

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 19 July 2023

19 JULY 2023
76th MARTYRS' DAY

BOGYOKE AUNG SAN

THAKIN MYA **DEEDOK U BA CHO** **U BA WIN** **SAO SAN TUN**
MAHN BA KHAING **U RAZAK** **U OHN MAUNG** **YEBAW KO HTWE**

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96th founding anniversary of Chinese People's Liberation Army celebrated in Myanmar

THE ceremony marking the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) was held at Novotel Max Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and wife, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wives, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, the Yangon Command commander, regional ministers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, Military Attaché Senior Colonel Wang Wei, other military attachés to Myanmar, relevant officials and invitees attended the event.

On arrival at the ceremony, the Chinese ambassador, the military attaché and families of the embassy welcomed the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and party.

After the ceremony had been declared open, Military Attaché to Myanmar Senior Colonel Wang Wei made a greeting speech.

Then, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and his wife, the Chinese ambassador and the military attaché cut the ceremonial cake together and had a documentary photo taken.

The Chinese ambassador and the military attaché had dinner together with guests and presented gifts to them. — MNA/KTZH



Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye poses for the documentary group photo at the event yesterday in Yangon.

Announcement for local and foreign well-wishers to donate cash to cyclonic storm Mocha victims

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.
3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.
4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.
5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and enter the code provided within it.
6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -

Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Lei Lei Aye Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404050 09-2021491	U Than Soe Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-250123885	U Aye Min Thu Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Mandalay Region Department 09-420708827
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404048 09-254170011	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-420740160	
Daw Phyu Phyu Win Director Department of Disaster Management 067-3404316 09-43054844		

C B BANK CBPay Scan here! For your payment. Natural Disaster Management Fund. Need Help? Call Center: (95-1) 231 7770.
 AYA PAY Scan here! For your payment. Natural Disaster Management Fund. Need Help? Call center: +95 94000 5000.
 WAVEPAY Scan here! For your payment. Natural Disaster Management Fund. Need Help? Call center: +95 94000 5000.
 OK\$ Scan here! For your payment. Natural Disaster Management Fund. Need Help? Call center: +95 94000 5000.
 UAB pay Scan here! For your payment. National Disaster Management Committee. Need Help? Call center: +95 94000 5000.

High knowledge and education key to nation's future

- As today is an age of technology, it should not be left behind.
- It is necessary for all to study for the improvement of one's knowledge and to help promote his or her children's education and knowledge.
- Only if knowledge is high will the democracy system and the nation's future be assured.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officers, other ranks and family members of Myitkyina Station held on 13 December 2022)

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, New National Political Strength Party, with its headquarters located at Building No 119, Room No 302, Cherry Street 1, December Housing, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, submitted to the Union Election Commission on 17-7-2023 that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Therefore, those who want to object to the mentioned party name, flag and emblem that will be used by the New National Political Strength Party can object to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement. It is announced to the public under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties.



Flag of New National Political Strength Party



Emblem of New National Political Strength Party

Union Election Commission

Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives back to Myanmar



Union Minister U Than Swe (C) is seen welcomed back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe arrived back at Yangon International Airport at 8:05 pm yesterday, after attending the 12th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting and BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat which were held on 16 and 17 July 2023 respectively in Bangkok, Thailand. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Tatmadaw performs third successful liver transplant

TATMADAW has achieved another milestone in the field of medical surgery with its third liver transplant procedure. The first liver transplant, performed on two patients on 27 and 28 September 2022, was a resounding success. Following that, Tatmadaw successfully conducted a second round of liver transplants on three patients on 30 and 31 January 2023, and 1 February 2023. Building on this track record, Tatmadaw has embarked on its third liver transplant, which commenced at the No 1 Tatmadaw General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon Township, Yangon, yesterday.

In this latest endeavour, the Tatmadaw surgical team collaborated with a team of Indian surgeons to operate on patient U Pyae Phyo Zaw and his sister, Daw Thwe Ni. The liver extraction process began at 9 am, and the transplant surgery was successfully completed at 4:30 pm after an intensive 11-hour operation. The patients are currently receiving expert care from a team of specialists, paramedics, and nurses in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and their condition is reported to be stable and promising.

The liver transplant surgery for the remaining pa-



The operation of the third liver transplant in progress yesterday.

tients is scheduled to take place on 19 and 20 July. This ongoing effort highlights the Tatmadaw's commitment to advancing medical advancements and providing life-saving treatments to those in need. — MNA/KZW

Flood condition of Chindwin River

(Issued at 9:00 hrs M.S.T on 18-7-2023)

ACCORDING to the (08:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (08:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaung Pyin has exceeded by about (1) inch above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Homalin and Phaung Pyin Townships, to take precaution measure. — DMH

MoI Union Minister makes inspections at MRTV

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn enjoyed the practice session of the musical orchestra, the Personal Grooming Course and the filming of "Hatha Myo Taw Yal Sayar Sin Tin Hatha Takhan Yat Pya Zat" (Comedy City Play) at MRTV (Yangon) yesterday afternoon.

First, Director-General U Ye Naing of MRTV reported on the practice sessions of the musical troupe and completed works implemented under the instructions of the Union minister at MRTV Studio B.

Then, the band leader presented the practices with international songs and future plans. Then, it played National Anthem and ASEAN Anthem and the staff sang songs.

The Union minister then highlighted the needs regarding the uniforms of the band, necessary practices to be more



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views and listens to the practice session of the orchestra at MRTV (Yangon) yesterday.

harmonious, and mood in performing and making introductions before playing or singing international songs.

He cordially greeted the

band members and presented cash prizes.

He also inspected the Personal Grooming Course being conducted at MRTV and

instructor Mr Crisminth explained the matters related to the course.

He encouraged the trainees and presented souvenirs to the

instructor and cash assistance to the staff.

The course intends to promote the individual characteristics and ways of presentations by news announcers, MCs and presenters. The course started yesterday and will end on 26 July. A total of 30 trainees are taking the course.

On arrival at Studio A, the Union minister enjoyed the film-making of Hatha Myo Taw Yal Sayar Sin Tin Hatha Takhan Yat Pya Zat" (Comedy City Play) directed by Lushwintaw star Kaung Htet.

Then, the Union minister gave presents to Lushwintaw star Kaung Htet and comedians.

The MRTV broadcasts entertainment programmes for the enjoyment and relaxation of the public and Friday Night Live Show every Friday, and now Comedy City Play every Saturday. — MNA/KTZH

203 electric motorcycles arrive at Muse



Officials check new arrivals of e-motorbikes in Muse.

WITH the approval of the Steering Committee on National-level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, a total of 203 Kenbo battery electric motorcycles imported by Aung Kan Bo Motorcycle Industrial Co Ltd arrived at the Muse 105-Mile Trade Zone. They were allowed to be claimed as per Customs procedures on 18 July. The import of electric motorcycles is exempted from Customs duties. — MNA/KZW

6 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 July, total figure registers 640,912

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,912** after **six** new cases were reported on 18 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,962,913** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,912**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,713** including **17** new recovery. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 18-7-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

CORRIGENDUM

PLEASE read as "MoFA Union Minister holds separate talks with Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan Foreign Ministers" instead of "MoFA Union Minister holds separate talks with Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan Ambassadors" in the news item on page 4 and also read as "Union Minister U Than Swe meets the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister in Bangkok yesterday" instead of "Union Minister U Than Swe meets the Bangladeshi ambassador in Bangkok yesterday" in the caption of the same news story on page 4 yesterday.

The errors are regretted. — Ed.

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be "for the people", the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting "CRPH", "NUG", and "PDF" terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

Efforts to foster sustainable natural rubber production discussed



Union Minister U Min Naung chairs the meeting with officials from the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

YESTERDAY in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister U Min Naung of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation met the chairman of the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA) and its members to address various issues pertaining to the development of sustainable and high-value natural rubber production.

