

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

All ethnics need to hold talks in unison in patience for serving the interests of the Union and ethnics: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo along with the peace delegations in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 September 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the peace delegations led by Vice-Chairman of United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku, Vice-Chairman of National Democratic Alliance

Army (NDAA) U San Pae and Vice-Chairman-2 of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) Sao Khun Seng at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

Also present at the talk were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. Vice-Chairman of United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku, Vice-Chairman of National Dem-

ocratic Alliance Army (NDAA) U San Pae and Vice-Chairman-2 of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) Sao Khun Seng were accompanied by Head of Political Department of UWSP U Aik Nap Ling, General Secretary of NDAA U Kyi Myint and Secretary-2 of SSPP Sao Seng Hsu

and party.

At the talk, the Senior General discussed that efforts are being made to strive for exercising a genuine multiparty democracy and building the Union based on democracy and federalism as political aspirations.

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Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

284 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 September, total figure rises to 621,686

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **621,686** after **284** new cases were reported on 26 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **597,182** recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at **19,455** without more casualties.

Myanmar reported 138 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 19-9-2022. Of them, 97 deaths (70 per cent) had underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, 79.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 18.6 per cent have received full vaccination and two per cent has received booster shots.

COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases

Out of COVID-19 deaths with underlying chronic disease		
79.4 per cent	18.6 per cent	2 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

Therefore, according to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, it causes fewer deaths obviously among those who are fully vaccinated and those who receive the booster shots. The people who are suffering from chronic diseases should follow the COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks and contact the nearest health departments, and village/ward administrative offices to receive the vaccines and booster shots.

More detailed information about COVID-19 can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health: moh.gov.mm. — MNA

Authorities oversee regular import of fuel oil for domestic use



A tanker is pictured unloading fuel oil at Thilawa Port.

THE Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee has been managing to import and verify various types of fuel oil for self-sufficiency.

As of 25 September 2022, MT Yu Yi carrying diesel HSD 1.86 million gallons and premium diesel PHSD 2.17 million gallons for a total diesel 4.03 million gallons, and MT Harmony One carrying 92 Ron 2.13 million gallons of gasoline are unloading fuel oil at the terminals of Thilawa Port in Yangon Region. As per the Thilawa oil storage

tank and the availability of fuel outlets and distribution, it has been verified that the fuel stock is enough for domestic use.

For the distribution of fuel oil, bowsers carrying fuel oil, oil tankers and trains are used to deliver in time to fuel oil outlets nationwide. Nevertheless, there were destructions by terrorist groups at fuel tankers leading to filling stations from Mandalay to Shwebo for supplying fuel in the past weeks, causing the delay in delivery to relevant petrol stations. — MNA



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စက်တင်ဘာလ ၂၇ ရက်

WORLD TOURISM DAY 2022 | **RETHINKING TOURISM**
27 SEPTEMBER

“RETHINKING TOURISM”

“ခရီးသွားလုပ်ငန်းဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့ ပြန်လည်ကြံဆဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

More ethnic representatives needed in the political platform (Hluttaw)

THE Hluttaw is the highest platform in political trend in democracy, and more ethnic representatives must join the political platform in the Hluttaw so as to demand the rights of their regions under the law.

The Tatmadaw decided to continue serving as the guardian of the country and is carrying out the tasks under the law, adding that ethnic organizations are to do their tasks for enjoying the democracy and federal rights under the law, disciplines and democratic practice.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

All ethnics need to hold talks in unison in patience for serving ...



The Senior General and the leaders of the peace delegations exchange gifts.

FROM PAGE-1

He also explained the efforts of governments in successive eras for achieving success in peace talks. He underscored that comprehensive discussions will openly be held at the peace talks for demands of ethnic armed organizations and actual needs which will be essential for the region and the State. The Senior General noted that it is necessary to focus on discussions through the open-minded concept for the sake of the Union. He stressed that a plan is underway to continuously pave the peace track based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA.

Vice-Chairman of United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku, Vice-Chairman of National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) U

San Pae and Vice-Chairman-2 of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) Sao Khun Seng and party discussed their heartily welcome to the offer of the SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with far-sightedness to implement the internal peace and development undertakings via political dialogues, **firmly upholding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetual of sovereignty without secession from the State**, aspiration to solve disagreements through peace, steadfastly striving for ensuring peace and stability of the region and development tasks, and their similar attitude for exercising the multiparty democracy and building the Union based on democracy and federalism, and reported on regional

The Senior General noted that it is necessary to focus on discussions through the open-minded concept for the sake of the Union. He stressed that a plan is underway to continuously pave the peace track based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA.

development measures.

In his response, the Senior General discussed the offer for peace talks that only when it ceases armed conflicts and

restore genuine peace can development tasks of the whole Union be effectively undertaken via regions and national races. The plans are underway to con-

tinuously pave the peace track based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) by taking lessons from past events in history. And, all ethnics need to hold talks in unison in patience for serving the interests of the Union and ethnics. They then frankly exchanged views on peace issues and regional development measures.

After the talk, the Senior General presented gifts to peace delegates who returned domestic gifts. They then cordially chatted each other and posed for documentary photos.

Those peace delegates will hold peace talks with the Peace Talks Team formed with Council members by the State Administration Council and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee.—MNA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

Myanmar delegation attends 60th Annual Session of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in India

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo is attending the 60th Annual Session of Asian – African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), which is being held between 25 and 29 September in India, together with Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung, upon the invitation of AALCO Secretary-General Dr Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol.

During the opening ceremony, AALCO Secretary-General Dr Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol and External Affairs Minister Ms Meenakshi Lekhi made opening speeches respectively.

The Union minister said the former ALLC established the Asian-African-Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) on 15 November 1956 as the outcome of the Bandung Conference held in April 1955. Myanmar is a Founding Member and the other seven countries Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan and the United Arab Emirates including Myanmar are original members. The purpose of the conference is to promote economic and cultur-



Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo takes part in the 60th AALCO Annual Session in India from 25 to 29 September.

al cooperation in Asian-African countries. The AALCO is a Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) with Asia and African states members. The Bandung Conference Statement and Policies are the basic principles of NAM and the Legacy of the Bandung Conference is a significant milestone for effective international cooperation.

The ten principles of Bandung act effectively to maintain

and promote international peace and security, respect for fundamental human rights, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country, respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defence to serve the particular interests of

any of the big powers, abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries and settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

Among these facts, eight were mentioned in UN Charter and International Principle. Being a member of the UN and ASEAN, Myanmar is following the UN Charter and ASEAN

Charter. Myanmar enacted the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy in the 2008 Constitution and is practising it. It also aimed at international peace and friendly relations among nations and upholds the principles of peaceful co-existence of nations. International trade and investment law are a must to be discussed.

She also talked about the Asia-Africa highlighting their successive development for making investments, the strategic location of Myanmar for South East Asia and South Asia countries for trade and mutual relations, laws of Myanmar for international investors, potential investments in Myanmar and she also said Myanmar welcomes the discussion regarding investments in Agenda of AALCO.

The Myanmar delegation also exchanged views on procedures, international law and international investment law and international legal problems of the International Law Commission (ILC) with other delegations. — MNA

SSB compensates K77.466 bln to over 1.6 mln for insured workers in 9 years

THE Social Security Board contributed K77.466 billion in social benefits to 1,648,175 insured workers under the Health Insurance Scheme as of August in the current financial year 2022-2023 since the 2014-2015FY, according to the Ministry of Labour.

On 5 August, three insured workers of Premier Coffee Luvia Co Ltd registered at the SSB in Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon Region, died in a head-on collision accident when a Dyna vehicle crashed into a ferry. Social security benefits were given to the family of the deceased at a ceremony held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 26 September.

