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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.

Assessment of voting should be based on pre-election, election and post-election days but just an election day whether an election is free and fair, Senior General says



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the SAC meeting 17/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 November 2021.

IT is necessary to emphasize that the country can be built with the strength of educated persons but non-educated ones, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 17/2021 of the State Administration Council at the SAC Chairman's Office yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Senior

General highlighted that more than 2,305,000 students are attending the basic education schools till 8 November after opening the schools due to the declining of COVID-19 infection rate. It was made efforts to prevent loss of students in the education, and students aged 12 years and above and teachers, as well as the people of above 45 years old, are being vaccinated. Thanks to taking security

measures by parents and those wishing to ensure peace and stability of the community, a few basic education schools faced disturbances. Threatening the students in learning education is a stupid act, undermining the country.

With regard to opening the universities, the Senior General remarked: "We have plans to reopen universities for higher education. Now, we appoint new

faculty members at universities. We will reopen the universities step by step depending on the results of opening the basic education schools but we cannot open all the courses at the same time. Priority will be given to the opening of doctoral courses, master's courses, qualified courses and honour courses. Afterwards, we will open final years' courses, then the third year and second year and so

on. It is more important for having the knowledge to pass the examination. Students need to have the knowledge in conformity with their grades. I'd like to note that if the education of the nation can improve, the country would have a good future. It is necessary to emphasize that the country can be built with the strength of educated persons but non-educated ones."

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Officials welcome back 279 returnees from Laos to Tachilek

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

Tutors, demonstrators, basic education teachers join refresher course at Kyaukpyu Education Degree College

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

4th batch of Mekong-Lancang cooperation special fund projects launched

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

Danu traditional Maroi Napakpi Fermented Soya Bean

PAGE-6



LOCAL BUSINESS

Rubber price unlikely to fall on rising demand, Kyat depreciation

PAGE-7

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some casualties, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Mobile library team visits departmental offices in Mongpyin Township

TO raise knowledge, habit of reading and studying literature for young people in their spare time, the staff of Mongpyin Township Information and Public Relations Department conducted a weekly Mobile Library field visit at departmental offices in Mongpyin Township, Kengtung District in eastern Shan State yesterday afternoon.

Officials led by Township Head of IPRD Daw Yin Yin Win conducted field visits as a mobile library to the Department of Information and Public Relations, Township Audit Office, Township Election Sub-commission Office, Township Disaster Management

Department Office, and Township Fire Brigade Office and provided book rental services with various kinds of books, including general knowledge and fiction.

Officials from the Department of Information and Public Relations, Mongpyin Township told online stories for readers and children who cannot visit the library during the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition to debut books and educational talk shows, there are also books and magazines available to readers and bulletins are being rented out to the public, officials said.—Yin Yin Win (IPRD)/GNLM



Readers are seen borrowing books from the mobile library.

150,000 juvenile fish planted in Myitmakha river in Letpadan, Bago region

WITH the arrangement of the Township Hatchery Plantation Supervision Committee, a total of 150,000 two-inch juvenile fish were released yesterday morning into the Myitmakha River in Letpadan Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region.

The Township Hatchery Plantation Supervision Committee aims for long-term and

sustainable fish food supply as well as to increase fish production by diversifying fish in natural waters and to ensure the food security of the rural people.

Yesterday, officials released a total of 50,000 carp, 70,000 Barbus, and 30,000 Cirrhianus marigla into the natural river. —Wint Nanda Htay (IRPD)/GNLM



Officials welcome back 279 returnees from Laos to Tachilek

OFFICIALS welcomed back a total of 279 returnees from Laos, including 171 males and 108 females, at Wang Pong port, Mongphone (A) Village-tract, Tachilek in eastern Shan State yesterday morning.

With the supervision of the Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee on COVID-19 in Tachilek District, the returnees were diagnosed with RDT Rapid Test Kit for the first time.

On the third day of quarantine at Wang Lone Centre, nasal and palate samples of the returnees were taken and sent to Taunggyi for a second diagnosis.

According to the test re-

sults, the COVID-19 virus was detected in five repatriated persons and they

will stay in Wang Lone COVID-19 Centre to receive further medical treatment.

Officials said that they will provide free transport to reach

their respective places.

Tachilek has been accepting Myanmar nationals returning from Laos since 30 July, and a total of 4,354 male and female returnees have been repatriated, officials added. — Yar Say (IPRD)/GNLM



Returnees from Laos queue up for the reception process.

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 Peacekeeping Central Committee Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark the Sixth Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October 2021)

Assessment of voting should be based on pre-election, ...

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General pointed out that as the people need to have their longevity, it is necessary to reduce rice consumption for reduction of carbohydrates but consume meat, fish, vegetables and eggs to have protein for the body. Everybody needs to consume three to six eggs per day, five to 10 ticals of meat and fish as well as five to 12 ticals of vegetables per day. As the power of the State is people, emphasis must be placed on increasing of life expectancy of the people with healthiness. Hence, people are urged to change their consumption and lifestyle forms.

Assessment of voting should be based on pre-election, election and post-election days but just an election day whether an election is free and fair. Political parties sent letters and reports to him on voting frauds in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election. More than 11 million ballots were wrongly counted in the election across the nation in scrutinizing the voter lists. Voting fraud is the

worst in the democracy.

Members of the State Administration Council discussed enactment of the law opposing foreign interference, promotion of relations with the countries among ASEAN countries which have sympathy over Myanmar and enhancement of Myanmar-China relations, publishing of pamphlets on terror acts of terrorists CRPH, NUG and PDF across the nation, implementation of Dawei Deep Sea Port Project, reduction of diagnostic charge in examining the COVID-19 virus, and cooperation with relevant organizations for the life safety of local people in Kayah State.

In his response, the Senior General said that the Ministry of Legal Affairs is assigned to scrutinize the country-wise laws related to the law opposing foreign interference. The government will encourage the production of value-added products but prohibit sales of raw materials of natural resources. State-owned and Tatmadaw-owned media are striving for disseminating the acts of

terrorist organizations to the people. Disbursement of loans from the COVID-19 fund will depend on the financial situation. If the COVID-19 is under control, outbound tourism services will be allowed to be implemented. The projects contributing to the economic development of the State, including the Dawei Deep Sea Port Project, will be implemented. Necessary workshops and contests will be held for the enhancement of the educational qualification

of students.

In his concluding remarks, the Senior General said the development of the country depends on firm currency and economic growth. Importation is being controlled for reducing the trade deficit of the nation while efforts are being made for increasing the export of value-added products. The increased production process can create job opportunities and prosperity in the socio-economic life of the people.

Private banks need to follow the directives of the Central Bank of Myanmar. People need to abide by the directive of the Central Bank of Myanmar in the payment system. Only when the import of palm oil and fuel can be reduced, will the country reduce spending the foreign exchange. People need to reform the consumption type with a decrease in oil consumption. Officials need to manage public transport for the reduction of fuel. — MNA

People need to abide by the directive of the Central Bank of Myanmar in the payment system. Only when the import of palm oil and fuel can be reduced, will the country reduce spending the foreign exchange. People need to reform the consumption type with a decrease in oil consumption. Officials need to manage public transport for the reduction of fuel.

Tutors, demonstrators, basic education teachers join refresher course at Kyaukpyu Education Degree College

THE refresher course for tutors and demonstrators and newcomers to Basic Education Department was convened at the Kyaukpyu Education Degree College of the Teachers Training Department under the Ministry of Education in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State on 8 November.

The course covers rules and regulations for government employees, financial, educational subjects (educational theory and psychology) for tutors, and new curriculums of primary and

middle schools and other education-related subjects for JATs and PATs.

A total of 259 trainees — six tutors, 26 JATs, 200 PATs from respective townships of Rakhine State, one JAT and 26 PATs from Paletwa township of Chin State joined the 26-day course that will end on 3 December. — Tin Tun Oo, Phyo Wai Linn/GNLM

The refresher course in progress in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State.



