President U Thein Sein felicitates King of Belgians, PM

President U Thein Sein concludes European tour

President U Thein Sein being welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister U Aung Min and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe. MNA

Yangtze River to see largest flood peak this year

Water flow into the reservoir has increased rapidly in the past two days, by 11,000 cubic meters per second. As of 2 p.m. Friday, the water flow hit 34,500 cubic meters per second. The water level of the reservoir stood at about 147.5 meters.

The weather forecast said in the next one to three days, heavy rain will hit the upstream region. From 12 a.m. Friday, water flow discharged out of the reservoir will be increased to 35,000 cubic meters per second. As the world's largest hydropower project, the Three Gorges Project consists of a dam, five-tier ship docks and a total of 32 hydropower turbo-generators.

Low pressure still persists

According to the observations at 5:30 hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

Andean condors in Peru

The number of Andean condors, one of the world’s largest birds, has been declining due to development and poaching. Local residents including indigenous people have set up a group for the protection of the Andean Condor in the Colca Canyon in southern Peru.

The bird has a wing span of more than 3 meters and weighs about 15 kilograms.

Photo taken with a fisheye lens on 12 July, 2013 at about 25 meters deep in the Pacific Ocean off Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, shows a tower-like aggregation of debris from the March 2011 tsunami, including ropes from fish farming facilities and crushed fishing gears.—KYODO

Obama to attend G20 meeting in Russia

Kerry says Israel, Palestinians lay groundwork for peace talks

China launches three experimental satellites
Crime News

Illegal arms, fake alcoholic drinks confiscated

MAWLAMYINE, 20 July—Measures are being carried out to take punitive actions against drug smugglers and users, unlicensed distillers and illegal arms owners in Mawlamyine District.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined police force conducted a search of the house of U Tin Hsan, guard of a distillery at Thiri Khaymar ward in Ye Township on 13 July.

They discovered one pistol, one magazine, three bullets, one empty bullet, one hand-made pistol that doesn’t work properly. 50 iron balls from Kyaw Min Min (a) Min Min, son of U Tin Hsan and seized 20 bottles of fake alcoholic drink (Army Rum), documents and devices used for distilling fake alcoholic drinks and K 181,000.

Kyaw Min Min (a) Min Min was charged over illegal possession of arms and fake alcoholic drinks and investigation is ongoing.

Kachin State parliamentarians visit 500-acre model integrated farmland

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 July—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint met with parliamentarians led by Deputy Speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw U Sai Myint Kyaw at 500-acre model integrated farmland, here, on 17 July.

“The integrated farmland is a model farmland for breeders and growers. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is implementing the task of ensuring public fitness and meat sector development by stepping up its efforts in dairy cattle breeding. As dairy breeding in a manageable scale can generate more per capital income, there will be a rise in national income. Only the use of modern methods in agriculture and livestock breeding could help not only provide domestic food sufficiency but also ensure global food security,” said the Union minister.

He called for systematic storage of cattle dung for production of biogas and use of manure as natural fertilizer, thereby contributing towards improvement in poverty alleviation and rural region development scheme. He pledged to sell fowls, cattle and pigs to breeders in Kachin State under an installment plan.

Next, Kachin State lawmakers visited dairy farm and Mya-Sein-Yaung milk processing factory. During their excursion tour, they were given knowledge on dairy breeding, production and use of biogas and milk processing.

Lawmakers, officials concerned hold talks on modification of mining bylaws

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 July—In inviting foreign investors to do businesses in Myanmar after Foreign Investment Law was enacted for national economic development, it needs accuracy of laws and bylaws and completion of infrastructures.

Bringing a country which is rich in above and underground natural resources, modification of existing bylaws is needed to fulfill the requirements of local and foreign investors in mining sector.

So, a meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw Mineral and Natural Resources Affairs Committee and officials of the Ministry of Mines was held at Building I-7 in Hluttaw Complex on 11 July. Law makers held talks with officials concerned on emergence of firm bylaws to enable Union government and region/state government to practice same standards in allowing companies to deal with mining in manageable level and commercial level.

“There are various kinds of mineral deposits across the country. It is required to carry out mineral extraction systematically, without harming the environment as natural resources are non-renewable. It can be rapidly running out if profitability is centered. The Ministry of Mines has banned direct sale of low-grade industrial raw materials, but raw metals are being produced on a wider scale and smuggled to other countries by some businessmen in border regions. If it is allowed to sell, they should be subjected to scrutiny in quality and amount. Sale of raw materials is not beneficial to the country. That’s why, the inclusion of effective methods and accurate bylaws is needed while modifying the mining bylaws,” said Mansi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tun Tun.

Drunken father beats his six-month-old baby boy to death for crying

KYAUKPYU, 19 July — A 31-year-old father was taken into police custody for being accused of beating his six-month-old baby boy to death at Ywathit Village in Lake-ka-maw village-tract in Kyaukpyu Township on 9 July. Police said they were called to the scene at about 1.00 pm on that day by Ma Aung San Htwe, mother of the child.

According to the victim’s mother, the suspect, Maung Maung Htwe, 31, was a drunkard and he was drunk at the time when the tragic incident occurred. He allegedly punched the infant with his fist on the latter’s chest for three times and slapped on the back for two times as the baby boy cried out while he held him.

But as the baby scream was abruptly silenced, she checked him and found the baby dead. Maung Maung Htwe fled away from home.

Legislation

Substitution of old analog electric meters for digital ones in Tatkon Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 July — Substitution of analog electricity meters for digital ones are being carried out in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. So far, 5000 have been replaced with digital meters in the township. “Digital meters are useful not only to read the unit of electricity consumption but also to protect possible danger of short circuit at homes,” said an official.

LPD

Livestock Breeding

Photo shows local people paying tributes to fallen heroes at the 66th Anniversary Martyrs’ Day commemorative ceremony at Arzani Monument in Kyauktan Township on 19 July.

Kyemon-039

Electric Power

Photo shows groups of people gathering in front of Arzani Monument to commemorate the 66th Anniversary Martyrs’ Day in the Maida Ground in Toungoo Township of Bago Region on 19 July.— Kyemon-Kyaw Swa (Toungoo)

Livestock Breeding

Photo shows the 66th Anniversary Martyrs’ Day commemorative ceremony held at Myawady in Kayin State on 19 July.

Kyemon-Myawady PRD

Photo News
Obama to attend G20 meeting in Russia

WASHINGTON, 20 July—US President Barack Obama will attend the Group of Twenty (G20) summit slated for September in the Russian city of St Petersburg despite two American senators’ call for a relocation of the meet-
ing over row about fugitive intelligence leader Edward Snowden, the White House said on Friday.

“The G20 is a body of 20 nations, Russia is the host of the G20 this year in St Petersburg,” spokesman Jay Carney said at a regular Press briefing.

Portugal political crisis rages again as talks break off

LISBON, 20 July—Portugal’s main political parties broke off talks on Friday in a “national salva-
tion” pact to ensure an EU-IMF bailout stays on track, leaving it to the president to decide how to proceed.

Political turmoil has already forced Lisbon to request a delay in the eighth review of the bailout by its creditors, which was initial-
ized to start last Monday, until the end of August or early September.

The 78-billion-euro ($102.5-billion) bailout programme and attached austerity policies are associ-
cated with the worst recession in Portugal since the 1970s.

The leader of the main opposition Socialists, Anto-
nio Jose Seguro, said the ruling coalition had rejected most of his party’s propos-
als aimed to renegotiate the terms of the bailout.

The crisis, which start-
ed as an internal political rift in the ruling coalition and expanded to a debate over the bailout plan, has threatened to derail Portu-
gal’s planned exit from the bailout and full return to debt markets in mid-2014.

The government says abandoning austerity would undermine Lisbon’s cred-
bility with lenders and in-
vester.

“There were two dif-
ferent visions to exit the
crisis. That being clear, it
made no sense to continue
negotiating for the sake of
negotiating,” Seguro told
reporters after meeting
President Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Seguro said whether to
go ahead with 4.7 billion euros’ worth of govern-
ment-proposed budget cuts had been a major sticking
point.

“Many of you ask
yourselves, and now what?
It is up to the president to
decide,” Seguro said.

Analysts say the situ-
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the president could still avoid an escalation of the crisis by keeping the rul-
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Abe vows economic recovery as parties pitch before Sunday election

TOKYO, 20 July—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged on Friday to keep Japan’s economic re-
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North Korean ship was carrying sugar donation, Cuba told Panama

Cuba claimed on Friday that its charm offensive had paid dividends, telling Panama it had been able to ship sugar to the Central American country.

A North Korean ship carrying Cuban sugar to Panama was seized last week in Panama on suspicion of smuggling drugs, Cuba said on Friday.

Cuba said it had been able to ship sugar to Panama, according to a Panamanian official familiar with the matter.

Cuban officials were quick to request the ship be released, pleading there were no drugs on board, and made no mention of the weapons which two days later were found hidden in the hold under 220,000 sacks of brown sugar, the official told Reuters.

