CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION KEY TO AVOIDING MAJOR ECONOMIC LOSS

NATIONAL

Senior General holds meeting with Union Ministers, officials from Union-level organizations

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Announcement
7th Waning of Pyatho 1382 ME
(3 February 2021)

1. It is learnt that rumours circulated that K5,000 and K10,000 banknotes issued by the state will be demonetized.
2. Regarding the matter, the Central Bank of Myanmar has already issued an announcement (dated 3-2-2021) saying the Central Bank of Myanmar has been working hard to stabilize the financial system. All the banks have been providing proper services in accordance with the rules and regulations, so the general public can continue using the banknotes and banking services without any worries, and all the banks have been instructed to provide regular banking services. So, the rumours are baseless.
3. Section 36 (e) of the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar says “the Union shall not demonetize the currency legally in circulation”. So, we would like to inform the general public that they can continue using K5,000 and K10,000 banknotes without any worries and without trusting the rumours.

State Administration Council

Senior General holds meeting with members of UMFCCI, its associates

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the UMFCCI members and associates at the President House in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 February 2021. PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing chaired the meeting of State Administration Council with the members of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its associates yesterday.

In his opening remark at the meeting, the Senior General, in his capacity as Chairman of the State Administration Council, explained the reason of meeting with the businesspersons from the sectors of agriculture, livestock, construction, commerce and manufacturing as the Tatmadaw has taken on duties of the country due to the existing situations in the country and to bring the country into the path of democracy.

He also said that his administration had not restricted any ongoing projects during the State of Emergency, while the total number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in the world has reached over 104 million, and Myanmar has recorded over 140,000 cases of infection and over 3,000 death tolls.

The Senior General also talked about containment measures against the pandemic and public awareness programme.

He also reaffirmed that the Tatmadaw will never deviate from the democratic way, will not suspend ongoing projects, will continue working on international projects, will maintain international code of ethics, will adhere to the existing State policies, will apply the election laws on those who were responsible for the errors in voter list in the recent elections.

SEE PAGE-2
MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 140,927 after 263 new cases were reported on 3 February 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 140,927 confirmed cases, 3,160 died, 126,384 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

**CBM issues announcement on public rumours about monetary issue**

THE Central Bank of Myanmar released an announcement to wipe out rumours among the public about the monetary issue and possible closure of banks.

The announcement said that, “There were rumours that K5,000 and K10,000 banknotes would be demonetized and banks would close because of the current situations in the country. Some people were worried because of the rumours and were reportedly withdrawing their money from the banks.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has been working hard to stabilize the financial system, and the banks have been providing proper services in accordance with the rules and regulations. The general public can continue using the banknotes and banking services without any worries, and all the banks have been instructed to provide regular banking services.”—MNA

(Translated by MMS)

**263 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 February, total figure rises to 140,927**

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 140,927 after 263 new cases were reported on 3 February 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 140,927 confirmed cases, 3,160 died, 126,384 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

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**FROM PAGE-1**

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The Senior General continued to say that as per the State Constitution, the Tatmadaw will hand over the power to the government resulted from the next elections, which will be organized by the new election commission.

He also discussed the re- sumption of businesses that can directly benefit the grassroots to overcome their socio-economic difficulties, taking effec-
Senior General holds meeting with Union Ministers, officials from Union-level organizations

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, in his capacity as Chairman of the State Administration Council, held a meeting with the Union Ministers and officials from the Union-level organizations at the President House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council, the council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dway and Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo; Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Ye, Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay, Union Attorney-General Dr Daw Thida Oo, Union Auditor-General Dr Kan Zaw, Union Civil Services Board Chairman U Than Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing and Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyein.

In his opening speech, the Chairman of the State Administration Council explained the assignment of duties to the Union Ministers and the Union-level organizations, the reasons for announcement on the State of Emergency on 1 February after the failed request of the Tatmadaw to solve possible voter list fraud in the previous elections despite the expectation of Tatmadaw for correct voter lists in accordance with the law; appointment of Union Ministers for further implementation of works during the state of emergency.

The Senior General continued to say that the appointment of officials to the Union-level organizations was made on the basis of their experiences and qualifications as they are believed to perform their duties righteously.

He also said to carry out their works during the one-year period under the state of emergency.

The Senior General also reaffirmed that the Tatmadaw would not change policies of the country in foreign affairs, administration and economic sectors, as well as the ongoing political roadmap, during this period.

He also asked to do the works to remove worries and anxiety of public, continue development and infrastructural projects, address complaints in public-private projects before showing green lights for resumption, and continue other development sectors that have no complaints.

The Senior General also discussed employment opportunities for the income of people, COVID-19 containment measures, and ensuring correct figures through the standard auditing process.

After the discussions of the Union Ministers and officials from the Union-level organizations, the Senior General delivered a closing remark, saying to continue the works of ministries for the recovery of economy impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the announcement of Central Bank of Myanmar on the rumour about demonetizing K5,000 and K10,000 banknotes and further works with the ASEAN member countries.—MNA

MoI Union Minister inspects works of MRTV

UNION Minister for Information U Chit Naing visited the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) in Tatkon Township yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister inspected operations of Convergence News Room, MCR, broadcasting rooms of Ethnic Nationalities TV Channel, Farmers TV Channel, news production studio, Central Equipment Room (CEC), MRTV Webportal, Earth Station, Radio Recording Room, and Radio Master Control Room. Director General of MRTV U Ye Naing and other officials explained the operations of the MRTV. The Union Minister told the MRTV officials to work hard to broadcast news accurately with any errors.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the meeting with Union Ministers and officials from the Union-level organizations at the President House in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 February 2021.

