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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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Foreign Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs of India Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Indian Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 November 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India at the parlour of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they frankly exchanged views on cooperation in security, peace and tranquillity at the border region of both countries, further promotion of cooperation, cooperation in defence measures, situations of further enhancement of bilateral relations, trade promotion and increase of investment, imple-

mentation of Kaladan Multimodal Project and prospects for direct maritime trade measures, further improvement of the border region, efforts for the rupee/kyat direct payment in the bilateral trade sector, taking State responsibilities by the State Administration Council in accord with the Constitution (2008) due

to voting frauds in the 2020 general election, implementation of the five-point road map, and efforts of Myanmar to improve relations with the international community including neighbouring countries.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External

Affairs of India exchanged commemorative gifts.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo. The Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India was accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar.—MNA

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Four special civil appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court comprising Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Myo Tint, U Kyi Thein, U Tin Hone and U Thein Ko Ko heard four special civil appeal cases No 51/2020 (Ayeyawady), No 17/2021 (Yangon), No 34/2022 (Shan) and No 35/2022 (Shan) in line with COVID-19 health rules at the office 1 of the Union Supreme Court yesterday morning. — MNA

National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award ceremony for 2021 to be broadcast live

THE National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award ceremony for 2021 will be held at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 23 November.
The ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV News, MWD, MWD Variety, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website, MRTV Web & App and aired live on Radio Myanmar. — MNA

Award ceremony for poetry competition commemorating Sarsodaw Day held in lively manner

AN award ceremony in hailing the 1384 ME Sarsodaw Day ceremony and poetry competition (Grade 10 and Grade 11) level was held at Yan Aung Mingala Kin Pagoda, Pyay on the morning of 20 November.
Patron of Pyay Township Writers' Association Patron U Kyi (Rtd) made an opening speech at the event.
The message of Sarsodaw Day sent by the Myanmar Writers' Association (Central) was read by Dr Yin Wai Lwin (Yin Wai Lwin - Pyay), chairman of the Pyay Township Writers' Association.
Next, members of the Township Writers' Association, led by Daw Nang Nang Wai (Nang Mon Wai - Pyay), an executive member of the Writers' Association, recited anniversary poems.
Maung Paing Hein Aung (Grade 11) from BEHS 3 - Pyay won the first prize, while Ma Thae Oo May (Grade 10) from BEHS (Aung San) secured the second prize and Ma Thandar Htet Aung (Grade 11) from BEHS 5 bagged the third prize in the poetry competition.
Ma Yoon Yati Hmwe (Grade 10) from BEHS 5 and Ma Su Yomone Naing (Grade 11) from BEHS (Shwe Takar) won the consolation prizes.
The prizes were presented by the Chairman of the Township Writers Association, Dr Yin Wai Lwin (Yin Wai Lwin - Pyay), and executive members of the Township Writers Association. —Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/GNLM

MoNREC designates west Kyaukka island protected public forest



THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 717 acres in Pulaw Township, Myeik District in Taninthayi Region, as “west Kyaukka island protected public forest” as of 15 November 2022, under Notification No 165/2022 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (e) of Section (6) of the Forest Law enacted in September 2018.

The west Kyaukka island protected public forest is intended to prevent mangrove deforestation, to protect the landslides in coastal regions by the mangroves and to be a natural wall to resist waves and storms.

The forest is not only a place where various kinds of wood and valuable trees such as Byu chedauk (Rhizophora), Byu oak saung (Bruguiera), Lamu (Sonneratia), Kabala (Sonneratia), Kanazo (Heritiera), Pinle Ohn (Xylocarpus) and Madama (Dalbergia) grow as well as a habitat for marine animals like fish, prawns and crabs and birds such as large-billed crow, dove, coucal, common moorhen, egret, and including monkeys, monitor lizards, otters, snakes and clouded leopard. The mangroves are the keys to the stability of the marine ecosystem.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Two representatives of MoH attends ASEAN EOC Network Training Workshop in Malaysia

TWO representatives of the Ministry of Health left Yangon for Malaysia on 20 November to attend the Training Workshop on Preparedness to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) of the ASEAN Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Network to be held on 21 and 22 November in Kuala Lumpur.

The training will provide knowledge and preparedness for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives and also the basic safety measures to reduce the risks in the health sector. — MNA



Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Quick Win can result from rice sector promotion

- As rice is the staple food, it is the most important crop for socioeconomic development of our country.
- State Administration Council is prioritizing the export promotion activities for national economic development.
- In exporting promotion programmes to further boost products that are globally marketable and suitable with the country’s weather and geographical conditions, rice sector promotion is a Quick Win within a short period.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Rice Conference-2022 on 6 October 2022)

MoUGO Union Minister receives Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister at the Union Government Office Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received the Indian delegation led by Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra of the External Affairs Ministry of India at the Ministry of Union Government

Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. At the meeting, they discussed Myanmar-India friendly relations, exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral cooperation and the implementation of Myanmar’s peace process and exchanged gifts. —MNA



Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra calls on SAC Member Union Minister for the Ministry of Union Government Office Lt-Gen Yar Pyae yesterday.

MoIC Union Minister participates in China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development and Cooperation via videoconferencing



MoIC Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing attends the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development and Cooperation online yesterday.



UNION Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation participated in the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development and Cooperation via videoconferencing at 2:30 pm on 21 November 2022. The forum was chaired by Mr Luo Zhaohui, Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency of the People’s Republic of China and co-chaired by Mr Wang Yubo, Governor of Yunnan Provincial Government. The forum was held under the theme “Development for All, Theories and Practices from the Perspective of Blue Economy”, featuring two ses-

sions: “Blue Economy Potential and Challenges” and “Development under Blue Economy”. Various levels of representatives such as former presidents, ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general and representatives from 20 countries of the Indian Ocean Region as well as from the think tank sectors participated in the said forum. During the first session of the forum, pre-recorded video speech delivered by the Union minister was presented. In his speech, the Union minister expressed his sincere appreciation to the China International De-

velopment Cooperation Agency and Yunnan Provincial Government for their efforts in this forum. While noting the forum’s purpose “To further explore and promote China-Indian Ocean Region economic and trade cooperation to a higher level and in broader fields”, he expressed his belief that the forum would serve as a platform for extensive discussions on Global Development Initiative (GDI), blue economy, tourism as well as education sectors. He also stressed that the countries in the region including Myanmar were coordinating with China to explore specific areas for potential cooperation

opportunities to enhance global development and cooperation. He stated that Myanmar encourages inside and outside of the country to explore the possible priority areas of investments for promoting the blue economy in Myanmar and welcomes the technical assistance as well as support from the participating countries concerned with ocean governance and digital transformation development on the blue economy to lay down the innovative blue economic policy so that multiple benefits to people, the environment and the economy could be flourished. While expressing Myanmar’s willingness to cooperate with Indian Ocean Rim countries to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and economic stagnation, he concluded by encouraging the participating countries to move forward with development projects based on the ocean, facilitating connectivity, enhancing trade and economic cooperation in line with the agreed principles and to strengthen the partnership to minimize the challenges concerned with the blue economy by working together on the issues such as poverty alleviation and environ-

mental problems. Similarly, participants also delivered their speeches and remarks on opportunities and challenges of the blue economy and good practices for the protection of marine ecology and biodiversity as well as their national efforts to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, they expressed their deep concerns over climate change, loss of marine biodiversity and marine pollution. In the second session, participants shared their points of view on matters relating to the approaches of economic development and ways and means for the protection of marine resources such as fisheries and renewable energy in a more sustainable manner, promoting tourism, strengthening policy coordination, deepening development cooperation, enhancing resilience to disasters, and upgrading the countries’ capacity to achieve the benefits from the ocean-based economy. Also present at the forum with the Union minister were senior officials from the Ministry of International Cooperation. —MNA

MoFA Union Minister receives Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary of India

UNION Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received the Indian delegation led by Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India at 11 am on 21 November 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the courtesy call, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on enhancing the existing friendly bilateral relations and promoting cooperation between the two countries in the areas, inter alia, trade, investment, and ongoing development projects,

strengthening closer collaboration in regional and multilateral contexts including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the United Nations, and other matters of mutual interests.

