanta Mandefro.

"We need to defend our peo-

ple," he added.

The TPLF's weeks-long push beyond Tigray has drawn criticism from world leaders and, according to Ethiopian officials, displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Tigray has been wracked by fighting since last November, when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops to topple the TPLF, the regional ruling party which dominated national politics before Abiy took office in 2018.

Abiy, winner of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize, said the move came in response to TPLF attacks on army camps. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US vows support for struggling Pacific islands

PRESIDENT Joe Biden underscored US support for Pacific island nations battling Covid-19 and the climate crisis on Friday as Washington tries to counter China's expanded influence in the region.

In a video message at the opening of a forum of 18 island nations from tiny Nauru to Australia and New Zealand, Biden reminded leaders of US vaccine donations to developing countries, made "without strings".

And he promised to lead in the climate change fight. "The Pacific Island nations know better than anyone that averting the worst effects of climate change is going to save lives."

It is the first time a US president has addressed the forum -- which is 50 years old this year.

"The United States is a proud Pacific power and will continue to be an active, engaged partner in the region and a friend to all your countries," he said. — AFP ■

US disappointed by new Guatemala anti-corruption investigator

THE United States voiced disappointment Thursday over Guatemala's quick naming of a controversial new anti-corruption investigator, whose predecessor's dismissal drew protests from Washington.

The "sudden appointment" on Tuesday of Rafael Curruchiche as head of the anti-corruption unit "does not add confidence in the body's ability to independently investigate and prosecute corruption cases," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

"Our position remains that it is essential that FECCI is able to function and its prosecutors and its analysts are empowered to continue to investigate cases to maintain the fight against corruption in Guatemala," he said, using the unit's Spanish acronym. Opposition MPs have accused Curruchiche of corruption, with media reports alleging that, in his job investigating electoral crimes, he offered protection to businesspeople suspected of illegal political financing. — AFP ■

Poland's Tomala wins Olympic 50km race walk in only his second finish



Poland's Dawid Tomala won the men's Olympic 50 kilometres race walk on Friday, defying the punishing morning heat in Sapporo to storm to victory in just the second event he has completed over the distance. **PHOTO: AFP**

POLAND'S Dawid Tomala won the men's Olympic 50 kilometres race walk on Friday, defying the punishing morning heat in Sapporo to storm to victory in just the second event he has completed over the distance.

The 31-year-old crossed the line in 3 hours 50 minutes and 8 seconds, matching the achievement of compatriot Robert Ko-

rzeniowski, who won the event three times.

"I work for it my whole life since I was 15 when I thought for the first time during training I would like to be a (Olympic) gold medalist," said Tomala.

"At first I thought (I wanted to win Olympic gold in the) 20km, but this year changed everything. I competed over 50km in Dudince (Slovakia, where

he finished fifth). "This was only the second 50km in my life (he did not finish in a 50m race walk in Dudince in 2017) and I win it (the Olympic title). It is crazy, right?" Germany's Jonathan Hilbert finished second, 36 seconds adrift, while Canada's Evan Dunfee matched his bronze at the 2019 world championships in Doha, crossing the line in 3:50:59.—AFP ■

Olympics: Kawai moved by the weight of wrestling gold medal

RISAKO Kawai said Friday the weight of the Olympic gold medal she claimed for Japan in the women's 57-kilogram wrestling is a physical representation of what she went through over the five years since winning her first title at the Rio de Janeiro Games. But the 26-year-old said she was able to overcome the challenges along the way and top the podium on Thursday thanks to the support provided by her younger sister and fellow wrestler Yukako, who won the 62-kg title at Makuhari Messe Hall. "When I received my medal at the victory ceremony, it reminded me of the past five years," Risako told a press conference. "I thought

about how I was able to finally accomplish this with my sister at the Tokyo Olympics." A day after her sister won gold in her weight division, Risako defeated Belarus's Iryna Kurachkina 5-0 in her final. She and the 23-year-old Yukako became the first Japanese sisters to win summer Olympic gold medals.

After the Tokyo Olympics were postponed for one year in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, Risako said she felt the pressure from the uncertainty of the situation, not knowing whether the games would actually be held and whether she was up for another year of training. —Kyodo ■

Britain's Laura Kenny wins madison for fifth Olympic cycling gold

BRITISH cyclist Laura Kenny won her fifth Olympic gold medal on Friday, powering to victory alongside Katie Archibald in the first women's madison at a Games. Kenny and Archibald, now a two-time Olympic champion, won 10 of the 12 sprints to finish on 78 points, 43 clear of Denmark, who took silver.

The Russian Olympic Committee took the bronze with 26 points after 120 laps of the Izu Velodrome. It was Kenny's first Olympic gold since giving birth to her son Albie in 2017 and she said she considered quitting the sport during the pregnancy.



Britain's Katie Archibald (L) and Laura Kenny celebrate after claiming the first women's madison Olympic gold. **PHOTO: AFP**

"When I fell pregnant, there was a moment two months into the pregnancy where

I woke up and said to Jason (Kenny, her husband), 'I can't do this, I'm not going to be able

to carry on (with cycling), there's just no way'. And here we are," 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.