PHOTO : COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Union Minister U Chit Naing inspects the MRTV works in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO : MNA

(Translated by MMS)
MoLIP discusses future work plans

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held a Zoom meeting on the future work plans in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister U Myint Kyai, Permanent Secretary U Aye Lwin, Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General of the relevant departments attended the Zoom meeting in accordance with the COVID-19 health guidelines.

The Minister said to implement the objectives of the ministry with the guidelines of the current government. He said the ministry has drawn up plans for activities that will bring immediate benefits to the people in addition to regular activities.

He also appreciated that the relevant department officials could issue a certain type of card before the last election amid the COVID-19 crisis.

He stressed to carry out systematic and careful immigration procedures at all the immigration checkpoints at international airports, ports and border crossings which have been shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic; border crossings will only be allowed with the special permission from higher-ranking departments; special permission will be needed for the entry of foreigners into the country, instead of 14 types of visas in the past.

The repatriation programme for displaced persons from Rakhine State will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the tripartite MoU signed between the ministry, UNDP and UNHCR, along with the relevant departments in accordance with the directives of the Union Government.

Regarding the issuance of citizenship cards, he said with the guidance of the Head of the State, to the staff of the ministry to effectively carry out an operation for all the citizens living in the country and ethnic nationalities as per 1982 Citizenship Law of Myanmar to get the right to hold a certain type of appropriate card that should be held depending on their citizenship. He also added the issuance of NV card to those living in Myanmar without permission, and to take action to them in accordance with the law.

He continued to pay attention to the accuracy of the census and the timely submission of the lists in carrying out the census; the need to take the work seriously by following the instructions of the higher departments as all the activities of the department are related to national security.

The attendees discussed the works of relevant states and regions, the requirement of the work plan and further activities.

MoHS discusses COVID-19 containment activities, vaccination programmes

THE Ministry of Health and Sports organized virtual coordination meeting to discuss COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, vaccination programmes and further work plans yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win discussed the need to continue the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities including vaccination programmes, and the cooperation of healthcare workers and the public in the first wave of COVID-19 while the country currently sees decline in COVID-19 cases amid, the second wave.

The people still need to be careful, although the numbers of cases decline. The preventive measures, Mask and Face Shield Campaign and Yellow Campaign, including health checks, will also be conducted to raise the public health awareness than before.

The Union Minister also appreciated the efforts of healthcare staff in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, other healthcare services and COVID-19 vaccination programmes.

The Union Minister emphasized the vaccination processes to continue as planned, support in a timely manner; efficient use of budgets, systematic management of relevant departments and responsibilities for the important public health issue.

The meeting was also attended by the Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General of the Ministry of Health and Sports, department heads of regions/states Public Health and Medical Services Department, Superintendents of Central Stage Hospitals, Directors and other officials.

Myanmar nationals brought back home by relief flight

THE relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur landed at Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 173 Myanmar nationals including 42 Myanmar citizens who were convicted in Malaysia for various reasons after they were stranded in Malaysia due to the suspension of international flights yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Health and Sports arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is working closely with the relevant organizations in Malaysia to bring back Myanmar citizens who have no national verification and who were in detention centres, after their citizenship has been identified in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Myanmar has organized 46th relief flights for repatriation of nationals from Malaysia—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No. (13/2021)
7th Waning of Pyatho 1382 ME
3 February 2021

Duty Termination

The following Deputy Mayor and Committee members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee are terminated from their duties.

1. U Ye Min Oo
   Deputy Mayor
2. U Aye Myint
   Committee member (1)
3. U Min Thu
   Committee member (2)
4. Daw Sahai Htwe
   Committee member (3)
5. U Min Thein
   Committee member (4)
6. U San Naing
   Committee member (5)
7. U Kyaw Zin Latt
   Committee member (6)

By order
Sd/ Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No. (14/2021)
7th Waning of Pyatho 1382 ME
3 February 2021

The following persons are appointed as the additional members of State Administration Council in accordance with Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. Daw Aye Nu Sein
   Member
2. Jeng Phang Naw Taung
   Member
3. U Moun Har
   Member
4. U Sai Lone Saing
   Member
5. Saw Daniel
   Member

By order
Sd/ Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No. (15/2021)
7th Waning of Pyatho 1382 ME
3 February 2021

Appointment and Assignment of Union Ministers

The following persons are appointed and assigned by the State Administration Council to the duties of the Union Ministers shown against each of their ministries in accordance with Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. U Tin Htut Oo
   Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
2. Admiral Tin Aung San
   Ministry of Transport and Communications
3. Dr Pwint San
   Ministry of Commerce
4. U Saw Tun Aung Myint
   Ministry of Ethnic Affairs

By order
Sd/ Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No. (16/2021)
7th Waning of Pyatho 1382 ME
3 February 2021

The Chairmen of sub-national administration councils are assigned the authority and duties of Regions/States Chief Ministers stated in the Constitution by the State Administration Council in accordance with Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The sub-national administration councils are organized as follows.

1. Administration Council Chairman
   Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development
2. 1 Tarmudaw officer
   Ministry of Transport and Communications
3. 1 (or) 2 local representatives
   Ministry of Commerce
4. Head of Region (or) State Immigration
   Ministry of Ethnic Affairs
5. Region (or) State Policeman
   Ministry of Home Affairs
6. Region (or) State Administrator

By order
Sd/ Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Migratory birds winter in Meiktila

FLOCKS of migratory birds such as Golden-swan, Teal, Eurasian coot, Moorhen, Mae Nyo, and Eurasian curlew have come to the villages and lakes in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, to spend the winter starting from late January. “Although it is not seen the intentional capturing and killing of wintering birds, they are being captured with nets in the northern part of Kalama Kyun village,” said Ko Myo Win Aung, an amateur bird watcher in Pauk Chaung ward, who added that he only saw a sign forbidding the killing of the birds wintering near Lake Meiktila. He said it is necessary to educate people not to catch migratory birds and conduct field inspections.