“They said it was all a big misunderstanding,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Cuba declined to com-
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The discovery has put the already isolated Asian na-
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AMD eyes gaming consoles to offset slowing PC sales

WASHINGTON, 20 July — Advanced Micro Devices forecast stronger-than-expected revenue growth of 22 percent in the third quarter from the second, as the chip maker expands into new game consoles and other markets to offset slowing sales of personal computers.

However, the stock reversed earlier gains on Thursday after AMD said gross margins would fall as it seeks a foothold in game consoles.

AMD, which for decades has competed against market leader Intel Corp in supplying chips for PCs, is rushing to refocus on new markets as consumers buy fewer laptops and more tablets and smartphones.

AMD processors are being used in Microsoft Corp’s upcoming Xbox One and Sony Corp’s next-generation PlayStation game consoles. These are largely behind AMD’s up-beat revenue forecast.

AMD said its gross margin in the second quarter was 40 percent and would fall to about 36 percent in the third quarter. Analysts on average had expected a third-quarter gross margin of 39 percent.

With consumers increasingly playing games on tablets, it is also unclear how many of the new consoles Microsoft and Sony would sell, but optimism about the impact on AMD’s revenue has helped drive its stock up 73 percent since the beginning of April.

Bernstein analyst Stacy Rasgon said AMD’s gross margin forecast was probably behind the after-hours drop in the company’s shares.

AMD’s report comes after Intel warned on Wednesday that it does not expect revenue to grow in 2013 due to slowing PC industry. Global shipments of personal computers dropped 11 percent in the second quarter, the fifth straight quarterly decline in a market that has been devasted by the popularity of tablets.

AMD reported second-quarter revenue of $1.161 billion, down from $1.413 billion in the year-ago quarter. It said third-quarter revenue would rise 22 percent, plus or minus 3 percent, compared with the June quarter. That increase would be about $1.416 billion.

Analysts, on average, had expected revenue of $1.108 billion in the second quarter and $1.223 billion in the third quarter, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

AMD posted a net loss of $431 million, or 10 cents a share, in the second quarter, compared with a profit of $37 million, or 5 cents a share, in the same quarter last year.

The company said its non-GAAP loss per share was 9 cents, better than the 12-cent loss expected by analysts.

AMD’s stock declined 3.66 percent in extended trade after closing up 5.94 percent at $4.64.—Reuters

Nokia Lumia 625 with 4.7-inch display spotted online

NEW YORK, 20 July — Nokia is working on a new smartphone that would feature a big 4.7-inch screen, if a Chinese website is to be believed.

The Chinese official certification website TENAA has revealed and the existence of a new Lumia smartphone, the Nokia Lumia 625. It is being said that it would be the most affordable Lumia phone and would come with the biggest screen ever, for a Nokia phone. The unibody design of the Lumia 625 looks very similar to that of the Lumia 620 and would likely be pegged as its successor for the global market.

The alleged specifications of the next Lumia 625 point to a 4.7-inch display with a resolution of 480x800 pixels. The screen resolution seems to be similar to some of the budget Lumia devices launched by Nokia.

The device is said to be powered by a 1.2GHz Snapdragon S4 processor along with 512MB RAM. It’s expected to feature a 5.0-megapixel rear camera but it’s not known if it will also feature a secondary camera.

The listing mentions GPRS, WCDMA, HSPA support and the phone is also likely to include LTE.

The Nokia Lumia 625 is likely to be launched in China first. At the moment, there is no news about when the Finnish handset maker would launch the handset, globally.

Meanwhile, after creating a lot of buzz, Nokia launched its new Windows Phone 8 device that sports a 41-megapixel, dubbed as the Nokia Lumia 1020, last week.

The device is powered by a 1.5GHz dual-core Snapdragon processor. The highlight of the device ever since it got leaked has been the PureView 41-megapixel sensor which offers Optical Image Stabilization (OIS), backside-illuminated image sensor, 6 lens optics accompanied by a Xenon Flash.

Nokia has also added some camera software such as the Nokia Pro Camera and Smart Camera Mode, while there is a 1.2-megapixel front camera. The phone comes with 32GB internal storage and 2GB of RAM.

Android 4.3 leaks online, brings new dialler, camera app

NEW YORK, 20 July—While Google is expected to release the next version video of its mobile operating system, Android 4.3, next week, a leaked copy of the OS for Nexus 4 devices has already appeared online.

Although it’s known that Android 4.3, which would continue to be referred as Jelly Bean, will be a minor update and won’t bring major user-facing changes, it still offers some incremental updates. According to a hands-on video uploaded by Android Central, the update will increase the touch responsiveness of the Nexus 4. The new update will bring an additional feature to the phone’s dialler suggesting phone numbers from your contacts as you dial by matching digits or looking up names. It also adds an option to add pauses while calling a number. Android 4.3 also seems to brings a new Wi-Fi setting, ‘Scanning always available’ which will allow apps to get location data through Wi-Fi even when Wi-Fi is set to off and not being used for data access.

As revealed in previous leaks, Android 4.3 also offers a new updated Camera app that features a new arch based menu that makes it easier to control and switch camera settings.

In addition to these, the update brings the OpenGL 3.0 graphics standard for better 3D rendering for visual effects in apps and games, and Bluetooth LE (Low Energy) support, through which devices running the OS will be able to sync with low power wearable devices like health monitors and smart watches.—PTI

China launches three experimental satellites

TAINYAN, 20 July—China successfully launched three satellites for scientific experiments into space at 7:37 am Saturday, the Tainyuan Satellite Launch Centre said.

The Changxins-3, Shiyans-7 and Shijians-15 satellites were launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket, according to the center in north China’s Shanxi Province.

The three satellites will be used mainly for conducting scientific experiments on space maintenance technologies.

This marks the 179th launch boosted by a Long March rocket, according to the centre.

Return of long-absent bumblebee near Seattle stirs scientific buzz

OLYMPIA, (Washington), 20 July — A North American bumblebee species that all but vanished from about half of its natural range has re-emerged in Washington state, delighting scientists who voiced optimism the insect might eventually make a recovery in the Pacific Northwest.

Entomologists and bee enthusiasts in recent weeks have photographed several specimens of the long-absent western bumblebee — known to scientists as Bombus occidentalis — buzzing among flower blossoms in a suburban park north of Seattle. “It’s a pretty big deal,” said Rich Hatfield, a biologist for the Oregon-based Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, which documents and reports such findings.

“It gives us hope that we can do some conserva-
tion work, and perhaps the species has a chance at re-populating its range,” he told Reuters this week.

The multiple sightings, including observations of several queens, are evidence of western bumblebee colonies in the area, although it hardly proves the species has returned in force and or that it will thrive in the region, Hatfield said.

Reuters

A Long March-4C carrier rocket carrying three satellites for scientific experiments blasts off from the launch pad in the Tainyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Tainyuan, capital of north China’s Shanxi Province, on 20 July, 2013.—Xinhua
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**G20 supports global taxation reform**

**NEW YORK, 20 July—**Samsung Electronics Co Ltd is close to signing a deal to sell its popular line of Galaxy devices to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, sources familiar with the situation said on Friday.

The deal would be a boost for Samsung, which is increasingly seeking to cater to the needs of government agencies, a niche long dominated by Canadian smartphone maker BlackBerry Ltd.

The FBI, with more than 35,000 employees, at present uses mainly Blackberry devices. It is unclear whether the agency plans to replace all Blackberry equipment with Galaxy models or whether it will use hardware from both companies. A spokeswoman for the FBI declined to comment on the matter, saying that the selection of its new smartphones is part of an active acquisition process and any current discussions are proprietary to the government.

The imminent deal was previously reported by the Wall Street Journal late on Thursday. The WSJ also said Samsung is close to signing a smaller order for devices with the US Navy, citing people familiar with the matter.

Representatives of Blackberry and Samsung declined to comment. Blackberry emphasized, however, that it regards its operating system as the best in the market in terms of security features.

"The security of mobile devices is more important now than it has ever been before," Blackberry's chief legal officer, Steve Zipperstein, said in an interview.

"It is far to ask why in this context anyone would consider moving from the gold standard in security, which is the Blackberry platform."

**WB project to benefit Vietnam’s low-income people**

**HANOI, 20 July—**The World Bank is set to support the Vietnamese government with a $5.6 million US dollars project on innovations targeting people with low incomes, which will be carried out nation-wide from 2013 to 2018.

The information was unveiled at a conference held by the Ministry of Planning and Investment along with the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology in southern Ho Chi Minh City on Friday.

A spokesman for the WB project to benefit Vietnam’s low-income people said the project, which aims to help people improve their living standards and develop traditional medicine, information technology and communication, agriculture and aquaculture will be a priority in implementing the project.

In addition, scientific research on the above-mentioned spheres must be practical, applicable, environmentally friendly and cost effective, and may be implemented in two or three years. The studies must ensure cooperation among domestic and foreign researchers, entrepreneurs, partners and people generating innovative initiatives that are in line with local conditions and have potential to be internationally competitive, said the report.