Present at the courtesy call were U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. The Indian Foreign Secretary was accompanied by Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Joint Secretary Smt Smita Pant and responsible officials from the Ministry of External Affairs of India. — MNA



Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra calls on Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Information Minister lunches with departmental staff



The lunch hosted by the Information and Public Relations Department is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information hosted a lunch in honour of the staff of the ministry who serve their duties conscientiously for the smooth running of the government mechanism.

At the lunch, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung

Ohn said that the successful realization of the goals of the ministry is due to the collaboration of all the staff at different levels and that he appreciated their industry and diligence. He also urged them to continue carrying out their tasks in unity and cooperation.

Afterwards, the Union min-

ister, the deputy minister, the permanent secretary, heads of departments, officials and staff from the IPRD had lunch together.

During lunch, the staff entertained the attendees with songs. Then, they had fun playing lottery games and winning prizes. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Cambodia to attend 18th ASEAN-PAC Chiefs meeting

AT the invitation of Vice-President Mr Yonn Sinat of the Anti-Corruption Task Force of Cambodia, a Myanmar delegation led by Chairman U Than Htut Swe of the Anti-Corruption Commission left for Cambodia yesterday to attend the

18th meeting of ASEAN-PAC chiefs to be held on 22 and 23 November.

Member U Than Htut Thein of the Anti-Corruption Commission and officials saw off the delegation at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA



The Myanmar delegation is seen off at the Yangon International Airport.

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.

Government of Myanmar donates medicines and medical supplies to Government of Sri Lanka

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr JMJP Bandara, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe Thein and officials attended the hand-over ceremony of medicines and medical supplies donated by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, at the meeting hall of Medical Research Department, Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said that the donation of medicines and medical supplies worth over \$1.48 million was gladly made by Myanmar. The donation of rice weighing 1,000 tonnes to Sri Lanka was also made on 2 September 2022 under the guidance of the State Administration Council Chairman. Myanmar and Sri Lanka, with the same religion and cultural practices, have a good

relationship and these donations are the symbol of the friendship between the two countries. As the saying goes “Sharing is caring”, Myanmar hopes that it will be able to contribute to covid-19 epidemic prevention and control treatment activities, public healthcare activities, and social and business rehabilitation activities of Sri Lanka, and support the friendship between the two countries, the Union minister added.

Afterwards, the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the Sri Lankan government and citizens, for the donations of medicines and medical supplies under the supervision of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. He also mentioned his appreciation for the previous rice donations from Myanmar in 2017 and September 2022 which were the time of unexpected economic challenges



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win hands over the government-donated medicines and medical supplies to the Sri Lankan ambassador yesterday in Yangon.

in Sri Lanka.

Next, the Union minister handed over the documents relating to the donated items to the Sri Lankan ambassador, and the Sri Lankan ambassador returned the letter of appreciation to the Union minister.

It is reported that the medicines and medical supplies donated to Sri Lanka are jointly donated by the Ministry of Health and the Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical & Medical Device (MCCPMD) under the guidance of the SAC, and are valued at more than US\$1.48 million. — MNA

Myanmar delegation to attend Regional Malaria Steering Committee Meeting, WHO’s Regional Malaria Meeting in Thailand

TWO representatives from the Ministry of Health left Yangon for Thailand by air yesterday to attend the Regional Malaria Steering Committee Meeting and WHO’s Regional Malaria Meeting in Thailand from 22 to 29 November.

The steering committee holds its meeting every six months and representatives from Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Viet Nam and Thailand and from related organizations in the region will attend and discuss measures to fight anti-artemisinin resistance malaria in these countries. — MNA



The Myanmar delegates are seen before departing for Thailand.

40 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 November, total figure rises to 633,045

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,045** after **40** new cases were reported on 21 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,412** including **28** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,487** on Monday with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, the people need to follow the new normal way in living with COVID. Hence, all the people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. —MNA

Sugarcane to be bought at around K90,000 per tonne

IN the 2022-23 financial year sugarcane season, some companies have announced that they will buy sugarcane at an average price of around K90,000 per tonne.

Wilmar Sugar Company announced that sugarcane farmers in the area of the Moong Gone factory were given a rate of K79,000 per tonne of sugarcane in the contract

previously signed for the 2022-23 financial year.

Similarly, Silver Pearl Sugar Company announced that it will purchase sugarcane at a rate of K90,000 per tonne during the 2022-23 sugarcane season.

Some factories stated that they will only buy sugarcane at the factory price of K75,000 per tonne.

According to news reports,

sugarcane farmers along the Chinese border are getting about 450 yuan per tonne of sugarcane.

According to reports, Myanmar produces about 450,000 tonnes of sugar every year, and in previous years, the price of sugar was only K900 per pound, but now the price is more than K2,300 per pound.—TPT/GNLM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Over K1.2 bln worth of gold foils to be offered to Sule Pagoda



The Sule Pagoda is pictured in the Yangon city centre.

OVER K1,200 million worth of gold foils will be offered to Sule Pagoda and well-wishers can participate in donations, according

to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

"It is estimated to spend over K1,200 million to offer the golden

umbrella and gold plate to the pagoda and encircled pagodas," said Gold foil Offering Committee Chairman U Nyunt Pe at the

meeting held on 20 November.

It is slated to complete the donation before Thingyan and the association will support the necessary assistance. Anyone who wants to donate gold foils can make donations and the association will scrutinize the gold foils, said U Myo Myint, chairman of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The gold foils donation ceremony was held once every five years. The gold tender will be accepted starting from 23 November to 6 December and the application form is priced at K20,000.

Although there are different opinions or beliefs regarding the title of Sule Pagoda, most of people understand the facts mentioned in Shwedagon pagoda

history.

More than 2,600 years ago, BC 588, 103 Maha Era, the two brothers Taphussa and Bhalika searched the Singuttara Hill to build the pagoda after bringing the eight sacred hair of Buddha to King Okkalapa. As they could not find the hill, the Thagyamin (Celestial King) sent Visakkyone Nat to clean the forest for them to find the hill. After asking the four Great Nats (Celestial Spirits) about the place to build the pagoda at the place where the Sule Pagoda was built later, together with King Okkalapa and people including Nats, they knew about the place and built the Shwedagon Pagoda. Therefore, it is called Suway (gathering) pagoda marking a form of Nats and people. — TWA/GNLM

Some drivers rush to fill tanks at petrol stations at night tracking int'l oil prices



A car is seen filling fuel oil at the petrol station.

SOME drivers closely observe the international oil prices and urgently fill their tanks at 8 pm before the price hike.

Truck drivers buy the diesel and share information on possible price increases with fellow drivers. When they are certain about a price hike the next day, they fill their tanks before the new price is set, U Kyee Maung engaged in highway freight forwarding service told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The authorities issued the daily prices of the fuel oil. The prices in the domestic market are positively related to the international prices which can be traced at 7 pm. Some stations change the price at 8 am when the price declines. Therefore, some

customers purchased the oil at a high price before the price change.

The daily reference price for wholesale and retail oil prices was published through the daily state-run newspapers and posted on the official Facebook Page at 5 am. The energy consumers had better keep up with the international market prices and the possible reference price changes, Ko Hla Tun, a car owner from Latha Township, told the GNLM.

The price gap of the reference price is around K50 per litre and K200 per gallon. As trucks consume more than 20 gallons per trip, the price gap is over K4,000. When we see the price gap of K100, it causes an additional cost of K8,000 per 20 gallons.

As a result of this, en-

ergy consumers are closely observing the market to forecast the price.