A total of K32,462,650 death benefits (lump-sum death payment) were disbursed to the family members of Social Security beneficiaries with K11,118,000 of the survivor benefits to a spouse of insured worker Daw San Yu Maw, K10,473,100 to a spouse of U Myo Ko Ko and K10,871,550 to a family member of Daw Sandar Khaing under the Social Security Law 2012.

After the new law came into effect in the 2014-2015FY, K77.466 billion have been granted to a total of 1,648,175 insured workers as of August this FY. Workers' compensation insurance covered 63,819 insured workers with K6.977 billion benefits.

According to the Social Se-

curity Law 2012, health insurance schemes and workers' compensation insurance schemes were implemented. If five per cent of monthly income is put into an insurance scheme, the insured workers and their families can enjoy 15 types of social security contributions including benefits and compensation coverage from the Social Security Board, according to the Ministry of Labour.

There are 1,064,269 insured workers from 33,426 registered workplaces at the SSB in 116 townships across the country and 13,268 workplaces were registered in Yangon Region with 755,908 insured workers. The SSB has been providing health



care and benefits at three general workers' hospitals, 96 township clinics, 58 departmental clinics, one traditional clinic and 17

Social Security Scheme clinics under the public and private partnership, and three mobile medical vehicles. — TWA/GNLM

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MoRAC Union Minister attends ceremonies of installation of glass security door, Polycarbonate at Botahtaung Pagoda, 2022 China-Myanmar Friendship Educational Outstanding Award Giving Ceremony, meets All Myanmar Hindu Central Council members

THE ceremonies of installation of glass security door at the entrance and exit of the Botahtaung Pagoda and Polycarbonate round the sacred relic hair chamber of the pagoda were held yesterday.

During the ceremonies, Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai said China-Myanmar Buddhist cultural exchange is part of the same culture with mutual relations among peoples in close geographical locations and improves the China-Myanmar relations in successive eras. The installation of glass security in the chamber will lengthen the religious activities of the two countries and it can also carry out significant measures in establishing the China-Myanmar community, he added.

Then, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko said the operations were completed in time due to the donation of China and the cooperative work of the pagoda board of trustees with Shwe Thanlwin company limited. The country will make efforts to ensure the propagation of

religion, Sasana and culture between the two countries maintaining the Pauk-Phaw relationship.

Then, Monk Chi Chang Cang of Beijing Ling Guang Si Temple delivered a wish for a long-lasting China-Myanmar Pauk-Phaw relationship.

Then, officials handed over the documents for installation services. The Union minister sprinkled the scented water on the security glass door and paid homage to the relic chamber.

At noon, the Union Minister attended the 2022 China-Myanmar Friendship Educational Outstanding Award Giving Ceremony held at the National University of Arts and Culture in South Dagon Township together with the Chinese ambassador, the Chinese cultural attaché, the rector, faculty members and award-winning students.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Union minister said the Chinese embassy awarded the 55 students who are attending the universities of culture and arts and state high school of



The representative of Beijing Ling Guang Si Temple and the managing director of the Shwe Thanlwin company sign the working documents.

fine arts under the ministry. Such doing supports to produce the talented young people for the development of the culture and fine arts of Myanmar and strengthen the bilateral ties.

Then, the Chinese ambassador said it is the very

first China-Myanmar Friendship Educational Outstanding Award for Myanmar students majoring in culture and arts. It can promote the China-Myanmar Pauk-Phaw relationship and widen the community through thick and thin.

In the evening, the Union

minister met the members of the All Myanmar Hindu Central Council at the ministry's office.

During the meeting, the Union minister delivered a remark and the participants reported on the organizing of the council and future work plans. — MNA

Photo shooting, editing training course 2/2022 launched at Community Centre (Bahan)



MoI Deputy Minister U Ye Tint inaugurates the photo shooting and editing training 2/2022 in Yangon yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the photo shooting and editing training course 2/2022 was organized at the Community Centre of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint said the IPRD organizes the "Beautiful Myanmar" colour photo competition marking Independence Day yearly to describe the development, peace and stability, culture and ethnic unity yearly. It supports the emergence of young photographers and motivates them to preserve tradition and culture, ethnic unity, State development, tranquillity

and independence via photos.

He then talked about the purposes of the training course.

Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung also remarked and handed over K1 million cash assistance provided by the regional government.

The deputy minister then went to the Sarpay Beikman and stressed the need to publish good books and journals and edit without any grammar, spelling and punctuation errors in his meeting with editorial members.

He also inspected the Sarpay Beikman Library and left proper directives to the librarian and staff. — MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS



The file photo shows the festival of the PhaungdawU Pagoda in Inlay in 2017, which is held every 1st waxing of Thadingyut.

PhaungdawU Pagoda ceremony held briefly this year

IT is known from Inlay residents that the PhaungdawU Pagoda ceremony which had been suspended for three years, was held briefly this year.

The brief ceremony was held in front of the Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda on 25 September.

"It has been three years since the festival was stopped due to Covid-19 and the political situation. It's also because the economy is bad. This year it was briefly held again in the temple courtyard," said a resident.

Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda ceremony normally starts on

the 1st waxing of Thadingyut in the Shweinntein area, and after 18 days of 21 itineraries in Inlay, the Buddha images returned to the original Yadana Chamber on the 3rd waxing of Thadingyut to end the ceremony.

Since the festival lasts for days, many pilgrims come from all over the country. There were also traditional boat races in the past years.

Currently, only domestic pilgrims visit the pagoda. Locals also had to stop their businesses because of poor sales.

In the past, they depended on local and foreign pilgrims to sell their local products, so

the more visitors there are, the more job opportunities the locals have," said Ko Yar Zar, a boat driver.

At the brief event held on the morning of 25 September, there were only two tugboats, while at least 10 tugboats were usually used in the past.

In the last year 2020-2021, the pagoda festival was also held briefly as far as the Shweinntein area.

The PhaungdawU Pagoda regional festival is one of the prominent festivals in Myanmar, and it is also a festival that attracts tourists from around the world. — TWA/GNLM

QR codes made to store detailed information about Sri Ksetra's ancient pagodas, buildings

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, QR Codes will be placed so that domestic and foreign tourists can easily find information about Sri Ksetra's ancient pagodas and buildings.

In the middle of September this year, the Department of Archaeology and National Museums worked together with the University of Computer Studies (Pyay) to create eight QR Codes for Phayagyi Pagoda, Bawbawgyi Pagoda, Phayahtaunggu Pagoda, Laymyathna Temple, Natpauk Gate, Inner Palace, and Rahanda Lake.

The system was started in the Bagan region in 2010 and 60 QR Codes have been installed so far. In addition, Beikthano Ancient City and MraukU area will also be operated.

By installing QR Codes,

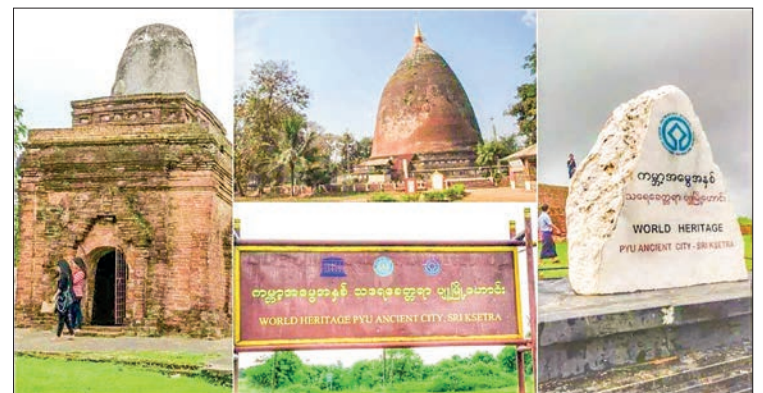
cultural heritage evidence can be found in both Myanmar and English languages, and an audio system is installed.