**Xinhua**
Boeing 787 probe looks at condensation, wiring

WASHINGTON/SEATTLE, 20 July — Officials investigating the fire on an Ethiopian Airlines 787 in London last week are focused on how condensation in the plane and a possible pinched wire in an emergency beacon may have sparked the blaze, according to people familiar with the probe.

The US Federal Aviation Administration said on Friday it will call for inspections of the beacons made by Honeywell on Boeing Co 787 jetliners, but stopped short of requiring airlines to disable or remove the devices, as British authorities investigating the fire had recommended.

The FAA said inspections should ensure wires or signs of unusual wear are related to those batteries.

The 12 July fire rekindled concern in the industry about Boeing’s advanced carbon-composite Dreamliner, which was grounded for more than two months this year after two incidents involving overheated lithium-ion batteries. The AAIB said the London fire was not related to those batteries.

The Honeywell ELT is delivered fully assembled and is installed by Boeing. The unit that was involved in the fire had not been opened, suggesting the pinched wire originated at the Honeywell plant, according to one person familiar with the investigation.

Honeywell declined to comment. Boeing declined comment on the investigation but said it is working with airlines to either inspect or remove the beacons to meet regulatory guidelines.

Investigators also are trying to determine if condensation on the plane seeped into the ELT, triggering a short circuit in the unit’s lithium-manganese battery, which is made by UltraCell Corp, according to people familiar with the investigation. The sources were not authorized to speak publicly because the probe is still going on.

Reuter’s Kyodo news

Saudi suspect in underwear bomb plots trained others, US says

A picture taken from a document released by the Saudi Interior Ministry on 1 Nov, 2010 shows Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri.

Aspir, (Colo), 20 July — The United States believes the Saudi man suspected of designing underwear bombs for al-Qaeda’s Yemeni affiliate has trained a small number of people on his advanced bomb-making techniques, a senior US official said on Friday.

The remarks by John Pistole, who heads the US Transportation Security Administration, were some of the most detailed public comments to date about Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri and the thwarted May 2012 plot by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, to blow up a plane with an underwear bomb.

“There is intelligence that he has unfortunately trained others and there’s a lot of effort to identify those folks,” Pistole told the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

Asked by Reuters after about the nature of that intelligence, Pistole said Asiri was believed to have trained a small number of people. He added that the intelligence was “credible.”

Believed to be in his early 30s, Asiri, who survived a US drone missile attack in 2011, has drawn scrutiny for his skill at fashioning hard-to-detect bombs and hiding them in clothing or equipment.

He became an urgent priority for Western counterterrorism officials after his suspected role in planning strikes on the United States in 2009 and 2010, plots that included the failed bombing of a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day in 2009.

The Detroit plot was discovered only when the explosive sewn into the bomber’s underwear misfired as the airliner flew over US territory.

Pistole said Asiri’s 2012 attempt utilized a more sophisticated device using a new type of explosive the United States had not seen previously.

Asiri also used a double-initiation system for igniting the bomb and enclosed the device in caulk to prevent leakage of any explosive vapours that could be detected by airport equipment or bomb-sniffing dogs, Pistole said.

“He gave (the presumed attacker) instructions to get on the plane ... and fly to the US and blow himself up over the US,” he said. “Fortunately, that terrorist was a double agent.”

Pistole said, referring to the US-British-Saudi undercover counterterrorism operation.

A Riyadh-born former chemistry student who once plotted to bomb oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, Asiri served nine months in jail and was later released.

He later moved to Yemen and joined AQAP, and is suspected of providing the bomb that killed his younger brother in a failed bid to assassinate Saudi counterterrorism chief Prince Mohammed bin Nayef in 2009.

Reuter’s Kyodo News

1,973 Fukushima plant workers have higher risk of thyroid cancer

Tokyo, 20 July — Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Friday 1,973 workers at its disaster-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant have estimated thyroid radiation doses exceeding 100 millisieverts and are therefore at higher risk of suffering from thyroid cancer.

The workers will be allowed to undergo annual ultrasonic thyroid examinations free of charge, the utility said.

TEPCO gave health checks to 19,592 workers from 1,290 TEPCO employees and 16,302 employees of its partner firms — in connection with the plant’s nuclear fuel meltdown triggered by the March 11 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

A group of Japanese tourists with Guam-based guide Ken Haga (3rd from L) pay their respects on 13 July, 2013 to Japanese soldiers who died on Nimitz Hill on the Pacific island of Guam in July 1944. Officials, private tour guides and local residents are encouraging Japanese tourists, who account for the largest percentage of foreign visitors to the island, to also see the wartime memorial sites and not just spend time on its pristine beaches and shopping. — Kyodo News

Residents wear winter clothes, in Buenos Aires City, capital of Argentina, on 19 July, 2013. A wave of polar cold affected Argentina on Friday, with possibilities of being intensified during the weekend. According to the local press, there is also the possibility of an unusual snowfall in Buenos Aires. — Xinhua

Briton kidnapped near Nigerian Airport

Lagos, 20 July — A British national has been kidnapped earlier this week after unknown gunmen ambushed his car near an airport in Nigeria’s economic and commercial capital Lagos, local police said late Friday.

The Briton was abducted on Tuesday after leaving Lagos Murtala International Airport, a police officer told Xinhua. The case was under investigation.

“We have set our dragnet and we will get the kidnappers and rescue the victim,” the officer said by phone.

The British High Commission in Nigeria confirmed the abduction, saying that it was working closely with relevant organizations to secure the release.

In March, a Briton was ambushed and kidnapped by unknown gunmen in Victoria Island of Lagos, and was later released.

High-profile kidnappings and abductions of foreigners for ransom are rampant in Nigeria’s northem and southem parts, and the vast majority of victims were released unharmed after ransoms were paid. The Nigerian Islamist extremist group Boko Haram and another Islamist Ansaru sect have recently claimed responsibility for the abduction of some foreigners.

Xinhua

A picture of a Japanese tour group on a tour of Guam captured by a photographer. — Kyodo News

2013 New Light of Myanmar

Sunday, 21 July, 2013

WORLD

Emergency services attend to a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, operated by Ethiopian Airlines, after it caught fire at Gatwick’s Heathrow Airport in west London on 12 July, 2013.—Reuters
Sanitation tasks carried out at schools in Sittway

SITTWAY, 20 July—Sittway School Health Supervisory Committee for 2013-2014 fiscal year is extensively taking school health measures.

With the support of Rakhine State government and guidance of State Health Department, it has carried out measures to repel mosquitoes from schools since 17 July, 2013.

The committee carried out fumigation at Basic Education High School No (2) in Sittway, Baungdok Tharsu primary school, South Ywagyi primary school and North Ywagyi primary school on 17 July. Township Education Officer U Kyar Hla Tun, Township Health Officer Dr Kyawt Tha Sein, School Health Doctor Dr Aung Thura, District and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association officials and teachers joined the efforts.

The tasks will continue to be carried out in 45 remaining schools in Sittway Township up to the end of July.

Lay Wadi Tun Saw Khaing

Yangon traffic police charges average 20 traffic rules violators

YANGON, 20 July—Traffic police in Yangon have dealt with 20 traffic rules violation cases on average each day, according to the traffic police corps.

The corps has extended its squad to enforce the traffic rules extensively and effectively in Yangon Region tackling excessive traffic congestion. It has reinforced the squad in areas of most traffic jams.

“Daily traffic rules violation cases count for 20 on average. On a single day on 8 July, there were 24 traffic rules violation cases taken action,” an official of traffic police corps said.

Shwegondaing Road, Anawrahta street, Bo San Pek street, Bo Aung Kyaw street, Thiri Aungy street, Yuzana Plaza and Hanthawady roundabout usually witness traffic jams.

Traffic accident

Three people were injured in a luxury car accident on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway.

DAIKU, 20 July—A Myanmar mini saloon bound for Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon hit the traffic island on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway in Dali Township on 16 July. Three aboard the vehicle including the driver were injured in the accident as the high-speed car turned upside down after hitting the traffic island.

Driver Myo Aung, 33, Daw Khin Lay Mu, 45, and Ma The Su Aye, 27, were injured in the accident. Okhita Expressway police station in Dali Township admitted the injured persons to Phado village-tract Station Hospital in Kyaukda Township. The police station has filed a lawsuit against the driver.

MMAL-Thein Nyunt

Meiktila clock tower to get refurbishments

MEIKTILA, 20 July—Meiktila clock tower, a landmark of Meiktila, will get major refurbishments which include new clocks. It was built since 1990 and is situated at the corner of Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Myingyan road.

Four faces of the tower have been showing different times for a long time. Authorities will replace the old clocks with new ones from China.

MMAL–Tin Tun Oo

Complaints for bribery and corruption

Complaints about bribery and corruption can be addressed to the Anti-Corruption Committee, the President Office at Office No. 18, Nay Pyi Taw, by anyone with his/her name, CSC No., address and firm evidence. Action will be taken against those who got involved in bribery and corruption in accordance with the law after a thorough investigation.