During the meeting, the MRPPA chair and members presented concerns related to rubber cultivation, export,

the manufacturing process for high-value rubber products, and the future prospects of the rubber market.

In response to these presentations, the Union minister emphasized the government's commitment to promoting the production of finished products derived from rubber. He stressed the importance of establishing both short-term and long-term plans to safeguard the interests of rubber producers, including the implementation of strategies

such as replacing old rubber trees with high-yielding seedlings, incorporating advanced technologies into rubber and leather production, and facilitating increased investment in finished goods made from rubber and leather.

To further enhance the export of premium-quality rubber, the government has eased restrictions on export revenue, particularly for goods categorized as high-value products. — MNA/TS

Confiscation of illegal items: Foodstuffs, consumer goods, electronics, industrial materials and vehicles

ACTING on a tip-off, the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed a Nissan diesel truck (estimated value of K30 million), which stopped at the Hpa-an township bypass road, carrying 85 used bicycles (worth K2.55 million) that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) on 14 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Acting on information, a team led by a police sub-inspector from the Waw police station intercepted a Nissan diesel truck (estimated value of K25 million) carrying ten kinds of goods (worth K11.841 million) including 24 washing machines without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray station. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Muse Township Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made patrol inspections and captured three kinds of goods (worth K3,042,500) including a Damly Sungeater poultry farm Lpg space heater that was piled up by the side of the road near the small bus station compound in Muse Township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An on-duty team at the Ka-

wkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint impounded 4,000 kilogrammes of Royal Knife Indonesian batik sarong (worth K5.040 million) that were different from the brand which was declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading to Yangon from Myawady on 16 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An unregistered Toyota Alphard (approximate value of K4 million) was seized on Lutlatyay Street in 8 Ward in Thingangyun township and action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

An on-duty team at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint in Mon State confiscated a Zhongtong express bus (approximate value of K30 million) carrying 50 cartons of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli (worth K2.75 million) without official documents travelling from Myawady to Yangon on 17 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

As a result, nine arrests were made on 14,16 and 17 July, with an estimated value of K114,223,500, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Toyota MarkX driven by Aung Aung Soe (aka) Aung Aung at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint at 2 pm on 17 July and

seized 19,500 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, the police force examined the two women suspects, Ma Win Shwe and Ma Moe Moe on a motorbike in Kanyintan Ward in Maungdaw township at 6:05 pm on the same day and captured

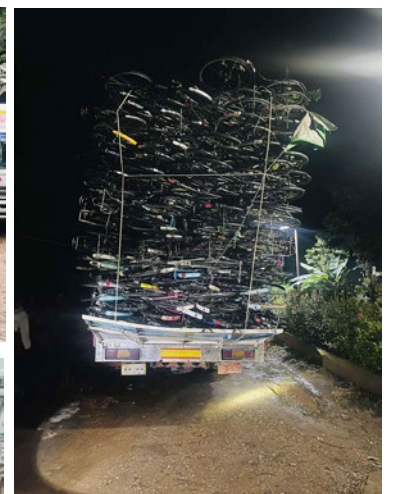
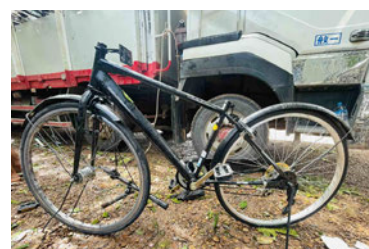
9,750 stimulant tablets.

In addition, a combined team searched the house of Naw San (aka) Naw Naw in Homon Ward in Muse township at 6 pm on 16 July and captured 15,000 stimulant tablets, 0.01 kilogramme of opium essence block, 0.02 kilogramme of low-grade opium (Khatkhu) and related things which were used in drug production.

The offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



An offender is seen along with confiscated drugs and a saloon car.



Photos show seized illegal items, a bicycle and a vehicle.

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for

PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity*

CURRENT AFFAIRS



The photo indicates the Tamway Station that is included in the station upgrading project.

MR invites tenders to construct 7 new city railway stations in Yangon

MYANMA Railways has invited tenders for the construction of seven new stations on the Yangon circular railway.

According to the station upgrading project on the Yangon circular railway, Aungsan, Kamayut, Okkyin, Phawtkan, Thamine, Tamway, and Kyaukyaetwin stations will be rebuilt, including water and sewage systems.

Interested entrepreneurs can purchase tender applications at the Supply Department of Myanmar Railways starting on 17 July and must submit them by 2:30 pm on 17 August at the latest.

According to Myanmar Railways, firms have also been invited to tender for the construction of the RC box culvert underpass construction of the Myitnge Bridge Construction Project in Mandalay Region. — TWA/CT

Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre

For a week from 12 to 18 July 2023, the prices of potatoes, onions and garlic declined.

Onion

The Bayintnaung Wholesale market saw the entry of 132,000 visses of onions on 18 July. The wholesale prices moved in the range of K1,700 and K2,100 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu and Myittha) that day.

The highest price of onions in regions outside Yangon was below K1,900 per viss.

Garlic

The prices of garlic from Shan State stayed at K7,000-8,400 per viss depending on varieties and qualities, whereas Kyukok garlic fetched K6,900 per viss on 18 July

Potato

The wholesale centre did not set potato prices between 11 and 18 July. Only Chinese potato was priced at K2,700-3,000 per viss.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K10,000-12,000 per viss for long chilli pepper and Moehtaung variety. The prices of bell peppers from the Sinphyukyun area and delta regions were K15,000-16,000 per viss.

Rice

Prices hit K51,000 per bag of low-grade summer rice and K67,000 for summer short-mature rice (90 days) and K83,000 for the Pawkywe variety. The high-grade Pawsan rice prices were K88,000-89,000 from the Bogale area, K90,000-93,000 from Pyapon, K93,000-96,000 from Myaungmya and K100,000-112,000 from the Shwebo area on 18 July.

Palm oil

For a week from 17 to 23 July 2023, the wholesale ref-



The photo shows a retail outlet for dry groceries.

erence price of Yangon Region was set at K4,100 per viss. The wholesale market price was K6,800 per viss on 18 July, said a seller from Nyaungpinlay market. The palm oil price hit K7,300 per viss on 10 July and then declined to K6,900 per viss in the evening of 16 July.

Pulses

Prices of various pulses

stood at K2,265,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,480,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K3,070,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K3,700 per viss of green gram and K5,400-5,700 per viss of chickpea in Yangon's wholesale markets. — TWA/EM

MADB to provide additional monsoon agricultural loans to farmers

THE Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank (MADB) has announced that additional monsoon agricultural loans will be provided to farmers who have already paid off the principal plus interest on the previous agricultural loans.

Only farmers who have already settled the previous loans will be eligible to apply for new agricultural loans and will be allowed to take out other short- and medium-term loans provided by the MADB as per the specified terms and conditions.

Last year, the bank granted K150,000 in agricultural loans per acre for monsoon paddy and K100,000 for other crops, with a five per cent annual interest rate.

The loans can be withdrawn at relevant district or

township bank branches with the same interest rate as last year. The MADB has notified the farmers who have repaid previous loans to contact the respective district or township bank branches as soon as possible. — TWA/CT



The photo shows unpicked Moehtaung chilli peppers at the plantation.

Prices of Moehtaung chilli pepper, Shan potatoes yet to update in Yangon's daily commodity price list

chilli pepper and bell peppers from delta regions are shown on the list, and the Moehtaung chilli pepper price has not been mentioned up to 10 to 15 July, she continued.