4th batch of Mekong-Lancang cooperation special fund projects launched



THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation held the Launching Ceremony of the Fourth Batch of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund Projects yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was addressed by Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, and Director-General of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs Daw Marlar Than Htike. Director-General of the Department of Planning U Kyaw Swe Lin presented the projects.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General of the departments and project officials.

The Mekong-Lancang Co-

operation was jointly initiated and developed in 2016 by China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, the countries along the Mekong River, where historical and cultural relations and customs are intertwined. It aims to focus on bridging the development gap and achieving sustainable development among the regional members based on good-neighbourly friendship for economic and social devel-

opment.

According to the Sanya Declaration of the first Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting, the member countries are cooperating in five priority areas: Integration, cooperation to increase productivity, cross-border economic cooperation, cooperation in water resources, and agriculture and poverty alleviation, with a spirit of transparency and inclusiveness.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is also implementing agricultural development and poverty alleviation projects in the Mekong-Lancang projects and a total of 24 projects (5 projects in the first batch in 2017; 9 projects in the second batch in 2018; 6 projects in the third batch in 2020; 4 projects in the fourth batch in 2021) have been implemented with the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund.

According to the projects approved for implementation in

2021, projects to improve the socio-economic life and income of rural households related to bamboo shoots production, to provide technical support to smallholder farmers in Macadamia for potential crop markets, to increase revenue from quality coffee production through packaging technologies, projects to develop a vaccine against cross-border animal infections and infections transmitted between humans and animals will be implemented. The implementation of these projects will reduce the poverty of the rural people who are engaged in agriculture-related livelihoods and contribute to their socio-economic development.

Despite challenges such as transportation constraints and increased input costs due to natural disasters, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts are being made to achieve the expected results as per the fund and negotiated projects. — MNA

Vaccination processes continue as planned in states/regions

THE Tatmadaw medics, doctors, nurses and health workers of Public Hospitals including the volunteers are trying hard in COVID-19 vaccination programmes across the nation. They vaccinate the monks, nuns, people aged over 55, members of ethnic armed groups, patients with chronic diseases, people at IDP camps and the students aged over 12 in respective regions and states.

A total of 1,110 people from three townships of Shan State (North) received their vaccines

yesterday while 4,715 from six townships of Shan State (East), 29,590 monks and locals from 14 townships of Mon and Kayin states, 4,630 from Dawei and Palauk townships of Taninthayi Region, 4,832 from four townships of Yangon Region, 35,817 from 26 townships of Ayeyawady Region, 10,588 from 10 townships of Rakhine State, 135 from Salingyi Township of Sagaing Region, 7,520 from seven districts of Mandalay Region and 2,680 from Htantabin and Ottwin townships of Bago Re-

gion respectively received their vaccines.

Moreover, the medics vaccinated 24 students in Mongkhat Township of Shan State (East), 1,044 students in North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region, 4,126 students from 26 townships of Ayeyawady Region and 2,048 students in three townships of Rakhine State yesterday.

The respective military command commanders inspected the vaccination processes and provided the necessary things. — MNA



COVID-19 positive patients, patients to be monitored admitted to COVID-19 centres

COVID-19 positive patients and those required to be monitored are systematically admitted to Tatmadaw hospitals, military training depots, transit centres

in respective military commands and are being provided with healthcare services.

In addition, officials from the Ministry of Health, in collabora-

tion with relevant departments, charitable organizations and responsible citizens, are opening quarantine centres in respective townships.

As of 7 pm yesterday, the Nay Pyi Taw Transit centre received a total of 102 people (56 men and 46 women) who need to be monitored. Local medical

teams and officials in respective military commands are assisting in the accommodation, health and medical care of the patients, it is reported. —MNA

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MoC processes anti-COVID-19 equipment imports as usual



THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airports and seaports with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
One company imported one oxygen generator and 17 tonnes of masks using two vehicles via the Chinshwehaw trading zone

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

Over 5,900 above 12-year-old students vaccinated in Maungtaw, Rakhine state

THE Rakhine State officials launched vaccination programmes for the students aged over 12 in Maungtaw Township at the respective vaccination sites on 8 November.
The education staff collected the student lists before the vaccination while township public health department head Dr Nu Kay Thi San and party distributed the masks and checked

the body temperatures, blood pressure of the students.
There are 7,297 students aged over 12 to receive vaccines at 53 sites of Maungtaw Township and 109 students were vaccinated against COVID-19 on 8 November. A total of 5,939 students received their first dose of vaccines between 17 October and 8 November. — Thet Lwin Soe (IPRD)/GNLM



Vaccination programme for schoolchildren aged 12 plus is underway in Maungtaw.

Schoolchildren, adults receive COVID vaccines in Nay Pyi Taw



Immunization drive in Nay Pyi Taw.

HEALTH officials gave the first dose of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to over 12-year-old schoolchildren and over 18-year-old people at People's Hospital (50-bed) in Pobbathiri Township, Ottara District, Union Territory in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.
Officials from Pobbathiri Township General Adminis-

tration Department, head of the Township Public Health Department Dr Thein Thein Htwe and health workers, members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps, education staff, Township Red Cross members and officials assisted in the vaccination works.
Vaccination activities are documented by the General

Administration Department followed by measuring body temperatures, blood pressure, and monitoring oxygen levels by healthcare officials.
Vaccines were systematically given to the local people, and only those with normal conditions are vaccinated, officials said. — Myo Thiha (IPRD)/GNLM

COVID-19 vaccination continues in Myawady, Kayin state

THE vaccination against COVID-19 for the people over the age of 18 in Myawady Township, Kayin State, continued yesterday and the Chairman of the Township Administration Body and officials encouraged the immunization process.
The vaccination was carried out following the COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health, and it is reported that the vaccination will continue until 11 November in respective

immunization sites in Myawady.
This is the 4th time the Ministry of Health conducts inoculation against COVID-19 in Myawady and people received their second dose of the vaccine yesterday. — Htein Lin Aung(IPRD)/GNLM

A Myawady local gets vaccinated against COVID-19.



776 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 November, total figure rises to 508,591

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **508,591** after **776** new cases were reported on 9 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **480,220** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **18,855** after **16** died.— MNA

Danu traditional Maroi Napakpi Fermented Soya Bean

HERE is an interview with a business person who runs the Danu traditional Maroi Napakpi Fermented Soya Bean production in Pindaya Township of Danu Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South).

By Daw Moe Moe Htwe (IPRD-Pindaya)

Q: Please can you tell me your name and address.

A: My name is Daw Khin Mi Mi from Ywar Thit Ward of Pindaya Township.

Q: When did you start the Danu traditional Maroi Napakpi Fermented Soya Bean production?

A: I have been running this business for more than 20 years.

Q: Could you tell me the processes?

A: The processes go 1) it takes five hours to boil the spicy dried fermented Soya bean seed, 2) we grind the boiled bean seeds with the machine, 3) we have to slice the Maroi Napakpi into normal sizes, 4) we add the Maroi Napakpi into the ground spicy dried fermented

soya bean seed, 5) we add a few salt and seasoning and we stir, 6) we roll the spicy dried fermented soya bean into a ball, 7) we beat the round balls with a stick to be round flat ones, and 8) we put the beaten flat of spicy dried fermented soya bean on a bamboo raft for drying under the sun and we get the flats of Maroi Napakpi Fermented Bean.

Q: Where do you transport the products?

A: We transport them to Taunggyi, Meiktila, Mandalay and Yangon.

Q: How is the price of Mario Napakpi Fermented Soya Bean per viss?

A: It is K6,000 per viss.

Q: How is the price of a bag of spicy dried fermented Soya bean seed?

A: It cost K35,000 per bag last year and now it is K68,000 per bag. Therefore, we sold a viss of Maroi Napakpi Fermented Soya Bean at K4,000 before and it is now K6,000.

Q: How are the ways to eat the Maroi Napakpi Fermented Soya Bean?

A: We can fry it and grill it, and eat sprinkling the cooking oil over it.

Q: How can we contact to make an order?

A: You can contact Daw Khin Mi Mi at 09-965216187.

Thank you.