Stakes driven for construction staff quarters

PYIDAYA, 20 July—A stake driving ceremony for staff quarters of Human Settlement and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction in Pyidaya in Dana Self-Administered Zone on 18 July.

Chairman of Leading Body of Dana Self-Administered Zone U Htoo Ko Ko, Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Soe, Public Works District Senior Engineer U Kyaw Tha, Township Assistant Engineer Daw Naw Hlaing Zeyar drove stakes.

The staff quarters will include three buildings built on 3.668 acres of land.

MMAL–Moe Moe Htway (Pyidaya)

MR gets rid of squatting buildings off circular railroad area

YANGON, 20 July—Myanmar Railways cleared squatting buildings and shops and dump along the circular railroad in Yangon on 12 July, according to an MR official.

“The public members need to cooperate with us to make the law barring squatters to the state-owned and the MR-owned area. It has been thrice that dumps along the circular railroad were clearing rubbish for convenience of passengers and good smell and beautification,” the general manager of Myanmar Railways (lower Myanmar) said.

About 90000 local passengers and 50 foreigners are riding circular trains in Yangon daily.

The Yangon Region government supported the clearance of squatters off the areas. There are 200 circular train schedules in Yangon each day.

MMAL–Maung Maung

Sabut Bridge construction nearing completion

MINBU, 20 July—Construction of Sabut Bridge on Minbu-Magway in Magway Region will be completed and the bridge will be commissioned into service soon.

The construction being undertaken by Special Bridge Construction Group No (4) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction have been completed by 91 percent.

The construction started on 1 June, 2012. The RC bridge has the length of 510 feet and the width of 24 feet.

According to a villager of Shwetabin village, “I’m very grateful for the bridge. The old bridge built since May, 1974, was dilapidated. The eroded approach had to be repaired each year.”

MMAL–Tin Tun Oo

Traffic accident

Three injured in Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway accident

DAIKU, 20 July—A Myanmar mini saloon bound for Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon hit the traffic island on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway in DaikU Township on 16 July.

Three aboard the vehicle including the driver were injured in the accident as the high-speed car turned upside down after hitting the traffic island.

Driver Myo Aung, 33, Daw Khin Lay Mu, 45, and Ma The Su Aye, 27, were injured in the accident. Okhita Expressway police station in DaikU Township admitted the injured persons to Phado village-tract Station Hospital in Kyaukda Township. The police station has filed a lawsuit against the driver.

MMAL–Thein Nyunt

North Ywagyi primary school and North Ywagyi primary school on 17 July. Township Education Officer U Kyar Hla Tun, Township Health Officer Dr Kyawt Tha Sein, School Health Doctor Dr Aung Thura, District and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association officials and teachers joined the efforts.

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MMAL–Kyai (Yankin)
Toward an Efficient Monetary Management: Central Bank’s Independence

San Thein

It's seemingly slow responses to various monetary situations and conservative approaches to every monetary issue, mingled with bureaucratic sentiments in implementing monetary policies, have made the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), the country’s monetary authority, most responsible for the current weak banking system - one of the main restrictions for potential investors.

A good example of the central bank’s weak monetary management can be seen in the country’s prolonged real interest rates most of the time during the last decade, allowing Ponzi type schemes of private companies to exploit the weaknesses of the financial system which led to a bank-run in 2003.

The strong financial restrictions adopted immediately after the bank-run on deposit taking, loan extension, innovation, new products, expansion of banking network have had a negative impact on innovation and development of the banking sector. Furthermore, one has to bear in mind that even if such restrictions cannot automatically prevent a new banking crisis from occurring.

Playing a key role in shaping the economy, a central bank is responsible for implementing a sound monetary policy to achieve a sustainable and equitable economic development. Critics including such international organizations as the International Monetary Fund repeatedly pointed out to the Central Bank of Myanmar’s lack of explicit monetary anchor and its passive monetary conduct; they blamed its lack of independence for not to meet the monetary management which had resulted in volatile inflation and distorted exchange rates.

The new Central Bank of Myanmar Law

The new Central Bank of Myanmar Law has been enacted. The Law gives the CBM the authority and responsibility to carry out all central banking functions including the formulation of the country’s monetary policy and exchange rate policy independently.

While shepherding the flock of young local banks, the CBM will play its traditional role as the lender of last resort under the new law. Forseeing development of security markets in the country, the CBM will exercise ‘open market operation’ together with other traditional tools of monetary policy such as interest rate policy, minimum reserve requirement and other policies including management on bank credits in implementing a stable monetary system. The Law entrusts the CBM to manage money markets and foreign exchange markets.

Other salient points of the law are: (1) primary objective of the CBM is price stability in the country and thus inflation must be kept under control; (2) in conformity with its primary objective, CBM shall strive monetary and macroeconomic stability while promoting efficient payments and clearing mechanisms to support the government’s economic activity; (3) acting as a banker to the Government, CBM is the sole authority to issue domestic currency; and (4) CBM can allow establishment of a credit information bureau to gauge the credit worthiness of a borrower.

Most importantly, the Law gives the CBM its legitimate independent power to implement its duties and responsibilities mentioned in the Law. The new law also gives the CBM with the task of maintaining stability in the country.

Accountability and transparency

In order to learn that the Law reflects the government’s good governance policy of accountability and transparency. According to the Section (5) of the CBM Law it is required to submit its report on the country’s monetary affairs to the Government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at least twice a year and its reports on monetary developments shall be published quarterly.

The role of central bank in economic development

Playing a leading role in shaping and promoting the economy, the central bank, especially in a developing country, is responsible for implementing a sound monetary policy to have a sustainable and equitable growth. The main objective of its monetary policy is to achieve price and financial sector stability in the country.

While implementing its primary functions as a central bank, the CBM is responsible for managing the country’s foreign affairs to be able to effectively mobilize domestic financial resources for channelling them to productive investment.

The task ahead

Using its legally entrusted autonomous power, the CBM is expected to adopt a sound monetary policy to achieve price stability - meaning low and stable inflation and stability of the monetary system.

Another important aspect is to adopt and implement an appropriate exchange rate policy which supports the government’s economic policy of export-led growth with diversified valued-added products of goods and services by creating competitive edge for exporters in international markets. The CBM’s inflation targeting exchange rate system adopted since April last year is seemed to be functioning well. The local currency ‘kyat’ is being appreciated against the US dollar as there are always pros and cons for every development, the kyat’s depreciation is good for exporters but hurt the importers and consumers of imported items. But in the long term, depreciated kyat will give impetus to the promotion of the country’s exports of goods and services, resulted in Myanmar’s external performance. Notwithstanding, the CBM must be able to set the desirable level of kyat’s exchange rates vis-a-vis its trading currencies and adopts an efficient exchange rate policy to maintain stability in the exchange rates, which is crucial for both exporters and investors.

The new Central Bank of Myanmar Law entrusts the CBM with the task of managing the country’s official foreign exchange reserves. Luckily, thanks to the country’s strong exports of oil and gas and inflows of foreign investment, Myanmar could accumulate a respectable amount of foreign exchange reserves.

Building up foreign exchange reserves is a good way to promote the country’s credit worthiness and confidence in local currency. It also gives strength and tools to the monetary authority to intervene in the markets.

Modernization of the payment system

The existing payment systems infrastructure is predicated on a cash-based system. Banknotes are still the most important payment medium for general public. The Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) has been formed with the objective of transforming the current cash-based into an electronic payment system using state-of-the-art equipment and by coordinating with international payment service providers. MPU hopes, in coordination with foreign payment companies, to facilitate visitors’ access to payments and cash during the Southeast Asian Games scheduled for December this year.

In cooperation with the MPU, the reformed CBM can speed up the financial sector modernization process which will in turn reduce the banknotes in circulation which in turn would reduce the cost of printing banknotes.
Towards an Efficient Monetary Management: Central Bank’s...

(From page 8)

Enhancing Financial Intermediation

Myanmar’s financial intermediation (deposit loans as a percentage of GDP) is low (around 10%) in comparison to other ASEAN countries. Enhancing a country’s financial intermediation promotes efficient and prudent allocation of resources for increasing productivity, boosting development, and reducing poverty.

De-dollarization

Given the current high demand for the US dollars, Myanmar’s economy has been largely dollarized. Dollarization undermines the role of national currency in the payment system. It fuels speculation in the foreign exchange market. The important task for the CBM is to preserve the role of the national currency ‘Kyat’ in the payment system. Of course, the national currency should be the linchpin of the country’s payment system. In this regard, the CBM has this enormous task of de-dollarization. Implementing its primary objective of maintaining price stability in the country, the CBM would be able to restore public trust in ‘kyat’ while keeping inflation under control. On the other hand, use of dollars in public utility payments should be dropped. Every payment in the country should be made in the local currency.