Similarly, the price of Shan potatoes was known only up to 10 July and, in the remaining days of this week, only the price of Chinese potatoes was mentioned

The market situation is not fully known to those who monitor the daily price list of the com-

modity depot, except for those who are trading in the market, as the prices of those two types of goods are not mentioned.

Although the price of chilli peppers soared in 2023, the price in the Yangon market was unfavourable for traders. Thus, they only transported them to the Mandalay market, where a viss of chilli pepper was traded at K14,500 till mid-July, said Ko Hla Han, an owner of a chilli pepper depot from Bayintnaung Seinpan

Street. A viss of Moehtaung chilli pepper in cold storage is valued at K15,000 in the Yangon market, he continued.

Therefore, people related to the commodity market, including market observers, are asking for help from those who are trading in the market to fully understand the market situation, instead of the price lists of the commodity depot, Ma Lwin, a dry goods dealer in a township, told the GNLN. — TWA/CT

DAW Mya Win, who runs a delivery service, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that it has been several days since the daily commodity price statement

of the Yangon Commodity Depot mentioned the prices of Moehtaung chilli pepper and Shan potatoes.

Only the prices of the long

LOCAL BUSINESS

Strong demand spurs kidney bean prices

THE price of kidney beans escalated in the Mandalay market on the back of domestic and foreign demand.

China and India are mostly purchasing Myanmar's kidney beans beyond high local consumption. The price hit the highest in a decade.

The price jumped to K3.85 million per tonne on 18 July, indicating a sharp increase of K170,000 per tonne within a few days.

Myanmar exports kidney beans to China, India, Japan, Singapore and other foreign countries via border and maritime trade channels. Myanmar shipped 59,425.711 tonnes of kidney beans worth US\$50.31 mil-

lion to foreign markets in the current financial year 2022-2023 (April-March), the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar conveyed 1,189.65 tonnes of kidney beans worth \$1.665 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 7 July of the current FY 2023-2024.

Kidney bean cultivation begins in October-November and they are harvested in early February. They are grown in the upper Sagaing Region, Bhamo city in Kachin Street, Kayin Street and along Ayeyawady River. The beans produced from Katha and Bhamo townships are highly demanded in the domestic market on account of their large size. — NN/EM



Traders are seen evaluating beans and pulses in the Mandalay market.

Chinshwehaw border trade value surpasses US\$291 mln as of 7 July



The photo shows trucks lining up to pass the border checkpoint near Chinshwehaw.

MYANMAR conducted trade worth US\$291.393 million with the neighbouring country China through the Chinshwehaw border between 1 April and 7 July of the current financial year 2023-2024, comprising exports worth \$68.2 million and imports worth \$223.182 million, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce

indicated.

The figure was up by \$266 million this FY compared to the corresponding period last FY. Both exports and imports grew over the past three months.

The main export items were green gram, rice bean, kidney bean, rubber, broken rice, natural rubber, butter bean, lentil, lablab bean and

black sesame.

Iron and steel products, fertilizers, cotton, lace and lace tiles, aircon, machines and spare parts, electrical appliances and kitchen utensils were mostly imported.

Myanmar opened five border posts with China: Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. —TWA/KK

YGEA raises gold reference price as spot gold price gains

THE spot gold price gained at US\$1,961 per ounce, prompting the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) to hike the reference price to K2,310,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 18 July 2023.

When the spot gold price climbed to \$2,040 per ounce, the YGEA raised the reference rate to above K2.4 million per tical in early May 2023.

Meanwhile, pure gold hovered at approximately K3.24 million per tical in the unofficial market.

Consequently, there is a large price difference of over K930,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the grey market.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US

dollar is exchanged at over K3,100 in shady dealings.

The US dollar exchange rate weighs on domestic gold prices. Mandalay Gold Entre-

preneurs Association (MGEA) sold over seven visses of pure gold at the special price within two weeks beginning 19 June to stabilize the gold price.

The MGEA commenced gold sell-off at K3,050,000 per tical at noon of 19 June and sold at K3,040,000 per tical on 20 June, K3,035,000 per tical

on 21 and 22 June, K3,030,000 per tical on 23, 26, 27, 28 and 30 June and 3 July, K3 million per tical on 4,5,6 and 7 July respectively.

Myanmar's gold price is highly correlated with the spot gold price and the US dollar exchange rate. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 pushed the gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

To lower the gold price, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM



A woman walks past the gold jewellery outlet in Yangon.

OPINION

Embrace a vision of a modernized nation

THE aftermath of the Second World War brought about significant changes to the world map, reshaping the boundaries of nations and sparking a global drive for revitalization. The crumbling of colonial empires set the stage for a new era, and during this transformative time, the government led by General Aung San issued a powerful ultimatum on 8 November 1946. They demanded the British government declare Myanmar's independence, threatening to withdraw the entire cabinet on 1 January 1947. This resolute statement reverberated through the corridors of power in Britain.

Before embarking on a journey to England at the invitation of the British government, General Aung San delivered a momentous New Year speech to the nation on the evening of 1 January 1947. In this historic address, the General implored the people to stand together in unity, navigating the challenges ahead with unwavering determination. Regardless of any provocations, the entire nation was urged to remain steadfast in pursuit of their goals.

By embracing the enduring vision outlined in General Aung San's speech, Myanmar will lay the foundations of a modernized Union. It is through this collective endeavour that the nation can keep pace with the advancements of the world, while concurrently enjoying the blessings of peace, progress, and prosperity.

During the post-war era, the Western superpowers held sway over the United Nations and exerted influence over smaller, developing nations. Progress and development seemed elusive without the patronage of these influential countries. Consequently, smaller nations had to navigate their internal affairs with great care, safeguarding their national interests and fending off interference to prevent a neo-colonial fate.

Remarkably, the General's speech remains profoundly relevant in today's context. The principles of unity, democracy, and federalism are crucial for building a peaceful and stable Union. As Myanmar strives to establish a multiparty democratic system, the nation must chart its course through challenges and triumphs, serving as the lifeblood that nourishes its diverse populace. It is the responsibility of every citizen to defend the State and protect its sovereignty against any threat, just as General Aung San envisioned.

To combat acts of sabotage and conspiracies aimed at the nation's utter devastation, all inhabitants must unite their strengths and work collaboratively to safeguard the State. The younger generations are entrusted with the inherent duty to elevate the nation's standing in the international community, upholding its prestige and integrity. By doing so, Myanmar will pave the way for peace, progress, and prosperity within a few short years, positioning itself at the forefront of nations embracing democratic and federal systems.

By embracing the enduring vision outlined in General Aung San's speech, Myanmar will lay the foundations of a modernized Union. It is through this collective endeavour that the nation can keep pace with the advancements of the world, while concurrently enjoying the blessings of peace, progress, and prosperity.

Introduction

There were a few badges of BCS officers in our union. I was the last badge of BCS recruited in the year 1962. In those days, BCS officers were invested and entrusted with some powers, such as necessary administrative officers, revenue officers and as magistrates or criminal judicial officers. In my younger days, I was very much interested to become a lawyer. So, I sat for the BL examination. I passed it in the year 1964. To the credit and fortune or good luck of my BL degree, I was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1981. And I was assigned to serve in the International Law and Treaties Division as the Deputy Director in 1981

A civil officer till I retired

First and foremost, may I submit the role of civil service in any

form of government? There will always be a fine balance between the civil service being neutral and non-political, and responsive. The difference between Ministers and civil servants is that Ministers look after politics getting a sense of the ground, deciding the national direction, selling policies to the public and making them work. But a minister must also be hands-on in his ministry, articulating clear strategy and making sure civil servants implement policies well.