The price of diesel decreased to K1,970 per litre on 7 August 2022 and then climbed to K3,225 per litre on 26 August. Similarly, the price of Octane 92 sharply increased to K2,495 from K1,615 per litre. The figures indicated a sharp increase of K1,255 per litre of diesel and K880 per litre of Octane 92.

The fuel prices were K2,080 per Octane 92, K2,180 per Octane 95 and K2,595 per diesel on 18 November. The prices stood at K2,040 per litre of Octane 92, K2,140 per litre of Octane 95 and K2,505 per litre of diesel on 19-21 November. At night on 18 November, international oil prices dip. Therefore, some consumers have already

speculated about the price decrease on 19 November.

The price is down by K40 per litre of Octane and K90 per litre of diesel. The GNLM quoted Ko Thein Lwin, a truck driver, as saying that he noticed filling tanks when the price remarkably declined. Customers should be aware of the daily price changes to reduce the cost of fuel.

Only a small number of customers have a chance to buy palm oil at the reference price. The majority of them are paying higher in the markets. Fuel oil is only related to a handful of people unlike having public access to palm oil reference prices. The related institutions are still giving guidelines to the shops to make gold transactions at the reference price. — TWA/GNLM

Motorcycles prohibited in Kayan, ban totals 6 townships in Yangon Region

THE permission to ride a motorcycle will be revoked in Kayan Township starting from 26 November and action will be taken against those who do not follow the rules, stated the township administration body. It is reported that the prohibition is made as terrorists use motorcycles to attack civilians, civil servants and administrators.

Motorcycle riding has been banned in five townships of the Yangon Region – Thanlyin Township, Dala Township, Hlinethaya Township, Twantay Township and Kawhmu Township – in June. In some townships, E-bikes are also banned besides motorcycles.

Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said at the 16th press conference of the State Administration Council that the right to ride motorcycles is banned in some areas for security reasons. — TWA/GNLM



City centre of Kayan.

LOCAL BUSINESS

MoC issues export licence for rice to be shipped to Bangladesh under MoU

THE Ministry of Commerce has granted an export licence for 191,700 tonnes of rice that will be shipped to Bangladesh according to the agreement between the two countries.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the rice trade, 48 companies, under the supervision of the Myanmar Rice Federation, are to export 200,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh with Chinese yuan payment between October 2022 and January 2023.

Following the contract, white rice (ATAP) GPCT Broken STX variety will be delivered. The FOB prices were 2.78856 Yuan per kilogramme and 2788.56 Yuan per tonne.

The Export/Import division of the Trade Department issued over 534 million Yuan worth 42 export licences for 41 companies to convey 191,700 tonnes of rice

to Bangladesh.

Myanmar and Bangladesh inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade in September this year.

According to this MoU, Bangladesh has agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Myanmar between 2022 and 2027.

Under the MoU, Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed a sales contract for 200,000 tonnes of Myanmar's white rice to be exported to Bangladesh. As per the sales contract, Myanmar has shipped over 20,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh till 31 October 2022. The remaining will be delivered before the deadline.

Since 7 September 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh have engaged in rice trade under the government-to-govern-



Export cargoes are loaded onto the ship on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

ment pact. That MoU stated that Bangladesh has agreed to buy Myanmar's white rice (250,000 tonnes) and parboiled rice (50,000) tonnes between 2017

and September 2022.

Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed the sales contracts as per the MoU and Myanmar sent 100,000

tonnes of rice to Bangladesh each in 2017 for the first time and 2021 for the second time, as per the sales contract. — NN/GNLM

Shwebo Pawsan price edges up to around K100,000 per bag



Farmers are seen collecting the threshed paddy.

HIGH-GRADE Pawsan rice variety from the Shwebo area inched higher to around K100,000 per bag, according to the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

The price was stable at K93,000 per bag between the

last week of October and 11 November 2022. The price went up to K97,000 per bag. The figures show a significant increase of K40,000 per bag within two weeks.

Starting from 3 August, My-

anmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Cen-

tre have been working together to offer fair prices for Shwebo Pawsan and other rice varieties to the consumers at the Wadan Wholesale Centre in the working days between 9 am and 3:30 pm.

The offer prices are K75,000-77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, K52,000-55,000 per bag of Pawsan from the Ayeyawady area, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-37,000 per bag of short-mature rice varieties (90 days) at the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Each household can buy only one bag. Those traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them.

Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre are working together on this scheme.

The prices offered by the

Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre are K75,000-K77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, K52,000-K55,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K55,000-K60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-K37,000 per bag of short-mature rice varieties (90 days).

On 21 November, the rice prices stood at K97,000 per bag of Pawsan variety produced in the Shwebo area, K63,000 for Pawsan from Dedaye and Pyapon areas, K65,000 for Pawsan from Myaungmya and Patheingyi areas, while the prices of other Pawsan varieties are estimated at K61,000 per bag. New harvested Pawsan fetched K55,000 per bag. The Kyapyan variety is valued at K68,000 per bag, whereas the short-mature rice variety (90 days) is worth K48,500 per bag. The prices of low-grade rice were K45,000-K51,000 per bag depending on varieties (Emahta, Mee-done). Old rice grown under the intercropping system was priced at K46,000 per bag.— NN/GNLM

Build the life of youths with five kinds of strengths

YOUTHS are posterities of the nation to shoulder the State’s responsibilities in the future. To be able to do so, they have to learn lessons from current generations to endow themselves with five kinds of strengths.

Those youths must have tried to hold up their mental and physical capabilities and strengths. Only when they are qualified with these capabilities will they have the qualification to serve the interests of the State and the citizens. If so, they will have to

As such, all today’s youths have to build themselves to be able to be endowed with five kinds of strengths so as to thumb up in society for ensuring never give up without a fight against opponents.

They have to apply the physical and mental strengths they personally own and seek economic strength by trying their best in saving and doing business for earning income. Generally, only when their businesses boom will they have to secure economic strength.

Moral strength is concerned with personal ethics. They must have characters to follow the prescribed legal measures in addition to exercising the personal restrictions not to do inappropriate moves and relentlessly do correct things. If so, they will have willpower based on moral strength which will be higher than others due to vigorous efforts in exercising the restrictions.

As a final strength, only when they possess fraternal strength will they have the capacity to persuade others into doing any work process as they like. It Is the best and most important thing to have victory in society.

As such, all today’s youths have to build themselves to be able to be endowed with five kinds of strengths so as to thumb up in society for ensuring never give up without a fight against opponents.



Literary Awards in retrospect

By Maung Hlaing

the full essence of literature and to value the role played by the men of letters.

As nations of the world have their long histories, literature and culture are solely dependent on their political movements. Similarly, our literary and cultural development is akin to our national movements. Actually, talking about literature and culture will not be complete without the historical background of the nation.

Myanmar’s history dates back to the early 11th Century when King Anawrahta unified the country and founded the First Myanmar Empire in Bagan. It was in 1044 AD. A review of Myanmar Literature reveals that it is rich in profound outlook and knowledge, high morals and aesthetic

values. Mya Zedi Inscription of the Bagan Dynasty was written in four Languages—Mon, Myanmar, Pali and Pyu. Historians say that Mya Zedi Stone Inscription is the cradle of Myanmar language and literature.

Myanmar literature from the Bagan Period to the end of the late Konbaung Period was a long history which covered ten centuries. During that period, Myanmar people witnessed the ups and downs of Myanmar’s political life. However, Myanmar literature reflected the cultural and social standards of Myanmar people and also served to highlight the political, economic and social affairs of Myanmar society.

Myanmar became a British colony after three Anglo-Myanmar wars in 1825, 1852 and 1885. As a result, the diminishing of national literature was a dire consequence. However, men of letters kept the flame of literature burning in the colonial period. In brief, Myanmar has become a sovereign independent State since 4 January 1948 due to the might of both pen and sword. It was because the mass of writers and journalists took an active part in the independence struggles.

In order to honour the mass of writers who took an active part in the struggles for freedom and those who wrote and are still writing literature for people’s sake,

literary awards presentation ceremonies are held.