Among the old Pyu cities, Sri Ksetra is the largest and oldest. Sri Ksetra means a city full of charm and auspiciousness. Sri Ksetra is located in the village of Mawzar, near Pyay Township.

There are 17 villages including Mawzar in the old town by the side of Pyay-Paukhaung road.

The old town of Sri Ksetra, which existed more than 2,000 years ago, is the pride and honour of the ancient people of Myanmar.

The 38th Session of World Heritage Committee held in Doha, Qatar on 22 June 2014 designated Myanmar's three ancient cities, Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra, as World Heritage Sites. —TWA/GNLM



A general view of the World Heritage Site Sri Ksetra Pyu ancient city with stone-carved signs and some ancient pagodas.

Nepal-Myanmar direct flights planned to shuttle

AT the ceremony of the National Day of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal held at the Pan Pacific Hotel on 25 September, Charge d'affaires Mr Khuman Singh Tamang of Nepalese Embassy to Myanmar said that the direct flights will be shuttled between the Lumbini Province, Nepal, and Myanmar.

The interaction between the two countries will be expanded by arranging direct flights from the Gautam Buddha International Airport near the Lumbini Province, Nepal, to Myanmar, he added. Nepal relaunched international tourism activities that were closed after the outbreak of the Covid-19 disease, starting this year. Mr Khuman Singh Tamang also added that pilgrims have been visiting the Gautam Buddha International Airport since May.

If there is a direct flight service from the Lumbini Province of Nepal to Myanmar, the airfare and travel time will be reduced and the number of tourists will increase, as well as social and cultural engagement enhance. — TWA/GNLM

Korea-Myanmar Industrial Zone project to be completed by 2024

ABOUT US\$120 million will be invested in the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Zone (KMIC) Project phase 1 in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, and it is planned to be completed by the end of 2024.



A scale model of the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Zone project 1.

The industrial zone project will be implemented in two parts on a total land area of 555.81 acres.

Forty per cent of the project was financed by the Department of Urban and Housing Development. The

Korean government-owned Korea Land Housing Corporation (LH) jointly owns 40 per cent and the Korean company Korea Global Sae-A 20 per cent.

Currently, the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Zone (KMIC) Project phase 1 is being implemented on a land area of 314.69 acres.

Phase 2 of the project will also be carried out on a land area of 241.12 acres.

Phase 1 of the project started in December 2021, and it is scheduled to be completed in December 2024.

It will be implemented at a cost of about \$48.45

million for the construction of phase 1 of the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Zone (KMIC) project.

A total of about \$120 million will be invested in the entire KMIC project.

The Korea-Myanmar Industrial Zone (KMIC) project will include residential and commercial areas in addition to the industrial zone and will be developed into a large international-level industrial zone.

Upon completion, the international industrial zone will create around 50,000 to 100,000 employment opportunities for local people.—TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Broken rice price soars to K45,000 per bag

THE price of broken rice hit a high of K45,000 per bag in the domestic market, according to Rice Wholesale Centre (Wadan).

On 1 September, broken rice fetched only K32,000 per 108-pound bag whereas the price rocketed to K45,000 per bag on 26 September. Figures showed a sharp increase of K13,000 per bag within one month.

Foreign demand pushed up the price, traders shared their opinions.

More than 20,000 bags of broken rice are sent to China through the Muse border.

At present, the export value of broken rice to China is 128 Yuan per 50-kilogramme bag. Myanmar's broken rice exports to China brought in a decent income on account of the Kyat devaluation against the Yuan.

Therefore, the broken rice price is higher than those of other low-grade rice prices on the

back of strong foreign demand. Despite the price hike of broken rice, the prices of rice do not shoot up tremendously.

On 26 September, the prices of high-grade Pawsan varieties were constant at K93,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K63,000 from the Dedaye area, K65,000 from Pyapon, Myaungmya and Patheingyi areas and K63,000 from other areas. Meanwhile, the prices of short-mature rice (90 days) touched a high of K48,000 per bag. The prices of low-grade rice varieties such as Ngasein and Emahta moved in the range of K43,500-46,000 per bag respectively.

Therefore, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders involved in rice wholesale centres (Wadan and Bayintnaung) have offered the rice at a cheaper rate from 3 Au-



Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan, Pawkywe and short-mature rice varieties (90 days) will be sold at a cheaper price between K35,000 and K77,000 per bag.

gust every day between 9 am and 3 pm except for office holidays.

Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan, Pawkywe and short-ma-

ture rice varieties (90 days) will be sold at a cheaper price between K35,000 and K77,000 per bag.

Each household is entitled to

buy one rice bag only and those resellers, traders and retailers are excluded from this scheme. — NN/GNLM

Palm oil wholesale reference price continues long tumbles



Locals line up to buy palm oil from the mobile market.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market remained low this week, indicating a decrease of K560 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) within three weeks, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference prices of palm oil in the Yangon market were set at K5,220 per viss for a week

ending 11 September, K4,730 per viss for a week from 12 to 18 September and K4,690 per viss for a week ending 25 September. The reference price for a week from 26 September and 2 October touched a low of K4,660 per viss, capping the decline in the fourth week.

Nevertheless, the current market price is way too high compared to the reference price.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer rea-

sonable prices to consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K4,850 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Daily newspapers
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News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Help recover the tourism sector in global countries

“AROUND the world, in countries at all development levels, many millions of jobs and businesses are dependent on a strong and thriving tourism sector. Tourism has also been a driving force in protecting natural and cultural heritage, preserving them for future generations to enjoy,” Mr Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary General of UN World Tourism Organization was quoted as saying.

Tourism touches almost every part of the societies. Most global peoples prefer to travel elsewhere for taking relaxation as well as for accumulating knowledge based on exploration. It is a great market for the tourism industry to earn income not only for relevant agencies but for the State. The world tourism sector took a break in 2020 due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in global countries. Most of the tourism agencies and companies totally halted operations. Some merged tourism companies partially run their business as part of sustaining the jobs of staff livelihoods. But, a larger number of inbound and outbound tour companies waited for their hopes to resume their businesses at an opportune time. The time machine does not stop forever. Although the globe faced severe plights and sufferings of the pandemic, it would encounter the luck of fortune based on opportunities for the resumption of tourism services throughout the world. It is a date for them to wait for recovery. As such, international tourist arrivals at the start of 2022 in the global countries were double the level recorded in 2021. In some regions, arrivals are already at, or even above, pre-pandemic levels. The lifting of the remaining travel restrictions, alongside rising consumer confidence, will be important drivers for the sector's recovery, bringing hope and opportunity to many millions of people around the world. World Tourism Day which falls on 27 September 2022 will be celebrated as the shift towards tourism is being recognized as a crucial pillar for development and as progress is well underway. Tourism is now on the agenda of governments and of international organizations in every global region in order to earn incomes not only for businesspersons but for governments. At the same time, destinations and businesses are proactively adapting to meet challenges and responsibilities, as illustrated by the wave of signatories to the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, spearheaded by UNWTO. The theme “Rethinking Tourism” will reflect the recovery of the tourism sector in all global countries. Let's start trips but take care of Covid-19.

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Study reveals that COVID-19 virus might increase risk of type 1 diabetes in children

ACCORDING to a new study, testing positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is linked to a higher risk of new-onset type 1 diabetes in children and teenagers.

The study is by Hanne Lovdal Gulseth and Dr German Tapia, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway, and colleagues.

The study used national health registers to examine new-onset type 1 diabetes diagnoses made in all youngsters aged under 18 in Norway (over 1.2 million individuals) over the course of two years, starting on 1 March 2020, comparing those who contracted COVID-19 with those who did not.