Among the migratory birds that winter near the Lake Meiktila every year, the rare species such as black-winged stilts also include and these wintering birds usually come to the site from early November to late February—Chan Thar (Meiktila) /Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung
Mandalay, Yankin hills can attract tourists: residents in Mandalay

RESIDENTS in Mandalay said that Mandalay Hill and Yankin Hill could attract international tourists. It is said that these mountains are full of exciting things to watch and enjoy. There are spectacular pagodas and unique natural stone statues on each hill.

Mandalay Hill, known for its abundance of pagodas and monasteries, is located to the northeast of the city centre of Mandalay.

The most impressive natural stone statue on the Mandalay Hill is a large stone elephant statue near Bo Daw Cave.

The nine caves at Yankin Hill are fascinating. They are natural and unique, according to visitors. There is a unique natural stone statue called Amay Yak-kha Ponetaw, which is located in the middle of the eastern slope of the Yankin Hill.

Residents have recommended that every visitor to Mandalay should visit the two hills. Yankin Hill and Mandalay Hill are described by tourists as the most interesting hills with natural stone statues in Mandalay.—Nway Nadi (Myitnge)
Black bean price on downward trend in domestic market

By Nyein Nyein

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung commodity depot), the black bean price plunged in the domestic market. “The black bean price is keeping its downward trend because India, the primary buyer of Myanmar pulses, controls its bean purchasing volume with their quota system. India’s purchasing volume with beans and sesame seeds merchants association (MPBSSMA).”

On 1 October, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India issued a notification to purchase 150,000 tonnes of black beans instead, and the import deadline is March 2021. The licence will be equally granted for India’s companies. Although the black bean’s price hit a high of K1,152,500 per tonne at the end of October 2020 because there was a demand from India, the price fell to about K923,000 per tonne on 3 February. Besides, Myanmar has already exported nearly 100,000 tonnes of black beans that the local farmers grow the black-eyed beans more. That’s no guarantee that we could get the prevailing market price under a quota system and limit black beans and pigeon peas yearly and exported them annually, and the bean is mainly exported to India. Similarly, about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas are produced yearly and exported them.

Myanmar has also produced about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas yearly and exported them chiefly to India. Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black beans and pigeon peas. Myanmar has to export black beans and pigeon peas under a quota system and limit period. Consequently, according to market observers, there is no guarantee that we can get the prevailing market price next year.

Following no assurance of black beans and pigeon peas in the markets, the association suggested on the end-October that the local farmers grow the black-eyed beans more.

Translated by Ei Myat Mon

China asks Myanmar to check high level of cadmium on fish products

By Nyein Nyein

THE Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine of the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) informed Myanmar embassy in Beijing to recheck Myanmar’s fish products exported to China as they contain the high level of cadmium.

High level of cadmium is spotted in Chinese urine shrimps which two Myanmar companies export. For exports, the food safety management system is required to check and control food safety hazards at fishery products. The legally registered two companies sent Chinese urine shrimps to China. However, the concentration of heavy metal exceeded 0.5 mg/kg criteria set by China. As a result of this, China notified Myanmar that they would recheck and strictly conduct food safety inspection at the ports. They called for a review on supply chain including catching, packing and exports concerning the inferior quality shrimps, and better food safety management plans on fishery products including Chinese urine shrimps.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidelines to ensure food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020. The permitted companies are advised to carry out food safety plans, follow the WHO and FAO guidelines, formulate the safety management system, and suspend the exports if any suspicious foodborne virus or virus infection risk are found in the products. They can resume the exports once the products meet food safety criteria set by the GACC.

China is the second-largest buyer of Myanmar’s fishery products, accounting for US$254 million out of overall fishery export value of US$850 million in the financial year 2019-2020. The federation expects to reach fishery export target of US$1 billion in the current FY 2020-2021. Nevertheless, the fishery exports touched a low of $297 million between 1 October 2020 and 22 January 2021, which plunged from $319.6 million registered a year ago period. The figures reflected a decrease of $22.63 million over the Q1 of the current FY compared with the last FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed.

Myanmar’s fishery products are shipped to 45 foreign countries, and Thailand is the leading buyer.

Translated by Ei Myat Mon
Climate change adaptation key to avoiding major economic loss

UN Environment Programme Adaptation Gap report has called on governments across the world to significantly upscale climate-adaptation measures to be able to avoid the economic damage from global warming.

Such a commitment would include investing in nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change, such as practices like regrowing trees on degraded land, sequestering more carbon in soil through agricultural practices and protecting forests through changing logging practices.

30% of nations have adopted some form of climate adaptation. But major gaps remain in financing for demonstration projects, which are most vulnerable to rising temperatures, as well as projects that would naturally reduce climate risk, the report said.

The report also called for governments prioritize climate projects in developing countries, which would include investing in green technologies and ecosystems, and restoring fisheries.

The report stressed every country should update their targets under the Paris accord to include new net-zero commitments, projects are on the rise,

Nearly 75% of nations have adopted some form of climate adaptation. But major gaps remain in financing for demonstration projects, which are most vulnerable to rising temperatures, as well as projects that would naturally reduce climate risk, the report said.

The UN estimated that yearly climate adaptation costs would reach between $440 billion and $580 billion by the 2050s, which is double today's $280 billion and $500 billion by 2050, and concluded that global action is lagging far behind.