Interviewer Daw Moe Moe Htwe and interviewee Daw Khin Mi Mi.



Youth leaders in ASEAN explore ways to future-proof the region with sustainable solutions

MORE than 30 ASEAN youth leaders shared their views with the Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN on what young people can do to help move the region forward sustainably.

All participants of the 2021 ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AYF) gathered in Singapore from 27 to 31 October for the third edition of the programme, organized by the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) and the National Youth Council Singapore (NYC) in Singapore.

Their suggestions came as a response to the Chairman's Statement from the 38th/39th ASEAN Summit, emphasizing

the importance of unity in promoting ASEAN's sub-regional development, especially in narrowing the development gap, enhancing ASEAN's regional competitiveness and connectivity, and ensuring sustainable and inclusive development. It also highlighted the need to elevate the roles of youth in realizing the goals and to ensure that they are prepared to respond to complex global challenges.

Over five days, the 33 Fellows took part in a series of dialogues that explored innovations in public health management, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, and



33 youths gathered in Singapore for the third edition of the ASEAN Youth Fellowship, organized by the Singapore International Foundation and National Youth Council Singapore, from 27 - 31 October. The ASEAN Youth Fellows from Myanmar are (from left) Mr San Nay Thway, Ms May Hnin Phyu, and Mr Nyan Tun Zaw.



ASEAN Youth Fellows visiting the Repair Kopitiam initiative by the Sustainable Learning Lab (SL2) and learning about how it brings different communities together through repair to combat the throw-away culture for a sustainable world.



ASEAN Youth Fellows learning about how the black soldier fly is used to turn food waste into high-value biomaterials for industrial use during a visit to biotech start-up Insectta.

partnerships among the ASEAN communities, and the role youths can play in amplifying impactful voices responsibly to build a sustainable future.

They also visited Sustainable Living Lab (SL2), Sembcorp Tengoh Floating Solar Farm, EWR2, an automated e-waste recycling plant, and Insecta, Singapore's first urban insect farm that rears the black soldier fly to help turn food waste into biomaterials for industrial use, as part of their field trips.

The third run of the ASEAN Youth Fellowship programme continues to be a regional leadership development programme that aims to develop an active network of emerging ASEAN young leaders across diverse sectors.

Participants are young professionals between 27 to 35 years old and ASEAN citizens. For 2021's iteration, due to travel restrictions, the participants selected had to be based in Singapore for the programme duration.

— GNLM

Imports down by \$120 mln last month, reports MoC

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 and 29 October of the current mini-budget period 2021-2022 (October-March) sank to \$1 billion, which reflects a drop of \$121.98 million compared to the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The import value stood at US\$1.12 billion the last FY2020-2021.

The imports of capital goods declined last month, while the other import groups (consumer, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses) witnessed a slight increase.

Last month, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$170.18 million. The figure



The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce.

was over \$229.5 million lower than those values registered in the same period of the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar

imported consumer products worth \$262.38 million, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports

of consumer products showed a slight decrease of \$3 million compared with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up the largest share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. This year, imports of raw materials climbed up to \$413 million from \$326.4 million registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth over \$153 million were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector, showing an increase of \$26.48 million compared with last FY.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. — KK/GNLM

Rubber price unlikely to fall on rising demand, Kyat depreciation



About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Korea, India, Japan and other countries.

THE price of rubber is unlikely to drop as long as there is a steady demand and Kyat devaluation against the US dollar continues, according to rubber traders.

The rubber was offered at a minimum price of K700-K800 per pound in the previous years, whereas it is priced at about K970-K980 per pound at present.

The price hit above K1,000 per pound in early October 2020. Then, it dipped slightly owing to the Kyat revaluation in the local forex market.

Despite the drop in rubber price, the prices of cement, acid and other inputs used in

rubber processing are rising, traders said.

Chinese authorities from Yunnan Province, which is close to Myanmar's Chinshwehaw border in Shan State, gave the go-ahead to import the four industrial crops from Myanmar, including sugarcane, rubber, tragacanth gum and cotton. As a result of this, the trade channel is reopened again.

The rubber price is possible to fluctuate around K1,000 per pound. China usually purchases Local 3 and RSS 5 varieties which are mainly produced in Myanmar, a trader shared an opinion.

The rubber-tapping season started in September and the natural rubber is flowing into the market. However, the price is not possible to fall to K700-K800 per pound on account of growing demand and Kyat depreciation on the US dollar.

Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per the 2018-2019 rubber season's data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Myanmar's rubber export generated more than US\$425.25 million as of August (October-August) of the financial year 2020-2021. — NN/GNLM

Low production leads to elephant foot yam price reduction in Paingkyon, Kayin state

THE local farmers from Moe Naing village, Paingkyon town, Kayin State are growing elephant foot yam on a commercial scale. This year, the yields of elephant foot yam are low and the prices are falling as well, according to the traders.

"The traders bought the fresh elephant foot yam for K1,000 per viss from the villages near the foot of Dawna Mountain. Then, they dried and sold them at K7,500 per viss. Last year, the dried elephant foot yam was sold at K11,800 per viss. This year, the productions of elephant foot yam are lower than last year and the prices

are also falling," said Daw Pyo, a brokerage owner from Moe Naing village.

The elephant foot yam is destined to the commodity depots from Hpa-an, Mawlamyine, Mandalay and Muse, towns through Paingkyon town. Then, those are exported to China. But for this time, the sending of elephant foot yam have been suspended to prevent the spreading of COVID-19, said Daw Pyo.

Elephant foot yam production is one of the lucrative businesses. The yams are harvested between August and mid-December. — Paingkyon IPRD/GNLM



The elephant foot yam is destined to the commodity depots from Hpa-an, Mawlamyine, Mandalay, Muse, Shweli towns through Paing Kyone town. Then, those are exported to China.

Establish village firewood plantations to green rural areas

RURAL people in Myanmar are still using firewood and charcoal for daily cooking and other productions because of not ready for the installation of cables for electrification.

The use of firewood and making charcoal may affect deforestation. Hence, the Union government as well as relevant region and state governments are raising the forestry awareness of local people not to cause deforestation through too much extraction of firewood and raw materials for making charcoal.

The Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been organizing the rural people to establish village firewood plantations in their respective areas. On the other hand, the department emphasizes the supply of firewood and charcoal to the local people. In so doing, arrangements were made to fulfil the firewood needs of local people without harming the natural forests.

Hence, arrangements are being made to grow 25 per cent of the firewood requirements in the plots of residences, horticultural farms and around the farmlands. A total of 25 more per cent of firewood plants will be extracted from community-owned forests, 4.2 more per cent from the departmental forest plantations and 45.8 more per cent from the natural forests.

The department allows the rural people to establish the rural firewood plantations. During the period from 1981-82 financial year to 2013-14 financial year, the Union budget was allotted to be spent on the establishment of village firewood plantations. When the firewood plantations are over five years old, the department hands over the plantations to the relevant village authorities.

During the period from 1981-82FY to 2013-14FY, the department has grown 449,586 acres of firewood plantations and handed over 72,521 acres of plantations to the relevant villages. As of the 2014-15FY, the department has been growing 272 rural firewood plantations in 113 villages from 118 villages of regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. From the 2014-15 financial year to the 2020-21FY, the region and state governments spent their funds on the establishment of 22,862 acres of firewood plantations.

The department stated that firewood plantations were grown on over 170 acres of land at more than 230 villages across the nation in the 2020-21 financial year. In this regard, they grow rapid growing plants such as eucalyptus and rain trees to be extracted as logs and firewood.

At present, the Forest Department is implementing the national forest sector master plan (2020-21 to 2030-31). Hence, arrangements are being made to grow 25 per cent of the firewood requirements in the plots of residences, horticultural farms and around the farmlands. A total of 25 more per cent of firewood plants will be extracted from community-owned forests, 4.2 more per cent from the departmental forest plantations and 45.8 more per cent from the natural forests.