“Our nationwide study suggests a possible association between COVID-19 and new-onset type 1 diabetes,” says Dr Hanne Lovdal Gulseth, lead author and Research Director at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. “However, the absolute risk of de-

veloping type 1 diabetes increased from 0.08 per cent to 0.13 per cent, and is still low. The vast majority of young people who get COVID-19 will not go on to develop type 1 diabetes but it is important that clinicians and parents are aware of the signs and symptoms of type 1 diabetes. Constant thirst, frequent urination, extreme fatigue and unexpected weight loss are tell-tale symptoms.”

Usually diagnosed in younger people

It has long been suspected that type 1 diabetes, which is usually diagnosed in younger people and is associated with the failure of the pancreas to produce insulin, is a result of an over-responsive immune reaction, possibly due to a viral infection, including respiratory viruses.

Several recent case reports have suggested a link between new onset type one diabetes and SARS-CoV-2 infection in adults.

But evidence is more limited in children. A recent CDC report found that US children were 2.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes following a SARS-CoV-2 infection, but it pooled all types of diabetes together and did not account for other health conditions, medications that can increase blood sugar levels, race or ethnicity, obesity, and other social determinants of health that might influence a child's risk of acquiring COVID-19 or diabetes [1].

In this nationwide study, Gulseth and colleagues linked individual-level data from national health registries for all children and adolescents in Norway (1,202,174 individuals). Data were obtained from the Norwegian preparedness register that is updated daily with individual-level data on PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections, COVID-19 vaccinations and disease diagnoses from the primary and secondary health care service.

Until diagnosis of type 1 diabetes

Children were followed from 1 March 2020 (the start of the pandemic) until diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, they turned 18 years old, death, or the end of the study (1 March 2022), whichever occurred first. The researchers examined the risk of young people developing new-onset type 1 diabetes within or after 30 days after PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV2 infection. They compared this group with children and adolescents in the general population who did not have a registered infection, as well as to a group of children who were tested but found to negative for the virus.

Over the two year study period, a total of 424,354 children tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection and 990 new-onset cases of type 1 diabetes were diagnosed among the 1.2 million children and adolescents included in the study.

After adjusting for age, sex, country of origin, geographical area and socio-economic factors, the analyses found that young people who contracted COVID-19 were around 60 per cent more likely to develop type 1 diabetes 30 days or more after infection compared to those without a registered infection or who tested negative for the virus (see figure in full abstract).

Exact reason for the increased risk

“The exact reason for the increased risk of type 1 diabetes in young people after COVID-19 is not yet fully understood and requires longer-term follow-up and further research into whether the risk could be different in children who are infected with different variants”, says Gulseth. She adds, “It's possible that delays in seeking care because of the pandemic might explain some of the increases in new cases. However, several studies have



It has long been suspected that type 1 diabetes, which is usually diagnosed in younger people and is associated with the failure of the pancreas to produce insulin, is a result of an over-responsive immune reaction, possibly due to a viral infection, including respiratory viruses. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ THE CENTER FOR DIABETES AND ENDOCRINE CARE (CDEC)

shown that SARS-CoV-2 can attack the beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin, which could lead to development of type 1 diabetes. It's also possible that inflammation caused by the virus may lead to exacerbation of already existing autoimmunity.”

The authors acknowledge that the study was observational and does not prove cause and effect, and they cannot rule out the possibility that other unmeasured factors (e.g., underlying conditions) or missing data may have affected the results. They also note that

they only included children who took a PCR test, not a lateral flow test or asymptomatic infections, in the analyses which may limit the conclusions that may be drawn.

SOURCE: ANI

Researchers develop artificial intelligence screening techniques to speed up drug discovery

As drugs to treat COVID are still of interest, the experiments also included testing and validating drug compounds that would bind to a spike protein of the SARS-CoV2 virus.



A common use of artificial intelligence in healthcare involves NLP applications that can understand and classify clinical documentation. NLP systems can analyze unstructured clinical notes on patients, giving incredible insight into understanding quality, improving methods, and better results for patients. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/GAOXIANG/XINHUA

DEVELOPING life-saving drugs can cost billions of dollars and take decades, but researchers have developed a new artificial intelligence-based drug screening technique by using that they hope to shorten the process. Using a method that models drug and target protein interactions using natural language processing techniques, the researchers achieved up to 97 per cent accuracy in identifying promising drug candidates. The results were published recently in the journal *Briefings in Bioinformatics*.

Technique represents drug-protein interactions

The technique represents drug-protein interactions through words for each protein binding site and uses deep learning to

extract the features that govern the complex interactions between the two.

“With AI becoming more available, this has become something that AI can tackle,” says study co-author Ozlem Garibay, an assistant professor in UCF's Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Systems. “You can try out so many variations of proteins and drug interactions and find out which are more likely to bind or not.”

The model they've developed, known as AttentionSiteDTI, is the first to be interpretable using the language of protein binding sites.

The work is important because it will help drug designers identify critical protein binding sites along with their functional properties, which is key to deter-

mining if a drug will be effective.

The researchers made the achievement by devising a self-attention mechanism that makes the model learn which parts of the protein interact with the drug compounds, while achieving state-of-the-art prediction performance.

Self-attention ability

The mechanism's self-attention ability works by selectively focusing on the most relevant parts of the protein.

The researchers validated their model using in-lab experiments that measured binding interactions between compounds and proteins and then compared the results with the ones their model computationally predicted.

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included testing and validating drug compounds that would bind to a spike protein of the SARS-CoV2 virus.

Garibay says the high agreement between the lab results and the computational predictions illustrates the potential of AttentionSiteDTI to pre-screen potentially effective drug compounds and accelerate the exploration of new medicines and the repurposing of existing ones.

Interdisciplinary collaboration

“This high impact research was only possible due to interdisciplinary collaboration between materials engineering and AI/ML and Computer Scientists to address COVID related discovery” says Sudipta Seal, study co-author and chair of UCF's

Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Mehdi Yazdani-Jahromi, a doctoral student in UCF's College of Engineering and Computer Science and the study's lead author, says the work is introducing a new direction in drug pre-screening.

“This enables researchers to use AI to identify drugs more accurately to respond quickly to new diseases, Yazdani-Jahromi says. “This method also allows the researchers to identify the best binding site of a virus's protein to focus on in drug design.”

“The next step of our research is going to be designing novel drugs using the power of AI,” he says. “This naturally can be the next step to be prepared for a pandemic.”

SOURCE: ANI

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Asia, Middle East ministers vow to enhance decarbonization technology

MINISTERS from Asia and the Middle East agreed Monday the introduction of decarbonization technologies such as those involving hydrogen and carbon capturing is essential in realizing balanced energy transitions toward carbon neutrality considering diverse energy situations in the regions.

Japan hosted the meeting as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida aims to achieve net zero emissions and economic growth. He has seen green transformation of economy and society as a critical component of his vision for a new version of capitalism.

During the hybrid ministerial meeting in Tokyo, Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency, pointed out that the current energy crisis is deeper and much more complex than the oil price crisis in the 1970s, severely hit-

ting energy importers, including nations in Asia and vulnerable members of the population.

Hasty transitions in the absence of alternative energy sources and solutions may lead to undesirable consequences amid rapidly changing energy circumstances influenced by Russia's war in Ukraine, critics have warned.

"We believe there is a job to do for oil producers and there is a job to do for oil consumers... to avoid deep economic recession," said Birol.