In this way, Literary awards have been presented since 1948. With a view to bringing about the development of Myanmar Literature, Sarpay Beikman, formerly known as Burma Translation Society (on behalf of the State), started to present the ‘Sarpay Beikman Contemporary Novel Award (စာပေဝိမာန် ကာလပေါ် ဝတ္ထုဆု) in 1948.

In the following years, the names of the awards have been changed to ‘Sarpay Beikman Award’ (စာပေဝိမာန်စာမူဆု), ‘Fine Arts Literary Award (အနုပညာဆိုင်ရာစာပေဆု), and ‘National Literary Award’

(အမျိုးသားစာပေဆု) in accordance with the situations of the periods we have passed. It was in 2002 (for 2001) that the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement (အမျိုးသားစာပေ တစ်သက်တာဆု) was successfully introduced. To date, 38 veteran writers and literary figures have won the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement.

National Literature Award for Literary Achievement has been presented either to one person or two persons previously. This year (for 2021), State has awarded the lifetime award to four literary figures – Tekkatho Myat Thu, Myinmu Maung Naing Moe, Dr Myo Thant Tin and Dr Ma Tin

Win – who have contributed literary works which provide general knowledge and works of aesthetic literature continuously.

To implement the objectives of the then Burma Translation Society: BTS (Now Sarpay Beikman), the literary award presentation ceremonies have been held since 1948. At that time, the then Prime Minister presented the prizes. In 1965, the name ‘National Literary Award’ was introduced to the writers.

However, in 1969, the system of competition of both the works published and the manuscripts was abolished and the selection of the best one out of the works published in a calendar year was implemented.

In the time of the Revolution-



ary Council, or the Burma Socialist Programme Party, the Minister for Information presented the awards. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government (State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council), then Secretary 1 gave away the awards.

This year (for 2021), K10 million cash awards will be presented each to the recipients of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement for their commitment to lifetime outstanding and excellent performances for the development of Myanmar Literature. And K3 million will be presented each to awardees of the National Literary Awards.

Moreover, the first, second and third winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards will be honoured with K1.5 million, K1 million and K0.7 million respectively.

Study: Skin diseases changes molecular, microbial composition of human skin



THE biggest organ in the body is the human skin. Additionally, it controls the body’s temperature, safeguards inside living tissue, and even breaks down vitamin D. The molecular and microbiological composition of human skin may change as a result of skin conditions, according to studies, making it a valuable source of data regarding our physical health. Masoud Agah, Virginia Microelectronics Consortium Professor, founding director of the Virginia Nanotechnology Networked Infrastructure, and researcher in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech, has been awarded a nearly \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) that aims to develop a novel skin scent sampler.

Agah will collaborate with researchers from Ireland to develop this new biomedical device.

Volatile organic compounds
The proposed skin scent sampler, named SenSorp, will have the ability to monitor the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) collected in real time.

Skin VOCs, found on the skin’s surface, are derived from gland

secretions and their interactions with external microorganisms. They can give insight into the health of an individual and offer a noninvasive route to probe the body’s biochemistry.

Testing of skin gland secretions has detected more than 500 compounds, including aldehydes (often used as insecticides for plants and vegetables), carboxylic acids, alcohols, ketones, and derivatives of ammonia or amines. Recent research has highlighted the link between skin volatiles and the potential passage of compounds from blood vessels, dietary influences, and age-related metabolic activity.

In addition, research has shown that dogs have the olfactory ability to detect the presence of COVID-19 from the volatile emission of the body.

Therefore, researchers have identified the skin and VOCs as importance resources when it comes to identifying health issues and detecting certain diseases.

The skin odor collection

The Sensorp skin scent sampler, along with its Smart Key, which measures the collected VOCs in real time, informs the user

via mobile app when the skin odor collection is complete.

This communication is achieved through the device’s embedded electronic circuitry. The ultimate goal of this new skin sensor parallels that of an at-home COVID test.

Consumers have come to expect minimally invasive, affordable, and convenient options for health care needs. Devices like Sensorp meet this need and are beneficial in reducing the burden on health care providers and hospital systems. SenSorp allows caregivers, parents of sick children, and nursing home clinicians, among others, to administer the test and send the test kit to a lab for analysis. Agah has more than 20 years of experience applying electrical and computer engineering concepts to biomedical engineering research projects.

For this project, the Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems faculty lead will contribute to the design and fabrication of these new devices.

Specifically, Agah will develop the SenSorp unique 3D-printed package with rotatory lock-in mechanism as well as the SenSorp

Researchers have identified the skin and VOCs as importance resources when it comes to identifying health issues and detecting certain diseases. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

Auto Injector Module, which will release the collected sample in the form of a sharp plug into gas chromatography systems. After these two pieces of equipment are fabricated, Agah will send them over to the other team members.

Collaborative research project

This collaborative research project includes the expertise of two academic researchers from Ireland. Co-principal investigator Hamza Shakeel is an assistant

professor at the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Queen’s University in Belfast. He is well-versed in Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems gas sensors and will help evaluate the VOCs emitted from the skin and absorbed by SenSorp.

Additionally, Shakeel will assist with the development and evaluation of the future wearable device, including its proposed signal conditioning and bluetooth

transmission of data to a laptop or smartphone.

Shakeel, a former doctoral student of Agah’s, graduated from Virginia Tech’s electrical and computer engineering department in 2015. Agah said he was excited about the opportunity to work with Shakeel in a new capacity. “He is the inventor of some of the technologies we have developed here at Virginia Tech and will be using in this research,” said Agah.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 21 November 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30 hrs MST today, the Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved Northwestwards. It is centered at about (570) Nautical miles Southwest of Coco Island, (660) Nautical miles Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), (275) Nautical miles East of Jaffna (Sri Lanka), (210) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Chennai (India). Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and Eastcentral and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22 November 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, scattered in and Southern Shan and Kayin states and isolated in Bago and Yangon regions and Kayah State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Eastern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and generally fair in remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30) to (35) mph. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 November 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 November 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and Neighbouring Area for 22 November 2022: Generally fair weather.

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

COP27 agrees to fund climate damages, no progress on emission cuts



Wind turbine are seen in front of a coal-fired power plant operated by German energy supplier RWE in Niederaussem, western Germany, on 13 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

A fraught UN summit wrapped up Sunday with a landmark deal on funding to help vulnerable countries cope with devastating climate impacts — but also anger over a failure to be more ambitious on cutting

emissions.

The two-week talks in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, which at times appeared to teeter on the brink of collapse, delivered a major breakthrough on a fund

for climate "loss and damage".

Pakistani climate minister Sherry Rehman said COP27 "responded to the voices of the vulnerable".

"We have struggled for 30 years on this path, and today in Sharm el-Sheikh this journey has achieved its first positive milestone," she told the summit. Tired delegates applauded when the fund was adopted as the sun came up Sunday following almost two extra days of round-the-clock negotiations.

But jubilation over that achievement was countered by stern warnings.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said the talks had "taken an important step towards justice" with the loss and damage fund, but fell short in pushing for the urgent carbon-cutting needed to tackle global warming. —AFP

Hanoi eyes public bike services to reduce congestion, pollution

VIET Nam's capital Hanoi is considering piloting public bike services in its inner districts as part of an effort to reduce traffic congestion and environmental pollution, local media reported on Monday.

Under the plan, the public bicycle-sharing service will be carried out over a period of 12 months in six districts with 94 rental spots and 1,000 bicycles, local newspaper Viet Nam News reported.

The cost for each 30-minute use is 5,000 Vietnamese dong (0.2 US dollars) for a regular bicycle and 10,000 Vietnamese dong (0.4 US dollars) for an electric one, according to the newspaper.

Based on the results and efficiency of the service and relevant stakeholders' opinions, Hanoi's Department of Transport would consider the implementation of the service as well as the collection of a sidewalk fee from the investor, the deputy director

of the department said, as cited by the newspaper.