The essential role of civil servants

The essential role of civil

servants is to make sure by the Home Minister that the civil servants implement policies quite well. The Home Minister will have to provide political guidance to the civil servants to deliver results. At the same time, the Home Minister will have to provide political guidance to the civil servants to deliver results. At the same time, the Home Minister must also protect the civil servants from political interference and not involve them in political activities. The civil service is not independent of the elected government, like the judiciary. As for the civil servants, their responsibility is policy trans-

lating political goals into workable plans. The civil servants must therefore understand the political context and the thinking of the political leadership. Yet civil servants must be politically impartial. They must not campaign for or against any party, and not misuse state resources or powers for partisan purposes.

As an example of the civil service system, I would like to present to you the respective systems of the United States, Britain and China as follows: -

United States

At the federal level are not

one but at least four layers of political appointees. The president is elected and appoints not just the secretaries, but deputy secretaries, assistant secretaries and deputy assistant secretaries.

Britain

The British have the classic traditional model of an impartial civil service serving whoever is the elected government of the day. For much of the 20th century, this was workable because whichever party was in power, they shared the same basic assumptions. But in recent decades, this has not been the case and the system has

not worked so well.

Successive British governments introduced political advisers in the cabinet office, the Prime Minister's office and key ministries which the Prime Minister and his senior colleagues could rely upon to develop and implement their political goals and help them reelected. The need for a great meeting between the ministers and the civil service has increased. Britain now has almost 100 special advisers.

China

Politics is in command. The

Communist Party permeates the whole government. It goes all the way down to the village, the factory floor, the military unit. At every level, the party secretary calls the shots. The government leader is only second in command. At Pinnacle, there is the secretary of the party. The key decisions are made in party committees, rather than in the apparatus of the State Council.

Conclusion

There are some comments on the status of BCS or general administrative officers. The gen-

eral administrative officers are commented as a jack of all trades, but master of none. I believe I am not included in that type. To the credit of my BL degree and my efforts, I was appointed as a special power magistrate and empowered to try and take all criminal cases, except for those punishable with death. And during the tenure of the "Revolutionary Council" era, I was appointed as a legal consultant and advisor to the then special tribunals. And as mentioned in the introduction of this essay, I was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, due to my BL degree. I was informally addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs as "a legal expert".

Reference: *The Straits Times (Singapore Daily Newspaper) 27 April 2016.*

A BCS (Burma Civil Service) Officer, me, too.

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

Hairdressers, beauticians, accountants may be at higher risk of ovarian cancer

ACCORDING to a case-control research published online in the journal Occupational & Environmental Medicine, certain occupations, such as hairdressers, beauticians, and accountants, may be associated with an elevated risk of ovarian cancer. Those working in sales, retail, clothing and construction industries may also be vulnerable, while high cumulative exposure to particular agents, including talcum powder, ammonia, propellant gases, petrol and bleaches may have an important role, the findings suggest.

Few modifiable risk factors for ovarian cancer have been identified. Environmental factors, including those associated with the workplace, may increase the risk, but relatively few studies have evaluated the occupational hazards faced by women, say the researchers. And those that have, have often failed to account for potentially influential factors, previous employment history, or have included relatively few participants, so limiting the findings.

Lifetime employment history

To try and avoid these issues, the researchers drew on lifetime employment history from a pop-

ulation-based case-control study, to carry out an exploratory analysis looking at two dimensions of the workplace environment: employment in a particular role or industry; and specific occupational exposures. They included participants in the PRevention of OVarian Cancer in Quebec (PROVAQ) study, all of whom were aged 18-79, and who had been recruited from seven Montreal hospitals between 2010 and 2016 after being diagnosed with epithelial ovarian cancer.

In all, 491 of these women meeting the inclusion criteria for the current study were matched for age and electoral roll district with 897 women who didn't have ovarian cancer. Information was collected from all the participants on sociodemographic background, medical history, prescribed meds, reproductive history, weight and height, lifestyle factors and lifetime employment history.

Women with ovarian cancer

More of the women with ovarian cancer had lower educational attainment, shorter oral contraceptive use, and either no or fewer children than women

in the comparison group. These are all potential risk factors for the disease. For each job held for at least six months, participants reported the job title: start and end dates; working hours, including shift work; and main tasks performed.

Cumulative length of employment in a job or industry was then categorized as never, less than 10 years, and 10 or more years. The Canadian job-exposure matrix (CANJEM) was used to calculate participants' exposure to specific agents in the workplace, and the relationship between exposure to each of the 29 most common agents and ovarian cancer risk was then assessed.

After accounting for potentially influential factors, the calculations indicated that several job roles may be linked to a heightened risk of the disease. Specifically, working for 10 or more years as a hairdresser, barber, beautician and in related roles was associated with a three-fold higher risk, while employment for 10 or more years in accountancy was associated with a doubling in risk, and working in construction with a near tripling in risk.

Similarly, long term work in



The research indicates a potential association between these occupations and an increased risk of ovarian cancer, highlighting the importance of further investigation and awareness within these professional fields. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/APP

the clothing industry, including embroidery, was associated with an 85 per cent heightened risk of developing the disease while working in sales or retail was associated with heightened risks, respectively, of 45 per cent and 59 per cent. Heightened risks of more than 40 per cent were observed for high cumulative exposure (eight or more years)—compared with none—to 18 different

agents. These included talcum powder; ammonia; hydrogen peroxide; hair dust; synthetic fibres; polyester fibres; organic dyes and pigments; cellulose; formaldehyde; propellant gases; naturally occurring chemicals in petrol and bleaches.

Workplace factors

Hairdressers, beauticians and related workers were the

jobs most frequently exposed to 13 agents, including ammonia, hydrogen peroxide, organic dyes and pigments, and bleaches, and the second most frequent occupation exposed to talcum powder. It's not clear, however, if these associations were driven by a single agent, a combination, or other workplace factors, say the researchers.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 18 July 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and moderate to strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEACTURES: According to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, the Severe Tropical Storm "Talim" over the Southern part of China coast is downgraded into a Tropical Storm "Talim". It is likely continue to move West-North westwards and downgrade into a Land Depression over the Upper Vietnam.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19 July 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Saging Region and Kachin and Northern shan States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Chin and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Shan and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45) mph. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (10-13) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (7-9) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Shan states.

ENVIRON WORLD

World must prepare for more intense heatwaves: UN

THE world should prepare to face increasingly intense heatwaves, the United Nations warned on Tuesday, as countries across the Northern Hemisphere reeled from soaring temperatures.

“These events will continue to grow in intensity, and the world needs to prepare for more intense heatwaves,” John Nairn, a senior extreme heat advisor at the UN’s World Meteorological Organization (WMO), told reporters in Geneva.

His comments came as Europe was bracing for new high temperatures on Tuesday under relentless heatwaves and wildfires that have scorched swathes of the Northern Hemisphere, forcing the evacuation of 1,200 children close to a Greek seaside resort.

Health authorities have sounded alarms from North America to Europe and Asia, urging people to stay hydrated and shelter from the burning sun, in a stark reminder of the effects of global warming.

Heatwaves are amongst the deadliest natural hazards, with hundreds of thousands of people dying from preventable heat-related causes each year, Nairn said.

Heat is a rapidly-growing health risk, due to burgeoning urbanization, an increase in high temperature extremes, and demographic changes in countries with ageing populations.

Nairn said that the number of drawn-out and simultaneous heatwaves in the Northern Hemisphere had swelled sixfold since the 1980s. — AFP



Residents cool off in the Liz Carpenter Splash Pad at Butler Park on 16 July 2023 in Austin, Texas, during a heat wave. **PHOTO: AFP**

Marine animal poisonings overwhelm California volunteers

DENISE Christ regularly comes across injured wildlife in her work rescuing beached or stranded marine mammals along the California coast.