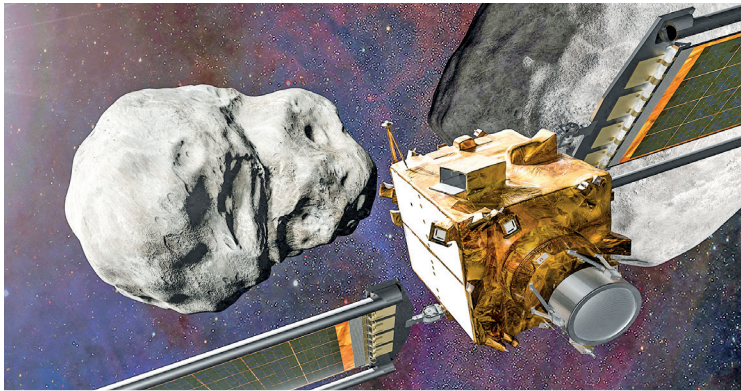
The ministers confirmed the importance of the gradual introduction of available decarbonization technologies such as firing of hydrogen and fuel ammonia, as well as carbon capture, utilization and storage and recycling, on top of the maximum introduction of renewable energy and the effective use of natural gas.



Ministers from Asia and the Middle East are pictured at the Asia Green Growth Partnership Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo on 26 September 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

They agreed on the significance of cooperation in establishing supply chains of hydrogen and ammonia, not only to accelerate energy transitions but also from the perspective of energy security for Asia, where energy demand is growing.—Kyodo

NASA to deflect asteroid in key test of planetary defence



(FILES) This file artist's illustration obtained from NASA on 4 November 2021 shows the DART spacecraft from behind prior to impact at the Didymos binary system. NASA on Monday will attempt a feat humanity has never before accomplished: deliberately smacking a spacecraft into an asteroid to slightly deflect its orbit, in a key test of our ability to stop cosmic objects from devastating life on Earth. **PHOTO: AFP PHOTO / NASA/JOHNS HOPKINS APL**

NASA will on Monday attempt a feat humanity has never before accomplished: deliberately smacking a spacecraft into an asteroid to slightly deflect its orbit, in a key test of our ability to stop cosmic objects from devastating life on Earth.

The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spaceship launched from California last November and is fast approaching its target, which it will strike at roughly 14,000 miles (22,500 kilometres) per hour.

To be sure, neither the asteroid moonlet Dimorphos, nor

the big brother it orbits, called Didymos, pose any threat as the pair loop the Sun, passing about seven million miles from Earth at nearest approach.

But NASA has deemed the experiment important to carry out before an actual need is discovered.

If all goes to plan, impact between the car-sized spacecraft, and the 530-foot (160 metres, or two Statues of Liberty) asteroid should take place at 7:14 pm Eastern Time (2314 GMT), and can be followed on a NASA livestream.—AFP

Why are climate activists calling for reparations?

PAKISTAN'S catastrophic floods have led to renewed calls for rich polluting nations, which grew their economies through heavy use of fossil fuels, to compensate developing countries for the devastating impacts caused by the climate crisis.

The currently favoured term for this concept is "loss and damage" payments, but some campaigners want to go further and frame the issue as "climate reparations," just as racial justice activists call for compensation for the descendants of enslaved people.

Beyond the tougher vocabulary, green groups also call for debt cancellation for cash-strapped nations that spend huge portions of their budgets servicing external loans, rather than devoting the funds to increasing resilience to a rapidly changing planet.

"There's a historical precedent of not just the industrial revolution that led to increased emissions and carbon pollution, but also the history of colonialism and the history of extraction of resources, wealth and labour," Belgium-based

climate activist Meera Ghani told AFP.

"The climate crisis is a manifestation of interlocking systems of oppression, and it's a form of colonialism," said Ghani, a former climate negotiator for Pakistan.

Such ideas stretch back decades and were first pushed by small island nations susceptible to rising sea levels — but momentum is once more building on the back of this summer's catastrophic inundations in Pakistan, driven by unprecedented monsoon rains.—AFP

Australian Indigenous activists hail UN climate decision

INDIGENOUS campaigners from Australia's northern Torres Strait Islands said Monday their fight is just beginning after a UN body found the government had failed to protect them from climate change.

A group of plaintiffs, known as the Torres Strait Eight, launched the UN case in 2019 over rising seas lapping at the nearly 300 islands off the northern tip of Australia.

Torres Strait man Yessie Mosby told AFP he cried "tears of joy" when he heard on Fri-

day that the UN Human Rights Committee had sided with him and his fellow plaintiffs.

Mosby had just finished a meeting with village elders when he got the news from his lawyers and "gave a big scream out in the middle of the village, got all the elders shocked".

"They came out to find out what was the commotion and I said, 'Torres Strait Eight won. We won our case'... Everybody was so overwhelmed," he said.

Mosby's home, Masig Island, sits just a few metres above

sea level, like many of the Torres Strait islands.

Mosby said he joined the UN case after seeing his family members' graves devastated by rising sea levels consuming his low-lying island home. "Me and my children, my wife, and a few other family members, we were walking on the beach and picking up our elderly's remains," he recalled. "Picking up a rib bone... a skull and a jaw... and placing them in a bucket. And trying to relocate it to a safer location."—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Japan simplifies COVID tracking to focus on elderly, high-risk people

JAPAN began Monday to simplify its coronavirus reporting system by targeting elderly and high-risk people in a bid to reduce the administrative burden on hospitals and local health centres.

The new system will not require medical facilities to report details such as names and addresses of younger people with milder symptoms that have made up around 80 per cent of the country's COVID-19 cases since the Omicron strain drove numbers sharply higher and stretched the medical system thin.

The government will continue to oblige health facilities to report the number of people who test positive for the virus each day by age group in an attempt to monitor the spread of COVID-19.

The measure, which places focus on the provision of appropriate medical care to the elderly



File photo taken in August 2022 shows people wearing masks walking in Tokyo's Shibuya area. PHOTO: KYODO

and others at risk of developing severe symptoms, reflects the government's policy shift as it moves to transition the nation toward living with the coronavirus.

Health minister Katsunobu Kato said that some municipalities which introduced the system prior to Monday have expressed concerns about being unable to

contact those not included in the reporting, saying it prevents them from responding swiftly to such patients when their symptoms become serious.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany's Scholz positive for Covid after Gulf tour

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz has tested positive for the coronavirus and is displaying mild symptoms after returning from a tour of the Gulf, his spokesman said Monday.

The 64-year-old is isolating in his apartment in the chancellery, and will attend meetings online, spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said.

At the weekend, he visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar on a hunt for new energy sources after Russia cut gas supplies amid tensions over the Ukraine war.

He signed a deal Sunday for the UAE to supply natural gas and diesel to Germany.—AFP

Spanish PM tests positive for Covid

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Sunday he had tested positive for Covid and temporarily suspended all engagements just two days after returning from the UN General Assembly meeting.

"This morning, I tested positive for Covid-19," Sanchez tweeted, adding he would not be attending a meeting of the Catalan region's Socialists in Barcelona. Sanchez, who returned from New York on Friday, said he would continue working but take the utmost precautions.

On Friday, he is due to host a meeting in the southeastern city of Alicante of the MED7 group of southern European countries.—AFP

Switzerland to destroy 10 mn doses of Moderna Covid jab



A Swiss soldier administers a booster jab with Moderna Covid-19 vaccine in Delemont, northern Switzerland, on 14 December 2021.

PHOTO: AFP

SWITZERLAND will need to destroy 10.3 million doses of Moderna's vaccine against Covid-19,

after they expired this week, the health ministry said Saturday.

The ministry said it had

no choice but to eliminate the jabs after the doses expired last Wednesday, according to Keystone-ATS.

It told the news agency that 2.5 million of the doses were being stored at a Swiss army logistics base and 7.8 million were in an external storage depot in Belgium.

The ministry confirmed an initial report on Swiss news site Beobachter, which estimated that the doses set for destruction were worth around 280 million Swiss francs (\$285 million).

The health ministry, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment from AFP, pointed to its early procurement

strategy in the race to develop vaccines to counter the global Covid-19 pandemic.