While climate adaptation projects are on the rise, the ongoing surge in global carbon emissions is putting those projects in jeopardy. According to the UN, the global carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere is now 415 parts per million, which is higher than at any time in the last 2 million years.

... the ongoing surge in global carbon emissions is putting those projects in jeopardy. According to the UN, the global carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere is now 415 parts per million, which is higher than at any time in the last 2 million years.

Moving forward

Israel data shows Pfizer jab stops effects on infections in 70% of vaccinated people

A healthcare worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine to an Israeli woman at the Gaza Health Services, in the coastal city of Tiv Aviv, Jan. 3, 2021. Photo: AFP

Forecast valid until noon on the 4th February, 2021.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Assigned at 7:00 Wednesday 2nd February, 2021)

BAY INFLUENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Bay, a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON ON THE 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagon, Tamu-Baui Regions and Rakhine, Eastern Shan, Kayin, Monk States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4.7-4.9) feet and off along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in N Pyi Taw, Mawlamyine, Bago, Yangon, Ayeypawgyi Regions and Shan, Bahan, Kayah States.

BAY FORECAST FOR PHALANZAR AREA FOR 4 February 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 February 2021: Fair weather.
THAILAND mangoes are entering Pakokku market in bulk

THAILAND mangoes are entering Pakokku market in bulk in Pakokku Town, Magway Region, said U Tin Ko, the owner of Mya Nilar sour mango depot.

“Thai mangoes are entering the market the whole year. Now, they are abundantly entering the market. The Thai mango price has slightly dropped after Myanmar mango tree has blossomed. One bag of mango containing six visses costs K12,000. However, one mango bag fetched K3,000 in summer. The mango is julienned, and it is sold back at K2,100 per viss. The mango juliennes need to be mixed only with salt,” Daw Kay Tha explained. During the new harvested mango season, the mangoes are selling at a high price. After an amply harvested time, the mango price fetched only K2,000 or K2,500 per basket. The mangoes are stored as sour mangoes in pick up season. Then, they are sold back when green mangoes are rare. Now, the sour mangoes are sold for K1,400 per viss.

The taste of Thailand mangoes is not as good as the local mangoes. But, it yields the whole year and is sold in the market, according to a sour mango maker:

— Ko Htein (KPD)
China to offer 10 mn vaccine doses to Covax

CHINA plans to provide 16 million doses of Covid-19 jabs to the WHO-backed international vaccine distribution programme Covax, Beijing said Wednesday as it seeks to reframe perceptions of its role in the pandemic.

The Covax programme, which aims to provide two billion doses of vaccine, pools funding from richer countries with the intention of ensuring poorer nations can inoculate their health workers and most vulnerable citizens, on the basis that the pandemic would remain a global threat if it was not tackled worldwide.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said Wednesday that China “decided to provide 10 million vaccine doses to Covax, primarily to meet the urgent needs of developing countries”.

The foreign ministry said last month that three Chinese vaccine makers, Sinopharm, SinoVac and CanSino, had formally applied for inclusion in the Covax stockpile.

Wang did not say on Wednesday if the applications had been approved.

Covid-19 first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, and the country has faced criticism over its early handling of the outbreak.

Beijing has signed agreements to supply millions of doses in what analysts have called “vaccine diplomacy” to earn goodwill among poorer countries.

Meanwhile the country has ramped up a domestic vaccine campaign ahead of the Lunar New Year travel rush.

But take-up has been slower abroad for Chinese vaccines compared to jabs from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, as little information has been published about the safety or efficacy of Chinese vaccines.

Chinese vaccine makers also have chequered reputations, after major scandals at home involving expired or poor quality products.

PRODUCTION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Kremlin to boost Sputnik V vaccine production abroad

A nurse administers the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine at a clinic in Moscow on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA is working to increase production of its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in foreign countries, the Kremlin said Wednesday, as many European nations struggle to roll out their jabs.

“In the very near future there are plans to establish production in foreign countries, which will satisfy the demand from more and more countries,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The comments come a day after the Lancet medical journal published results showing Sputnik V – named after the Soviet-era satellite – to be safe and 91.6 per cent effective, allaying concerns over transparency.

Russia registered the vaccine in August months ahead of Western competitors but before large-scale clinical trials, leaving many experts wary.

Its developers later said the vaccine is over 90 per cent effective and Russia began inoculating its citizens with the jab in December. Sputnik V has been approved in more than 15 countries, including several ex-Soviet republics but also Argentina, Tunisia and Pakistan.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which helped finance Sputnik V, has said that more than 2 million people have been inoculated with the jab around the world.

NEW STUDY FINDS

Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine cuts virus transmission

THE Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine significantly reduces virus transmission and is highly protective after a single dose, according to an Oxford University study, which the British government said Wednesday vindicated its inoculation strategy.

“It does show the world that the Oxford jab works, it works well,” Health Secretary Matt Hancock told BBC radio, hailing the study’s findings as “good news”.

“It slows transmission by around two-thirds, so it categorically supports the strategy that we’re undertaking,” Hancock said.

The study’s findings came amid much debate over the effectiveness of the AstraZeneca jab among the elderly.

Although the European Medicines Agency recommended it for adults of all ages last week, several countries have advised against administering the AstraZeneca jab to older people.

Germany has already said it will not advise over 65s to get it.

Italy’s medicines agency on Saturday approved the vaccine for all adults but recommend-
Johannesburg hotel embraces virus-free robots

THE lobby of an upmarket hotel in Johannesburg’s affluent Sandton district is eerily deserted, with not a conceirge or bellhop in sight.