Accepting foreign banks in the country

The Law indicates that there will be more institutions in the country’s financial system: security market, foreign exchange market and money market. The emergence of these institutions and their relevant laws can be seen as a modernization of the financial sector.

While taking series of reform measures, the CBM has to strengthen its regulatory and supervisory framework to be able to cope with the new issues and challenges in the financial sector. Sooner or later, it has to seriously consider how to accept foreign banks in the country while leaving room for local banks to grow. There are at the moment, over 30 foreign banks waiting to get banking licenses from the CBM. We should not see them as our competitors but as partners in promoting financial intermediation and foreign investment in the country.

Feeding milk on students in Monywa

Monywa, 20 July—Township Education Department and wellwishers continued feeding milk to students at Basic Education Primary Schools in Monywa of Sagaing Region.

On 18 July, Deputy Township Education Officer U Tin Tun spoke words of thanks. Head of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and teachers fed milk to students at Basic Education Post-Primary School (Kadohgon) in South Monywa Ward.

Similar activities were held at Basic Education High School (Nyaungbinzay), BEPS (Nyaungtabi) and BEPS (Taungywalay). Kyemon-Region IPRD

Winners awarded in Sepak Takraw, Chess events

Monywa, 20 July—The prize presentation for Sagaing Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter District Novice Sepak Takraw and Inter-Township Chess Contests 2013 was held at the Region Gymnasium in Monywa of Sagaing Region on 17 July.

In the final match, Monywa District beat Shwebo District 3-2.

Chairman of Zeyar Padetha Foundation Dr Maung Htoo presented Padetha Foundation Dr Bo District 3-2. Monywa District beat Shweon 17 July.

the Region Gymnasium in Contests 2013 was held at Basic Education High School in Htigyaing of Sagaing Region at 2 pm on 16 July.

Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Myint Thein made speeches. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Mar Myint explained facts about taxation. Township Education Officer U Tin Tun spoke words of thanks.

The talks, organized by Township Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, was attended by Region Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, members of NGOs and middle school level students and teachers totaling over 700.

Kyemon-Region IPRD

Students take offertories to Waso robe offering ceremony

Yamethin, 20 July—Students and teachers led by school heads of Basic Education High School (Kyaunggyi) and Myoma BEHS in Yamethin of Mandalay Region offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha at monasteries in the urban area on 18 July morning.

Teachers and students of these schools took Waso robes and other offertories such as joss stocks, candles and alms and took Sabaath from members of the Sangha before holding the Waso robe offering ceremony.

Kyemon-Hlaing Thun Tint (Yamethin)

Talks on taxation held at Htigyaing BEHS

Katha, 20 July—The lecture on taxation was given to middle school students at Basic Education High School in Htigyaing of Sagaing Region on 16 July.

Region Hluttaw representative U Sein Kyaing and Deputy Township Administrator U Aung Myint Them made speeches. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Mar Myint explained facts about taxation. Township Education Officer U Tin Tun spoke words of thanks.

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Kyemon-Katha District IPRD

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Over 1100 stimulant tablets seized in Waingmaw

Waingmaw, 20 July—After Union Peace-making Committee and KIA/KIO had held the peace talks in Kachin State, the state could restore peace and tranquility.

So as to effectively carry out narcotic drug elimination, the Commander of Kachin State Police Force adopted the plans for accelerating narcotic drug elimination at respective police stations under the supervision of the different official levels. The state police force takes a practice of stick and carrot for combating drugs.

A team led by IP Aung Myan Tha of Myitkyina District Anti-Drug Special Squad together with witnesses searched the house of Ma Khaw Zel, 19, daughter of U Yein Khaw at region 1 in Wasaung Village in Waingmaw Township at 16 hour on 16 July.

The authorities seized five packets of 200 pink WY brand stimulant each from the thatch of the roof above her bedroom and 170 WY brand stimulant tablets from one packet, totaling 1170 weighing 117 grams worth K 3,510,000.

Waingmaw Police Station opened a file of lawsuit againster under Section 15(19)(a) of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. The case is under investization to arrest relat-ed persons.—Kyemon-Moe Kyu (Myitkyina)

Drug users arrested in Mawlu

Mawlu, 20 July—Police acting on tip-off arrested a drug users in Mawlu.

At 2330 hr on 17 July, leader of the surveillance squad SIP Aung Aung Than and party together with ward administrator U Myint

Shwe and witnesses raided the house of Thaung Aye in Henu Village in Mawlu Village-tract in Indaw Township.

They seized a small bottle of suspected power which may be heroin in 0.127 gram from the bamboo mat between the bedroom and kitchen.

Mawlu Police Station opened a file of lawsuit againster againster under Section 15(16)(c) of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon-Ni Toe

HRD

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Kyemon-Hlaing Thun Tint (Yamethin)

School girls taking offertories and alms for Waso robe offering ceremony.

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Kyemon-Ni Toe
Two killed in clashes between pro- and anti-Mursi protesters

SAN MATEO, (California) 20 July—A teenage passenger on the Asiana Airlines plane that crashed in San Francisco died from injuries sustained after being run over by a motor vehicle, most likely a fire truck at the scene, officials said on Friday.

Ye Mengyuan, a 16-year-old girl who sat toward the rear of Flight 214, survived the Boeing 777’s crash-landing but died from blunt force injuries consistent with being run over by an emergency response vehicle, San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foulcault and San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White said at a news conference.

“Obviously this is very difficult news for us,” Hayes-White said. “We’re heart-broken. We’re in the business of saving lives.”

Ye was one of three Chinese girls who died in the 6 July crash. More than half of the 307 people onboard the flight from Seoul were injured in the crash. Hayes-White said Ye was struck by at least one specialized fire-fighting vehicle normally deployed at San Francisco International Airport, but left open the possibility that she was hit by more than one rig.

The coroner’s ruling settled lingering suspicions that emergency personnel racing to douse the fiery wreckage may have inadvertently played a role in the death of one the passengers. The announcement prompted a new set of questions over the circumstances of Ye’s death and whether the first responders, who have been generally hailed for an efficient performance, could have done anything to prevent it.

It remains unclear how firefighters failed to notice Ye before she was hit, or what she did in her final minutes amidst the crash wreckage and scenes of chaos.

Fire department officials have said Ye’s body was covered by a one-foot-thick (30-cm-thick) blanket of firefighting foam when she was found. Hayes-White said on Friday she did not know whether Ye was covered in the foam at the time when she was struck by the truck.

One Asiana victim killed by a vehicle, not plane crash

An Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 plane is seen in this aerial image after it crashed while landing at San Francisco International Airport in California on 6 July 2013. Reuters

34 killed, 101 wounded in Iraq’s deadly attacks

BAGHDAD, 20 July—A series of violent attacks, including deadly bombings at mosques, across Iraq on Friday, killing 34 people and wounding 101 others, as the country struggles to contain the worst violence since 2008.

The deadliest attack occurred in Iraq’s eastern Province of Diyala when a bomb hidden under the pavement went off in the crowded Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq mosque during the weekly Friday Muslim prayer, killing up to 26 worshippers and wounding some 80 others, according to the latest police report.

The attack took place in Wajihiyah, a small Sunni town located some 25 km northeast of Diyala’s provincial capital of Baquba, which itself is about 65 km northeast of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Earlier in the day, the police said that a civilian was killed and two wounded when a bomb planted in his shop detonated in the city of Maqadliyah, some 40 km northeast of Baquba, while a soldier was wounded in a roadside bomb explosion near his patrol in Buhriz area, some 10 km south of Baquba.

Sectarian tension and reprisal killings have been running high recently between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in the volatile province of Diyala, as Sunni and Shites accuse each other of supporting extremists and militias.

In a separate incident, a policeman foiled a suicide bomb attack when he spotted a suicide bomber trying to enter a Shiite mosque in the town of Isala, some 50 south of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The policeman prevented the suicide bomber from approaching the mosque, forcing him to blow up his explosive vest outside the mosque, which killed the policeman and wounded five worshippers, the source said. In the early hours of the day, the police said that two women were killed and two wounded when a mortar round landed on their house in al-Mahdiyah area, in west of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad.

Late on Thursday, unidentified gunmen broke into a house in Ur neighborhood in the eastern part of Baghdad and shot dead three women before they fled the scene, the police said.

Xinhua

Supporters of deposed Egyptian president Mohamed Mursi burn an American flag during a rally on a main street in Cairo, on 19 July 2013.—Reuters

Thousands of Mursi supporters took to the streets of Egyptian cities on Friday to demand the reinstatement of the Islamist leader who was removed by the army on 3 July after mass protests.

CAIRO, 20 July—An Egyptian woman and a 13-year-old boy were killed when supporters and opponents of ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi clashed in the Nile Delta town of Mansoura, the website of state-run newspaper Al-Ahram said on Saturday.

WASHINGON, 20 July—Former CIA Milan station chief Robert Seldon Lady, who was convicted in Italy of kidnapping an Egyptian Muslim cleric and detained in Panama this week, returned to the United States on Friday, a State Department spokeswoman said.