A public bicycle service would help replace private vehicles for short trips between residential areas, bus stations and metro stations, he said.

This service has been piloted in some localities including Ho Chi Minh City, Vung Tau and Hai Duong, and has been warmly welcomed by both locals and tourists, the newspaper said. —Xinhua

China's financial hub Shanghai plans to boost 5G coverage

CHINA'S financial hub Shanghai is expected to have over 77,000 5G base stations by the end of 2023 as part of the city's efforts to boost 5G coverage, local authorities said.

More than 4,000 commercial buildings and major public buildings would achieve indoor 5G coverage, and 90 per cent of the city would have access to 5G services by the end of next year, according to an action

plan released by the Shanghai Communications Administration.

The plan also noted that the average download speed in the city's key areas will reach 1,000 Mbps, while the upload speed will hit 200 Mbps.

Shanghai will leverage the 5G technology to push its digital transformation. In 2023, it will promote the use of 5G in various sectors including

medical services, education, tourism and transport.

China has built the world's largest 5G network. By the end of August this year, the country had over 2.1 million 5G base stations, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

The number of 5G mobile users in China hit 475 million by the end of July. —Xinhua

'Like a shotgun': Tongan eruption is largest ever recorded

A deadly volcanic eruption near Tonga in January was the largest ever recorded with modern equipment, a New Zealand-led team of scientists revealed Monday.

The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted underwater with a force equivalent to hundreds of atomic bombs, unleashing a 15-metre (50-foot) tsunami which demolished homes and killed at least three people on the Pacific island kingdom.

The natural disaster also damaged undersea communication cables, cutting Tonga off from the rest of the world for weeks and hampering efforts to help the victims.

A detailed study by New Zealand's national institute for water and atmospheric research shows the eruption blasted out almost 10 cubic kilometres of material — equivalent to 2.6 million Olympic-sized swimming pools — and fired debris more than 40 kilometres (25 miles) into the

mesosphere, the level above the Earth's stratosphere.

"The eruption reached record heights, being the first we've ever seen to break through into the mesosphere," said marine geologist Kevin Mackay.

"It was like a shotgun blast directly into the sky."

The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption rivals the infamous Krakatoa disaster which killed tens of thousands in Indonesia in 1883 before the invention of modern measuring equipment.

"While this eruption was large — one of the biggest since Krakatoa — the difference here is that it's an underwater volcano and it's also part of the reason we got such big tsunami waves," Mackay added. The team of scientists have accounted for three-quarters of the material fired out by the Tongan eruption with the rest explained as debris scattered in the atmosphere. —AFP

South-east Australia to face more cold temperatures, gusty winds in spring

THE Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) warned that a late spring cold burst is moving over south-east Australia, with damaging winds, cold temperatures and low-level snow impacting multiple states.

In a statement released on Monday, the weather authority said that wind gusts of 70-90 km/h have been observed across parts of Melbourne, the capital city of Victoria, leading to trees toppling in some parts of the city.

Widespread strong to damaging winds above 90km/h are expected to continue through a Severe Weather Warning area, which covers parts of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales (NSW).

Peak gusts approaching

100km/h are possible, especially about the coast and elevated terrain, said the BOM, adding that the risks of trees and powerlines toppling are rising due to ground saturation.

The authority also said that maximum temperatures will be 6-14 degrees below average for this time of year, but the gusty winds will make it feel much colder. Snow is possible above 500m in Tasmania, and 800-900m in Victoria and NSW, said the BOM.

The NSW State Emergency Service said that it has been working with communities in western NSW impacted by floods while responding to calls in Greater Sydney after strong winds brought down trees and damaged buildings. —Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

China reports more Covid deaths as infections surge

CHINA reported two new deaths from Covid-19 on Monday, both elderly Beijing residents, as several major cities persisted with strict virus curbs despite a much-touted recent loosening.

The last major economy wedded to a zero-Covid policy, Chinese authorities have continued to impose snap lockdowns, mass testing and lengthy quarantines in response to emerging outbreaks.

Despite the central government this month announcing its most significant easing of the measures so far, authorities in

many areas have stuck to hard-line curbs as the number of new cases has spiked.

Monday's deaths involved a 91-year-old woman with a history of stroke and Alzheimer's disease, and an 88-year-old man with a history of cancer, bronchitis and stroke, local authorities said.

On Sunday, Beijing announced China's first Covid fatality since May, an 87-year-old man whose mild case worsened after he contracted a bacterial infection.

New cases in the capital

jumped to 962 on Monday from 621 the day before, as authorities maintained a patchwork of restrictions in an effort to extinguish emerging flare-ups.

Nearly 600 areas of the city are currently "high-risk", a designation that typically requires residents to isolate for several days in their housing units or move to state quarantine facilities.

In some neighbourhoods, schools have been ordered to move classes online and office employees told to work from home.—AFP



(FILES) This file photo taken on 13 November 2022 shows health workers near a residential area under lockdown due to Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions in Beijing. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hong Kong leader tests positive for Covid on return from APEC

HONG Kong leader John Lee tested positive for Covid-19 on his return from an Asia-Pacific summit, the city's government said Monday, days after he met Chinese President Xi Jinping

summit, the city's government said Monday, days after he met Chinese President Xi Jinping

and other heads of state.

Lee visited Thailand's capital Bangkok last week to attend a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, with his office saying he tested negative on rapid antigen tests for all four days he was there.

"The Chief Executive is undergoing quarantine in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Centre for Health Protection," a government statement said.

The APEC summit was Lee's first overseas trip since the pandemic began nearly three years ago, as well as his first since taking office as Hong Kong's chief executive in July.—AFP



Hong Kong's Chief Executive John Lee attends the "APEC Leaders' Informal Dialogue with Guests" event during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok on 18 November 2022. **PHOTO: ATHIT PERAWONGMETHA / POOL / AFP**

WHO identifying potential pandemic pathogens

THE World Health Organization said on Monday it was thrashing out a new list of priority pathogens that risk sparking pandemics or outbreaks and need to be kept under close observation.

The WHO said the aim was to update a list used to guide global research and development (R&D) and investment, especially in vaccines, tests and treatments.

As part of that process, which started on Friday, the United Nations health agency is convening over 300 scientists to consider evidence on more than 25 virus families and bacteria.

They will also consider the so-called "Disease X" — an unknown pathogen that could cause a serious international epidemic.

"Targeting priority pathogens and virus families for research and development of countermeasures is essential for a fast and effective epidemic and pandemic response," said WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan.

"Without significant R&D investments prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, it would not have been possible to have safe and effective vaccines developed in record time."

The list was first published in 2017. It currently includes Covid-19, Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Nipah, Zika and Disease X.—AFP

The tools Uganda is using to fight Ebola outbreak

NEW clinical trials of vaccines and drugs have helped bolster Uganda's arsenal of weapons to fight against an Ebola outbreak first detected two months ago.

There have been 55 confirmed deaths and 22 probable deaths since the East African country's latest Ebola outbreak was declared on 20 September, according to the World Health Organization.

Lockdowns, contact tracing

The government has put several districts under lockdown, including Mubende where the outbreak was first detected.

However President Yoweri

Museveni has ruled out a nationwide lockdown.

Last month Museveni ordered police to arrest anyone suspected of having Ebola who refused to self-isolate.

Yap Boum of Africa for Epi-centre, the research arm of Doctors Without Borders, told AFP contract tracing and community engagement were the biggest factors in bringing the outbreak under control.

"The community is extremely tired" of confinement measures after strict Covid lockdowns which included shutting schools for nearly two years,

he said.

"A kind of distrust between the community and the government" has made tracing contact cases more difficult, said Boum, who has worked on Ebola responses in several countries including Uganda.

He said some contact cases have fled rather than undergo isolation measures for Ebola, an often deadly haemorrhagic fever that spreads through close contact with bodily fluids.