Jane May, who has just received her key card at the front desk, comes face-to-interface with a multi-coloured humanoid robot – a rarity in any hotel, but what is believed to be a first in Africa.

“We welcome to Hotel Sky,” the robot intones. “I am not a person, I am a virtual agent. You can ask me a question.” Three robots ride the elevators and navigate the corridors of the 453-room hotel, carrying luggage or delivering meals. Hotel Sky bills itself as Africa’s first to employ droids, and underscores that the pandemic is accelerating the drive towards automation in the continent.

“They bring a totally new dimension (and) create a nice excitement,” Brits said. “We had just under 250 orders in all of 2019 and this shot up to 4,500 a month in 2020.”

The tiny house movement – a fad that gained momentum in the United States in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis – appears to have caught on in Turkey during the pandemic.

“The unimposing wooden structures resemble spruced-up sheds on wheels or sawn-off trailer homes,” Brits said. “Yet the Turkish firms that make them say they have barely been able to keep up with demand in the past year.”

YAKO Groups chief executive Galip Olmez said he received only “sporadic orders” after introducing the concept to Turkey in 2017.

“If we compare 2020 with the previous year, the orders have increased 20 fold,” Olmez said without disclosing precise numbers.

Architect Pınar Dastegir said most of her Casa Lokomotif tiny house company’s clients were “from the tourism industry looking for camping concepts”.

“My team had just under 250 orders in all of 2019 and this shot up to 4,500 a month in 2020,” Dastegir told AFP. “There has been tremendous interest.”

Johannesburg hotel embraces virus-free robots

Room service “A lot of the guests think it’s pretty cool,” said CTRL Robotics co-founder Nikhil Ranchod.
SPANISH BANKING GIANT

Virus pushes Santander into massive annual loss

SPANISH banking giant Santander reported on Wednesday a net loss of over €8.7 billion for 2020 due to restructuring costs and provisions set aside to cope with the coronavirus crisis. The results were in line with forecasts for a loss of around €8.65 billion from analysts polled by Factset.

In the fourth quarter alone, the bank achieved a profit of €277 million, well below the €526m expected by analysts. Santander had recorded the first net loss of its history – €11.13 billion – during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic in the second quarter of last year.

The dire outlook for the global economy forced the company to downsize the value of several of its subsidiaries, particularly in the United Kingdom. In addition, Banco Santander set aside more than €112 billion in 2020 in provisions to cover the risk of unpaid loans due to the virus crisis, up 47 per cent over the previous year.

“Although the crisis is global, our geographic and business diversification have once again served us well and underscored the strength of our team and mode,” executive chairman Ana Botin said in a statement.

Given the pandemic, she said vaccination was “the most important economic policy for 2021. “We will not let down our guard, but I define my view as one of realistic optimism. A successful roll out of the vaccine will act as a strong catalyst for economic recovery.”

SOURCE: AFP

STRING OF RESTRICTIONS

South Africa’s wine industry reels from alcohol bans

Restaurants turned to selling non-alcoholic beverages after the government banned sales of alcohol.

PHOTO: AFP

DRINKERS in South Africa may cheer the government’s decision to lift the latest ban on alcohol sales, but the wine sector fears the move has come too late to save thousands of jobs.

“The key industry has been badly hit by a string of booze bans, imposed to ease the number of trauma cases in hospitals hardened by coronavirus patients.

The third such restriction, imposed on December 28 as South Africa struggled with a second Covid wave, was lifted on Monday.

But the announcement will do little to raise morale.

“Wine businesses have not been able to earn any income from local wine sales for a total of 20 weeks since March 2020,” said Rico Basson, head of Vin Pro, representing 2,500 producers and other stakeholders in the wine industry.

The sector has now lost more than eight billion rand (€530 million / 440 million euros) in direct sales, threatening the livelihoods of 27,000 people, he said in a statement.

“While we are glad that businesses can once again earn much-needed revenue, a long and difficult road to recovery lies ahead for wine-related businesses,” he said.

“It is even too late for some businesses.”

Aawash with wine

The slowdown in wine consumption has left many producers with a storage headache.

The country is awash with more than 300 million litres (79 million gallons) of surplus wine at a time when workers are already in the fields to pick the current harvest.

Many vineyards lack the space for the grapes or the money to harvest, bottle and label for the 2021 season.

“Most sellers don’t have lots of spacecapacity in terms of tanks. And with the harvest starting now those tanks need to be ready to receive the 2021 harvest,” said Gerard Holden, owner of Holden Manz wine.

SOURCE: AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Our client, Fukuda and Partners Co., Ltd., situated at Pentel Building 8F, 7-2 Koamicho, Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks:

F&F
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L.L.Town
Reg. No. 4/214/ 2020
Reg. No.4/216/ 2020
Reg. No. 4/ 217/ 2020

The above trademarks are used in respect of -

Int’l Class 35: “Business planning; business development; business project management services for construction projects; administrative services for the relocation of businesses, business management consultancy; business research; commercial intermediary services; import-export agency services; marketing research; procurement services for others [purchasing goods and services for other businesses]; office machines and equipment rental; administrative assistance in responding to calls for tenders; negotiation and conclusion of commercial transactions for third parties.”

Int’l Class 36: “Real estate affairs; real estate management; real estate brokerage; rental of real estate; rental of offices [real estate]; arranging finance for construction projects; financial appraisals in responding to calls for tenders.”

Int’l Class 37: “Construction; factory construction; warehouse construction and repair; construction consultancy; building construction supervision; providing construction information; office machines and equipment installation, maintenance and repair; installation, maintenance and repair of computer hardware.”