It ordered doses from various manufacturers to avoid becoming reliant on vaccines that might eventually prove ineffective and to guard against any delivery problems. The fact that vaccines based on mRNA technology, from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech, turned out to be effective, left Switzerland with a large surplus of doses. In June, the Swissinfo news site estimated that Switzerland had an excess of some 38 million doses of various Covid vaccines, that would expire before the year-end.—AFP

Hackers leak French hospital patient data in ransom fight

HACKERS who crippled a French hospital and stole a trove of data last month have released personal records of patients online, officials have confirmed.

The cyberattackers demanded a multimillion dollar ransom from the Corbeil-Essonnes hospital near Paris a

month ago, but the institution refused to pay.

The hospital said the hackers had now dumped medical scans and lab analyses along with the national security numbers of patients.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the unspeakable

disclosure of hacked data," health minister Francois Braun tweeted on Sunday. Hospitals around the world have been facing increasing attacks from ransomware groups, particularly since the pandemic stretched resources to breaking point. The problem has been acute in

France, where officials estimated early last year that healthcare institutions were facing on average an attack every week.

President Emmanuel Macron last year called the attacks during the pandemic a "crisis within a crisis" and announced an extra one billion euros for cy-

bersecurity.

During last month's attack, the Corbeil-Essonnes hospital shut down its emergency services and sent many patients to other institutions.

At one point, officials said the only technology still working was the telephone.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

OECD cuts 2023 global growth outlook to 2.2% amid monetary tightening

THE global economy will likely grow 2.2 per cent in 2023, slower than the 2.8 per cent projected earlier, weighed down by monetary tightening in advanced economies to fight inflation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Monday.

Japan will see growth of 1.4 per cent next year, slower than the 1.8 per cent expansion previously forecast in June, the

OECD's economic outlook report showed, even as the Bank of Japan is in no rush to tweak its ultralow rate policy.

Global economic growth stalled in the second quarter of 2022 as Russia's war against Ukraine has lifted energy, food and other raw material prices to the detriment of consumers.

The OECD said that an extended period of "subdued growth" is projected amid pros-

pects for further monetary tightening in major economies.

"While it is likely that growth in the third quarter has been positive, helped by a pick-up in China, a number of indicators have taken a turn for the worse, and the global growth outlook has darkened," the OECD said.

This year, the US and Japanese economies will likely see slower growth than previously estimated, at 1.5 per cent and

1.6 per cent, respectively.

Growth will pick up in China, the world's second-largest economy, to 4.7 per cent next year from 3.2 per cent this year, though at a slower pace than earlier forecast.

The OECD expects the eurozone economy to grow 3.1 per cent this year but to slow sharply to 0.3 per cent next year. Europe, whose dependence on Russian energy is high, has been taking

a hit from surging prices.

Accelerating inflation has become a headache for policy-makers in many parts of the world, though the pace of increase has varied.

Inflation in the United States, where the Federal Reserve has been aggressively raising interest rates, will rise 6.2 per cent this year and then 3.4 per cent next year, the report said.—Kyodo

Pound hits record low versus dollar, markets hit by recession fears

THE pound hit a record low against the dollar Monday on surging fears about the UK economy after the government unveiled a huge tax-cutting budget.

The selloff came as equity markets across Asia and Europe fell again owing to a growing expectation that central bank interest rate hikes to fight runaway inflation would lead to deep and painful recessions. Oil also suffered more hefty selling.

Officials in several countries including the United States, Britain, Switzerland and Sweden announced more increases in the cost of borrowing.

The moves sent equity markets deep into the red again after officials reiterated their focus on fighting inflation, even if that means causing a recession.

But the biggest casualty of the week was the pound, which fell below \$1.10 for the first time since 1985 as new finance minis-

ter Kwasi Kwarteng announced his controversial mini-budget.

It then extended the losses Monday to briefly touch an all-time low of \$1.0350 in Asian trade after he said he intended to unveil further reductions, despite his budget causing ructions on London's markets.

It also fell to a two-year low against the euro, though the single currency remains under pressure against the dollar, sitting at 2002 levels.—AFP

Japan to run new domestic travel subsidy programme to late Dec: gov't

JAPAN will run a new domestic tourism subsidy programme from 11 October to late December as part of efforts to spur domestic tourism and revive the coronavirus-hit economy, tourism minister Tetsuo Saito said Monday.

The "National Travel Discount" will provide the equivalent of up to 11,000 yen (\$77) in discounts and coupons per traveller per day, which can be used for meals, shopping and accommodation expenses.

The measure comes in line with a plan to remove the daily cap for overseas arrivals, currently set at 50,000, on 11 October as part of easing COVID-19 border control measures.

Japan will also resume individual visa-free travel from abroad that day.

Airports and seaports across Japan will start preparations to resume international operations suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a press conference.

The government will also start a programme on 11 October to offer discounts for event admission fees for people who have been vaccinated at least three times or present proof of a negative COVID-19 test, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said.

Under the program, a 20 per cent discount of up to 2,000 yen will be offered for events that are held by the end of



Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Tetsuo Saito speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 26 September 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

January next year at theme parks and sports and music venues, for example, that take antiviral measures.

The National Travel Discount programme, which is available to Japan residents only, comes in the wake of the "Go To Travel" subsidy programme and expands on similar existing programmes operating at the prefectural level.

Under a system where the national government subsidizes the costs borne by prefectural authorities to implement such programs, the 47 prefectures will be allowed to suspend the scheme depending on the infection situation within their jurisdiction.

Prefectural governments will have the authority to determine the scheme's running period or whether to implement it at all, leading to the possibility that it may not be launched simultaneously across the country.—Kyodo

China-N Korea freight train operation resumed after 5-month hiatus

A freight train service between China and North Korea resumed Monday after it was suspended in late April amid a coronavirus outbreak in the Chinese border city of Dandong, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said. The train with more than 10 cars from Dandong was spotted crossing a bridge to the North's border city

of Sinuiju at 7:43 am, Yonhap said. China is the country's closest and most influential ally in economic terms and the move signals the expansion of bilateral trade.

The cargo train operations had been suspended since 29 April, with many residential compounds in Dandong locked down amid the spread of the high-

ly transmissible Omicron variant.

North Korea disclosed its first case of the virus only on 12 May after claiming to have had no COVID-19 infections for more than two years. In August, leader Kim Jong Un declared victory in the country's fight against the coronavirus and ordered an easing of "maximum emergency" measures.

North Korea had asked China to resume the cargo operation, and the two sides had been discussing the matter, according to sources familiar with bilateral relations. Yonhap quoted a source in China as saying the rail service is to operate one to two times a day. The North had cut off land traffic to and from China in 2020 due to worries that the virus, first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, could enter its territory. The train link resumed in January this year.—Kyodo

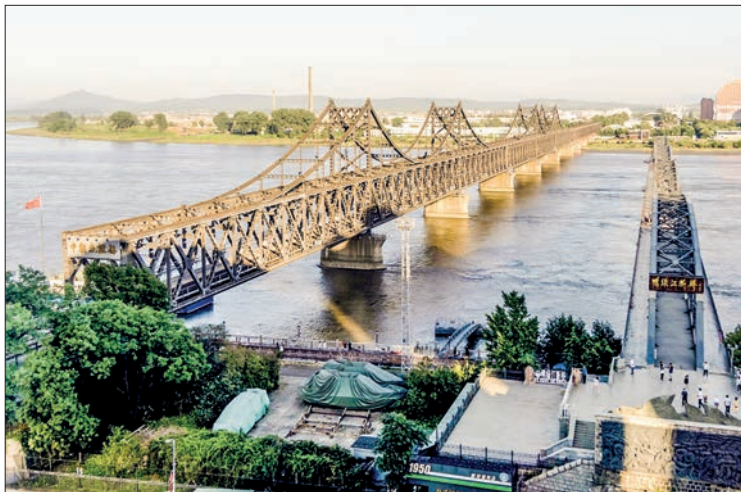


Photo taken 10 August 2022, shows the Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge that links China's Dandong (front) and North Korea's Sinuiju.