But she’s been shocked by the hundreds of sea lions and dolphins found on the shore in recent weeks, dead or dying from neurotoxin poisoning.

“Heartbreaking, to say the least,” said Christ, the Ventura County stranding coordinator for the Channel Islands Marine and Wildlife Institute (CIMWI).

The animals were sickened by domoic acid, a neurotoxin produced by algae that are a food source for fish, which are

then eaten by sea lions and dolphins.

Algal blooms are not unusual this time of year, but this summer’s crisis follows another one less than a year ago, alarming and overwhelming the CIMWI team based about 120 miles (190 kilometres) north of Los Angeles.

“We had a pretty intense bloom last summer but this year is way worse than we’ve ever seen in the 35 years I’ve been practicing marine mammal medicine,” said Sam Dover, the executive director and cofounder of CIMWI. — AFP



Volunteers tend to sea lions at the Channel Islands Marine and Wildlife Institute (CIMWI) in Gaviota, California, on 9 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

2.7 mln people displaced by drought in Horn of Africa: WFP

DROUGHT conditions in the Horn of Africa region have displaced around 2.7 million people, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said Sunday.

In a regional situation update report, the WFP said that 1.7 million people in Somalia, 516,000 people in Ethiopia and 466,000 people in Kenya have been displaced by drought.

The WFP report further disclosed that the arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees in drought affected areas of the three countries is exacerbating food insecurity in the region.

“The Horn of Africa region has experienced severe meteorological drought following consecutive seasons below-normal rainfall since late 2020, impacting

agriculture, livestock, vegetation, water resources, livelihoods and grazing resources,” the WFP report said.

The UN agency estimated that prolonged drought in the Horn of Africa region has left 23.4 million people acutely food insecure and 5.1 million children acutely malnourished. — Xinhua

Leaks, repairs, stress: how skeleton crew stopped Red Sea oil disaster

WHEN an alarm sounded on the decaying oil tanker off Yemen’s coast, signalling a leak in its engine room, Hussein Nasser quickly sprang into action. Working around the clock for days, he and the half-dozen other people on board the FSO Safer fashioned makeshift iron strips to patch a burst pipe, before divers arrived to install a permanent steel plate to keep seawater from sinking the ship.

The incident in 2020 was just one example of how a motley crew of sailors and engineers — numbering no more than seven or eight at any given time — have laboured for



A picture taken on 17 July 2023 shows the UN-owned Nautica vessel off the coast of Yemen’s contested western port of Hodeida. A UN-owned ship arrived off war-torn Yemen on 16 July for a risky operation to pump more than a million barrels of oil from a decaying tanker and prevent a catastrophic spill. **PHOTO: AFP**

years to keep afloat the FSO Safer tanker abandoned off Yemen, and stave off an environmental calamity. — AFP

Childhood routine jabs pick up after Covid backslide: UN

ROUTINE vaccination of children is picking up again after a dramatic drop during the Covid-19 crisis, the United Nations said Tuesday, warning that dangerous gaps remain.

Four million more children received routine childhood vaccines last year than in 2021, according to data published by the UN health and children's agencies.

"That's a good news story," World Health Organization vaccine chief Kate O'Brien told AFP.

"On average, countries around the world are recovering and are immunizing towards the level of immunization that was achieved before the pandemic hit."

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus agreed, describing the fresh data as "encouraging".



A Yemeni infant receives a polio vaccination during a home visit by health workers as part of an immunization campaign in Yemen's third city of Taz, on 19 February 2022. PHOTO: AFP

He warned though that "global and regional averages don't tell the whole story and mask severe and persistent inequities."

"When countries and regions lag, children pay the price."

Despite the progress, 20.5 million children missed out on one or more routine jabs in 2022.

That was down from 24.4 million a year earlier, but still well above the 18.4 million who missed out in 2019, before the pandemic hit.

O'Brien voiced concern the recovery was "very uneven".

Dramatic improvements in vaccine coverage in populous countries like India and Indonesia had masked slower recovery and even continued declines in most low-income countries, the data showed. — AFP

US approves new drug to prevent RSV in babies, toddlers

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Monday approved a new drug to protect babies and toddlers from Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

The drug, named Beyfortus, is a monoclonal antibody with activity against RSV. It is approved to use in neonates and infants born during or entering their first RSV season, and in children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season, the FDA said in a release.

"RSV can cause serious disease in infants and some children and results in a large number of emergency department and physician office visits each year," said John Farley, director of the Office of Infectious Diseases in the FDA's Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research.

"Today's approval addresses the great need for products to help reduce the impact of RSV disease on children, families and the healthcare system," Farley said. — Xinhua

WHO concerned at rise in Poland bird flu cases in cats

POLAND is the first country to report "high numbers" of cats infected with bird flu across a large area, the WHO said Monday, adding that the risk of human infection remained low.

The World Health Organization said that since Polish health authorities informed it last month of unusual cat deaths across the country, 29 cats had tested positive for H5N1 bird flu.

They were among 46 cats

and one captive caracal tested for the virus, it said, adding that 14 of the infected animals were reported to have been euthanized, while another 11 had died. The last death was reported on 30 June.

"The source of the exposure of cats to the virus is currently unknown and epizootic investigations are ongoing," WHO said in a statement. — AFP

Animals become healing companions in Mexico hospital

NINE-YEAR-OLD Alessia Ramos gently pets a hamster at a Mexican hospital where animals ranging from Australian parakeets to a Siberian Husky are being used to provide mental health therapy.

"It helps me to relieve my anxiety, to control my emotions, to relax and be more focused," said Ramos, who has been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

Eight dogs are also among the furry therapists at the National Centre for Mental Health and Palliative Care in Mexico City.

Harley, a five-year-old Pug, lost his eye in an accident but made a quick recovery, said doctor Lucia Ledesma, head of mental health services at the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Workers, the agency of which the hospital is a part.

"We follow that example of resilience in the face of adversity. He's a dog that does everything, without impediments," she said.

The facility is the only public hospital in Mexico using animals to treat mental illnesses,

though such therapy is also practiced in other countries.

"Contact with animals generates powerful neuropsychological changes that contribute to lowering states of stress and anxiety, as well as benefiting other cognitive processes," Ledesma said.

Harley became famous in Mexico when he entered Covid-19 wards wearing a protective suit, booties and glasses to boost the morale of medical personnel working long hours away from their families.

"It was the only animal-as-

sisted intervention in the world within a Covid area," Ledesma said.

"There were dogs in hospitals in other countries, but they never entered the Covid zone. We've received international recognition."

Silvia Hernandez first met Harley when she was working as a nurse during the pandemic, which left her with mental health issues for which she is still undergoing therapy.

"He came straight to me, as if he knew me, as if we were great friends," she said. — AFP



Alessia Ramos, 9, diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), interacts with an Angora hamster named "Waffle" during a therapy session at the ISSSTE's National Centre for Mental Health and Palliative Care in Mexico City on 7 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan PM steps up efforts for stable energy supply from Middle East



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (2nd from L) and Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani (2nd from R) hold talks in Doha on 18 July 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday accelerated efforts to bolster relations

with Middle Eastern countries, including Qatar, to secure a stable supply of fossil fuel to the re-

source-poor Asian nation from the energy domain.

In Doha, Kishida met Qatar's

emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, after visiting Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for two days from Sunday to strengthen "resource diplomacy" with the Middle Eastern region, where China has recently increased its influence.