US pushes for broader COVID-19 vaccination while pills emerge as alternative therapy

The US federal government unveiled its new COVID-19 standards for businesses, "its biggest push yet to encourage widespread vaccination," reported CBS. However, the new rule has raised questions about the process for implementing, costs and timing of the requirements for workers and their bosses.

THE US federal government has released its biggest push to encourage widespread vaccination against COVID-19, while Pfizer and Merck have introduced in tandem their pills as an alternative therapy for coronavirus patients.

On Friday, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated that 222,591,394 people had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making up 67 per cent of the whole US population. Fully vaccinated people stood at 193,227,813, accounting for 58.2 per cent of the total. A total of 21,483,519 people, or 11.1 per cent of fully vaccinated group, received booster shots.

STRONG PUSH

The federal government on 4 November unveiled its new COVID-19 standards for businesses, "its biggest push yet to encourage widespread vaccination," reported CBS. However, the new rule has raised questions about the process for implementing, costs and timing of the requirements for



The United States has administered 429442508 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in the country as of 6 November morning. PHOTO: MEGAN JELINGER/AFP

workers and their bosses.

Under the plan, employers with more than 100 employees must choose whether their workers be fully vaccinated or undergo weekly testing within 30 days of the plan's publication in the Federal Register on 5 November.

By 4 January, those businesses must implement the rule. The

so-called "emergency temporary standard" was requested by US President Joe Biden as part of his September COVID-19 action plan, and will be overseen by the Labour Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Reactions from businesses ranged from support to alarm,

with the trade group Truckload Carriers Association warning that the rule will prove to be "disastrous" as it could lead to an "exodus" of truck drivers during the ongoing supply-chain crisis.

Jim Frederick, deputy assistant secretary of labor at OSHA, said that the agency believes the "vast majority" of workplaces will

comply with the new requirement.

"OSHA estimates that this rule will save thousands of lives and prevent more than 250,000 hospitalizations" after it goes into effect, Frederick said in a conference call with reporters on Thursday. "We know that many, many workplaces will be looking at this and starting up as early as today."

CURING PILLS

Pfizer Inc. said on Friday that its experimental antiviral pill for COVID-19 cuts hospitalization and death rates by nearly 90 per cent in high-risk adults, as the drugmaker joined the race for an easy-to-use medication to treat the coronavirus.

Britain has already ordered enough supplies of the pill for 480,000 people. Merck said last week it had reached deals to sell the pills to the governments of the United States, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Serbia and Singapore.

Pfizer said it will ask the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and international regulators to authorize its pill as soon as possible. If authorized by the FDA, the company would sell the drug under the brand name Paxlovid. Currently most COVID-19 treatments require an IV (intravenous therapy) or injection.

Competitor Merck's COVID-19 pill is already under review at the FDA after showing strong initial results, and on Thursday Britain became the first country to approve it.

The Merck pill, known as molnupiravir, was shown in a key clinical trial to reduce by half the risk of hospitalization and death in high-risk COVID-19 patients who were treated early in their infections.

Dispensed from a pharmacy and taken at home, the drug is expected to reach many more people than treatments like monoclonal antibodies, which are typically administered intravenously at a hospital or clinic.

Britain has already ordered enough supplies of the pill for 480,000 people. Merck said last week it had reached deals to sell the pills to the governments of the United States, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Serbia and Singapore.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Regeneron says Covid antibody treatment protects for at least 8 months

REGEN-COV is currently authorized in the United States as a post-exposure prophylaxis in high-risk individuals, and is pending full approval.

A SYNTHETIC antibody treatment developed by Regeneron reduced the risk of developing symptomatic Covid by more than 80 per cent up to eight months after receiving the treatment, the US biotech firm said Monday.

The results are "particularly important to those who do not respond to COVID-19 vaccines including people who are immunocompromised", said Myron Cohen, a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill scientist who is leading a government-sponsored study into the treatment.

The study included 842 people who received a placebo and 841 who received the treatment, known as REGEN-COV, dosed at 1,200 mg and

injected under the skin.

During a follow-up period of two to eight months, there were seven Covid cases in the treatment group and 38 in the placebo group, representing a risk reduction of 81.6 per cent.

Importantly, there were zero hospitalized cases in the treatment group and six in the placebo group.

"A single dose of REGEN-COV provided long-term protection against COVID-19, including times of particularly high risk from household exposure, and in the longer-term during ongoing broader exposure," said George Yancopoulos, the company's president and chief scientific officer.

REGEN-COV is currently authorized in the United States as a post-ex-

posure prophylaxis in high-risk individuals, and is pending full approval.

It is based on two lab-produced monoclonal antibodies — Y-shaped proteins that bind to the spikes that dot the surface of the coronavirus, stopping the pathogen from invading human cells.

Vaccines train immune systems to produce such antibodies too. But some people including the elderly and immunocompromised do not respond well to vaccines, and such groups stand to benefit the most from "passive vaccination" where the antibodies are delivered directly.

SOURCE: AFP



A man enters the Regeneron Clinic at a monoclonal antibody treatment site in Pembroke Pines, Florida, on 19 August 2021. PHOTO: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 9 November 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression over the Southwest and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal during next (36)hrs and continuous to move West-Northwestwards and reach near north Tamilnadu Coast (India) around (11.11.2021). Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 9 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Eastern Shan State, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and isolated in Yangon Region and Southern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Shan, Rakhine, Kayah States.

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

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours M.S.T on 9-11-2021

Low Pressure Area

ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression over the Southwest and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal during next (36hrs and continuous to move West-Northwestwards and reach near north Tamilnadu Coast (India) around (11.11.2021).

General caution

DUE to the LowPressure 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 (9.11.2021) to (13.11.2021).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 11:05 hour M.S.T)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (18) miles southwest of Hta Man Thi), latitude 25.17°N, longitude 95.05°E, depth (8) kilometers, about (80) miles northeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (10) hr (47)min (23)sec M.S.T on 9 November 2021.



NASA astronaut Megan McArthur gives a thumbs up after being helped out of the SpaceX craft. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP**

ISS astronauts return to Earth in SpaceX craft after 6-month mission

FOUR astronauts returned to Earth Monday in a SpaceX craft after spending six months on the International Space Station, a NASA live broadcast showed, marking the end of a busy mission. The international crew conducted thousands of experiments in orbit and helped upgrade the solar panels on the ISS during their “Crew-2” mission.

Its descent slowed by four huge parachutes, their Dragon spacecraft — dubbed “Endeavour” — splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico at 10:33 pm (0333 GMT Tuesday) before it was lifted onto a recovery ship.

NASA astronauts Megan McArthur and Shane Kimbrough, Akihiko Hoshide of Japan and Frenchman Thomas Pesquet from the European Space Agency were then taken out of the capsule and placed on stretchers as a precautionary measure — human bodies need to re-adjust to gravity after extended periods in space. “It’s great to be back to Planet Earth,” Kimbrough was heard saying on the NASA live broadcast after Dragon splashed down. The ISS activities of the Crew-2 astronauts included documenting the surface of the Earth to record human-caused changes

and natural events, growing Hatch Chile peppers, and studying worms to better understand human health changes in space.

“Proud to have represented France once again in space! Next stop, the Moon?” Pesquet had tweeted ahead of the trip home.

Their journey back to Earth began when Endeavour undocked from the ISS at 2:05 pm (1905 GMT, NASA announced).

It then looped around the ISS for around an hour-and-a-half to take photographs, the first such mission since a Russian Soyuz performed a similar manoeuvre in 2018. — AFP ■

WTO chief hails ‘important step’ towards elusive fishing deal

THE World Trade Organization chief said on Monday significant progress had been made towards a long-elusive agreement to end subsidies that reward overfishing, as negotiators scramble to clinch a deal within weeks.

“Time is short and I believe that this text reflects a very important step towards a final outcome,” Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who took the reins of the global trade body in March, said in a statement.

Her comment came after Colombian ambassador Santiago Wills, who chairs the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations, presented a revised negotiating text following intense talks.