Lady was originally sentenced in the first trial of two Americans sentenced for kidnapping an Egyptian who was convicted in Italy in 2009 for the abduction of an Italian diplomat Giorgio Napolitano. Lady was quoted by a State Department spokeswoman as saying: “I’m not responsible for carrying out orders above me.”

Lady was also quoted as saying in his statement: “I am astonished to observe that our request was disregarded without plausible explanation,” Italian Justice Minister Anna Maria Cancellieri said in a statement.

In April, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano pardoned US Air Force Colonel Joseph Romano, who had been among the Americans sentenced for the kidnapping.

Lady was quoted by Il Giornale newspaper in 2009 as saying: “I’m not guilty. I’m only responsible for carrying out orders that I received from my superiors.” Also in that interview, he lamented that he had wanted to stay in Italy but his retirement villa with vineyards had been seized to cover court costs.

“I love Italy. I had decided to live my life in Italy,” the retired spy told the newspaper. “Instead I had to escape.” It was not clear why Lady was in Central America and risked arrest by crossing borders.

He was bounced around between two Central American countries as he attempted to leave Panama for Costa Rica pending an extradition request from Italy.

He was let go because Panama does not have an extradition treaty with Italy and because documentation sent by Italian officials was “insufficient,” the source said. Italy expressed disappointment at Panama’s actions, saying it had taken all the diplomatic steps seeking his temporary detention so that the extradition procedure could be started.

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Japan’s 9 party leaders rack up 110,000 km in campaign travel

Tokyo, 20 July—The total distance traveled by leaders of nine Japanese political parties during the upper house election campaign has reached around 110,000 kilometres, or more than two and a half times around the globe, party sources showed on Saturday.

Since official campaigning for the House of Councillors election started on 4 July, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has visited 36 of the country’s 47 prefectures through Friday as chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, traveling 19,368 km to push his “Abenomics” policies to revive the economy.

Barrn Kaieda, who heads the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, covered 16,500 km in 28 prefectures, focusing on employment and social security issues.

Kyodo News

Seven killed in foiled leftist rebel attack in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 20 July — At least seven people were killed during an attack launched by leftist rebels against a military outpost in southern Philippines early Friday, military said later that day.

Six members of the leftist rebel group of New People’s Army ( NPA) and an army of government militiamen died in the fighting which erupted about 5 am at a Citizen Armed Auxiliary detachment in Bunagh-banan village, Sitabat, a town in Southern Philippine Province of Agusan del Sur, said Major Leo Bongosia, spokesperson for the Philippine Army’s 4th Infantry Division.

Bongosia told Xinhua by text message that at least 40 NPA gunmen assaulted the hinterland outpost, but they failed to take the installation which was defended by equal number of local militiamen.

Two MG-520 attack helicopters from the Philippine Air Force were sent to the area, firing rockets against the rebels, forcing them to withdraw after over an hour of fighting, he said.

The military spokesperson said villagers saw retreating rebels dragging at least half a dozen dead bodies of their comrades, and he believed dozens more could have been killed or wounded in the aerial bombardment.

Bongosia said pursuit operation was now launched against the fleeing rebels. —Xinhua

Unidentified gunman fires at Cambodian opposition party office

PHNOM PENH, 20 July — An unidentified gunman fired a shot at a main office of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party ( CNRP) in Phnom Penh early Saturday, and no injury was reported.

“The bullet broke through the glass window and damaged a chair in the office,” said the party’s statement on Saturday. “The party strongly condemns this action that aims to intimidate and cause instability and turbulence during the election campaign and on the Election Day.”

The office was closed at night when the incident occurred around 3:30 am. Police were called to investigate the shooting on Saturday morning.

The shooting came just a day after the party’s exiled leader Sam Rainsy who received an exuberant welcome by supporters ahead of the 28 July parliamentary polls.

Sam Rainsy returned to Cambodia on Friday after spending nearly four years abroad in self-imposed exile to avoid an 11-year prison sentence on charges of disinformation and destruction of public property.

CNRP spokesperson Yin Sovann said at least 40,000 supporters rallied to greet his return, causing traffic jam on the road in front of the airport for hours.

Sam Rainsy’s return came after Norodom Siha-bodha, the King of Cambodia, granted him a royal pardon on 12 July at the request of Prime Minister Hun Sen after the grounds of national unification and reconciliation.

Upon his arrival, Sam Rainsy knelt down to kiss the relic of Buddha at the airport complex before bidding a huge crowd of supporters in front of the airport.

Xinhua

Boats sail at the Chao Phraya river in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 July, 2013. The Chao Phraya river is a major river in Thailand. It flows through Bangkok and then into the Gulf of Thailand. —Xinhua

Man shot in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 20 July — A sub-district headman was shot and seriously injured in restive southern province of Yala on Friday.

He was identified as Masakee Kanah, 38, headman of Katong sub-district in Yala’s Yaha district.

Police said the shooting occurred in front of an apartment in Yala’s Muang district shortly before Friday noon.

According to witnesses, Masakee was walking toward the apartment when a gunman appeared and shot him with a handgun.

The gunman fled on a waiting motorcycle. Masakee was shot once in his body and taken to Yala hospital.

Police are investigating and not yet concluded if it is involved southern Muslim insurgents.

More than 5,000 people have been killed and more than 9,900 hurt in over 11,000 incidents, about 3.5 incidents a day, in Thailand’s Muslim, ethnic-Malay dominated three southern border provinces — Yala, Pattani, Narathu-wat and four districts of Songkhla — since violence erupted in January 2004, according to Deep South Watch, which monitors the regional violence. —Xinhua

Jakarta, 20 July—Indonesian trade minister finally took steps to address beef scarcity problem in the country and bring soaring beef price to an affordable level by allowing qualified abattoirs and feedlots to import live cows from foreign countries.

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Xinhua

Indonesia takes steps to resolve beef scarcity problem

Jakarta, 20 July—Indonesian trade minister finally took steps to address beef scarcity problem in the country. “There will be up to 7,000 cows arriving in Indonesia by the end of this month,” trade minister Gita Wirjawan told reporters in his office here on Friday.

Gita did not say in detail how many livestock are planned to be imported and how much the price is.

The move was facilitated by a decree that aimed at shortening the time frame, which was issued by the trade minister and came into effect on Thursday, and would remain valid until the end of the year. Under the decree, the licenses to import livestock would be issued solely by the trade minister after considering recommendations on qualified abattoirs and feedlots submitted by agriculture ministry.

The abattoirs and feedlots licensed to import beef are obliged to report every batch of livestock import recommended by the government.

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UN peacekeeping chief urges extension of mission in Cote d’Ivoire

UNITED NATIONS, 20 July—Threats to peace and stability of Cote d’Ivoire should not be underestimated, the United Nations peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said on Thursday, urging the Security Council to extend the UN Mission in the country. Under-Secretary- General for Peacekeeping Operations Ladsous told the UN Security Council that the presence of the UN Operation in Cote d’Ivoire (UNOCI) “remains essential, particularly with respect to its core concern of protecting civilians, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, and security sector reform.”

Ladsous presented Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s report on UNOCI at the council, noting that the country is on the right path following a violent post-election crisis in 2011. Meanwhile, he expressed his concern over the country’s political fragmentation and called on all Ivorians to resolve political differences peacefully.

UNOCI was established in 2004 by the Security Council to facilitate the peace process of the West African nation and has been extended for several times. Its mandate is due on 31 July, 2013. Cote d’Ivoire endured months of violence after a disputed 2010 presidential election when former President Laurent Gbagbo refused to step down after losing to Alassane Ouattara. Gbagbo finally gave up the post in April 2011.

However, the country still faces threats including uncontrolled circulation of weapons, former combatants, violence between communities and crimes.

Fog strands 10,000 at Dalian Airport

DALIAN, 20 July—Rain-laced fog has left about 10,000 flight passengers stranded in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian on Friday, according to Dalian Airport’s operation centre.

More than 70,000 people were expected to depart flights to arrive at the airport on Friday with 467 flights on the airport’s schedule, but as of 11 am, only two flights have left while 16 have arrived, the operation centre said.

The local weather bureau has forecast that downpours will continue, which is likely to further reduce visibility.

New EU settlement guidelines bad news for Israel

JERUSALEM, 20 July — The new EU guidelines on the status of Jewish settlement in the West Bank could take a heavy toll on Israel, local analysts have said. According to the guidelines issued recently, as of 2014, Israeli entities located or active in the areas that Israel annexed since the 1967 Middle East War will not be eligible for EU grants, prizes or loans. Since its announcement in late June, Israeli politicians have been trying to get the EU to cancel or postpone the new guidelines.

“Israel’s still holds the distinction between these two territoeories and Israel within the 1967 borders,” Prof. Eyal Chowers, of Tel Aviv University, told Xinhua on Wednesday.

“Usually Israelis tend to ignore these lines, but here comes a very clear and painful message that the EU still holds the distinction between these two territories,” Chowers said.