PHOTO: KYODO

Netflix and Disney poised to shake up TV ad world

WITH the launch of cheaper, ad-supported subscriptions, Netflix and Disney+ are expected to bite into the revenue of traditional television channels as the streaming services look towards continued expansion.

After having long-shunned the notion of advertising on its platform, Netflix this year accelerated work on just such an offering as inflation prompts consumers to spend less and competition in the streaming television market intensifies.

Netflix is expected to launch an ad-supported subscription tier in early November, about a month

before rival Disney+ does the same, according to US media reports.

“These launches are going to create the biggest premium advertising space in more than a generation,” said analytics company Samba TV senior vice-president Dallas Lawrence.

“It’s going to be a major moment for advertisers.”

The windfall for Netflix and Disney+ could be considerable. Market tracker Statista forecasts that spending on television ads globally will hit \$159 billion this year.

Insider Intelligence analyst Ross Benes es-

timates that advertising revenues from streaming could reach \$30 billion in two years in the United States alone.

Global video sharing and online television platform YouTube saw \$28.8 billion in ad revenue in 2021.

“Not long ago, everyone said subscriptions would kill ads,” said Kevin Krim, head of marketing analytics firm EDO.

“Now, we can see that is obviously not true.”

Some streaming television services such as NBCUniversal’s Peacock, Paramount+ and HBO Max already feature ad-supported offerings.

But Netflix and Dis-

ney+ — with 220 million and 152 million subscribers respectively — throwing their hats in the advertising ring could catch the attention of businesses interested in reaching television audiences, analysts said. Netflix is looking to win over at least 40 million subscribers to its ad-subsidized tier by next year’s third quarter, according to an internal document cited by the Wall Street Journal.

When the time comes, Disney+ will transition its existing \$7.99-per-month subscription tier to the ad-supported version, and the ad-free option will go for \$10.99, the company has said.—AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm



TRADEMARK CAUTION

Braskem Netherlands B.V., a company incorporated in The Netherlands and having its registered office at **Weena 240, Tower C, 9th Floor, 3012 NJ Rotterdam, The Netherlands / Holanda** is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Reg. No. 4/6940/2022 (Date 31.8. 2022)

In respect of “Chemicals; polymers derived from green ethylene; polyethylene; polypropylene; vinyl acetate (EVA); monoethylene glycol (MEG); monopropylene glycol (MPG); petrochemical products, derived from petrochemical raw materials and/or renewable of vegetable origin; resins included in this class; substances and products of vegetable origin, crude included in this class” in **International Class 01**; “Trade and import services of [chemicals; polymers derived from green ethylene; polyethylene; polypropylene; vinyl acetate (EVA); monoethylene glycol (MEG); monopropylene glycol (MPG); petrochemical products, derived from petrochemical raw materials and/or renewable of vegetable origin; resins included in this class; substances and products of vegetable origin, crude included in this class] management; business information and consulting services involving trade in chemicals, petrochemicals and/or petrochemical feedstock derivatives and/or renewable” in **International Class 35** and “Intellectual Property Licensing Services” in **International Class 45**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the aforesaid trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Aye Myint Soe, Advocate
For **Braskem Netherlands B.V.**

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 27th September 2022 ams@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (237W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (237W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22019N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22019N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (037N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (037N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (151N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (151N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB237A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB237A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

UN nuclear watchdog urges Ukraine safety zone talks this week

THE head of the UN atomic energy watchdog said Monday he was ready to continue talks in Ukraine and Russia this week to set up a security zone around a key nuclear power plant.

Fighting around Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant — Europe's largest — has raised fears of a nuclear disaster.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), met the Ukrainian and Russian foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last week to discuss setting up the security zone around the plant to protect it.

"This is possible. This must be done. And I'm ready to continue these consultations in both countries this week so that we can protect this plant," he said in his opening statement at the agency's annual general conference.



Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is displayed on a screen as he speaks during the IAEA's General Conference at the agency's headquarters in Vienna, Austria on 26 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

ference.

"The work there will allow us to stabilize a situation that is simply unacceptable. And I'm convinced that it's something that we can do."

"This war must stop. But before that happens... we must do everything in our power to prevent a nuclear accident that would add tragedy to the suffering," he added.—AFP

Kremlin admits call-up 'errors' but no decision to close border

THE Kremlin admitted Monday that errors had been made during the mobilization of reservists for the military action in Ukraine and said no decision had been taken to close Russia's borders.

"Indeed, there are cases when the (mobilization) decree was violated. In some regions, governors are actively working to rectify the situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Instances of non-compliance (with the decree) are decreasing. We hope this will speed up and that all errors will be corrected."

President Vladimir Putin last week announced the call-up of thousands of reservists for the conflict in Ukraine, sparking protests across the country and a rush among Russian men for the borders.

Answering questions from reporters, Peskov said, despite rumours to the contrary, no decision had been taken to seal Russia's external borders and introduce martial law in some border regions.

"I don't know anything about this. No decisions have been made for now," he said.—AFP

'I need my salary': anger as Lebanese banks reopen

DEPOSITORS scuffled and long lines formed at Lebanese banks Monday as they partially reopened after a week-long closure following a slew of heists by customers desperate to access their money.

But most banks remained shut, welcoming only a handful of depositors on appointment, and there was anger from those seeking to withdraw frozen funds desperately needed to weather a crushing economic crisis.

At a closed Beirut branch of Fransabank, dozens of soldiers, internal security forces members and customers had queued for hours.

"I don't care about anything, I need my salary," one ISF member yelled from behind the locked gates.

Banks started imposing draconian restrictions on withdrawals after Lebanon's economy collapsed in 2019.

Since then, the Lebanese pound has lost more than 95 per cent of its market value, meaning public sector salaries have slumped to as low as \$40 a month.

Earlier this month five banks were stormed in one day with depositors seeking to unlock frozen savings, after a string of similar holdups in past weeks.

The Lebanese banks asso-



Lebanese depositors queue outside a branch of Credit Libanais bank in the Lebanese port city of Saida (Sidon) on 26 September 2022 as banks partially re-opened following a week of closure due to security concerns. **PHOTO: AFP**

ciation said Sunday that banks will reopen in a limited capacity

to businesses, educational institutions and hospitals. Many

banks have also now hired security guards.—AFP

Putin denounces 'inhuman terrorist attack' at school: Kremlin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Monday denounced an "inhuman terrorist attack" at a school in central Russia's Izhevsk, where a gunman opened fire leaving at least

13 people dead, including children, the Kremlin said.

"President Putin deeply mourns the deaths of people, children at a school where there was a terrorist attack by

a person, who apparently belongs to a neo-fascist group," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"The president wishes for the recovery of those injured

as a result of this inhuman terrorist attack," Peskov added.

Investigators said six adults and seven children died in the attack that also left

more than 20 people injured.

The attacker, who was said to be wearing clothes with Nazi symbols, committed suicide, investigators said.—AFP

US, South Korea begin naval drills after North's missile test

SOUTH Korea and the United States began their first combined naval exercise near the peninsula in five years on Monday, a day after Pyongyang conducted a ballistic missile launch.

Washington is Seoul's key security ally and stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea to protect it from the nuclear-armed North.

South Korea's hawkish President Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office in May, has vowed to beef up joint military exercises with the United States, after years of failed diplomacy with North Korea under his predecessor.

"This exercise was prepared to demonstrate the strong will of the South Korea-US alliance to respond to North Korean provocations," the South's navy said in a statement.