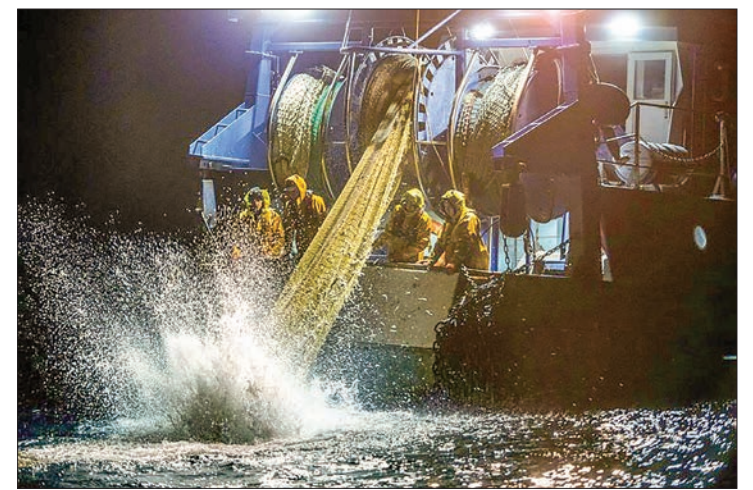
He said trade diplomats would begin poring over the lat-

est version “clause by clause” on Tuesday, in a bid to smooth out any wrinkles before ministers gather for a high-level meeting at the end of the month, at which they hope to clinch a deal.

For the past two decades, WTO member states have been discussing the need for a deal banning subsidies that contribute to illegal and unregulated fishing, as well as to overfishing that threatens the sustainability of fish stocks.

While fishing should in theory be held in check by the environment, with low fish stocks pushing up costs, subsidies can keep unprofitable fleets at sea.

Global fisheries subsidies are estimated at between \$14 billion and \$54 billion a year, according to the WTO. — AFP ■



Failure to regulate global fishing fleets is leading to unsustainable exploitation of the oceans. **PHOTO: AFP**

Amazon deforestation threatens jaguars, giant eagles

BOATING slowly upriver through the Pantanal, the world’s biggest tropical wetlands, Brazilian biologist Fernando Tortato scans the bank for signs of Ousado, a jaguar badly burned in devastating wild-

fires last year.

A thousand kilometres (600 miles) to the north, at the rapidly receding edge of the Amazon rainforest, conservationist Roberto Eduardo Stofel peers

through his binoculars, monitoring a baby harpy eagle sitting alone in a giant nest, its parents apparently out searching for increasingly hard-to-find food.

The sleek, majestic jaguar and spectacularly powerful harpy eagle are two of the most iconic species threatened by the accelerating destruction of the Amazon, whose breathtaking biodiversity risks collapsing as the world’s biggest rainforest approaches a “tipping point”.

Scientists say that is the point at which a vicious circle of deforestation, wildfires and climate change could damage the rainforest so badly it dies off and turns to savannah — with catastrophic consequences for its more than three million species of plants and animals. — AFP ■



Ousado, a wild jaguar, was badly burned in devastating wildfires in Brazil in 2020; the destruction of the Amazon is putting many species at risk. **PHOTO: AFP**

Toxic foam covers India’s sacred Yamuna river

ONE of India’s holiest rivers was coated with toxic foam on Monday, adding to the woes of New Delhi residents already enduring a blanket of thick smog over the capital.

The Yamuna is already one of the most polluted waterways in the country but parts of the river, which courses through the centre of Delhi, were coated in mounds of white foam resembling snowfall.

The city government blamed the blight on “heavy sewage and industrial waste” discharged into the river from further upstream last week.

It did not deter several Hindu worshippers from taking a dip in the river to mark Chhath Puja, a four-day festival to offer

prayers to the sun.

But the pollution did disrupt water supply to part of the city, according to local officials, who did not say how many households had been affected.

“I would like to thank the affected residents for their cooperation,” Raghav Chadha, vice-chair of the city’s water authority, said in a Sunday statement.

“Our team of officers and engineers are working day and night to ensure Delhi residents’ water woes stay at a minimum.”

Indian officials have long pledged to clean the Yamuna but without success, and the blooms of toxic foam have become an annual occurrence. — AFP ■

Tour groups no longer need COVID-19 booster shots to enter Israel



Tourists visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem on 1 November 2021.

PHOTO: AFP

FOREIGN tourists who were double vaccinated more than six months ago will now be allowed to enter Israel in approved groups of five to 40 people — even if they have not received a booster shot, the Health and Tourism minis-

tries announced Monday.

The new policy further expands the number of people eligible to visit the country, which has largely been blocked to foreign nationals for more than 18 months.

“We are not comfortable with the decision, but we understand there are individuals who want to come and visit Israel and cannot because they don’t have access to the boosters,” said Salmon, who is head of the Health Minis-

try’s Department of International Relations. “So, we are running kind of a barter, allowing people to come here but also putting some boundaries in place. People who are not fully vaccinated... are high risk.”

Since 1 November foreign nationals have been able to travel into the country if they meet Israel’s stringent criteria to be considered fully vaccinated or protected against the virus: inoculated twice within the previous six months, vaccinated with a booster, recovered with one shot or recovered within six months. Recovery certificates are also only accepted in an official electronic format.

However, under a new outline approved by the coronavirus cabinet in a telephone vote late Sunday night, members of tourists groups who were only jabbed twice will also be admitted with approval by the Tourism Ministry beginning on Tuesday.— ANI ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK to add Sinovac, Sinopharm, Covaxin to approved vaccine list

THE UK will add China’s Sinovac and Sinopharm and India’s Covaxin vaccines to the country’s approved list of COVID vaccines for inbound travel, the government announced Monday.

“From 4 am Monday 22 November, COVID-19 vaccines on the WHO EUL will be recognized and all under-18s coming to England will be treated as fully vaccinated at the border,” it said in a statement.

In the UK, passengers who have been fully vaccinated and have received their vaccine certificate from one of over 135 approved countries and territories are not required to take a pre-departure test, day 8 test or self-isolate upon arrival.—Xinhua ■

Anti-Semitism has increased during Covid pandemic: EU

Anti-Semitism has grown during the coronavirus pandemic, particularly online, a new EU report said on Tuesday, but gaps in data make it difficult to measure how bad the problem really is.

As well as old lies being revived, “new anti-Semitic myths and conspiracy theories that blame Jews for the pandemic have come to the fore”, said the report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).—AFP ■

Iran’s COVID-19 tally reaches nearly 6 million

THE Iranian health ministry reported on Monday 8,341 new COVID-19 cases, taking the country’s total infections to 5,996,155.

According to an official briefing published by the ministry, the pandemic has claimed 127,439 lives in the country so far, after 140 new deaths were registered in the past 24 hours.

A total of 5,615,460 people have recovered from the disease or been discharged from hospitals across the country, while 3,669 remain in intensive care units, the ministry said on its official website.—Xinhua ■

Global COVID-19 cases surpass 250 million

THE cumulative worldwide total of infections with the novel coronavirus exceeded 250 million on Monday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University of the United States.

The latest data comes as the pace of daily COVID-19 cases has started to pick up again since mid-October, with some European countries reporting surges in daily figures.

The World Health Organization has warned of potential outbreaks involving new variants of the coronavirus if the uptrend in infection cases continues.

Worldwide, the total number of COVID-19 infections topped 100 million in January and reached 200 million in August. Deaths from the disease surpassed 5 million on 1 November.

According to a WHO tally on 31 October, the number of confirmed coronavirus infections had increased by 3.02 million in a week, rising for the second week in a row. While many countries are reopening their economies in line with mass vaccination progress, the WHO has said it is important for people to wear masks in crowded environments



An employee wearing a protective suit disinfects a metro carriage in Kiev on 8 November 2021, amid the ongoing coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

and sanitize their hands to prevent outbreaks, rather than de-

pending solely on vaccines.—Kyodo News ■

Number of booster jabs administered in UK reaches 10 million

TEN million COVID-19 booster jabs have now been administered in the UK, latest figures show.

The milestone - hailed by the prime minister — was reached after 409,663 third shots were given out on Saturday, taking the total to 10,062,704.