Lack of recycling blamed for mounting Chinese garbage

BEIJING, 20 July—Insufficient recycling has been blamed as a major reason behind increasingly mounting garbage surrounding cities in a rapidly urbanizing China, the China Youth Daily reported on Friday.

The report cited a government survey showing more than one-third of the nation’s cities are besieged by rubbish, with the dumped garbage taking up 50,000 hectares of land.

Megacities such as Shanghai and Beijing each produce nearly 20,000 metric tons of rubbish daily and output is rising fast yearly, posing great challenges to the environment as recycling capacities fail to keep abreast of the output needing proper treatment, the report said.

The government listed a raft of cities that started piloting recycling programs back in 2000 but those programmes have failed to prosper.

A survey by the newspaper showed that more than 60 percent of respondents believed the government’s inadequate emphasis and investment concerning recycling have caused the current conundrum. The garbage problem is even accused of causing cancer and other health hazards, according to the newspaper.

However, residents worry this method could pollute local environments even though China already possesses technology to contain such pollution, the report said.

An official with the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s top economic planning body, revealed late last year that the country will invest more than 50 billion yuan (8.1 billion US dollars) during the 2011-2015 period to promote clean garbage treatment.

Tourists enjoy the scenery of rape flowers in Menyuan Hui Autonomous County in northwest China’s Qinghai Province, on 17 July, 2013. Qinghai Plateau attracts many tourists for its brisk weather in summer.—Xinhua

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Kareena Kapoor to shoot love scene with Emraan Hashmi

Mumbai, 20 July—Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan kissed her then-beau Shahid Kapoor in Jab We Met and even shot for bold scenes in Heroine. This time the actress seems to be going yet another step ahead to get cosy with Emraan Hashmi in her next film. According to sources, Bebo has given her nod for an intimate scene with Emraan. In fact, the makers were in for a surprise when the actress gave the go-ahead. A source from the unit says, “Producer Ekta Kapoor was very keen that Kareena does the film but was not sure if she would agree for the explosive love-making scene. She convinced Kareena that the scene was quite significant to the storyline. Bebo being a professional gave her nod right away.” Apparently initially Kareena had some date issues after which, the makers contacted Deepika Padukone for the role. The producers however soon went back to Bebo after which the logistics were worked out. Kareena remained unavailable for comment.

In the past, Bebo has shot cosy scenes with other co-stars as well, including Saif Ali Khan in Kurbaan. She also kissed Aamir Khan in 3 Idiots and got cosy with Arjun Rampal in Heroine. She also Kissed Akshay Kumar in Kambakkht Ishq and shot for a lovemaking scene with Ajay Devgn for Omkara.—PTI

Selena Gomez wants to move out of parents’ house

Los Angeles, 20 July—Singer Selena Gomez is planning to move out of her parents’ house and is looking to buy a place of her own. The 20-year-old singer revealed her plans in an upcoming episode of Ryan Seacrest with Selena Gomez, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“I do, but you just never know how it’s gonna execute. I have goals — personally and in my professional career, too — but what’s in today could be gone tomorrow, so you might not see me in five years,” she said.

Gomez, who has an on and off relationship with Justin Bieber, 19, hopes to have a huge family in the future.

“That’s when everything will probably slow down. I mean, I’m Latin, so ... I don’t know, obviously when that time comes I’ll decide, but of course I like having a big family,” she said. —PTI

Stacy Keibler had no plans to marry George Clooney

Los Angeles, 20 July—Actress Stacy Keibler says getting married to ex-boyfriend George Clooney was never on her mind.

The duo parted ways recently after being together for over two years.

“Actually, everyone that knows me thinks that’s the funniest story. That’s the last thing on my mind. I don’t really think about that right now. We didn’t discuss that,” Keibler said on a radio show.—PTI

Miley Cyrus promotes new song in London

London, 20 July—Singer Miley Cyrus promoted her new single, We Can’t Stop in London. The singer shared her excitement on Twitter.

She was spotted at the Heathrow Airport with a pile of suitcases. The 20-year-old star was dressed in grey trousers with a matching shirt and sunglasses and a huge pile of suitcases, reports thesun.co.uk. Cyrus shared her excitement about the trip via micro-blogging website Twitter.

“Can’t wait for London,” she tweeted.

The singer made an appearance on Nick Grimshaw’s show on Radio 1 on Thursday, (18 July, 2013). —PTI
Ronaldinho primed for Libertadores final second leg

BELO HORIZONTE, 20 July—Atlético Mineiro coach Cuca says he is unconcerned by the form of key playmaker Ronaldinho ahead of Wednesday’s Copa Libertadores final second leg against Olimpia. An out of sorts Ronaldinho was substituted during the second half of Atlético’s 2-0 loss to the Paraguayan outfit in Asuncion last Wednesday.

But Cuca backed the 33-year-old to turn around his fortunes in front of more than 60,000 fans at the Mineirao stadium. “Nothing went right for Ronaldinho in the first match,” Cuca said on Friday. “He was very well marked and made errors that are not usual for him. But he is the most technically gifted player that I have ever managed. He is the player which I think can most help us win the title. Wednesday will be his game, you can be sure of that. Atlético Mineiro have never won the Copa Libertadores—South America’s premier club competition—while Olimpia are vying for their fourth title. [Xinhua]

Vilanova to step down as Barcelona coach for more cancer treatment

MADRID, 20 July—Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova stepped down on Friday to undergo further cancer treatment, the club said.

Vilanova had a tumour removed from a salivary gland in his throat in November 2011 and in December 2012 he suffered a relapse.

He underwent surgery again followed by 10 weeks of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in New York. Vilanova returned in March and led Barcelona to the Spanish league title.

Barcelona president Sandro Rosell said the 44-year-old made the decision as his treatment “probably in the beginning of next week,” Rosell said. [Xinhua]

Froome survives in yellow as Contador accepts defeat

LE GRAND BORNAND, (France), 20 July—Chris Froome has his maiden Tour de France title within reach on Friday after the Briton survived the 204.5-km 19th stage and Alberto Contador’s camp conceded defeat. Team Sky rider Froome leads Spaniard Contador by five minutes 12 seconds with two stages left, one being Sunday’s parade to the Champs-Elysées.

“It would take a lot for someone to take more than five minutes,” Froome told reporters after the stage which was won by Portugal’s Rui Costa. “Having said that, I don’t want to be complacent so we have to stay focused and switched on until tomorrow night at least.” As Contador, who earlier this week had marked the stage featuring four demanding climbs as the one where he could overhaul Froome, set for second place, his Saxo-Tinkoff outfit rode to defend top position in the team standings.

“That was not our objective at the start of the Tour but at some point you have to admit that Chris was just much stronger than anyone else in the race,” Saxo-Tinkoff sports director Philippe Mauduit told reporters. Contador will also need to defend his second overall as only 47 seconds separates him from fifth-placed Joaquim Rodriguez going into Saturday’s 20th stage, a 125-km ride from Annecy featuring six climbs with a summit finish at Semnoz.

Spaniard Rodriguez and Colombian climber Nairo Quintana, who holds the white jersey for the best young rider, finished Friday’s stage with Froome and Contador and pose the biggest threat. They were, however, controlled by Contador’s team all day. “Maybe they were preventing attacks from Movistar (Quintana’s team), it was perfect for us,” Team Sky sports director Nicolas Portal told reporters. [Reuters]

Woods primed for British Open tilt

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Brazilians given 33% discount for World Cup tickets

SAO PAULO, 20 July—Brazilian fans will pay a third less than their international counterparts for standard tickets at next year’s World Cup, world football’s governing body FIFA said on Friday. While locals will pay as little as 30 US dollars during the tournament’s group stage, the lowest price for international fans will be 90 dollars.

For the first time in more than 60 years FIFA will offer half-price entry starting at 15 dollars to Brazilian students, senior citizens and low-income earners. The most expensive tickets are 990 dollars for a seat at the final in Rio de Janeiro.

FIFA’s marketing director Thierry Weil said it was only the second time that fans had been offered discounted tickets for football’s showcase event. “This had only happened in the 1950 World Cup, also held in Brazil, showing that Brazilian government is a good negotiator,” Weil said during a Press conference.