The four-day exercise on South Korea's east coast will involve more than 20 vessels and an assortment of aircraft, which will conduct drills on anti-ship and anti-submarine warfare



People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul on 25 September 2022. North Korea fired a ballistic missile on 25 September, Seoul's military said, just days after a US aircraft carrier arrived for joint drills with the South in a show of force against Pyongyang. **PHOTO: AFP**

operations, tactical maneuvers and other maritime operations, it added.

"Through this exercise, we will further improve the ability to

conduct joint operations between the naval forces of the two countries," Kwak Kwang-sub, a senior South Korean naval officer, said in the statement.

The drills come a day after nuclear-armed Pyongyang conducted another ballistic missile launch, the latest in its record-breaking blitz of weapons

tests this year.

North Korea is under multiple sets of international sanctions over its programmes to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Seoul had also detected signs the North was preparing to fire a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM), the president's office said Saturday, a weapon Pyongyang last tested in May.

Earlier this month, the North revised its nuclear law, enshrining a "first strike" doctrine and vowing never to give up its nukes.

The allies have long carried out joint exercises, which they insist are purely defensive. North Korea, however, sees them as rehearsals for an invasion.

Last month, the United States and South Korea staged their biggest combined military drills since 2018 — the resumption of large-scale training sessions that had been scaled back due to Covid-19 and the period of diplomacy with Pyongyang.—AFP

Inflation hits home for Mongolians struggling for basic goods

AT Ulaanbaatar's Naiman Sharga money exchange market, elderly women stand in the street waving wads of money at passers-by, encouraging them to change foreign currency to Mongolian tugriks.

Each transaction nets them a small profit — but when the value of the tugrik fluctuates it makes that more difficult, and lately the currency has taken a dive.

This year the currency has fallen almost 15 per cent against the US dollar — most of that since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Angara Banerji, the International Monetary Fund's mission chief, listed a raft of factors behind the country's inflation, including a rise in domestic meat prices, China's border restrictions, surging oil and food prices, and an increase in transport and logistical costs for imports.

The declining currency has pushed up the cost of everyday goods for a country

struggling to navigate global economic headwinds caused by transport bottlenecks and inflationary pressures, war and economic uncertainty.

"The rate is going down dramatically because of the war in Ukraine and the coronavirus," said Ts. Maisaikhan, a currency trader who operates inside the market.

"We don't produce much ourselves, most things are imported, so when the dollar goes up the price of everything goes up too."

Like elsewhere in the world, Mongolia's inflation has soared this year and reached 14.4 per cent in August, compared with 9.5 per cent during the same month in 2021, according to the country's National Statistical Office.

Prices for food and beverages increased by about a fifth on-year in August — the same rate as medicine and healthcare — while the cost of clothing, utilities and housing also went up.

"Inflation has surged sharply since mid-2021 and has exceeded the Bank of Mongolia's target band," said Banerji.

Last summer there were a few weeks when potato prices temporarily tripled after China closed the border over Covid-19.

Next to the money exchange offices lies Urt Tsagaan (Long White), a pedestrian mall filled with jewellery makers, seamstresses, hairdressers, boot repair stalls, cobblers, and tattoo studios.

In a sewing shop near the money exchange, Sukhbaatar Tuya said she buys some meat and vegetables each day but when prices spike suddenly it just means buying less produce. "We're just going day by day," she said. "We don't have any plans beyond the next three days or a week."

"We have to live like this," she said. "There is no other way." — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Six people killed in Philippine typhoon

THE strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year left at least six people dead, authorities said Monday, after heavy rain and fierce winds battered the country's most populous island.

Typhoon Noru toppled trees, knocked out power and flooded low-lying communities as it swept across Luzon on Sunday and Monday.

There have so far been no reports of widespread severe damage from the storm, which hit the country as a super typhoon.

"We were ready for all of this," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr told a briefing with disaster agencies.—AFP

Bangladesh boat tragedy death toll hits 32

RESCUE workers recovered seven more bodies on Monday after a boat carrying religious pilgrims capsized in Bangladesh, taking the death toll to 32 with scores still missing, police said.

The small boat packed with mostly women and children on their way to a popular temple flipped over on Sunday in a river as onlookers screamed in horror from the shore.—AFP

Six killed in second Pakistan chopper crash in over a month

SIX Pakistan servicemen were killed in a helicopter crash in southwestern Pakistan, the military said Monday, the second deadly chopper incident in just over a month.

The helicopter went down near Khost, a small town in Balochistan province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.—AFP



SPORT

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.



Netherlands' defender Virgil van Dijk (C) scores a goal during the UEFA Nations League's League A Group 4 football match between The Netherlands and Belgium, at Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam on 25 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Croatia, Netherlands into Nations League semi-finals as France survive relegation

CROATIA and the Netherlands booked their places in the last four of the Nations League as holders France needed a favour to avoid relegation from the top tier on Sunday.

Les Bleus lost 2-0 in Denmark to finish with just one win from their six group games, but Croatia's 3-1 win at Austria saved the world champions from the drop.

Didier Deschamps will be hoping to have a number of key men back from injury by the time France's defence of the World Cup begins against Australia on 22 November.

"It was a young French team, which for the most part does not yet have experience

of the highest level," said Deschamps.

"Tonight is a dose of reality and what will be waiting for us in two months."

France will also come up against the Danes in the group stage in Qatar and the Euro 2020 semi-finalists showed they are more than capable of causing more trouble in two months' time.

Both goals came before half-time as Kasper Dolberg stretched to turn home Mikkel Damsgaard's cross before Andreas Skov Olsen volleyed in from the edge of the area.

France were without Hugo Lloris, Jules Kounde, N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba, Ousmane

Dembele and Karim Benzema through injury.

But the star trio of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Kylian Mbappe failed to find a way back into the game for France.

Denmark's win meant Croatia needed to get all three points in Austria to top the group.

Luka Modric got the 2018 World Cup finalists off to a flying start, but they were quickly pegged back by Christoph Baumgartner's header.

Two goals in three second-half minutes proved decisive as Marko Livaja and Dejan Lovren headed in at the far post.—AFP

Murray backs Federer as future Laver Cup captain



Switzerland's Roger Federer (L) and Britain's Andy Murray (R) react during the match between Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas of Team Europe and USA's Frances Tiafoe of Team World during their 2022 Laver Cup men's singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London on 25 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

ANDY Murray has backed Roger Federer as a future Laver Cup captain after Bjorn Borg indicated the sixth edition in Vancouver next year could be his last.

Federer bade farewell to professional tennis at the tournament in London at the weekend, playing doubles alongside great rival Rafael Nadal on Friday in his final competitive match, which ended in defeat.

Team Europe suffered a

13-8 loss to Team World in the Ryder Cup-style tournament to ensure Federer, 41, was denied one final trophy but a vacancy for the captaincy will open up when Swedish great Borg steps away. Federer, who won 20 Grand Slams in his glittering career, said he had no immediate plans after hanging up his racquet but it is likely he will want to stay involved in the Laver Cup, which he helped to create.—AFP

PORTUGAL coach Fernando Santos said his team would not settle for the draw they need to reach the Nations League finals when they host Spain in Braga on Tuesday.

Portugal, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2019, moved top of Group A2 on Saturday with a 4-0 victory over the Czech Republic as Spain lost at home to Switzerland.

Santos' side now hold a two-point lead over their neighbours

ahead of the final group match.

"We just have to focus on winning rather than reaching the final four," he said.

"I want the players to face Spain on their merit, as they do all opponents. Do that and we will always be closer to getting where we want to go."

Manchester United right-back Diogo Dalot scored twice against the Czechs as Portugal bounced back from a defeat in Switzerland in June.

Santos has a near fully-fit squad to choose from, with Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix having returned to training after missing last weekend's match.

Veteran centre-back Pepe is the only player originally in the initial squad missing with injury.

Portugal are building towards their opening World Cup fixture against Ghana on 24 November, ahead of further Group H games with Uruguay and South Korea in Qatar.—AFP