As the Middle East is strategically important for Japan, which relies on imports for over 90 per cent of its energy needs, the Asian country has long attempted to maintain friendly ties with nations in the resource-rich area. With global energy price moves becoming precarious since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Japan has grown

more eager to take necessary measures to procure crude oil and liquefied natural gas from the Middle East steadily, analysts said. Many countries in the Middle East, meanwhile, have been trying to reduce their oil dependency, given that the value of the fossil fuel might decrease in the future amid the global decarbonization trend. It was the first time a Japanese prime minister visited the Middle East in over three years. During that time, China boosted its influence there by taking actions such as brokering a deal to re-establish diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. — Kyodo

Australia and China finance chiefs make 'good progress' at G20

AUSTRALIA and China's finance ministers met Tuesday on the sidelines of G20 talks in India, officials said, the first such meeting for four years as their relationship slowly thaws.

"A more stable relationship between Australia and China is in the best interests of both nations," Australia's Treasurer Jim Chalmers said, after meeting China's Liu Kun in Gandhinagar.

"This is about re-establish-

ing a dialogue that hasn't existed for more than four years."

China is Australia's largest trading partner.

Chalmers said he had a "productive and promising" discussion, adding the pair had "made some good progress".

The talks came days after Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong met China's top foreign policy official Wang Yi.

Relations between Beijing and Canberra have been im-

proving since the election of Australia's centre-left Labour government in May last year.

While China has since scrapped costly import bans on products such as coal and timber, it is yet to remove tariffs on Australian products including barley, wine and lobsters.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been invited to visit China at some point this year, the first Australian leader to do so since 2016. — AFP

UN official sees Cambodia's plunged poverty rate as positive step towards LDC graduation

CAMBODIA'S remarkable decline in poverty rate is a positive step towards the Southeast Asian country's graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status, a United Nations official said on Tuesday.

The poverty rate in Cambodia has declined to 16.6 per cent in 2022 from 36.7 per cent in 2014, as per the 2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released last week by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Oxford.

The number of poor people was halved from 5.6 million to 2.8 million, the report said, add-

ing that one in five Cambodians moved out of poverty in just 7.5 years.

"Cambodia's progress in reducing poverty is a positive indication towards the country's LDC graduation," the UNDP Resident Representative to Cambodia, Alissar Chaker, told Xinhua.

Nevertheless, two trends noteworthy of attention were captured in the index. The reduction of MPI in urban areas showed no significant progress as compared to the rural ones, while the number of out-of-school children rose sharply during the measured period. Chaker said Cambodia, among other 193 countries who

have adopted the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in 2015, pledged to leave no one behind.

"Therefore, it is important to maintain the positive momentum and ensure progress on all indicators," she said. "UNDP is committed to continuing the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting the government and civil society's efforts to reduce the bottlenecks and build resilience."

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said last month that the kingdom is projected to graduate from a least developed country status by 2027. — Xinhua

Philippines launches its first sovereign investment fund

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos on Tuesday signed into law the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) Act, establishing the country's first-ever sovereign investment fund.

"For the first time in the history of the Philippines, we now have a sovereign wealth fund designed to drive economic development," Marcos said at the signing ceremony at the presidential palace, stressing the MIF is "a bold step" towards the country's economic transformation. Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said

the newly-created fund is envisioned to be invested in various assets, including foreign currencies, fixed-income instruments, domestic and foreign corporate bonds, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and high-impact infrastructure projects, and projects contributing to sustainable development."

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the MIF will accelerate the country's infrastructure development, create high-quality jobs, attract more foreign investors, and propel the country towards higher growth. — Xinhua



This handout photo taken and received by the Philippines' Presidential Photographers Association (PPA) on 18 July 2023 shows Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr (C) after signing the Maharlika sovereign wealth fund into law at the Malacanang Palace in Manila. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / PHILIPPINES PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION (PPA) / AFP**

Markets drop as China growth worries offset Fed rate hopes

MOST Asian markets sank Tuesday as further weakness in China's economy fuelled worries about the effects on global growth, overshadowing optimism that the United States is winning its battle against inflation and could avoid a recession.

Regional traders extended Monday's retreat sparked by disappointing second-quarter data out of Beijing that missed forecasts badly and highlighted the tough job officials face in getting the coun-

try's post-Covid recovery back on track.

And while there is an expectation that fresh stimulus measures are in the pipeline, analysts warned that leaders were limited in how far they could go.

The figures came after last week's reports showing inflation had flatlined, suggesting China was on the brink of a period of painful deflation, while exports plunged for a second straight month.

"You're gonna see



Pedestrians walk past an electronic board showing the numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange after the morning trading session ended, along a street in Tokyo on 23 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

some stimulus coming in, which means that the second quarter may have been more of the low, the

third quarter a bit better," Joyce Chang, global head of research at JPMorgan, said on Bloomberg Televi-

sion. "But we've taken half a per cent off of China's growth and I think that the deflation risks are there."

Hong Kong led losses Tuesday, shedding more than two per cent following a five-day rally, as it reopened a day after being shut because of a severe storm.

Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, Manila, Jakarta, Wellington and Taipei also dropped, though Tokyo, Mumbai and Bangkok edged higher. Paris dipped in the

morning, while Frankfurt was flat and London edged up. The losses came despite a positive lead from Wall Street.

In a report on China, Alicia Garcia Herrero and Jianwei Xu at Natixis CIB said in a report: "We are conservative about the extent of the policy support down the road. Fiscal policies may not be easily implemented in the current situation, given the already high public debt and the reduced efficiency of these policies." — AFP

Seoul files suit against order to pay Elliott in Samsung fight

SOUTH Korea has filed a suit against an order to pay hedge fund Elliott more than \$50 million in damages over the controversial 2015 merger of two Samsung affiliates, Seoul's justice ministry said Tuesday. Elliott sued the government in 2018 after losing a proxy fight opposing the merger between Cheil Industries and Samsung C&T.

The US activist investor -- C&T's second-larg-

est single shareholder in 2015 — had argued that the takeover willfully undervalued the construction firm's share price, at an unacceptable cost to its shareholders.

The deal went through after the state-run National Pension Service (NPS) — which had a greater stake in Samsung C&T than Elliott and was deemed a deciding vote — approved it. — AFP

Dutch e-bike firm VanMoof declared bankrupt

DUTCH electric bike maker VanMoof, whose popularity earned it the name "Tesla of e-bikes" but has faced financial problems, has been declared bankrupt by a court, the company said Tuesday. The company had raised \$128 million in September 2021 in an effort to expand as it rode a boom in the e-bike sector after the Covid pandemic prompted people to seek alternatives means of transportation. But it has struggled since then, with Dutch media saying it was plagued by bad publicity as bikes broke down frequently and repairs took too long.

The Amsterdam firm

lost almost 80 million euros (\$90 million) in 2021 and the same figure last year, according to finan-

cial daily Het Financieele Dagblad (FD).

An Amsterdam court granted the company a

stay of payment last week after VanMoof filed for protection from creditors. — AFP



A woman rides a bike in a bicycle outside parking in Amsterdam, western Netherlands, on 25 November 2021. PHOTO: AFP

McDonald's UK apologizes after racism, sexual misconduct report

THE head of McDonald's in the UK apologized after the BBC on Tuesday reported allegations of sexual misconduct, racism and bullying by staff at the fast-food giant.

More than 100 former and current workers of the US company had made the allegations, the state broadcaster said after it began investigating in February.

This was after McDonald's signed a legally-binding agreement with Britain's Equality

and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), pledging to protect staff from sexual harassment.

"Every one of the 177,000 employees in McDonald's UK deserves to work in a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace," its UK chief executive Alistair Macrow told the BBC in response to the allegations.

"There are clearly instances where we have fallen short and for that we deeply apologize." — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC SHANGHAI VOY.NO. (2310S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHANGHAI VOY.NO. (2310S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2023** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GOLDEN BRIGHT VOY.NO. (23109)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GOLDEN BRIGHT VOY.NO. (23109)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING PRIVATE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

ASIA



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C, right) is welcomed by Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde (C) and other leaders, upon his arrival for the National Democratic Alliance meeting organized to mark the completion of nine years of the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 18 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

India's opposition parties meet for general election next year

KEY leaders of 26 Indian opposition parties on Tuesday met in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru to formulate a strategy for the country's general election due next year.