Int’l Class 39: “Rental of warehouses; warehousing; storage; rental of storage containers; rental of freezers; refrigerator rental; frozen-food locker rental; providing information relating to storage services; providing transportation information; transportation logistics; freight brokerage.”

Int’l Class 42: “Construction drafting; architectural services; architectural consultancy; engineering; surveying; land surveying; geological surveys; interior design; quality control; research in the field of building construction.”

Int’l Class 43: “Rental of meeting rooms; cafeteria services; restaurant services; bar services; food and drink catering; rental of drinking water dispensers; rental of chairs, tables, table linen, glassware; rental of cooking apparatus; rental of lighting apparatus; rental of temporary accommodation.”

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Int’l Class 35: “Retail services for foods and beverages, general merchandise and others; import-export agency services; procurement services for others [purchasing goods and services for other businesses]; professional business consultancy; providing business information; business management services within the framework of franchising; providing assistance in the field of business management within the framework of a franchise contract; providing assistance in the field of product commercialization within the framework of a franchise contract.”

Int’l Class 36: “Real estate affairs; real estate management; real estate brokerage; rental of real estate; rental of offices [real estate]; arranging finance for construction projects; financial appraisals in responding to calls for tenders.”

Int’l Class 41: “Education, educational and instruction services; conducting of correspondence courses; arranging and conducting of in-person educational forums; providing information in the field of education.”

Int’l Class 42: “Construction drafting; architectural services; architectural consultancy; engineering; surveying; land surveying; geological surveys; interior design; quality control; research in the field of building construction.”

Int’l Class 43: “Cafeteria services; restaurant services; bar services; food and drink catering; rental of drinking water dispensers; rental of chairs, tables, table linen, glassware; rental of cooking apparatus.”

Any imitation, any deceptive-similar trademark or any fraudulent action shall be dealt with the existing laws of Myanmar.

On behalf of Fukuda and Partners Co., Ltd., Aung Htin Kywe (LL.G.P)

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Crisis-hit Italy turns to former European bank chief Draghi

ITALY’S president is expected Wednesday to ask Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank, to lead the country out of the devastating coronavirus pandemic after the government collapsed.

President Sergio Mattarella called in Draghi after Italy’s ruling parties failed to agree on a new government following a split last month that forced Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to resign.

Draghi, an Italian economist credited with saving the eurozone at the height of the debt crisis in 2012, is expected to try to put together a government of national unity to navigate the still-raging pandemic.

More than 80,000 people have died since Covid-19 swept across Italy one year ago, while restrictions and the collapse of tourism have plunged the economy into recession. Meanwhile, the government has only a few weeks to come up with a credible plan to spend more than 200 billion euros ($240 billion) in European Union recovery funds.

‘Super Mario’ Conte’s centre-left coalition had been in power since September 2019 but was fatally weakened last month when former premier Matteo Renzi withdrew his Italia Viva party in a row over the handling of the pandemic.

Conte finally resigned last week, but hoped to return with a new government comprising the populist Five Star Movement (M5S) and the centre-left Democratic Party (DP).

Mattarella gave them until Tuesday to patch things up with Renzi, but the deadline came and went — leaving the president with what he said were only two viable options.

SOURCE: AFP

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH POLICY

EU stamps up €4 billion in fight against cancer

THE European Commission on Wednesday unveiled a €4 billion plan to prevent, treat and research cancer in the EU as part of a bigger project for an integrated health policy.

Health Commissioner Stel-la Kyriakides, launching the “Beating Cancer Plan” on the eve of World Cancer Day, said the goal was to ensure EU citizens had the same chances of survival no matter which member state they live in.

She said it is “unacceptable that today we have different access to prevention programmes across the EU, different rates for early diagnosis, early detection, treatment and of course survival”.

The plan aims to reduce smoking, alcohol consumption and pollution over the coming years and to promote a healthy lifestyle to reduce the 40% of cancer cases that are preventable.

It also sets a goal of vaccinating 90% of girls in the European Union against the human papillomaviruses that can cause cervical cancer.

And it will support increased screening of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers and look at extending those to prostate, lung and gastric cancers.

The European Commission said there are 2.7 million people diagnosed with cancer in the EU, and every year around 1.3 million die of it.

Across Europe, there are 12 million cancer survivors, living with varying degrees of need.

While health is the responsibility of each of the 27 member states making up the European Union, the commission has used the coronavirus pandemic to set about taking on a greater role in coordinating health issues.

SOURCE: AFP

German stamps to get QRstyle tracking codes

GERMAN stamps will soon be fitted out with individual matrix codes to help stop letters getting lost in the mail, national postal company Deutsche Post said Tuesday.

Customers will be able to use the codes to track when a letter has arrived in the local processing centre and when it has reached its destination region, Deutsche Post said.

The codes, which are coming similar to QR codes, will sit alongside the traditional images in what will be “a new generation of stamps”, according to the company.

“Stamps with matrix codes make our service even more reliable – and the stamps more interesting,” said Tobias Meyer, head of the company’s German post and parcel division.

The first stamps featuring the codes will be rolled out from Thursday, with more to follow later in the year.

By 2022, they will be featured on all German stamps.

However, the codes do not allow for full parcel-style tracking and they will not tell customers whether a letter has actually been delivered.

DHL owner Deutsche Post reported record results in January as the pandemic fuels a package boom spurred by online shopping.

Revenues climbed five per cent year-on-year to 66.8 billion euros ($80.4 billion), buoyed by strong performances from the parcels and express units.

SOURCE: AFP

IN BRIEF

NEO-NAZISM

Austrian rapper arrested over neo-Nazi songs: ministry

AUSTRIAN authorities said Tuesday they have arrested a rapper accused of broadcasting neo-Nazi songs, one of which was used by the man behind a deadly anti-Semitic attack in Germany.