In addition, 50,000 free tickets will be issued to Brazil’s indigenous population and welfare recipients. Former Brazil striker and current federal deputy RomeuMoreno welcomed the pricing structure. “FIFA has finally been brought down to earth. Tickets have to be cheap, after all, we’re the ones picking up the tab for this party,” the 1994 World Cup winner said on Twitter. [Xinhua]
**MYANMAR TV**

(24-7-2013, Sunday)

6:00 am  
1. Nya By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
2. To Be Healthy
3. Dance & Song of National Races
4. Documentary
5. News/Weather Report
6. President, U Thein Sein’s official visits to Britain, France
7:00 am  
8. News/International News
9:00 am  
10. Amazing World News
11:00 am  
12. TV Drama Series
12:30 pm  
13. Gitadagale
12:25 pm  
15. Round Up Of The Week’s International News
12:35 pm  
16. Myanmar Video
2:20 pm  
17. Documentary
2:45 pm  
18. Songs in honour of President U Thein Sein (Wassu)
3:15 pm  
19. Teleplay
3:45 pm  
20. Road to 27th SEA Games
4:00 pm  
4:15 pm  
22. Dance & Song of National Races
4:25 pm  
23. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
5:40 pm  
24. Performance With Song
6:00 pm  
5:15 pm  
26. Sing A Song
6:00 pm  
27. News/Weather Report
6:15 pm  
28. Cartoon Series
6:45 pm  
29. Dhamma Pusa Song
7:00 pm  
30. News
7:15 pm  
31. President, U Thein Sein’s official visits to Britain, France
8:00 pm  
9:00 pm  
33. News
34. Tamyetmar
35. New Melody

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(22-7-13 09:30 am) MST

* Local News
* Bago A City of Famous Historic Pagoda
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
* Local News
* Pan Tamawt Stone Carving
* World News
* Year Lost Season
* Local News
* Impressionsnnt Myanmar Master Artist U Lam Gyiye
* World News
* What Have You Done … For the Natural Environment?
* Local News
* A Memorable Trip
* World News
* General Aung San Museum
* World News
* Products of Myanmar
* Local News
* A Historic Town- 9 Pagodas
* Myanmar Movie “Silence of Love”
* World News
* Year Than Moninhar
* Local News
* The meaning of flowers ...
* World News
* Products of Myanmar (Pottery Business)
* Local News
* Welcome to Naga Land (1)
* World News
* Myanmar Sport Special Canoeing

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**Wolff makes full test debut with Williams**

London, 20 July—Susie Wolff made her full test debut for a woman driver in Formula One for more than 20 years, with race regulars paying her compliments. “I think she was pretty good, she was pretty quick and that’s really fantastic to see a lady driving Formula One,” Ferrar’s Felipe Massa told reporters after the final day of a young driver test at Silverstone.

“I was really happy when I saw the lap times and pretty happy for her,” Wolff, now 30, may not be a young driver but she was as thrilled as any of those making their test debuts after completing 89 laps and setting the fastest time of the 16 drivers on track during the day. Her best lap of one minute 35.093 seconds compared to the day’s fastest of 1:32.894 set by triple champion Sebastian Vettel in his Red Bull.

“It was important for me to show I had the performance,” the Scot, wife of Mercedes motorsport head and Williams shareholder Toto Wolff, told reporters. “It was fantastic today. The team did a great job getting me through the day, talking me through everything step by step. “Physicality it wasn’t easy but it was what I was expecting. I was well prepared so it was completely manageable,” added the development driver who spent seven seasons racing in the DTM (German Touring Car) series but scored only four points.

Formula One has not had a female driver in decade with Italian Giovanna Amati the last to try to get on the grid when she failed to qualify in 1992. Co-patron Lella Lombardi was the last to start a race, in 1976. Wolff has taken part in straight-line aerodynamic tests, without other racing drivers present, and as development driver was the first to drive this year’s car. “After such a tough end to my DTM career, many people presumed that I was just always at the back and wasn’t quick enough but I think today can show that was possibly an unfair judgment,” said the Briton.

Spaniard Maria De Villota was appointed test driver for Marussia last year, before she lost an eye in an accident during an aerodynamic test in England. However she too never parted in a general test with other drivers. Britain’s Katherine Legge also tested a Marind in Italy in 2005. Race drivers such as Vettel and Massa were limited on Friday to testing the new type of Pirelli tire to be introduced at next week’s Hungarian Grand Prix after a spat of blowouts at last month’s British round at Silverstone.

Massa, who suffered a near-fatal head injury when struck by a bouncing spring from a hamstring injury last year, dropped down to the shorter distance to work on his speed and the move paid off as he was dragged round in a European record of 3:28.81. “I’m definitely pleased, training has been going pretty well,” the 30-year-old, who goes sixth on the all-time list, told the BBC. “The aim was to come out here and work on my speed. It would have been nice to get closer to Asbel but he’s got another gear and he kept stretching away,” added Farah who plans to move up to the marathon next year.

Controversial sprinter Justin Gatlin won the men’s 100 metres, which was run against the backdrop of last weekend’s revelations that leading sprinters Tyson Gay and Asafa Powell had failed dope tests.American Gatlin, who served a four-year doping ban from 2006, got a great start and won in 9.94 seconds, in a race missing

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**Relentless Kiprop races to fastest time since 2004**

London, 20 July—World champion Asbel Kiprop’s relentless pace proved too much for his rivals, including Mo Farah, as the Kenyan clocked the fastest 1,500 meters time since 2004 at the Monaco Diamond League meeting on Friday. With the world championships in Moscow just over three weeks away, world and minor records were set with seeming abandon on a still, warm evening in the Stade Louis II. Kiprop attacked all of the field shortly before the bell and raced away to win in three minutes 27.72 seconds to make him the fourth fastest man of all time over the distance.

Britain’s Olympic 5,000 and 10,000 meters champion Farah said before the event that he was dropping down to the shorter distance to work

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**Hakuho wins Nagoya title with 2 bouts left**

NAGOYA, 20 July—Brushed out far from bro- ken. Mongolian yokozuna Hakuho defeated Bulgarian ozeki Kotosho to clinch his 26th Emperor’s Cup with two days to spare at the Na- goya Grand Sumo Tournament on Friday.

The hardware was put on a plate for Hakuho af- ter Aoiyama, the only other wrestler with a mathematical chance at the title, fell to a third loss at the hands of Tai- kayasu. Despite being heav- ily taped up after injuring his right abdomen in Thurs- day’s win over Kotoshogiku, Hakuho was in total control against his 9-4 and 5-6 record of Ko- tooshu’s (9-4) right arm and yanked him around the ring. —Kyodo News
Natural gas begins flowing in Myanmar-China pipeline

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July—Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay made an inspection tour of Main Control Centre of SEAP Company near Thayatdan Village in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region today. The centre is a part of Myanmar-China gas pipeline.

Next, the Union minister accompanied by SEAP Chairman Mr. Jaing Chang Liang observed preparations for opening ceremony, documentary photos and videos, and keeping records on gas which was starting to flow into the pipeline.

It was learnt that control station and all devices used in the project would be handed over to Myanmar when the term of contract ended and the quality devices could be used effectively later on.

State of the Sea off and along Myanmar coasts

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July—Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 mph.

US to help Tilapia fish farming in Myanmar

The United States has planned to provide technical assistance to farming freshwater Tilapia fish in Myanmar, said an official of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

As part of efforts for promoting Tilapia fish farming, a US team comprising experts visited Tilapia fish farms in Myanmar on 17 July.

The United States is currently assisting in Tilapia fish farming in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan in terms of farming techniques.

The US team would give advice and farming techniques to Myanmar to be able to export high-quality fish and fish products to get foreign markets.

Meanwhile, the US team would also help Myanmar to ensure organic fish farming.

Union FM felicitates Belgian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July—Union FM U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Myanmar, sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium, which falls on 21 July 2013.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Chimiddorj BATTUMUR as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Chimiddorj BATTUMUR was born in February 1957 and obtained Bachelor Degree of Law from Moscow State Institute of International Relations. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia in 1981. He served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and at the Embassy of Mongolia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Since May 2012, he has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr. Chimiddorj BATTUMUR is married with two children.

Moderate earthquake hits inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.0 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 29 miles southeast of Gangaw, about 110 miles west of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 3 hrs 44 min 46 sec M.S.T today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

* Many years ago, Burma (Myanmar) was known as Mandalay all over the world.
* Mandalay is very famous as Yadanarbon King’s Nay Pyi Taw. Everyone can visualize our golden palace.(Shwe San Daw) the pride of Myanmar.
* Really, we cannot change or replace this place with New York city or Tokyo.
* We can’t appraise the value of this palace. It is unlimited & eternal for us.
* It’s amazing. Surprisingly, created by...Supernatural....
* The new sport palace is appeared in Mandalay.
* The new land mark for Mandalay, Gigantic, Enormous, Marvelous football stadium same to Wunna Theikdi & Zeyar Thiri football stadiums in Nay Pyi Taw.
* Thirty Thousand seated, complete with track & field including all the systems as international standards in line with FIFA.
* It’s lovely & delightful just like a flying saucer landing from the other planet.
* Want to stay & play in this new Arena, but won’t forget playing, shooting in Bathtoo ground.
* Well done Max Myanmar.
* Thanks a lot to Max Myanmar.
* Please exert all of your work forces to be completed as soon as possible.
* Also thanks to the Government for your Present for the people as great as the Golden Palace.
* We, Mandalars are so grateful and highly appreciate for handing over this stadium.

In honour of XXVII SEA Games to be held in December 2013.

* We are most pleased to see the games care freely in the new sport palace, Mandalay Football Stadium.

Hla Min
Chief Engineer (MMCC)