The leaders have converged in the Karnataka capital to come up with a common agenda that will form the basis of the election manifesto of all parties.

This is the second big meeting of the opposition par-

ties in the run-up to the general elections. The first meeting was held last month in Patna, the capital city of Bihar in which 16 parties participated.

In the 2019 general elections, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi won 303 seats in the 543-member strong Lok Sabha (locally the lower house of India's parliament). Apart from this, BJP is in power in more than half of

the Indian states, either directly or as part of a ruling alliance.

Meanwhile, the BJP is trying to garner support from its allies to put up a strong image of itself.

The BJP president J P Nadda has announced that 38 National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners have confirmed their attendance to a meeting to be held in the national capital on Tuesday. — Xinhua

14,000 evacuated during Pakistan's monsoon rains

MORE than 14,000 people and their cattle were evacuated from villages in eastern Pakistan, authorities said Tuesday, following the arrival of monsoon rains across South Asia.

The summer monsoon brings South Asia 70-80 per cent of its annual rainfall between June and September and is vital for the livelihoods of millions of farmers in a region of around two billion people.

But it also brings landslides and floods, and scientists have said climate change is making seasonal rains heavier and more unpredictable.

Rising water levels inundated at least 15 riverside villages and submerged large swathes of agricultural land, destroying crops such as corn, in Kasur district, close to the city of Lahore in Pakistan's most

populous province of Punjab.

"We had been warned that there could be a flood. But it all happened very suddenly," villager Ashfaq Bhatti told AFP.

"My family all made it out in time, but we have lost our livelihood. All our crops are now sitting underwater."

The provincial disaster management agency said people were being evacuated to 11 relief sites.

It said the floods were worsened by India's decision to release more water into downstream areas in Pakistan after torrential monsoon rains that killed more than 90 people. "We want to go home and start fixing the damage. But they keep telling us that more rains are coming," Muhammad Farooq, another villager who had been evacuated, told AFP. — AFP



Pakistan's civil defence rescue workers monitor the flood-affected river Ravi in Lahore on 16 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Weakened Typhoon Talim hits Viet Nam after passing through China

TYPHOON Talim reached Viet Nam Tuesday after passing through China less forcefully than feared, with no deaths reported in either country despite nearly 260,000 people relocating before the storm hit.

Talim first made landfall in southern China late Monday evening, battering the coast of Guangdong province with maximum winds of 136.8 kilometres (85 miles) per hour.

By Tuesday it had weakened to a tropical storm as it slowly made its way across the Vietnamese island of Bach Long Vi before moving towards the neighbouring Chinese region of Guangxi.

The storm passed by Bach Long Vi, an outlying island east of the capital Hanoi, "with maximum winds of about 60 kilometres per hour", the national weather bureau said Tuesday.

Authorities revoked an evacuation order in the northern port city of Hai Phong, a day after 30,000 people were relocated



Empty check-in desks are pictured at Noi Bai International Airport, which was temporarily closed due to Typhoon Talim, in Hanoi on 18 July 2023. Typhoon Talim reached Viet Nam on 18 July after passing through China less forcefully than feared, with no deaths reported in either country despite nearly 260,000 people relocating before the storm hit. **PHOTO: AFP**

from there and the province of Quang Ninh.

"People's activities have returned to normal in the city," state newspaper Thanh Nien reported.

But Viet Nam's second-biggest airport in Hanoi closed on

Tuesday, disrupting hundreds of flights according to local media reports.

Authorities warned that heavy rains, flooding and landslides could still pose a risk in northern provinces after the storm passed. — AFP

ADB leads 115-mln-USD global programme to reduce coastal pollution

SEVERAL multilateral lenders have partnered to lead a global programme to reduce pollution in coastal areas and river basins, the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Tuesday.

The Clean and Healthy Oceans Integrated Programme, with a budget of 115 million US

dollars, was launched jointly by ADB, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The programme will focus on curbing coastal pollution at the source, improving sustain-

able practices on land and in marine habitats, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

It is expected to benefit 200,000 hectares of landscape and 14.3 million hectares of marine habitats, while mitigating 5.6 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the ADB said in a statement. — Xinhua

Rich-poor split could tighten 'grip of poverty': World Bank chief

THE new head of the World Bank said Tuesday that growing divides between rich and poor nations risked deepening poverty in the developing world, at a meeting of G20 finance ministers in India.

Many countries are still recovering from the double blow of the coronavirus pandemic and fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine — which hit global fuel and commodity prices.

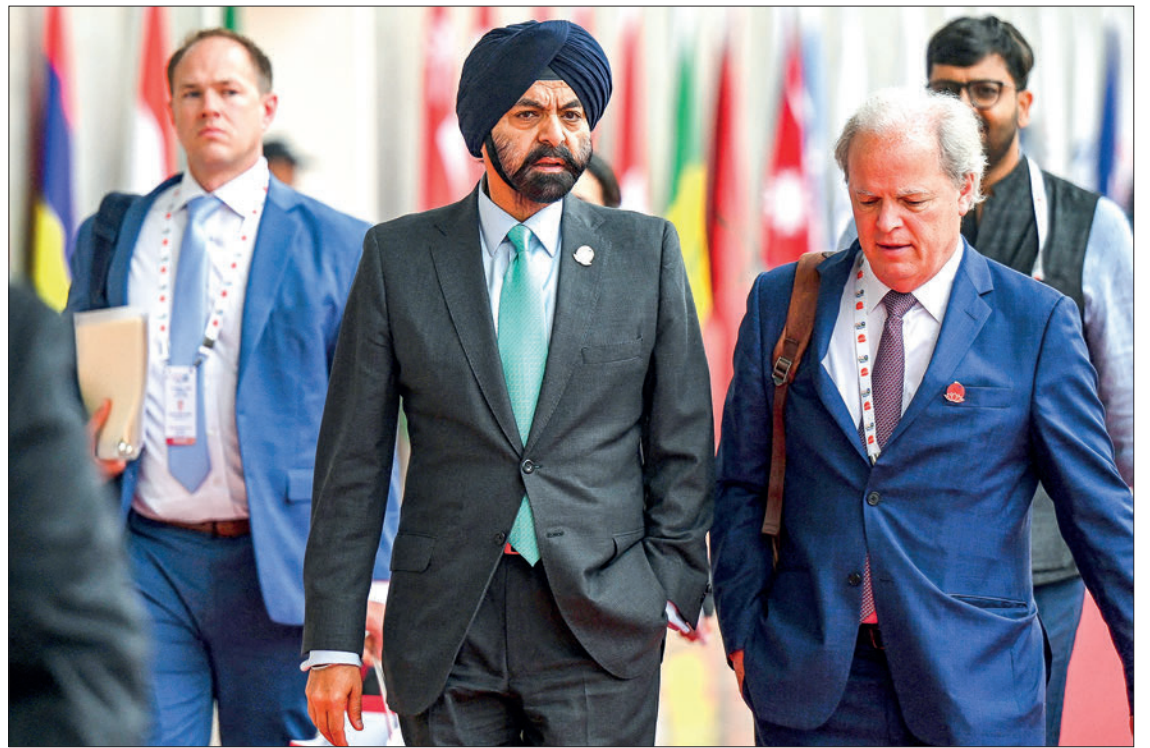
Climate change, meanwhile, is most painfully affecting some of the poorest countries least able to cope.

The G20 talks come after Russia on Monday refused to extend a deal allowing criti-

cal Ukrainian grain exports through the Black Sea, sparking outrage from the United Nations, which has warned millions of the world's poorest would "pay the price".

"We are living in complicated times; I have to allude to the fact that Russia yesterday withdrew from the Black Sea-Ukraine initiative — and we are here discussing how to help the vulnerable countries", German central bank chief Joachim Nagel told AFP. "That is really strange, and many countries blamed Russia for doing this."

South African Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana



World Bank chief Ajay Banga (C) leaves after attending the G20 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) and Finance & Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meetings, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on 17 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

warned it was "likely to have an impact on food prices, which will more heavily impact poor-

er nations". World Bank president Ajay Banga said he feared a lack

of progress was in danger of splitting the global economy. — AFP

Chinese premier meets US climate envoy

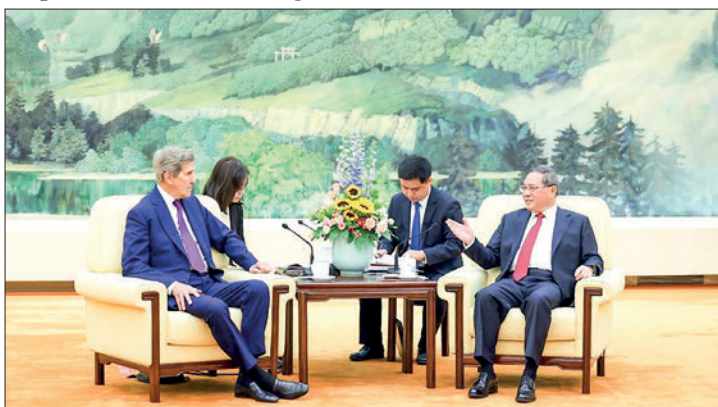
CHINESE Premier Li Qiang met US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry in Beijing on Tuesday.

China and the United States are both important countries in the world, and enhanced cooperation between them will benefit not only each other but also the whole world, Li said. The two sides should take concrete actions to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state at their meeting in Bali, Indonesia last year; properly manage differences and bring China-US relations back to the track of sound and stable development at an early date, he said. Noting that the global response to climate change is

an arduous task, Li called for practising multilateralism and adherence to the goals and principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

Li said all parties should shoulder their respective responsibilities and abide by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in addressing climate change.

Developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions and fulfil their financial commitments as soon as possible while developing countries should make contributions within their capacity, the premier said. — Xinhua



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 18 July 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

Iran says US accountable for nuclear deal stalemate and tensions in Gulf region

THE United States should be held responsible for the stalemate in negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal and the escalating tensions in the Gulf region, Iran's Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Nasser Kanaani, a spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, made the remarks at a weekly press conference while commenting on the latest developments regarding the indirect talks between Tehran and Washington on the revival of the

nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The negotiation path is still "open" and the nuclear deal's revival can be pursued through diplomatic channels, Kanaani said, urging the US side to show its determination and to make its "definite" political decision to this end.

Iran signed the JCPOA in July 2015 with China, France, Germany, Russia, the European Union, Britain, and the United

States. It agreed to put some curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the removal of sanctions on the country. Washington, however, pulled out of the deal in May 2018 and reimposed its unilateral sanctions on Tehran.

Tensions between the two countries have remained high ever since. Recently, Washington expressed its intention to send fighter jets and warships to the Hormuz Strait in response to Iran's alleged "attempt to seize oil tankers". — Xinhua

US deploying warship, planes to deter Iran ship seizures

THE United States is deploying a destroyer as well as F-35 and F-16 warplanes to the Middle East to deter Iran from seizing ships in the Gulf, the Pentagon said Monday.

The move came after the Iranian Navy tried to seize two merchant vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman earlier this month, in one incident opening fire at one of the merchant vessels.

"In light of this continued threat and in coordination with

our partners and allies, the (Defence) Department is increasing our presence and ability to monitor the Strait and surrounding waters," Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said, calling on Tehran to "immediately cease these destabilizing actions that threaten the free flow of commerce through this strategic waterway".

On Friday, a senior defence official said the United States was flying A-10 Warthog warplanes over the Gulf, armed "with the

kinds of munitions that would be useful to go against fast boats and moving targets." As Iranian "fast attack boats, fast attack craft have increased as a maritime threat, we've tried a number of different ways to tackle them. And the A-10 has proven capable of that," the official added. Washington said its forces blocked two attempts by the Iran to seize commercial tankers in international waters off Oman on 5 July, while Tehran took control of a commercial ship the following day. — AFP

Rich-poor split could tighten 'grip of poverty': World Bank chief

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SPORT

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve 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 prioritize 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.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to 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 assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

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 people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.

Yangon United edges GFA 9-0 in MNL Week 12

YANGON United trounced GFA 9-0 in the Week 12 of the Myanmar National League at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon United started with a 3-5-2 formation and was able to attack the other side as soon as the game started. Yangon found the leading goal five minutes into the match. Habila scored a header through a free kick by Yan Naing Oo.

Sylla scored the second

lead with a header at 11 minutes of the game, and Valencia scored the third at 16 minutes.

Yangon United led GFA 5-0 at the end of the first half as Valencia scored two more goals with headers at 26 and 30 minutes.

In the second half, substitute Okkar Naing scored the sixth goal of the match with an assist from Zaw Win Thein. Two minutes later, Valencia scored another leading goal at

58 minutes, and substitute Yan Kyaw Htwe added an eighth goal. Next, Okka Naing shaped the victory with the ninth or winning goal at 68 minutes to secure 9-0 over GFA.

Yangon United is currently standing in second place after 12 plays, 10 wins, one draw, and one loss, with 31 points, and the team will face Myawady FC at Thuwunna Stadium on 24 July. — KZL



Yangon United players are seen celebrating happily after MNL match against GFA at their home stadium on 18 July 2023. PHOTO: YUFC

Real-time VAR explanations at Women's World Cup 'more transparent': FIFA



Chairman of the FIFA committee Pierluigi Collina attends the 73rd FIFA Congress in Kigali, Rwanda, on 16 March 2023. PHOTO: AFP

MATCH officials explaining VAR decisions live to stadiums and television audiences for Women's World Cup games will make

the process "more transparent", FIFA's referee chief Pierluigi Collina said on Tuesday.

The concept will be used

at a major tournament for the first time when the World Cup starts on Thursday, having been trialled at the men's Club World Cup in Morocco this year and the men's U20 World Cup in Argentina last month.

Collina, chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee, told reporters that there had been positive feedback from the trials.

"We want to give more transparency, more understanding of the decision made by the referee," the Italian said.

"The referees here in Sydney have already practised at the training grounds using the PA system and things are going well. — AFP

Messi gets down to business in Florida heat

LIONEL Messi got down to business with his new Inter Miami team-mates on Tuesday, taking part in his first full training session with the Major League Soccer club.

The Argentine World Cup winner took to the club's training field at 9 am local time with temperatures already above 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

Chatting with Venezuelan international Josef Martinez, likely to be his strike partner for Miami, Messi was watched by over 200 media representatives who had attended the session.

Miami's training sessions had barely attracted double figure attendance from the media prior to Messi's arrival.

Messi had been unveiled to the club's supporters at the stadium on Sunday at a celebratory event alongside Miami co-owner David Beckham and his first game is scheduled for Friday. Miami, who are ranked last in the 29-team MLS, face Mexican club Cruz Azul in the opening game of the new Leagues Cup, a tournament style competition featuring all top flight teams from MLS and Mexico's Liga MX.

It is not clear yet if Messi will start that game or make a cameo appearance from the substitute's bench and his coach, fellow Argentine Gerardo 'Tata' Martino has asked for patience while the 36-year-old builds up his fitness. — AFP