“The suspect has been arrested on orders of the Vienna prosecution and transferred to prison after a search of his home, said an interior ministry statement.

The suspect, who comes from the southern region of Carinthia, has been detained for allegedly producing and broadcasting Nazi ideas and incitement to hatred.

“The words of his songs glorify National Socialism (Nazism) and are anti-Semitic, racist and xenophobic,” said the interior ministry statement.

One of his tracks was used as the sound track during the October 2019 attack outside a synagogue in the eastern German city of Halle.

SOURCE: AFP

IMPEACHMENT CASE

Donald Trump ‘singularly responsible’ for riot, impeachment trial brief claims

DONALD Trump was “singularly responsible” for the deadly US Capitol riot last month and acquitting the former president could damage American democracy, lawmakers leading the impeachment case said Tuesday, a week before his Senate trial begins.

Trump became the first US president in history to be impeached twice when the House of Representatives charged him last month with inciting the mayhem inflicted by his followers when they invaded Congress on January 6. In a pre-trial brief, the House impeachment managers made their case for the Senate to convict, saying the American people should be protected “against a president who provokes violence to subvert our democracy”.

Trump’s impeachment was triggered by a speech he delivered to a crowd on the National Mall just before the riot, telling them that Joe Biden had stolen the presidential election and that they needed to march on Congress and show “strength”.

The mob stormed the Capitol, fatally wounded one police officer, wrecked furniture and forced terrified lawmakers to hide, interrupting a ceremony to put the legal stamp on Biden’s victory.

SOURCE: AFP
**QUESTIONED THE SAFETY OF CORONAVIRUS VACCINES**

Australia’s ruling conservatives reckon with conspiracist MP

AUSTRALIA’S conservative prime minister was forced to bring a vocal party lawmaker to task on Wednesday for spreading pandemic disinformation, after a string of comments that threatened to undermine public safety.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison summoned Sydney Member of Parliament Craig Kelly after months of false claims that questioned the safety of coronavirus vaccines, opposed lockdowns and promoted unproven treatments.

In a statement after the face-to-face, Kelly said he “agreed to support the government’s vaccine rollout, which has been endorsed by medical experts”.

“I believe that the spread of misinformation can damage the success of our public health response during the pandemic,” he said in a statement. Mostly Covid-free Australia has yet to begin its vaccine rollout.

Public opinion polls show around three-in-four Australians intend to get vaccinated, but misinformation is widespread on prominent media platforms.

Kelly has routinely backed the use of Malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and headlince medication ivermectin as Covid-19 treatments and endorsed other unsubstantiated theories spreading widely in the United States.

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Microsoft offers to step in if rival Google quits Australia

US technology giant Microsoft offered Wednesday to fill the void if rival Google follows through on a threat to turn off its search engine in Australia over government plans to make it pay for news content.

Microsoft president Brad Smith said in a statement that the company “fully supports” proposed legislation that would force Google and Facebook to compensate media for using their journalism. Facebook and Google have both threatened to block key services in Australia if the rules, now before parliament, become law in their current form.

But Smith said the proposal “reasonably attempts to address the bargaining power imbalance between digital platforms and Australian news businesses” and “represents a fundamental step towards a more level playing field and a fairer digital ecosystem for consumers, business, and society.”

Smith said Microsoft was ready to improve its Bing search engine, currently a minnow compared to Google’s globally dominant product, and welcome Australian business advertisers to the platform “with no transfer costs”.

Acknowledging Bing’s underdog status, Smith said Microsoft would “invest further to ensure Bing is comparable to our competitors and we remind people that they can help, with every search, Bing gets better at finding what you are looking for”.

Smith said he and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella had discussed the proposal last week with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who will see the offer as a big boost in his government’s confrontation with Google and Facebook.

‘Final offer’ arbitration

Under the proposed News Media Bargaining Code, Google and Facebook would be required to negotiate payments to individual news organizations for using their content on the platforms.

If agreement cannot be reached on the size of the payments, the issue would go to so-called “final offer” arbitration where each side proposes a compensation amount and the arbiter chooses one or the other.

Australia’s biggest media companies, Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp and Nine Entertainment, have said they think the payments should amount to hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

Google and Facebook, backed up by the US government and leading internet architects, have said the scheme would seriously undermine their business models and the very functioning of the internet. Facebook told a Senate inquiry into the proposed code that it would stop letting users post links to Australian news if it becomes law.

**SOCIETY**

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

Ukraine’s Zelensky bans three pro-Russia TV channels

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has banned three pro-Russian television channels in a move the presidency said was aimed to stave off Kremlin propaganda.

The ban came into effect in the early hours of Wednesday after Zelensky issued a decree imposing sanctions against pro-Russian lawmaker Taras Kozak and eight of his companies, including the three TV stations.

The channels — 112 Ukraine, Zik TV and NewsOne TV — are formally owned by Kozak, but are also linked to powerful MP Viktor Medvedchuk, a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Zelensky’s decree late Tuesday did not provide grounds for the ban, but his spokesman described the three television channels as “a propaganda tool” and said they receive funding “from Russia”.

**JAILED CRITIC**

Russian court jails Kremlin critic Navalny as over 1,400 protesters detained

MORE than 1,400 protesters were detained by Russian authorities during rallies supporting Alexei Navalny, a civil monitoring group said Wednesday, after the Kremlin’s most prominent critic was jailed for nearly three years amid international condemnation.