Another 35,045 first doses and 23,952 second doses were also administered, meaning 50,234,416 people have had at least one jab and 45,836,791 have had two.

The third shots are currently available to those aged over 50 and those deemed most at risk from coronavirus.

The rollout began in September, and people in England have had to wait until six months after their second dose before they have been eligible to book.

But from Monday, they can make their appointment after five months, although they will still only be able to actually receive the booster after six months.—Xinhua ■



Walk-in sites in England are now offering booster jabs without having to book an appointment. PHOTO: AFP

Japan Oct. economy watchers sentiment jumps to nearly 8-yr high



Businesses have welcomed the government's decision to lift the COVID-19 state of emergency in Tokyo and across 18 prefectures.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

BUSINESS sentiment among workers with jobs sensitive to economic trends in Japan jumped in October to its highest level since January 2014 as the government lifted the state of emergency over the coronavirus, and eateries and retailers began recovering from the pandemic fallout, official data showed Tuesday. The diffusion index of confidence measuring the current mood compared with three months earlier among "economy watchers," such as taxi drivers and restaurant staff, climbed 13.4 points from September to 55.5, up

for the second straight month, according to the Cabinet Office.

The monthly improvement was the largest since June last year, a month after the country's first state of emergency was fully lifted, it said.

The office also upgraded its assessment of the economy for the second consecutive month, saying, "The economy is gradually picking up though concerns remain over the coronavirus pandemic." In the previous month, the office said the economy "has been rebounding." A reading above 50 indicates that more re-

spondents reported improving conditions than worsening ones. The office polled 2,050 workers from 25 to 31 October, of whom 1,811, or 88.3 per cent, responded.

New COVID-19 cases in Japan have significantly decreased recently, with the figure falling to triple digits, compared to a peak level of nearly 26,000 in August. Japan's coronavirus state of emergency was fully lifted on 30 September.

Requests for eateries to restrict their opening hours were mostly lifted across the country in late October.—AFP ■

Philippine economic growth beats forecasts in third quarter

THE Philippine economy grew more than expected in the third quarter, the government said Tuesday, as a rebound in consumer spending overcame pandemic lockdowns and other restrictions to rein in the fast-spreading Covid delta variant.

Gross domestic product expanded 7.1%, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, better than the 4.9% predicted in a Bloomberg survey and following a blockbuster 12% rate in the previous three months.

The second-quarter reading was the best performance in more than three decades and came as the country emerged from a deep recession that saw five quarters of contraction caused by the virus.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Chua said the third quarter growth validated the government's approach to fighting Covid with strict containment measures.

"Our strategy was correct. The results are clear," Chua said

in a virtual briefing. "This careful balancing between Covid-19 and non Covid-19 needs led to the continued expansion of most sectors." With GDP growth reaching 4.9% in the first nine months, Chua said the Philippines is likely to attain the higher end of the government's 4-5% target this year.

"The recovery is accelerating and it is very likely that we will hit or even exceed the high end of our growth target for 2021," he added.

Chua has previously said it



A lighting ceremony for a 18.29-metre-tall Christmas tree at the Mall of Asia in Manila. **PHOTO: AFP**

will take the Philippines more than a decade to return to its pre-pandemic growth path.

He said the "long-run total

cost of Covid and quarantine" will reach US\$810 billion, which would be felt over the next 10 to 40 years.—AFP ■

Crypto market value tops \$3 trillion for first time



The world cryptocurrency market is worth more than \$3 trillion for the first time, according to calculations Monday, as mainstream investors increasingly jump on board. A bitcoin ATM shop in Marseille, France.
PHOTO: AFP

THE world cryptocurrency market is worth more than \$3 trillion for the first time, according to calculations Monday, as mainstream investors increasingly jump on board.

The value has reached \$3.007 trillion (2.6 trillion euros),

said CoinGecko, which tracks prices of more than 10,000 cryptocurrencies.

"The crypto market is growing at a mind-blowing speed," noted SwissQuote analyst Ipek Ozkardeska.

"A part of it is speculation of

course, but a part of it is real," she told AFP.

"Crypto is now making its way to traditional finance and everyone is on board."

Bitcoin, the world's biggest cryptocurrency, hit a record-high \$66,000 last month after taking another step towards mainstream status.

It surged back above \$66,000 on Monday close to its all-time peak after a five percent jump.

Ethereum, the second biggest cryptocurrency by market value, hit a record high \$4,768 on Monday.

A bitcoin futures exchange-traded fund, a type of financial instrument, launched on the New York Stock Exchange in October.

The ETF is a more accessible vehicle that puts bitcoin within the grasp of even more investors.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

APEC region's economy to grow by 6 pct in 2021: report

THE economy of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region is expected to grow by 6 per cent in 2021 and will settle at 4.9 per cent in 2022 in anticipation of the unwinding of fiscal and monetary support measures, said a newly published report on economic trends in the Asia-Pacific.

According to the latest APEC Regional Trends Analysis (ARTA), the Asia-Pacific expanded by 8 per cent during the first half of 2021, following a 3.7 per cent contraction in the first half of 2020.

However, growth among member economies continues to diverge and uncertainties remain substantial.—Xinhua ■

New York's mayor-elect promotes city-themed cryptocurrency

NEW YORK Mayor-elect Eric Adams on Monday promoted a new cryptocurrency in the colours of his city to be launched Wednesday, following up on his promised commitment to digital currencies.

The former police officer said on the campaign trail back in June that under his leadership, New York would be a transformed city within a year, including becoming a "centre of bitcoins," the main cryptocurrency. Last Thursday, two days after his election, Adams announced he would receive his first three paychecks in bitcoin when he takes office in early January, and promised that New York would become "the centre of the cryptocurrency industry."—AFP ■

Nissan triples profit forecast despite chip crunch



The Japanese auto giant has faced a series of trials in recent years, from weak demand to the fallout from the arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn, and its annual earnings were last in the black in 2018-19. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

NISSAN tripled its full-year net profit forecast on Tuesday as it rebounded from the impact of the pandemic with a strong quarterly performance, saying it expected to withstand challenges including the

chip crunch and rising raw material prices.

The Japanese auto giant has faced a series of trials in recent years, from weak demand to the fallout from the arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn, and its

annual earnings were last in the black in 2018-19.

But despite lower-than-expected sales volume so far this fiscal year, mainly due to the microchip shortage, "the quality of sales in each market continued to improve, resulting in higher profit per unit," Nissan said.

The crisis-hit company now projects 180 billion yen (\$1.6 billion) in net profit for the year to March 2022, up from an earlier estimate of 60 billion yen.

But it revised down its full-year sales forecast to 8.8 trillion yen from 9.75 trillion yen.—AFP ■

US judge rules for United Airlines in employee vaccine dispute

A US judge ruled Monday in favour of United Airlines, which offered unpaid leave to employees who declined to receive a mandated Covid-19 vaccine on religious or medical grounds.

The decision came after a federal appeals court on Saturday suspended a vaccine mandate by President Joe Biden's administration that is intended to push millions of workers at businesses with more than 100 employees into getting Covid-19 shots.

United Airlines had announced on 6 August that its employees should be vaccinated or risk be-



A United Airlines plane sits at the gate at Denver International Airport on 30 July. **PHOTO: DANIEL SLIM/AFP**

ing terminated. "It is not for the Court to decide if United's vaccine mandate is bad policy," said Texas judge Mark Pittman in his decision released Monday. The court had been called to pronounce upon a very

specific point: the leave United Airlines offered to employees who took advantage of the medical or religious exemption could be for as long as necessary, but would be unpaid.—AFP ■

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO FILE INCOME TAX RETURN, ANNUAL SALARY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL COMMERCIAL TAX RETURN

- Income Year or the Year in which Sale proceed or Receipt is accrued:** Income year or the year in which sale proceed or receipt is accrued (reporting period), to file a return from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- Return Receiving Offices:** Current (old) taxpayers have to file the returns at relevant revenue offices where their taxation matters are administered. For the new taxpayers, foreign companies have to file at Medium Taxpayers' Office No.2 ; Myanmar companies located in Yangon Region at Medium Taxpayers' Office No.4; Myanmar companies located in Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Union Territory at Medium Taxpayers' Office No.5; Myanmar Companies located in other states/regions at relevant Township Revenue Offices; and individual taxpayers at relevant Township Revenue Offices, respectively.
- Methods of filing a return:** Returns can be filed by either of the following three methods -
 - Filing in person:** In the case of return filing in person, return is considered filed on the date it is stamped as received by the Department.
 - Filing by mail:** In the case of return filing by mail, return is considered filed on the date of the postmark.
 - Filing by electronic mail:** In the case of return filing by e-mail, return is considered filed on the date it is received electronically by the Department and if that date falls on a day on which the Department is not open to the public for business, the document is considered received on the next succeeding day on which the Department is open for business. Electronic Filing means submitting a tax return using the Electronic Filing Management System. The user guide video files on how to register for an electronic tax return and how to submit an electronic tax return can be found on the Internal Revenue Department's Website at www.ird.gov.mm > Media Menu (<https://www.ird.gov.mm/my/content/> video).
(Note: Taxpayers of Large Taxpayers' Office and Medium Taxpayers' Offices in Yangon are required to file the tax return electronically.)
- Completing the Return:** The following are required -
 - Taxpayer must use respective tax return forms of the Internal Revenue Department.
 - Taxpayer is required to complete the return properly and he/she has to attest to the accuracy and completeness of the return.
 - The Return must be signed by taxpayer. If a tax return or part of a tax return was prepared for reward by some other person, that paid preparer must also sign the return.
- Due Date:** January 3, 2022 (Monday)
(Note: According to the relevant laws, the due date for return filing is December 31, 2021, and the days from December 31, 2021 to January 2, 2022 fall on the days on which the Department is not open to the public for business, as per Section 19, Sub-section (a) of Tax Administration Law, the Due Date has to be moved to the next succeeding day on which the Department is open for business that is January 3, 2022.)
- Penalties:** A person who fails to file a tax return on time is liable to a penalty equal to the greater of -
 - Five percent of the amount of tax owing, plus further one percent of the amount of tax for each month or part of a month during which the failure continues, but not beyond the time when the Director General issues an assessment; and
 - K 100,000
- Rights of Taxpayer:** Taxpayer can apply the time limit prescribed for filing a tax return at relevant revenue offices if the taxpayer required to file applies for the extension of the time limit.
- Enquiries:** Enquiries may be made at the relevant revenue offices and please contact the following Taxpayer Service Units for further questions -
 - Centralised Taxpayer Service Unit
No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township
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Ph: 067-3430522, 067-3430533
 - Taxpayer Service Unit (Yangon)
No. 59/61, 1st Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township
Ph: 01-378370, 01-378372
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1060W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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US high court weighs FBI surveillance of mosque

THE US Supreme Court heard arguments on Monday in a case involving national security and the claims of three Muslim men in California who say they were illegally surveilled at their mosque by the FBI.

The three men — Yassir Fazaga, imam of the Orange County Islamic Foundation, Ali Uddin Malik and Yasser Abdelrahim — filed a lawsuit arguing that the surveillance conducted after the 11 September 2001 attacks was based solely on their religion.

The Justice Department maintains it carried out the surveillance programme for objective reasons — not because those being watched were Muslims.

But it has invoked state secrets privilege in refusing to say what the alleged reasons were and urged the courts to reject the case.

A district court in California dismissed the plaintiffs' claim, accepting the FBI argument that state secrets risked being



The US Supreme Court is seen in Washington, D.C., on 24 June 2019. PHOTO: AFP

revealed. But the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, saying the lower court should have held closed-door hearings to evaluate any secret evidence.

The FBI appealed that decision, and the US high court agreed to hear the case.

It will decide whether a district court can consider classified evidence in determining whether secret government surveillance is lawful.

According to the plaintiffs, the FBI sent a confidential informant with a prior criminal history to several mosques in Orange County in 2006 and 2007, ordering the man to pose as a convert and gather information.

The ACLU, the civil rights group representing the plaintiffs, said the informant secretly recorded prayer groups and made videos in mosques, homes and businesses.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq's electoral commission confirms manual recount matches electronic results

THE Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) on Monday announced that it has ended consideration of appeals and complaints submitted by the political parties after the 10 October early elections.

An IHEC statement said the commission received a total of 1,436 appeals from the country's provinces, and it took necessary measures to consider the appeals and checked all the ballot papers in the contested polling stations.

The statement confirmed that the manual recount matched the electronic results, except for a very few invalid ballot papers, which appeared after the audit that they were valid.—Xinhua ■

Ukrainian indicted in US for Kaseya ransomware attack

A 22-year-old Ukrainian arrested in Poland has been indicted in the United States as part of a global operation against ransomware attacks, including the high-profile July hack of IT software company Kaseya, officials said Monday. Yaroslav Vasinskyi, who was detained in Poland on 8 October was the most prominent of several people whose arrests were announced on Monday by US and European authorities. The arrests were linked to the Russian-based hacker group REvil, also known as Sodinokibi, and the ransomware group GandCrab.

Interpol said the four-year operation dubbed "Quicksand" or "Gold-Dust" was carried out by 19 law enforcement agencies in 17 countries.

It said those arrested "are suspected of perpetrating tens of thousands of ransomware infections and demanding more than 200 million Euros (\$230,000) in ransom."—AFP ■

Poland blocks migrants at Belarus border, warns of 'armed' escalation



Western powers have accused Belarus of using the migrants as political pawns. PHOTO: BELTA/AFP

POLAND said it blocked a bid by hundreds of migrants to illegally enter the country from Belarus on Monday, warning of an "armed" escalation as thousands more massed near the border.

As the latest grim chapter of Europe's migrant crisis unfolded, Washington and Brussels called on Minsk to stop what they described as an

orchestrated influx.

NATO on Monday also hit out at Minsk, accusing the government there of using the migrants as political pawns, while the European Union called for fresh sanctions against Belarus.

Brussels says Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has encouraged the migrant flow in retaliation for existing

EU sanctions imposed over its dismal human rights record.

Poland, a member of both the European Union and NATO, has drawn sharp criticism for its tough rhetoric on migration in recent years.

"Interior ministry forces and soldiers managed to stop the first mass attempt to breach the border," Poland's defence ministry tweeted.

"Migrants have set up a camp in the Kuznica region. They are constantly guarded by Belarusian services."

Polish border guards posted video footage on Twitter showing migrants using wire cutters to breach a razor-wire border fence.

Many of the migrants seeking entry into Poland are desperately fleeing war and poverty-wracked countries in the Middle East.

They say they are stuck between a rock and a hard place, with the Belarusian side refusing to allow them to return to Minsk and fly home, while Poland does not let them cross and make asylum claims.—AFP ■

Drowned US adventurer's boat washes up on Pacific atoll

THE boat used by the late US Paralympian and ocean rower Angela Madsen has been found washed up on a remote Marshall Islands atoll 16 months after she drowned trying to cross the Pacific in it.

Madsen's body was found floating in the ocean in June last year, 59 days after she set off on a quest to become the first paraplegic to row solo from California to Hawaii.

But the 60-year-old's specially designed boat "Rowoflife"

was never recovered and spent more than a year drifting the ocean currents. Marshall Islander Benjamin Chutaro said it washed up in late October on the shore of Mili Island, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of the capital Majuro. Chutaro supplied AFP with pictures of a vessel with Madsen's name and "Rowoflife" prominently emblazoned on the side, as well as the distinctive jaws illustration the adventurer's boat had on its bow.—AFP ■



The late US Paralympian and ocean rower Angela Madsen's boat has washed up on a Marshall Islands atoll, locals say. PHOTO: BENJAMIN CHUTARO/AFP

France's right-wing Republicans target Macron in first election debate

FRENCH right-wing presidential candidates vying to clinch the nomination for the Republicans party took aim at President Emmanuel Macron on Monday in the first of several televised debates they hope will energise their flagging campaigns.

More than 100,000 card-carrying members of the party, which traces its roots back to post-war leader Charles de Gaulle, will choose their nominee at a congress on 4 December.

Five candidates took part in

three hours of debate on Monday night that saw broad consensus on traditional right-wing themes such as immigration, delinquency and radical Islam — as well as the perceived inadequacies of Macron.

Former EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier called security “the main failure of this presidential term”, while regional leader Valerie Pécresse accused the 43-year-old head of state of “burning up our cash” with his management of the Covid-19 crisis.

Xavier Bertrand, seen by the Republicans rank-and-file as the most credible candidate before the debate, blamed Macron for the emergence of far-right pundit Eric Zemmour whose radical rhetoric has shaken up the presidential race.

“French people want to turn the page on Macron because he’s failed. I’m convinced I’m the one who can beat him. It’s not the extremes that can beat him,” Bertrand concluded.

Polls currently suggest that none of the Republicans (LR)



Les Republicains candidates for the 2022 presidential election Michel Barnier, Valerie Pécresse, Philippe Juvin, Eric Ciotti and Xavier Bertrand (from left) took part in their first televised debate Monday, hosted by news channel LCI. PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY /AFP

candidates will make it past the first round of the two-stage election in what would mark another crushing setback for a

party which counts de Gaulle, Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy as past presidents. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ortega under fire for Nicaragua election ‘farce’

Nicaragua's longtime leader Daniel Ortega faced a torrent of international criticism Monday after he won a fourth straight presidential term in what critics described as a “farce” election with his political opponents jailed or exiled.

With Ortega's victory in Sunday's poll a foregone conclusion, the United States and Europe led fierce condemnation of the 75-year-old former guerrilla whom they accused of dictatorial tactics and of crushing dissent. A partial official count from the Supreme Electoral Council showed Ortega and wife Rosario Murillo, his vice president, securing 75 per cent of votes. Nicaragua is now fully “an autocratic regime” after the deeply deficient elections handed Ortega his fifth overall presidential term, the European Union said.—AFP ■

Ethiopia's Oromo rebel leader predicts victory ‘very soon’

A rebel leader fighting Ethiopia's government has said his troops are near the capital and preparing another attack, predicting the war will end “very soon” as diplomats rush to negotiate a ceasefire.

Jaal Marroo, commander of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), warned Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed that pro-government fighters were defecting and the rebels were very close to victory. “What I am sure (of) is that it is going to end very soon,” Jaal, whose real name is Kumsa Diriba, told AFP in a phone interview on Sunday.—AFP ■

US govt to streamline immigration rules for recent Afghan arrivals

THE US government will streamline immigration procedures for recent Afghan arrivals to speed up their resettlement in the United States, the Department of Homeland Security said Monday.

Some 70,000 Afghans have landed in the United States as part of “Operation Allies Welcome”, launched amid the August evacuation of tens of thousands of people from Afghanistan, as the country fell to the Islamist Taliban following the withdrawal of US troops from the country. Afghans who arrived in the United States on or after 30 July this year will be able to take advantage of simplified procedures to get a prized “green card”, or permanent resident status, as well as various work permits, the DHS said in a statement. They will also not have to



A volunteer helps Afghan refugees to board a bus after arriving on a flight at Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, Virginia on 23 August 2021. PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP

pay filing fees, which can run up to thousands of dollars.

“By providing these evacuees with access to streamlined processing and fee exemptions, we will open doors of opportunity

for our Afghan allies and help them begin to rebuild their lives in communities across our country more quickly,” said DHS chief Alejandro Mayorkas, according to the statement. —AFP ■

Family joy as US reopens its border with Mexico



Isabel Gonzalez was first in line to get across the US border from Tijuana when the frontier reopened overnight Sunday-Monday. PHOTO: AFP

MEXICAN Isabel Gonzalez waited 20 months to embrace her children in the United States, separated by just a few miles and a pandemic-sparked border closure.

“Thank God, we are here now. I am very happy,” said Gonzalez, 63, as she walked across from Tijuana to the Californian border town of San Ysidro around midnight (0800 GMT) on Monday, when the US finally eased open its frontiers. Before the pandemic hit, Gonzalez had been visiting her four children and multiple grandchildren in

San Diego, about 25 minutes from the border, every month.

But when Washington announced it was shuttering to all but citizens, legal residents and essential workers, the family was split apart.

“Well, can you imagine, it was very sad. It was the first time I had spent so much time away from them. “But now we are here to eat pizza and McDonalds. Now let them take me to Disney,” she laughed.

The border closures were imposed in early 2020 by then-president Donald Trump,

as the new coronavirus spread around the world.

The ban initially applied only to entry from China, the source of the outbreak, but was soon widened to include the European Union, Britain, India and Brazil, and subsequently to overland visitors from Mexico and Canada.

It became emblematic of the upheavals caused by the pandemic: families missed weddings and funerals, individuals were unable to take up new jobs, and the tourism and travel industries were strangled.—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.

Myanmar Women's Team to play int'l friendly matches before Asian Cup

THE Myanmar women's team will play international friendly matches before the 2022 AFC Women's Cup, to be held earlier next year.

The Myanmar women's team will start training for the finals of the AFC Women's Cup in the coming days and will be made up of 25 preliminary players.

The squad will spend more than two months preparing for the tournament, which will be followed by international qualifiers.

Team Myanmar is facing big

teams in the Asian Cup and is trying to get a chance to reach the quarter-finals.

Myanmar is combined in Group C together with Japan, South Korea and Viet Nam.

The tournament will be held in India from 20 January to 6 February 2022. The Myanmar women's team will play against Japan on 21 January, the South Korean team on 24 January, and Viet Nam on 27 January.

Host India is placed in Group A with China, China Taipei and

Iran while three ASEAN teams: Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia are in Group B with the powerhouse Australia.

A total of eight teams, including the top two teams from each group and the best two teams from third place, will advance to the quarter-finals. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM ■

Myanmar Women's Team players are seen during an international football match. **PHOTO: AFC**



Man. Utd, Chelsea among clubs in safe-standing trial

MANCHESTER United and Chelsea are among five football clubs taking part in a safe-standing trial from 1 January, more than 25 years after standing was banned in Britain, the sports minister announced on Monday.

The other teams whose applications to operate licensed safe-standing areas have been approved are Premier League champions Manchester City, Tottenham and Championship side Cardiff.

Standing areas in the English top-flight and second-tier Championship were outlawed by legislation passed following the 1989 Hillsborough disaster, which led to the deaths of 97 Liverpool fans.

"I'm pleased to approve these five clubs as early adopters of licensed safe standing areas for the second half of the season," said the minister, Nigel



Manchester United and Chelsea are among five football clubs taking part in a safe-standing trial from 1 January, more than 25 years after standing was banned in Britain, the sports minister announced on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Huddleston.

"The time is now right to properly trial safe standing in the Premier League and EFL (English Football League) Championship ahead of a decision on a widespread roll-out.

"Safety is absolutely paramount and the SGSA (Sports

Grounds Safety Authority) is working hand-in-glove with the clubs on this." The pilot will be independently monitored and its findings provided to the British government for it to make a decision on a possible wider roll-out of safe standing for next season. —AFP ■

Wheelchair tennis golden great Alcott to retire at Aussie Open

WHEELCHAIR great Dylan Alcott on Tuesday announced he would retire at the Australian Open in January, fresh off becoming the first man to win a tennis "Golden Slam".

The 30-year-old Australian, the most successful quad tennis player in history, with 15 Grand Slam singles and eight doubles titles, said he would compete for the last time at Melbourne Park in the opening Grand Slam of 2022. At the US Open in Sep-

tember Alcott made history as he completed the Golden Slam of winning all four quad singles majors and Paralympics gold in the same year.

"This is my home and the Australian Open changed my life, tennis changed my life," he told reporters in Melbourne.

"Without tennis I wouldn't be sitting here in front of you talking to you today, potentially sitting here at all, if I'm honest. I owe it everything. —AFP ■



Dylan Alcott celebrates winning gold at Tokyo Paralympics in September. **PHOTO: AFP**