Burial rules

Another issue is that some people seek the advice of traditional healers before doctors,

Boum added. Last month Museveni ordered traditional healers to stop treating sick people.

Another "huge challenge" is that families are often dissatisfied when loved ones who died of Ebola are buried under strict anti-transmission protocols.

"They exhume the corpse and then bury it according to their own practices," Boum said, and that is "definitely an opportunity to spread the virus even further".

He added that the latest outbreak "is quite surprising because Uganda has been one of the best countries in Africa

in terms of responding to these outbreaks", pointing to recent success against the Marburg virus.

Vaccines

While most previous Ebola outbreaks have been with the Zaire virus, Uganda has been hit with the Sudan Ebola strain.

There are two vaccines for Zaire Ebola, but none for the Sudan strain — though several candidates have been moving towards clinical trials.

Last week the WHO announced that three candidate vaccines would be shipped to Uganda for trials.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Thai economy sees growth boosted by tourism revival

THAILAND'S economy enjoyed healthy expansion in the third quarter, officials said Monday, with the return of international tourists helping to offset persistently high inflation.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy was battered by the pandemic, but the kingdom's reopening earlier this year saw the service sector record an 87 per cent year-

on-year increase, official data showed. Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) recorded a 4.5 per cent year-on-year rise in gross domestic product in July-September, projecting this year's overall growth at 3.2 per cent while forecasting 3.0/4.0 per cent for 2023.

"The service sector continues to grow due to tourism re-opening earlier in the year,"

said Danucha Pichayanon, NESDC secretary-general, adding private consumption increased nine per cent.

Thailand expects to generate around 570 billion baht (\$15.8 billion) in tourism revenue this year, officials said, after welcoming some 10.2 million visitors since reopening — still down from the roughly 40 million pre-pandemic. —AFP



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 18 July 2022 tourists gather and take pictures in the grounds of the Grand Palace in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK must focus on growth as well as inflation: Business lobby

THE UK's recent austerity budget may avert a deeper recession, but the government must focus more on growth to improve the country's long-term prospects, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) will say Monday.

The business lobby group's director general, Tony Danker, will tell its annual conference that the government and companies need to focus on three areas to make the country more productive.

Danker will open the conference by arguing that "while fiscal credibility looks to have been restored, there are three

imperatives to get the economy growing," according to a CBI press release published ahead of his speech.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government must work to unlock private investment and change rules "to overcome political barriers", with more migration needed to fill job vacancies, Danker will say.

Businesses must also show "even greater ingenuity than during Covid," he will add.

Sunak will attend the conference in Birmingham, central England, "where he'll deliver a keynote speech focussed on the subject of in-

novation," according to his Downing Street office.

CBI chief Danker will stress that the prime minister cannot merely concentrate on taming inflation.

"Aggressively getting inflation down is the right thing to do... and I pay tribute to the Prime Minister and Chancellor for taking the tough choices needed to achieve that.

"But what about growth? That's what the mini budget got wrong," he will say.

"Growth is good. Yet Britain's had 15 years of low growth and flatlining productivity. We can't afford a repeat." —AFP

S Korea's export falls 16.7% in 1st 20 days of November

SOUTH Korea's export logged a double-digit fall in the first 20 days of this month, leading to a continued trade deficit, customs office data showed Monday.

Export came to 33.16 billion US dollars in the November 1-20 period, down 16.7 per cent compared to the same period of last year, according to Korea Customs Service.

The daily average shipment reduced 11.3 per cent in the 20-day period.

Semiconductor export tumbled 29.4 per cent, and those for steel, mobile devices and precision machinery declined in double figures.

Export for cars and oil products advanced by 28.6 per cent and 16.1 per cent each in the cited period.

Import shrank 5.5 per cent from a year earlier to 37.58 billion dollars in the first 20 days of November, but the daily average import added 0.6 per cent.

Import of the country's three major energy sources, including crude oil, natural gas and coal, stood at 9.86 billion dollars in the November 1-20 period, up 17.1 per cent from a year earlier. Import for semiconductors, oil products and semiconductor equipment dropped in double digits. —Xinhua

Inflation drops in Sri Lanka after hitting record high



A vendor selling clothes waits for customers at a roadside stall in Colombo on 15 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

SRI Lanka's inflation measured by the year-on-year change in the national consumer price index decreased to 70.6 per cent in October from a record high

of 73.7 per cent in September, the Department of Census and Statistics said on Monday.

Contributions to the inflation for October from the food

group was 38.5 per cent and the non-food group was 32.1 per cent, data showed.

Prices of fresh fish, rice, dried fish, coconut oil, sugar, potatoes, chicken, biscuits, wheat flour, chili powder and green chilies decreased in October.

However, prices of milk powder, big onions, fresh fruits, tea leaves, bread, rice flour, vegetables and green gram increased in October.

Sri Lanka has been witnessing inflation of over 50 per cent since June 2022.

The central bank has increased interest rates to control inflation, saying that inflation will drop to 4-5 per cent by 2023. —Xinhua

Bangladesh hikes bulk electricity price by 19.92%

BANGLADESH has decided to hike the electricity price by 19.92 per cent at the wholesale level from next month.

The increase was approved by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) and the decision was announced by its chairman Abdul Jalil on Monday.

The new tariff will come into effect from 1 December 2022, said Jalil while announcing the decision at a press conference.

According to the announcement, the retail power tariff has been increased from 5.17 taka to 6.20 taka per kilowatt-hour unit at the wholesale level.

BERC said it made the decision in responding to a review petition filed by the Bangladesh Power Development Board

(PDB) to increase the electricity price at the wholesale level.

The BERC chairman said the new price will be effective only for power distribution companies and some other bulk consumers. He said they may request a new public hearing soon for any hike in retail prices.

Although he said that bulk power tariff hike will have no impact on the retail prices, experts claimed the markup in the bulk power price would likely push up the nation's inflation rate again.

Inflation in Bangladesh accelerated to 9.52 per cent in August, the highest in 10 years, mainly driven by higher food prices, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has reported. (1 US dollar equals about 100 taka) —Xinhua

Markets mainly drop on fresh China Covid fears

ASIAN and European stocks mostly fell Monday, with investor sentiment hit by renewed Covid concerns in China.

Shares headed lower as China's first coronavirus death in six months sparked fears officials would reimpose strict, economically painful restrictions to fight outbreaks across the country.

Oil prices also slid on fears over energy demand in China, the world's second biggest economy.

Investors "had been pinning hopes on a Chi-

nese reopening to help ease global supply-chain problems and kickstart growth" in the Asian economic giant, said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

"However, renewed outbreaks of Covid have seen some restrictions return and helped dampen sentiment, with oil prices also lower," he added.

The death of an 87-year-old man in Beijing on Sunday came as infections across the country spiked, testing authorities' plans to loosen their grip by lowering



People queue to test for the Covid-19 coronavirus at a swab collection station in Beijing on 20 November 2022. PHOTO: AFP

quarantine times for foreigners and cancelling mass tests.

The news threw a spanner in the works for investors who had grown

hopeful of a gradual reopening of China's economy.

"It feels like one step forward, two steps back," said Forsyth Barr Asia

analyst Willer Chen.

"It is super hard to reopen in the short term, given winter is coming and cases are at a super high level and spreading across the whole country." The measures dealt a particular blow to Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index, which fell nearly two per cent, extending a sell-off at the end of last week.

Shanghai was also down along with most Asian markets, but Bangkok, Tokyo and Wellington ended higher.

Nevertheless, global markets have enjoyed a

broadly healthy November thanks to signs of China easing and indications of slowing US inflation that fanned optimism the Federal Reserve would start to slow its pace of interest rate hikes.

But several officials soon lined up to warn that more needed to be done to get inflation back down from four-decade highs to more bearable levels.

Markets are meanwhile expected to stay relatively quiet for the rest of the week, with many US investors taking time off for Thanksgiving. —AFP

Across China: Cooperation with Thailand sweetens Guangxi sugar industry

WITH sugar cane harvesting and crushing season in early December drawing near, Huang Yongjun has recently been checking the growth of his sugar cane more frequently.

The 41-year-old sugarcane grower in Buli Village under the city of Chongzuo, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, was pleased to see his cane much taller than cane in neighbouring fields — thanks to the more advanced pest control measures he employs.

"The company provided me with fine seedlings and technologies," said Huang, who has been planting sugar cane for more than 20 years. His sugar cane field is over 50 mu (about 3.33 hectares) in size.

The company Huang mentioned is Guangxi Nanning East Asia Sugar Group, a Sino-Thai joint venture. Huang earns around 100,000 yuan (about 14,034 US dollars) by selling sugar cane to this company every year.

The subtropical Guangxi enjoys a humid and hot monsoon climate that suits sugar cane cultivation. The region's sugar cane output accounts for more than 60 per cent of the country's total.

Chongzuo, where Huang lives, is dubbed "the capital of sugar" in China. The city has about 1.2 million sugar cane growers and their total income exceeded 10 billion yuan in the most recent harvesting season. —Xinhua

Nespresso chief confident inflation won't roast sales

DESPITE Europe feeling the pinch from soaring inflation, Nespresso boss Guillaume Le Cunff told AFP he believes their coffee capsules are creature comforts and will therefore stay in demand.

Inflation is running at 10.6 per cent in the eurozone and household budgets are under pressure.

But Le Cunff said that even in periods when customers have to tighten their belts, they tend to stick with their "everyday" small pleasures — such as having a coffee.

"When you have to raise prices to guarantee

quality — because the value chain is subject to inflation — the idea is to be reasonable, by only doing it where absolutely necessary," said Le Cunff, chief executive of Swiss food giant Nestle's Nespresso subsidiary since 2000.

"It remains a daily expenditure, a moment of pleasure, a moment for oneself. And I'm not sure people want to abandon having this moment for themselves.

"We'll see what the future holds, but we are very confident."

That said, Nespresso sales volumes dropped by

1.9 per cent in the first nine months of the year, notably in Europe, offset by sales continuing to grow in North America.

Le Cunff said global sales accelerated in 2020 and 2021, as people worked from home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But this year, people are working from home less and going out more — something the company has tracked via an uptick in its out-of-home sales.

The Frenchman said that while Europe was Nespresso's historic market, it was still in expansion mode in North America. —AFP

Qatar signs world's 'longest' gas supply deal with China

QATARENERGY announced a 27-year natural gas supply deal with China Monday, calling it the "longest" ever seen as it strengthened ties with Asia at a time when Europe is scrambling for alternative sources.

The state energy company will send four million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually from its new North Field East project to China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), it said.

The deal "marks the longest gas supply agreement in the history of the LNG industry", said Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's energy minister and QatarEnergy's chief executive.

Asian countries led by China, Japan and South Korea are the main market for Qatar's gas, which is increasingly being sought by European countries since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC MANILA VOY.NO. (2284S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC MANILA VOY.NO. (2284S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-11-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1209S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1209S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-11-2022** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINES

Japan region taps toilet paper to help suicidal youth

AUTHORITIES in central Japan are trying an unusual new approach to tackle the country’s longstanding suicide problem: printing messages of support on toilet paper.

“Dear you, who might want to end it all,” reads the toilet paper being used in an unusual new initiative to reach out to suicidal young people in the country.

Suicide is a longstanding problem in Japan, and like many places, the country saw a spike in deaths by suicide during parts of the pandemic.

The number of elementary, middle and high school-age students dying by suicide hit a new record of 499 in 2020, according to the health ministry.

Officials in Yamanashi thought printing reassuring messages and suicide-prevention



This handout picture taken on 4 November 2022 and released by Yamanashi Prefectural Office on 21 November 2022 shows toilet papers with reassuring messages and suicide-prevention hotline numbers printed on sheets. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / YAMANASHI PREFECTURAL OFFICE / AFP**

tion hotline numbers on sheets of toilet papers might be an effective and discreet way to help distressed young people. “You’re alone in the toilet. We felt that it’s at moments like this when you might be more prone to thoughts of anguish”, Yamanashi official Kenichi Miyazawa told AFP.—AFP

Iran’s president says backing “terrorism” not in West’s interests

IRANIAN President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday slammed the United States, France and a number of other European countries for “flagrantly” supporting “terrorists and rioters” in Iran, warning that backing terrorism is definitely not going to be in their interests.

Making the remarks at a cabinet meeting, Raisi said “the enemy” attempted to disrupt Iran’s advancements by dealing blows to the country’s security and economy as well as education and production sectors, according to the website of the Iranian president’s office.

He ordered the foreign ministry to take necessary measures through diplomatic and legal channels to “neutralize and confront” the seditions designed and instigated in the country from abroad.

Expressing deep regret over the killing of the Iranian children, women, men and security forces by “rioters” over the past days, Raisi called on the related apparatuses and organizations to promptly take firm actions against the mutineers and prevent “terrorists and rioters” from harming people’s lives and property. Protests erupted in Iran after 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died in a Tehran hospital a few days after she collapsed at a police station in September. The Iranian government blames the United States and some other states for “inciting riots and supporting terrorists” in the country.—Xinhua

UN nuclear chief denounces strikes on Ukraine power plant

THE UN’s atomic watchdog chief on Sunday denounced “targeted” strikes at Ukraine’s Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, calling for a “stop to this madness”, as Kyiv and Moscow traded blame.

Ukraine meanwhile dismissed Russian accusations that it had executed surrendering soldiers.

“The news from our team yesterday and this morning is extremely disturbing,” said a statement Sunday from Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“Explosions occurred at the site of this major nuclear power plant, which is completely unacceptable.

“Whoever is behind this, it must stop immediately,” he added.

“As I have said many times before, you’re playing with fire!”

There were more than a dozen blasts overnight Saturday to Sunday, some of which a team of experts from the agency on site had themselves seen,

the IAEA said in a statement.

Speaking to French broadcaster BFMTV later Sunday, Grossi was clear that the strikes on the plant were no accident.

“The people who are doing this know where they are hitting. It is absolutely deliberate, targeted.”

The IAEA is to send a team of experts to the plant — the biggest nuclear facility in Europe — and which is currently controlled by Russian troops. —AFP



(FILES) This file photo taken on 11 September 2022 shows a general view of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Enerhodar (Energodar), Zaporizhzhia Oblast, amid the ongoing Russian military action in Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**



This handout photograph taken and released by the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry on 20 November 2022 shows firefighters working on the fire of a warehouse in Moscow. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / RUSSIAN EMERGENCY MINISTRY / AFP**

Warehouse fire near Moscow train stations leaves several dead

AT least five people were killed in a fire at a warehouse in central Moscow near three railway stations linking the Russian capital to major cities, according to Russian emergency services.

The fire broke out at a brick warehouse on Sunday afternoon near the usually busy stations connecting Moscow to cities such as Saint Petersburg in the north-west, Kazan in the east or Vladivostok in the Far East.

The blaze was fully extinguished late on Sunday.

“Unfortunately, during the inspection of the debris, five people were found dead and one person was injured,” Moscow’s branch of the emergency situations ministry said on social media late on Sunday.

Russia’s Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said the number of victims was still being clarified and attributed the blaze to the “violation of fire standards”.

Citing a source in emergency services, state news agency TASS reported that seven people were killed in the fire.

Accidental fires are common in Russia due to ageing and dilapidated infrastructure and non-compliance with safety standards.—AFP

Shallow quake kills 162, injures hundreds on Indonesia’s Java island

A shallow 5.6-magnitude earthquake killed at least 162 people, with hundreds injured and others missing, when it toppled buildings and triggered landslides on Indonesia’s main island of Java on Monday, officials said.

Doctors treated patients outdoors after the quake, which was felt as far away as the capital Jakarta, left hospitals in the West Java town of Cianjur without power for several hours.

“I regret to inform that 162 are dead. 326 are injured with most of them sustained fractures from being crushed in ruins,” Ridwan Kamil, governor of worst-hit province West Java, told a press conference in a video seen by AFP. He said most of

the victims were children.

Adam, spokesman for the local administration in Cianjur town, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, confirmed the toll to AFP.

Indonesia’s national disaster mitigation agency, BNPB, still lists the toll at 62. Due to miscounting, officials offered wildly fluctuating death tolls after an Indonesian stadium disaster last month.

The BNPB said 25 people remained trapped under the rubble as the rescue mission stretched into the night.

The agency said more than 2,000 houses were damaged and Kamil said more than 13,000 people were taken to evacuation centres.



Wounded people rest under a tent displayed outside a hospital following an earthquake in Cianjur on 21 November 2022. PHOTO:STR / AFP

“You can see it yourself, some got their heads, feet sewn outdoors. Some got stressed and started crying,” Kamil said.

Kamil said power had been

partially restored by the evening, without specifying if that meant by generators or connection to a power grid.

The afternoon quake was

centred in the Cianjur region and local authorities earlier said as many as 700 had been wounded, warning the death toll could rise further.

“Because there are still a lot of people trapped on the scene, we assume injuries and fatalities will increase over time,” Kamil said as ambulance sirens blared in the background.

Agus Azhari, 19, was with his elderly mother in the family home when their living room was destroyed within seconds, parts of the walls and roof collapsing around them.

“I pulled my mother’s hand, and we ran outside,” he said. “I heard people screaming for help from all around me,” Azhari told AFP—AFP

G7 demands tougher sanctions on N Korea after latest salvo

THE G7 nations on Sunday slammed North Korea’s “reckless” launch of another intercontinental ballistic missile and called on the UN Security Council to take further “significant” action to halt the tests.

Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven nations said re-

peated launching of missiles by North Korea “further destabilizes the region, despite calls from the international community for peace and stability”.

The missile North Korea test fired on Friday appeared to be its newest ICBM with the potential range to hit the US mainland.

The G7 statement called for “a united and robust response by the international community, including the need for further significant measures to be taken by the UN Security Council”.

The G7 comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States. A representative of the European Union joined in on the statement.

So far this month, North Korea is believed to have fired 30 short-, medium- and long-range missiles, including Friday’s launch which landed in Japan’s exclusive economic zone west of Hokkaido.

North Korean state news agency KCNA claimed that the missile fired Friday was a Hwasong-17, its latest variant and one it asserted is “the strongest strategic weapon in the world”. —AFP

Race on to form coalition govt in Malaysia after election deadlock

RIVAL Malaysian political blocs on Monday tried to woo smaller parties to form a coalition government after the weekend’s general election that saw major gains by a conservative Islamist party.

One of Southeast Asia’s biggest economies saw three governments change in as many years before this stalemate, and the next one faces major challenges including soaring inflation.

No party has emerged with a clear majority. Veteran opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim and former premier Muhyiddin Yassin both claim they have the numbers to control parliament.

To break the impasse, parties have been told to submit their preferred prime minister and coalition partners to

the king’s palace by 2 pm (0600 GMT) on Monday.

The bloc led by the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) — which once dominated Malaysian politics — trailed far behind the rest in Saturday’s election.

It was their worst election performance since Malaysia won independence in 1957.

While details of possible alliances are murky, Muhyiddin’s group includes the conservative Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), which promotes a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The latest election saw PAS become the largest party in Muhyiddin’s bloc, sparking worries among analysts about its influence on national policy. —AFP



Photo shows North Korea’s test launch of a Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile at Pyongyang International Airport on 18 November 2022. PHOTO:KNS/KYODO

Aussie authorities raise alarm about fires related to solar, lithium-ion batteries

AUSTRALIA’S national and local authorities on Monday issued warnings of potentially deadly solar and lithium-ion batteries, noting they can overheat and catch fire, causing property damage and injuries.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) said in a statement that

it would directly contact almost 5,000 households that are likely to have solar energy systems with dangerous batteries.

“We remain very concerned about the fire risks these faulty batteries pose,” said ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard.

She pointed out that since October 2019, there have been

nine reported incidents involving these types of batteries in Australia resulting in property damage and one injury.

According to the statement, so far, about 2,900 batteries have been replaced or removed from consumers’ properties, while a further 1,400 batteries have been switched off or have had

the maximum charge capacity reduced to 75 per cent.

The Fire and Rescue of New South Wales (FRNSW) also warned customers about the dangers related to lithium-ion battery-powered gifts, ahead of the Christmas shopping season.

Since 1 January, FRNSW

crews have responded to 180 lithium-ion battery fires, compared with just over 16 in 2021.

NSW Minister for Flood Recovery, Emergency Services and Resilience Stephanie Cooke said that the number of recent lithium-ion battery-related fires should serve as an alarm for Christmas shoppers.—Xinhua



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.

Second-day friendly matches continue to select Myanmar team players



The Green team player (left) tries to clear the ball against the U-22 team player during their friendly match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 November 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE second day of the 2022 AFF Cup match to select players for the Myanmar national team continued yesterday morning and evening at Thuwunna Stadium.

In the morning match, the national red team and the national yellow team drew two goals each.

The two teams had lost victories on the first day of the tune-up match, their match ended in a draw with mutual goals.

Both teams competed with some changes to their starting

lineups, and even at the beginning of the match, there were mutual goals.

In the fourth minute, the yellow team gained a goal which was scored by Naing Zin Htet, and two minutes later, defender Win Moe Kyaw headed the corner kick and scored the equalizer for the red team.

In the first half, both teams tied 1-1, and in the 61st minute, Wai Lin Aung scored the leading goal for the red team.

In the 84th minute, the yellow team equalized and Khin Kyaw

Win scored.

In the evening match, the national green team defeated the U-22 team by 4-2.

The green team, which includes most of the current international-level players, also defeated the U-22 team and won two games in a row.

In the 8th minute, Yan Kyaw Htwe scored the first goal for the green team, and in the 19th minute, Okka Naing equalized for the U-22 team. The U-22 team was able to play the green team back-to-back after the equalizer and ended the first half with one goal each.

However, the U-22 team lost because they conceded three goals between the 56th and 71st minutes.

The goals for the green team were scored by Win Naing Tun via penalty kick at 56 minutes, Myat Kaung Khant via free kick at 60 minutes and Aee Soe scored the fourth or winning goal at 71 minutes.

The second goal for the U-22 team was scored by Zaw Win Thein via a penalty kick in the 83rd minute.

The remaining friendly matches will continue on 23 November and Red Team will take on the U-22 team at 8 am, and Green Team will play against the yellow team at 4 pm.— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Saka and Bellingham sparkle as England crush Iran

ENGLAND made a scintillating start to their World Cup campaign as Bukayo Saka and Jude Bellingham inspired a 6-2 rout of outclassed Iran in Monday's Group B opener in Doha.

Saka and Bellingham were England's driving forces with dynamic displays that underlined their emergence as two of the game's brightest young stars.

Bellingham, 19, shattered Iran's hopes of frustrating England when he rose to head his maiden senior international goal in the first half.

Gareth Southgate's side were in sparkling form at the Khalifa International Stadium

and goals from Saka and Raheem Sterling put them in complete control before half-time.

Saka, 21, netted again after the interval and, although Mehdi Taremi struck twice for Iran, Marcus Rashford and Jack Grealish completed the demolition.

There will be far sterner tests to come for England as they bid to win their first major trophy since the 1966 World Cup.

But this was a welcome step in the right direction for Southgate, whose team arrived in Qatar on a six-match winless run that triggered scathing criticism of the Three Lions boss and his perceived negative tactics.—AFP



England's midfielder 22 Jude Bellingham scores the opening goal during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group B football match between England and Iran at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha on 21 November 2022. **PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOLAT / AFP**

World Cup 2022 Results
Netherlands 2-0 Senegal