The court’s decision Tuesday to turn a 2014 suspended sentence into real jail time will see the 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner—who accuses Moscow of poisoning him last year—serve a lengthy prison term. Britain, France, Germany, the United States and the European Union denounced the ruling and called for his immediate release, as Moscow accused the West of interfering in its affairs.

**HERVE GOURDEL**

Trial over French hiker’s murder to open in Algeria

THE trial over the murder of a French mountaineer opens in Algeria this week, more than six years after he was beheaded by Islamic State group-linked militants during a hiking trip.

Herve Gourdel, 55, was abducted on September 21, 2014 while hiking in Djurdjura National Park, whose dense forests, gorges and picturesque lakes are a draw for hikers but which has long been a sanctuary for jihadists.

Three days after he disappeared, gammen from militant group Jund al-Khilafa published a video of his execution-style killing.

Paris had rejected their demand to halt air strikes against IS in Iraq and Syria.

Three months later, following a massive manhunt involving thousands of soldiers, Gourdel’s body was found in a booby-trapped grave.

In total, 14 people face charges over the case.

Only one is known to be in custody: suspected jihadist Abdelmalek Hamzaoui, who is to appear before a court on the outskirts of Algiers on Thursday.

**SOURCE:** AFP
SPORT

MYANMAR MMA fighter Tial Thang to fight against Paul Lumini

By Shine Htet Zaw

ORGANIZED by ONE Championship, Unbreakable III event of ONE Championship will be held on 5 February in Singapore and will feature a bout of Myanmar’s Mixed Martial Arts fighter Tial Thang vs Indonesian fighter Paul Lumini. Myanmar’s Tial Thang also known as “Dragon Leg” started teaming up with ONE Championship in 2019 and fought two fights in a year and took consecutive victories.

In March 2019, Thierry Thang defeated Cambodian Fighter Rim Sarot in a ONE Championship event in Yangon. Again in December 2019, he also defeated South Korea’s Kim Woon Ryoun in a ONE Championship event in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

ONE Championship Light Heavyweight Champion, the Burmese Python Aung La N Sang is currently staying in Singapore with Tial Thang to help prepare for his bout. Tial Thang and Aung La N Sang have been in Singapore since the third week of January for the upcoming ONE Championship bout.

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Zverev battles to ATP Cup win over Shapovalov, Italy reach semis

MELBOURNE — Alexander Zverev rallied from a set down to beat dangerous Canadian Denis Shapovalov and open his season with a fighting victory in the ATP Cup, while in-form Matteo Berrettini steered Italy into the semi-finals on Wednesday.

The seventh-ranked German had to dig deep for his 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) win to seal the tie, but gained valuable court time ahead of another crack at a first Grand Slam trophy at the Australian Open starting next week.

Zverev, who fell agonizingly short in the US Open final last year to Dominic Thiem, said having his brother Mischa as team captain had helped him.

“All the players enjoy having him as captain, he’s been fantastic in training as well. It’s just great to have him here,” he said.

Germany’s Jan-Lennard Struff upset Milos Raonic 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/2) in the opening match and Canada are now out after a second narrow loss for Shapovalov, who pushed Novak Djokovic hard in their Group A clash on Tuesday.

Djokovic’s defending champions beat Canada 2-1 in their opener on Tuesday and will play Germany on Thursday for a place in the semis.—AFP

Going for gold: Eiffel Tower gets Olympic facelift

PARIS — The Eiffel Tower has embarked on the most extensive revamp of its 139-year history to look its best for the 2024 Paris Olympics, including with a paint job giving it a distinctly golden hue.

Not only will layers from the 19 previous coats of paint be removed, but the Paris icon will also lose the signature “Eiffel Tower brown” it has sported since 1968.

It will be replaced with a yellow-brown composition that Gustave Eiffel himself wanted for his monument.

“It’s going to give the Eiffel Tower a bit more of a gold hue than the colour that we’re used to seeing, in time for the Olympic Games,” said Patrick Branco Ruivo, the CEO of the company operating the tower.

The renovation job for the 324-metre (1,063-foot) tower, with its 18,000 metal pieces held together by 2.5 million rivets, is monumental, coming to an estimated 50 million euros ($60 million).

The stripping of the old layers is made hazardous by the presence of lead, requiring a strict health protocol for workers.

The Eiffel Tower receives a new coat of paint every seven years, as much for the protection of its metallic structure from the wind, rain, sun and pollution, as for the maintenance of its looks. —AFP

Champions League spot may be beyond Everton, admits Ancelotti

LIVERPOOL — Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti believes a top four finish in the Premier League this season may be beyond his team after a draw with Leicester City and a defeat by Newcastle United in their last two matches.

Everton, who led the table early in the campaign, are eighth with 33 points, six points behind fourth-placed Leicester with two games in hand including Wednesday’s trip to Leeds United. But Ancelotti suggested that being held 1-1 by Leicester and losing 2-0 at home against 16th-placed Newcastle may have hurt his team’s chances of qualifying for the Champions League.

“Now it’s beyond Everton, it still remains a dream for us. I think after the game against Leicester gave us another answer. To fight for fourth, we have to improve,” Ancelotti told reporters. —AFP

Myanmar MMA fighter Tial Thang

PHOTO: TIAL THANG’S FACEBOOK PAGE

Alexander Zverev of Germany plays a backhand in his Group A singles match against Denis Shapovalov of Canada during day two of the 2021 ATP Cup at Rod Laver Arena on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

The Eiffel Tower receives a new coat of paint every seven years, as much for the protection of its metallic structure from the wind, rain, sun and pollution, as for the maintenance of its looks. —AFP

PHOTO: TIAL THANG’S FACEBOOK PAGE

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP