Myanmar, Vietnam to step up bilateral cooperation from similar standpoints of promoting regional peace, stability and development

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — President U Thein Sein received Vietnamese delegation led by Chairman of National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 2 pm today.

They held discussions on friendship and amity and mutual cooperation between the two parliaments of Myanmar and Vietnam, international issues, bilateral cooperation from the similar standpoints of promoting regional peace and stability and development, increased investments of Vietnamese entrepreneurs in Myanmar and Vietnam’s readiness to support Myanmar’s reform process to share its experience in implementing reforms for 30 years.

Moreover, the meeting focused on boosting bilateral trade and further cooperation in agriculture, mining, oil and gas exploration and production and tourism sectors. Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi, U Soe Maung, U Myint Hlaing and Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads. The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) inaugurated

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) linking Nwenyein Village in Shwebo Township and Singu Township in Mandalay Region was commissioned into service today.

The bridge would help local people to overcome the obstacles in transportation and to save time, said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in his opening speech at the ceremony to open the bridge.

Work on construction of the bridge started in April, 2010, but the bridge was opened beyond the schedule as it was hit by the quake in September, 2012.

The bridge has become the 39th one among the bridges which are 180 ft and above long inaugurated during the time of the new government.

As local people are now on the right track to development thanks to the bridge, they should work hard to enjoy cent-per-cent development, said the vice-president. It is expected that Nwenein Village would enjoy the high socio-economic status within coming a few years as the products of the village such as earthen and glazed pots and other local products can be transported to western and eastern parts of the Ayeyawaddy River and to neighbouring countries through the ASEAN road network. Though the bridge was struck by the 6.8 Richter Scale on 11 November last year, it was completed within a short time thanks to cooperative efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the local people.

The bridge has become the 14th river crossing bridge spanning the Ayeyawaddy River. The completion of the bridge would help the local people to travel from Singu to Mogok, PyinOoLwin and Kyaukme through Mandalay-Mattara-Bhama-Myitkyina Road, to Mabein through NgaoO junction, to Momok through Twinge junction while linking Kyaukmyaung and Shwebo in the western part of the Ayeyawaddy River with the Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Road, the Shwebo-KhinOo-YeO-Kalewa Road.

The bridge also shorten the distance between the local areas and Chin State by linking to the Shwebo-Ayadaw-Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa and Kalay Road.
Teachers urged to have sense of duty to accomplish their mission of encouraging students to reach their full physical and mental potentials

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung and wife Daw Nann Pyu Pyu Aye visited villages in Yesagyo Township on 18 July and met with local people. On their arrival at a sandstone-carving worksite near Kyaukhtat village in the township, they cordially greeted local people and presented them clothing and foodstuff.

Next, they proceeded to primary schools in Ywathit, Chaungpyar and Kontalin villages and observed learning of school children at schools. In his address in meeting with teachers and the board of trustees of the respective schools, the Union minister called on teachers to lay great emphasis on their teachings so that students will understand the subjects they are learning. He also stressed to turn out the students to be ones with good personal hygiene habits, keep inside and outside of the school neat and tidy, grow plants and trees for greening. Then he handed over stationery, publications and sports gear to responsible persons.

In the afternoon, the Union minister inspected progress of construction of a six-roomed new school building for BEHS No (1) in Pakokku and making school furniture at the school gymnasium. In meeting with the teachers, he highlighted the importance of promotion of education standard as it is key to nation-building endeavours and called for sense of duty to accomplish the mission of encouraging students to reach their full physical and mental potentials as human resources development is an essential prerequisite for development of the nation. He, then, presented sports gear and publications to them. On his arrival at Pakokku University, the Union minister met with undergraduates who are taking a first-aid course (basic) there and urged them to work hard to be good and able citizens that their own regions rely on, spending the priceless time efficiently and effectively. Then, he cordially greeted the rector and faculty members and presented publications and foodstuff to them. 

MNA

Mandalay stadium construction project nearing completion

Mandalay, 24 July — So far construction of a stadium on 68th street in Chanayethazi Township in Mandalay have been completed by over 85 per cent. Construction works started on 2 January, 2011 are firing all cylinders to be completed at the end of August this year, it is learnt. A lawn has been put into the stadium and fiber seats are being fixed at the stands. The stadium is designed and built to withstand an earthquake measured 8 on the Richter Scale like ones in Nay Pyi Taw. Installation of a sound system and lighting, greening works and constructions of brick walls are in progress gaining momentum. The XXVII SEA Games will kick off on 11 December, 2013 and women’s football matches will be held at the under-construction stadium.

Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Traffic accidents claim lives of 116 road users during past six months in Mon State

MAWLAMYINE, 24 July — With the aim of raising awareness of traffic rules among all road users and ensuring traffic rules enforcement in ten townships of Mon State, surprised checks are being conducted daily by members of traffic police and Mon State All Bus-line Control Committee led by Mon State Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee in respective townships to take actions against violation of traffic rules. No sign of reduction in road fatalities and injuries were seen in Mon State yet, it is learnt. During the period from January to June in 2013, 392 men were wounded and 116 men and women were killed and 548 injured in 316 counts of car accident occurred in ten townships.

Kyemon-307

Pilgrimage bus plunges off the road in Myinmu

MYINMU, 24 July — A road accident happened to a passenger bus carrying pilgrims on the detour of Myinmu at about 7.30 am on 22 July. The vehicle, Hino Rainbow, en route from Mandalay to Monywa driven by U Maung Kyaw, 32, skidded out of control and plunged off the road at a place between mile post Nos (6/0) and (7/0) on the detour in Myinmu. The vehicle ended up hitting a tree by roadside. Seven among the pilgrims on board the vehicle were injured in the accident.

The crash caused the windscreen of the vehicle broken and a small dent in the left side of the car. Myinmu police station charged the driver over reckless driving.

Kyemon-Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)

Yangon FC draws its away game against Yadanarbon FC

MANDALAY, 24 July — The second day of the match (20) of MNL Myanmar 2013 continued yesterday at designated places.

At Bahitoo Stadium, Yangon FC managed to hold Yadanarbon FC to a one-all draw at away match. Yadanarbon FC produced their ruthless attacking display at the start of the game and its striker scored the opener after just five minutes in front of the home crowd. The home team led the game in the first half, but Yangon FC tried to control the game after the break and the equalizing goal came from Sithu Aung at 73 minutes in the second half. As Yangon FC drew with Yadanarbon FC, they have to show their highest performance in the remaining two matches.

Likewise, Magway FC managed to draw against KBZ FC at away, ending in a one-all draw. As the match between Zeyashwemyay FC and Manawmyay FC ended 1-0, the home team had got three points in front of the home crowd.

Kyemon-Shin Htet Zaw (Mandalay)
**First US citizen detained as China pharma probe spreads**

**BEIJING,** July 24 — The first US citizen has been detained in China in connection with probes sparked by an unfolding corruption scandal in the drugs industry, as China widens the range of international firms and staff under the spotlight.

Police have also questioned two further Chinese employees from drug maker AstraZeneca in Shanghai, after a local sales representative was taken away for questioning earlier.

And China’s health ministry said 39 hospital staff would be punished for taking bribes from drug companies.

The unnamed American is the first US citizen to be detained in connection with the investigations, and the second foreign national, after a British risk consultant linked with GlaxoSmithKline was held last week.

GSK has been accused by China of funneling up to 3 billion yuan ($489 million) to travel agencies to facilitate bribes to doctors and officials.

“We are aware that a US citizen has been detained in Shanghai. We are in contact with the individual and are providing all appropriate consular assistance,” US Embassy spokesman Nolan Barkhouse said on Tuesday, when asked about the involvement of US citizens in the widening probe.

He declined to say which company the individual was associated with. The latest moves by Chinese officials underline the country’s tough stance on corruption and high prices in the pharmaceutical industry, as it rolls out wider healthcare access and faces an estimated $1 trillion healthcare bill by 2020.

“Momentum is gathering and if you are a big international firm, then you’re a good example to be held up. This is a wake-up call for the rest of the industry,” said Jeremy Gordon, director of China Business Services, a risk management company focusing on China.

AstraZeneca said that the Shanghai Public Security Bureau had asked on Tuesday to speak with two line managers linked to the sales representative questioned earlier.

**Key Sri Lankan opposition member joins government**

**COLOMBO,** July 24 — A leading member of Sri Lanka’s main opposition party, backed Masako Okawa, who ran as an independent, joined the government Tuesday, after the celebration last year of the end of a long civil war that killed more than 250,000 people, and caused more than 1.8 million people to flee their homes.

He criticized his party leadership and said that he was compelled to resign as the party had no future after losing consecutive elections.

Jayasekera also hit out at UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe in his speech, saying Wickremesinghe had not leave room for party members to express their opinions freely.

Jayasekera said that he will not be crossing over in parliament from the opposition benches to the government but instead will resign from parliament as he was voted to parliament while contesting for the UNP.

He felt that he will not be betraying his supporters if he resigns from parliament.

**Britain’s William and Kate keep world waiting for baby’s name**

**LONDON,** July 24 — Britain’s Prince William and his wife Kate kept the world guessing about the name of their first child as they left hospital to start family life with the future king.

“We are still working on a name, so we will have that as soon as we can,” William told reporters outside St Mary’s Hospital in London on Tuesday. “It is the first time we have seen him really, so we are having a proper chance to catch up.”

George, James, Alexander and Louis are the bookmakers’ favourites for the youngest royal, third in line to the British throne after Prince Charles and William. The royal couple gave the world its first sight of their baby when they emerged from hospital to cheers from well-wishers and a barrage of camera flashes. A beaming Kate posed for pictures before handing her son to William who joked that the baby had more hair than him and had inherited his wife’s good looks.

The birth gave a further boost to the royal family after the celebration last year of Queen Elizabeth’s 60 years on the throne and the marriage of Kate and William in 2011. The monarchy’s popularity sank to a low in the 1990s after a string of divorces and the death of William’s mother, Diana. Elizabeth was criticized for her response to her death.

**Kerry discusses Syrian humanitarian crisis with aid agencies**

**WASHINGTON,** July 24 — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday met with leaders of UN agencies and aid organizations to discuss ways to cope with the humanitarian crisis arising from the ongoing conflict in Syria. “We are having a very difficult time being able to access people, move people correctly and protect people,” the top American envoy said prior to his discussions with the aid agencies.

“So we intend to have a very solid, in-depth discussion today about creative ways that we can meet our obligations to human beings who are in huge danger and distress,” he added.

Kerry visited the Za’atari camp, which houses about 105,000 Syrian refugees, on Thursday when he was in Jordan trying to revive the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

**Key Sri Lankan opposition member joins government**

**COLOMBO,** July 24 — A leading member of Sri Lanka’s main opposition party, backed Masako Okawa, who ran as an independent, joined the government Tuesday, after the celebration last year of the end of a long civil war that killed more than 250,000 people, and caused more than 1.8 million people to flee their homes, from family; so many people murdered, killed,” he said.

Among those meeting with Kerry were UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and heads of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

The raging conflict in Syria, which started in March 2011, has killed about 100,000 people, created more than 1.8 million refugees to neighbouring countries and displaced hundreds of thousands more.

**Kerry discusses Syrian humanitarian crisis with aid agencies**

**WASHINGTON,** July 24 — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday met with leaders of UN agencies and aid organizations to discuss ways to cope with the humanitarian crisis arising from the ongoing conflict in Syria. “We are having a very difficult time being able to access people, move people correctly and protect people,” the top American envoy said prior to his discussions with the aid agencies.

“So we intend to have a very solid, in-depth discussion today about creative ways that we can meet our obligations to human beings who are in huge danger and distress,” he added.

Kerry visited the Za’atari camp, which houses about 105,000 Syrian refugees, on Thursday when he was in Jordan trying to revive the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

**Key Sri Lankan opposition member joins government**

**COLOMBO,** July 24 — A leading member of Sri Lanka’s main opposition party, backed Masako Okawa, who ran as an independent, joined the government Tuesday, after the celebration last year of the end of a long civil war that killed more than 250,000 people, and caused more than 1.8 million people to flee their homes, from family; so many people murdered, killed,” he said.

Among those meeting with Kerry were UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and heads of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

The raging conflict in Syria, which started in March 2011, has killed about 100,000 people, created more than 1.8 million refugees to neighbouring countries and displaced hundreds of thousands more.

**Kerry discusses Syrian humanitarian crisis with aid agencies**

**WASHINGTON,** July 24 — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday met with leaders of UN agencies and aid organizations to discuss ways to cope with the humanitarian crisis arising from the ongoing conflict in Syria. “We are having a very difficult time being able to access people, move people correctly and protect people,” the top American envoy said prior to his discussions with the aid agencies.

“So we intend to have a very solid, in-depth discussion today about creative ways that we can meet our obligations to human beings who are in huge danger and distress,” he added.

Kerry visited the Za’atari camp, which houses about 105,000 Syrian refugees, on Thursday when he was in Jordan trying to revive the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

**Key Sri Lankan opposition member joins government**

**COLOMBO,** July 24 — A leading member of Sri Lanka’s main opposition party, backed Masako Okawa, who ran as an independent, joined the government Tuesday, after the celebration last year of the end of a long civil war that killed more than 250,000 people, and caused more than 1.8 million people to flee their homes, from family; so many people murdered, killed,” he said.

Among those meeting with Kerry were UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and heads of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

The raging conflict in Syria, which started in March 2011, has killed about 100,000 people, created more than 1.8 million refugees to neighbouring countries and displaced hundreds of thousands more.

**Kerry discusses Syrian humanitarian crisis with aid agencies**

**WASHINGTON,** July 24 — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday met with leaders of UN agencies and aid organizations to discuss ways to cope with the humanitarian crisis arising from the ongoing conflict in Syria. “We are having a very difficult time being able to access people, move people correctly and protect people,” the top American envoy said prior to his discussions with the aid agencies.

“So we intend to have a very solid, in-depth discussion today about creative ways that we can meet our obligations to human beings who are in huge danger and distress,” he added.

Kerry visited the Za’atari camp, which houses about 105,000 Syrian refugees, on Thursday when he was in Jordan trying to revive the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

**Key Sri Lankan opposition member joins government**

**COLOMBO,** July 24 — A leading member of Sri Lanka’s main opposition party, backed Masako Okawa, who ran as an independent, joined the government Tuesday, after the celebration last year of the end of a long civil war that killed more than 250,000 people, and caused more than 1.8 million people to flee their homes, from family; so many people murdered, killed,” he said.

Among those meeting with Kerry were UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and heads of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

The raging conflict in Syria, which started in March 2011, has killed about 100,000 people, created more than 1.8 million refugees to neighbouring countries and displaced hundreds of thousands more.
New York, 24 July—Verizon Wireless, the biggest US mobile service provider, on Tuesday announced three new phones under its Droid smartphone brand from Google Inc’s Motorola and said that Motorola would be its exclusive Droid phone vendor going forward.

The phones, the Droid Mini, Droid Ultra and Droid Maxx will go on sale for $99, $199 and $299 for customers who sign a two year contract and will be available in Verizon stores August 20, according to Verizon Wireless.

The latest Droid line-up marks the first phone range that Motorola has designed since it was bought by Google in 2012. It will be followed in little over a week by the August 1 unveiling of the Moto X, a hotly anticipated smartphone from Motorola.

Verizon Wireless and Motorola launched the first phones under the Droid brand for phones based on Google Android software in 2008, at a time when rival AT&T Inc still had exclusive rights to sell the Apple Inc iPhone.

The Droid brand helped to resuscitate a struggling Motorola at the time as Verizon Wireless supported the device with a massive marketing campaign.

The exclusivity agreement between Motorola could be a blow for phone makers including HTC Corp, whose devices have also carried the Droid brand in the past as have devices from Korea’s Samsung Electronics.

Verizon Wireless Vice President of Marketing Jeff Dietel said that since Droid phones should only include “its elite” phones based on Google’s Android software it wanted a manufacturer “that matched all the expectations” for unique hardware and services.

Dietel said that his company would still carry Android phones from vendors besides Motorola. Rick Osterloh, Motorola’s senior vice president of product management, declined to comment on how the upcoming Moto X phone will differ from Droid phones and who will sell that device.

The lowest price Droid phone the Mini is a compact device with a 4.3 inch display, Motorola boasted that its mid-priced phone in the range, the Ultra, is the slimmest smartphone that can run on high-speed Long-Term Evolution (LTE) networks.

It claimed that its Maxx phone has the best battery life of any LTE phone on the market. It can be used for as long as 48 hours without being charged, compared with a previous version of the device which boasted 32 hours of battery life.

Verizon said the full retail price would be $499 for the Mini, $599 for the Ultra and $699 for the Maxx.

Cisco to buy Sourcefire, more network security deals seen

New York, 24 July—Cisco Systems Inc said on Tuesday it plans to purchase cybersecurity company Sourcefire Inc for $2.7 billion, a deal that analysts say should spark more acquisitions in the industry as large vendors seek to profit from growing demand for IT security.

Cisco, which has been seeking targets to boost its network security business, said it will pay $76 per share in cash for Sourcefire, a premium of 28.6 percent over its closing price on Monday of $59.08. “We looked broadly at all the major players … Sourcefire fit perfectly,” Cisco’s business development chief Hilton Romanski said in an interview.

Cisco has made it a priority to improve its security and is pushing to offer multiple security capabilities in hardware, software and cloud. Sourcefire is strong in intrusion detection and protection appliances, which is one of the higher growth segments within security.

Sourcefire shares rose 27.8 percent to $75.51 in afternoon trading while Cisco stock was down 0.3 percent at $25.64.

Analysts said the valuation may be high but the deal made sense forCisco, which has lost market share in network security to small, innovative rivals such as Juniper Networks Inc, Check Point Software Technologies, and Palo Alto Networks Inc.

Cisco wants to be the top player in security and shed its reputation of lagging in that area, company security chief Chris Young told analysts on a conference call.

“We will not rest until we are the number one security partner for our customers, hands down,” Young said. More acquisitions should be on the way in the tech security sector, which Research firm IDC has said spending this year should generate 7.8 percent revenue growth for vendors.—Reuters

Cisco buys Sourcefire for $2.7 billion

Cisco to buy Sourcefire, more network security deals seen

New York, 24 July—Cisco Systems Inc said on Tuesday it plans to purchase cybersecurity company Sourcefire Inc for $2.7 billion, a deal that analysts say should spark more acquisitions in the industry as large vendors seek to profit from growing demand for IT security.

Cisco, which has been seeking targets to boost its network security business, said it will pay $76 per share in cash for Sourcefire, a premium of 28.6 percent over its closing price on Monday of $59.08. “We looked broadly at all the major players … Sourcefire fit perfectly,” Cisco’s business development chief Hilton Romanski said in an interview.

Cisco has made it a priority to improve its security and is pushing to offer multiple security capabilities in hardware, software and cloud. Sourcefire is strong in intrusion detection and protection appliances, which is one of the higher growth segments within security.

Sourcefire shares rose 27.8 percent to $75.51 in afternoon trading while Cisco stock was down 0.3 percent at $25.64.

Analysts said the valuation may be high but the deal made sense forCisco, which has lost market share in network security to small, innovative rivals such as Juniper Networks Inc, Check Point Software Technologies, and Palo Alto Networks Inc.

Cisco wants to be the top player in security and shed its reputation of lagging in that area, company security chief Chris Young told analysts on a conference call.

“We will not rest until we are the number one security partner for our customers, hands down,” Young said. More acquisitions should be on the way in the tech security sector, which Research firm IDC has said spending this year should generate 7.8 percent revenue growth for vendors.—Reuters

Dolphins call each other by signature whistles

London, 24 July—Dolphins have long been recognized as a smart animal. A new study by British researchers have even found that bottlenose dolphins address each other by using signature whistles.

Researchers at the University of St Andrews reported on Tuesday that, they conducted sound playback experiments with wild bottlenose dolphins on the east coast of Scotland. Their earlier work published this year showed that dolphins often copy the signature whistles of their close relatives and friends.

This new study tests whether animals that are addressed with copies of their signature whistles really react to them. Researchers followed groups of wild dolphins and recorded the dolphin unique ‘signature’ whistles using a novel signature identification method. They then played back either a computer version of the animal’s signature whistle, or control whistles of either an unfamiliar animal or a familiar animal from the same population. Each dolphin only reacted when hearing the computer version of its own signature whistle, but not to the other whistles played back to it.

Researchers said this showed that dolphins can be addressed in this way was the missing link to demonstrate that signature whistles have social function. “In experimental work, parrots are also good at learning novel sounds and using them to label objects,” Dr Stephanie King, who participated this study, said: “Our results present the first clear evidence in mammals, providing a clear parallel between dolphin and human communication.”
BUSINESS & HEALTH

Dow sets record high, S&P fails to break 1,700 mark

NEW YORK, 24 July—US stocks closed mixed on Tuesday with the Dow Jones Industrial Average refreshing all-time high and the S&P 500 failing to cross the psychologically important level of 1,700 points, as investors still fretted over the ongoing corporate earnings. The blue-chip Dow gained 22.19 points, or 0.14 percent, to a record closing high of 15,567.74 points. The index briefly broke the 15,600 level to set a new all-time intraday high of 15,604.22 points before retreating.

The S&P 500 moved up within a striking distance of the level of 1,700 points shortly after Wall Street opened slightly higher as Dow posted better-than-expected quarterly earnings. However, the broader index pulled back in later trading session to end at 1,692.39 points, falling 3.14 points, or 0.19 percent.

The tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index shed 21.12 points, or 0.59 percent, to 3,579.27 points as a slew of earning reports from tech corporations such as Microsoft and Google missed market expectations.

Dow component DowDuPont reported a profit of 1.03 billion US dollars, or 1.11 dollars per share, on total sales of 10.0 billion dollars in the second quarter, lower than their year-ago levels. However, the US chemical firm’s adjusted earnings of 1.28 dollars per share beat analysts’ estimate by just 1 cent. DuPont shares lost 0.09 percent to 57.12 dollars per share.

Apple reported after the closing bell its earnings per share of 7.47 dollars on the revenue of 35.3 billion dollars in its fiscal third quarter of 2013. Both the earning and revenue topped market consensus. The tech giant shares rallied in after-hours trading.

Moreover, the market’s momentum was further capped by a report from Bloomberg News, saying half of economists polled held the view that the Federal Reserve will start trimming its monthly bond purchases in September to 65 billion dollars from the current amount of 85 billion dollars.—Reuters

The logo of the Swiss drugmaker Roche is seen on a factory in Burgdorf near Bern, Switzerland in this 17 Nov, 2010 file photo. REUTERS

Roche’s new leukaemia drug superior to Rituxan in study

ZURICH, 24 July—Roche’s experimental leukaemia drug known as GA101 delayed disease progression in people with one of the most common forms of blood cancer longer than its top-seller Rituxan, the Swiss drugmaker said on Wednesday. Roche is hoping GA101 will help fend off cheaper competition for Rituxan, which loses patient protection in Europe later this year, threatening a blockbuster product with nearly $7 billion in annual sales.

A late stage study showed GA101, or obinutuzumab, used in conjunction with chemotherapy, helped people with a particular form of leukaemia live longer without their disease worsening when compared with Rituxan which is also known as MabThera. The drugs were given in conjunction with the commonly used chemotherapy chlorambucil to previously untreated patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) who also had other health problems, such as heart disease.

Roche said specific sugar molecules in GA101 were modified to change its interaction with the body’s immune cells, creating a unique antibody designed to engage the patient’s own immune system to help attack the cancerous cells. Roche said final data from the study would be submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration’s annual meeting in December.—Reuters

Kids ‘hearing voices’ may be at high suicide risk

NEW YORK, 24 July—Among teens in a new study from Ireland, those who reported hearing voices were at greatly elevated risk of attempting suicide within the year compared to their peers with or without mental disorders who did not experience voices.

Considered a symptom of psychosis, hearing voices was linked to a nearly 70-fold higher likelihood of a suicide attempt over the course of a year in the study of 13- to 16-year-olds. That could make the symptom a valuable early-warning sign for parents to act on, according to the study’s authors.

The relationship between suicide and these symptoms had previously been known, lead author Dr Ian Kelleher, of the department of psychiatry at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin, told Reuters Health.

He and colleagues used data they gathered for a larger European study to follow 1,112 Irish adolescents for one year, checking in with them three times over the year and asking them to report any psychotic symptoms or suicide attempts.

At the first assessment, 77 of the teens reported having some psychotic symptoms — which include hearing voices or other sounds that are not there.

Of the kids who had such auditory hallucinations, seven percent reported a suicide attempt over the next check-in three months later, compared to one percent of the kids without psychotic symptoms at the first assessment. At one year, 20 percent of the kids who heard voices reported a suicide attempt compared to 2.5 percent of the other kids, according to the results in JAMA Psychiatry.

The group at highest risk was kids who had other psychiatric illnesses like anxiety, depression or obsessive compulsive disorder, and also reported hearing voices. Thirty-four percent of them reported a suicide attempt by the one-year mark.

"The important thing here is that we know that individuals with psychiatric illnesses are at higher risk of suicidal behaviour than the rest of the population but still the majority of these individuals do not attempt suicide," Kelleher said.—Reuters

Gold ends lower on technical selling

CHICAGO, 24 July—Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange futures finished lower on technical selling on Tuesday, marking their first decline in four sessions. The most active gold contract and August delivery fell 1.3 dollars, or 0.10 percent, to settle at 1,334.7 dollars per ounce. Market analysts say that market participants are locking in some profits following Monday’s surge, which pressures gold trading on the day.

Gold August contract jumped 43.1 dollars on Monday, or 3.3 percent, to close at 1,336 dollars an ounce. According to FactSet data, it represented the largest one-day percent- and dollar gain since 29 June, 2012. The settlement gain marked the fourth for a most-active contract since 19 June of this year.

In addition, reports say that India, the world’s largest consumer, added to restrictions on bullion imports. The country has doubled a tax on inbound shipments to 8 per cent this year. Analysts believe that gold imports may tumble 63 percent to 175 metric tons in the six months through December from a year earlier, which is a further blow to physical demand for gold.—Xinhua

MENTHOL CIGARETTES likely have health impact: FDA

WASHINGTON, 24 July — The US Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday released an independent scientific review about menthol in cigarettes, saying that the unregulated cigarettes likely pose a greater public health risk than non-menthol cigarettes.

Meanwhile, the agency issued what it calls an advance notice of proposed rulemaking seeking input from the pub- lic related to potential regulatory options it might consider, such as establishing tobacco product standards. “While there is little evidence to suggest that menthol cigarettes are more or less toxic or contribute to more disease risk to the user than nonmenthol cigarettes, adequate data sug- gest that menthol use is likely associated with increased smoking initiation by youth and young adults,” the FDA evaluation said.

Further, menthol in cigarettes is likely associated with greater addiction. Menthol smokers show greater signs of nicotine dependence and are less likely to successfully quit smoking, it said.

According to the FDA, more than 400,000 deaths per year in the United States are caused by tobacco use. About 30 percent of all adult smokers and more than 40 percent of all youth smokers in the country report smoking menthol ciga- rettes.

“The important thing here is that we know that individuals with psychiatric illnesses are at higher risk of suicidal behaviour than the rest of the population but still the majority of these individuals do not attempt suicide," Kelleher said.—Reuters

"Menthol cigarettes raise critical pub- lic health questions," FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said in a statement. “The FDA is committed to a science-based approach that addresses the public health issues raised by menthol cigarettes, and public input will help us make more in- formed decisions about how best tackle this important issue moving forward.”

The agency said that the notice will be available for public comment for 60 days and that it will consider all comments, data, research, and other information submitted to the docket to determine what, if any, regulatory action with respect to menthol in cigarettes is appropriate.

All that the agency decides to issue a rule, the first step in that process would be a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which would give the public an opportunity to weigh in on the specifics of the proposed rule, the FDA added.—Reuters
**Baghdad, 24 July — Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility on Tuesday for simultaneous raids on two Iraqi prisons and said more than 500 inmates had been set free in the operation, one of its most brazen in Iraq. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, formed earlier this year through a merger of al-Qaeda’s affiliates in Syria and Iraq, said it had stormed Bagh- dad’s Abu Graib jail and another, some 20 km (12 miles) north of capital, after months of preparation. Monday’s attacks came exactly a year after the leader of al-Qaeda’s Iraqi branch, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, launched a “Breaking the Walls” campaign that made freeing its imprisoned members a top priority, the group said in a statement. Sunni Islam- ist militants have in recent months been regaining mo- mentum in their insurgency against Iraq’s Shi’ite-led government, which came to power after the US invasion to oust Saddam Hussein. The group said it had deployed suicide attackers, rockets, and 12 car bombs, killing 120 Iraqi guards and SWAT forces in the attacks in Taji, north of Baghdad, and Abu Graib, the prison made notorious a decade ago by photographs show- ing abuse of prisoners by US soldiers. Interior minis- try and medical sources said 29 police and soldiers were killed, and 36 wounded. “In response to the call of the mujahid (holy warrior) Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to seal the blessed plan of ‘Breaking the Walls’ the mujahideen brigades set off after months of prepara- tion and planning to target two of the biggest prisons of the Saifad govern- ment,” read the statement posted on militant forums. Cau- fada al-Sadr, who is also Shi’ite, of complicity in the prison attacks.”

What happened in Abu Graib prison was the guards who were inside the prison, are connected to these militias, and it was they who colluded and it was they who opened the doors,” he said on state tele- vision.—Reuters

---

**One killed, 24 injured in security headquarters blast in Egypt**

DAQAH莉YA, (Egypt), 24 July — At least one was killed and 24 others were injured at an overnight blast targeting the security de- partment headquarters in Mansoura city of Egypt’s Daqahliya governorate, a security source told Xinhua.

“The attack was a police recruit while 22 se- curity personnel and two ci- vilians were injured,” said Brigadier-General Saed Emara, head of Daqahliya criminal investigation de- partment, told Xinhua. Meanwhile, Abdel-Wah- hab Saleiman, the health ministry undersercretary at Daqahliya, told Xinhua that the victims were sent to Mansoura Emergency Hospital.

The tragedy came a few days after four female supporters of recently- ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi were shot dead during a march in Mansour calling for Morsi’s return. To avoid

accusations, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood group from which the ousted pres- ident hail, condemned the bombing at the security de- partment in Daqahliya.

“On behalf of the FJP, I condemn the explosion at Daqahliya security de- partment and all forms of violence,” Essam al-Erian, FJP vice-chairman, said in a statement on his official Facebook page right after the explosion.

The Brotherhood, along with other Islam- ist parties, groups and af- filiates, went on an open- ended sit-in since 28 June , five days before Morsi’s overthrow, in support of the ex-Islamist president’s legitimacy. “Our uprising is peaceful and all its ac- tivities are peaceful, and no provocers did or will drag us into violence,” said Erian.

Xinhua

---

**Ninety-four illegal immigrants held in Mexico, including 19 Asians**

Mexico detained 94 illegal immigrants, including 19 from the Indian subcontinent, packed into a truck bound for the US border, authorities said on Tuesday.

Mexico city, 24 July — Mexico detained 94 il- legal immigrants, including 19 from the Indian subcon- tinent, packed into a truck bound for the US border, authorities said on Tuesday. Among the people found near the southern city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas state, were 10 Nep- alese and nine Bangladeshi trying to reach the United States, officials said.

Apprehensions of Asians immigrating ille- gally to the United States have increased sharply in recent years, according to the US Department of Homeland Security. Authorities said the migrants were traveling in inhuman conditions. The driver of the vehicle, who was from central Mexico, was ar- rested on human traffick- ing charges. The truck set out from Huetuenteongo, Guatemala, and police de- tected the migrants with an x-ray at a checkpoint out- side Tuxtla Gutierrez after midnight on Monday. The migrants were on their way to the United States, state prosecutors said.

Several of the migrants were treated for hand and leg injuries, and some struggled to breathe due to the “overcrowded condi- tions” on the truck. Mex- ico’s National Migration Institute said.—Reuters

---

**More than 20 killed in clashes between Mexican police, armed gangs**

MEXICO CITY, 24 July— Violent clashes between armed gangs and Mexico’s security forces killed 22 peo- ple on Tuesday, marking a surge in violence in a chaotic western state where Presi- dent Enrique Pena Nieto is testing a new security strat- egy. The shootouts occurred after gang members blocked highways with buses and other vehicles in Michoacan, one of Mexico’s most violent

states. Two members of the federal police and 20 gang members were killed. Mex- ico’s Interior Ministry said in a statement. Pena Nieto in May sent a general to take over all police and military operations in Michoacan, where big swaths of the state have come under the control of criminal gangs who are fighting among themselves and against authorities. For- mer President Felipe Calde- ron launched his military-led crackdown on drug cartels in Michoacan in 2006, begin- ning an offensive that has killed more than 70,000.

Pena Nieto has vowed to reduce the violence that has exploded in Mexico in the last decade. Since he took office in December, murders have fallen slightly, accord- ing to official statistics, but violent crime is still rampant in parts of Mexico.—Reuters

---

**Death toll rises to 12 in rival clashes in Egypt**

Cairo, 24 July Death toll of the continued Egyptian clashes between supporters and opponents of ousted Islamist- oriented President Mohamed Morsi has risen to 12 late Tuesday after three people died of their injuries. Nine people were killed and 33 injured in clashes that erupted early Tuesday between pro- and anti-Morsi Egyptians in the vicinity of Cairo University in Giza governorate, the Health Ministry said ear- lier.

As the death toll rose, the ministry said the number of the injured also increased to 86. Clashes also occurred in Cairo’s Tahrir Square and Rabia al-Adaweya Square of Nasr City during the day, said the ministry. Late on Monday, three peo- ple were killed and 44 oth- ers injured in Tahrir Square and Qalioubya’s Qalou- b city as protesters from both sides exchanged rocks and birdshots. The clashes took place despite interim Presi- dent Adli Mansour’s call for national reconciliation on Monday.—Xinhua

---

**Libyans gather at a burnt vehicle which was destroyed by a rocket fired towards a residential building in Tripoli, on 23 July, 2013. The rocket was fired at the neighbourhood of western embas- sies housing buildings and companies when it was empty at the moment of explosion. Xinhua**

---

**Mourners pray at the coffin of a victim killed during an attack on a prison in Taji, during a funeral at the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad on 22 July, 2013.— Reuters**

---

**A member of the Free Syrian Army aims his weapon as fellow fighters stand behind him in Deir al-Zor on 22 July, 2013. Reuters**
Alm bowls and Waso robes offered at Kohtetgyi

Yangon, 24 July— Underageis of Pagoda Board of Trustees of Kohtetgyi Pagoda in Sanyyoung Township, Waso Robe and 108 bowls of Soon (Meal) were offered to the pagoda on FullMoon Day of Waso on 22 July.

The donations were made as per sermons delivered by Abott of Bargara Inseim Monastery Bhaddanta Pandita. Waso Robes were offered to 63 members of Sangha on the precinct of pagoda. The religious association of the pgaoda offered free snacks to visitors on the day.

Sermons will be given on each Sabbath Day during the period of Buddhist Lent.—MMAL-Tin Win Lay (Kyimyinda)

School uniforms donated to students in Meiktila relief camps

Meiktila, 24 July— School uniforms were presented to basic education students at relief camps in Meiktila on 20 July.

U Chit Min Tun of Ye Mhan Hone stationery shop in Meiktila, Patron Dr Tin Sein of Htilathukha shop in Meiktila on 20 July.

The purposes of releasing fingerlings include poverty reduction, fishery development, rural development and prevention against extinction of fish species. The department is convincing the local fish farmers not to employ defective fishing techniques for sustainable fishery development.

A total of 40,000 fingerlings were released into the dams. The ceremonies were attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw Representative U Aung Myint Than, Head of Region Fishery Department U Myo Aung, District Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Than, Head of District Fishery Department U Thet Oo, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Than, members of social organizations, d i s t r i c t / t o w n s h i p departmental personnel, ward administrators and villagers.—MMAL-Township (IPRD)

Villagers volunteer in anti-erosion efforts

Kalay, 24 July— Myittha River has eroded the 30-50 ft river bank 150 ft from a school south of Natnay village in Nannmyaung village-tract in Kalay Township since 19 July, according to village-tract administrator U Win Maung.

“Our government primary school was established since 1997. The changing course of Myittha River is heading towards the school. If the water level increases, our village could also be eroded. Our village has more than 400 population from 88 households. With the sense of self-reliance, we have collected five Super bags and K 1000 from each household. We have reported the local authorities about the erosion. Township Management Committee have donated one bundle of rope and one bag,” he told Myanmar Alinn.

Kalewa Township Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department visited the scene and conducted measures to prevent further erosion in Natnay village on 22-23 July.

Artesian wells sunk in arid zone

Mandalay, 24 July— Areas in Mandalay Region with poor access to water are prone to eye diseases and diarrhea and other diseases caused by unsafe water.

Mandalay Region Government is funding the projects to sink artesian wells for widening access to water.

Kyaiktadaung Township Development Affairs Committee sunk an artesian well in Yathaeduang providing pure water to 675 population from 104 households.

A n artesian well has also been sunked in Myaingthaya village in Kyaikpadaung. More 35 artesian wells will be sunk in the township. The township DAC has set the target of 41 artesian wells. Six new artesian wells will be completed by the end of this July.

NyaungU Township

Artesian wells will be set the number of drinking water sources and villages with adequate drinking water sources alongside the number of households and population.”

The township DAC is sinking 78 artesian wells in 219 villages with poor access to water and set the target of 18 artesian wells this year. A total of 14 have been completed. MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

Fingerlings released into dams in Kyaukse

Kayakse, 24 July— Kayakse District Fishery Department released fingerlings into Min Ye Dam and Zedaw Dam in Kayakse Township on 21 July.

The purposes of releasing fingerlings include poverty reduction, fishery development, rural development and prevention against extinction of fish species.

The department is convincing the local fish farmers not to employ defective fishing techniques for sustainable fishery development.

A total of 40,000 fingerlings were released into the dams. The ceremonies were attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw Representative U Aung Myint Than, Head of Region Fishery Department U Myo Aung, District Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Than, Head of District Fishery Department U Thet Oo, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Than, members of social organizations, d i s t r i c t / t o w n s h i p departmental personnel, ward administrators and villagers.—MMAL-Township (IPRD)
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held talks with a Vietnamese delegation led by National Assembly Chairman Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung, at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 pm today.

During the meeting, further cementing relationships and cooperation between the two countries.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker
Thura
U Shwe Mann holds
talks with Vietnamese
National Assembly
Chairman Mr. Nguyen
Sinh Hung.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Meets Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman

Minh book corners opened in Haka

HAKA, 24 July—Assistant Director U Kham Lyan Sone, Head and staff of Information and Public Relations Department opened people-centered mini book corners at Chin State People’s Hospital, Myoma market, women vocational training school and youth training school at Haka Township, here, yesterday with the aim of promoting reading habits and creating skillful society.

Five-book each on political affairs, economic, social affairs, education, agriculture and livestock breeding, health, religious affairs, science and technology, culture and arts, sports, biography and public ethics were served.

These books are to be changed monthly.

Kyemon-State (IPRD)

Bay Inference

According to the observations at 12:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal has moved to the Orissa Coast, India.

NLM
Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at the opening ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanatheingi) this morning.

The Vice-President together with Union Ministers U Win Myint, U Kyaw Lwin and Dr Mya Aye, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, the deputy ministers and officials visited Ayadaw-2 river water pumping project and he then heard reports presented by the officials.

At the meeting with local people, he attended to the needs. Next, he handed over 10 tractors and Sky Net receivers to 10 village-tracts. He then went to Lakyunsakyar Standing Buddha Image and paid homage to it.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views development tasks of Sagaing Region

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets local people during his tour of inspection of Ayadaw-2 river water pumping project.—MNA

Advance income tax collection on export and import means to avoid tax exemption, to ensure healthy tax culture

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July—“Myanmar-India-China border demarcation at tripont was not completed due to Sino-India border dispute while Myanmar-India boundary agreement was signed on 1967 and the survey works were completed in 1975. The border demarcation between the two nations has reached 907 miles”, said Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw.

Next, the Vice-President attended a ceremony to handover the fire engine to Fire Brigade in Monywa. The Vice-President and party looked around retaining walls along Strand Road of Monywa Township and development of the Township by car.

Vice-Preside Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets local people during his tour of inspection of Ayadaw-2 river water pumping project.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Union Judiciary Law

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Lin Aung.—MNA

U Aung Sein of Manaung Constituency, MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Kyaw.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Country Development No-8, MNA

U Ha Shein Bway of Chin State Constituency No-8, MNA

U Tin Shan of Taninthayi Region Constituency No-6. MNA

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint. MNA

U Tin Shan of Taninthayi Region
Constituency No-6. MNA

U Ha Shein Bway of Chin State Constituency No-8. MNA

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint. MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July—A total of ten agendas were carried out at the 14th day seventh regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw today.

First, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker informed lawmakers of the formation of a parliamentary coordination committee and the list of the names of the chairman, secretary and members of the committee and sought the approval of the Hluttaw.

Next, the Hluttaw approved the report of Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee and Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee and the list of the names of chairmen, secretaries and members of the committees.

In his response to the question raised by U Tin Shan of Taninthayi Region Constituency No (6), Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint vowed to continue to implement the remaining works of Myeik-Taninthayi Union Highway in accord with the budget allocation for 2013-2014.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win replied the question raised by U Ha Shein Bway of Chin State Constituency No (8) that Panawk-Kyawlayhaing earth road was being built by the tender-winning Nang Min Company.

Then, U Hsai Paung Nat, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read out the report of the committee on the bill amending the Union Judiciary Law approved and sent by Pyithu Hluttaw and it was approved by the Hluttaw.

In an interview with U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency No (11) regarding the bill, he said that the amendments urged to take oaths after judges were appointed, to make inspection tour of prisons, camps and detention centers by the Chief Justice of the Union and to overcome omissions.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint. MNA

U Tin Shan of Taninthayi Region Constituency No-6. MNA

U Ha Shein Bway of Chin State Constituency No-8. MNA

Country Director of UNWFP presents Credentials to Union FM

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July—Mr. Domenico SCALPELLI designated as United Nations World Food Programme Country Director and Resident Representative in Myanmar called upon and presented his credentials to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Ministry, here, today.

Afterward, the Union Minister and Mr. Domenico SCALPELLI discussed and exchanged views on potentials of development cooperation between Myanmar and WFP.—MNA

Four experts of WTO observe Pyithu Hluttaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July—Four experts members of World Trade Organization (WTO) observed the 14th day seven regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw being held at the Hluttaw Complex this morning.

Later, they viewed round the Hluttaw Building and left there.—MNA
Czech Customs seize 24 rhino horns, arrests 15

PRAGUE, 24 July—The Czech Customs officers and the Czech Environment Inspection have seized 24 horns of white rhinoceros illegally imported by an international gang from South Africa and have arrested 15 members of the gang, authorities said on Tuesday.

The case has been the biggest of its kind since 1993. According to Czech Customs authorities, the horns were worth 100 million crowns ($5 million US dollars).

If convicted, the smuggler may be sentenced up to eight years in prison, according to Ales Hrubý with the Czech Customs.

As such a kill is a trophy for the hunter, he can export it as his personal property for noncommercial purposes,” Hrubý said.

The horns were imported to the Czech Republic and other countries as trophies, but distributed later to Asia where they are precious commodities on the black market.

Norway marks 2nd anniversary of mass killings

OSLO, 24 July—Norway marked on Monday the second anniversary of the 22 July incident in which 77 people were killed two years ago in a strong bombing explosion in downtown Oslo and a following shooting spree on the small Utoeya island.

In an arrangement scaled down in comparison with last year, Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg made a six-minute speech at a wreath-laying ceremony in front of the damaged government building which used to house his office.

Stoltenberg asked the entire nation to guard against the extreme right and racist force, which he said is growing in Europe.

When the first anniversary of the mass killings was observed at the same site last year, Norwegian King Harald V joined Stoltenberg to lay a ring of flower wreath, with the queen, the crown prince and the crown princess standing behind.

But this year, the royal couple attended a special memorial service in the Oslo cathedral church on Monday.

No big concert has been organized either this time in Oslo. Only a short piece of music — “My Little Country” — was played by a famous Norwegian musician, Arne Hiorth, at the wreath-laying ceremony in front of the government building.

Flowers are much less too both in Oslo and on the Utoeya island, a sign that life has returned to normal exactly two years after the tragedy which shocked the whole nation.

The Utoeya island is about 40 kilometres west of the Norwegian capital.

Eskil Pedersen, leader of the ruling Labor Party’s youth wing AUF, said that the fact that not as many participated in the memorial activities this year does not mean Norwegians have forgotten this tragic day.

“I think a lot of people have this day in their mind and mark it in their own way,” said the leader of the AUF; many of the leader's opinion, it is good that Norway has gone back to normal. He said, “I do not think people should feel guilty for not marking the 22 July incident in some way today. It’s very natural and good that people go back to normal. While a memorial event was also held on the Utoeya island on Monday afternoon, many cars pulled over and stopped on the roadside opposing the island.

Families and their friends emerged from the cars and walked up to the roadside rock on which flowers, toys, candles and cards are placed in memory of the 69 people shot dead by the Norwegian murderer Anders Bøgvik, who is serving his prison term of 21 years.

Jan-Erik Wolden travelled from Oslo with his three grandchildren, who he said were near the bomb-siting that tragic day and traumatized by the terrible scene. For the last three winters, they could not sleep peacefully, he said, adding that he hates the perpetrator. “I would never mention his name again. He is a completely crazy person and well, I am not supposed to say that, but it would much better for man-kind if one of the policemen on the island, by mistake, has shot him down immediately.”

Rabat, 24 July—Morocco security forces succeeded on Tuesday in foiling two attempts by groups of 300 African migrants to illegally force their way to Melilia, a Spanish possession in Morocco territory, Moroccan interior ministry said in a statement.

The immigrants refused to heed the customary warnings and threw stones at the security forces, said the statement, adding that 100 of them were arrested and 30 others were taken to the nearby Hassanami in Nador for wounds caused by the barbed wires erected around the city of Melilia.

The statement said that the neighbouring forests are often used as a hideout by illegal migrants who enter Morocco through the Algerian borders.

Melilia has been a Spanish possession since 1497 and is one of two Spanish territories on the African mainland along with the city of Ceuta.

South Sudanese president sacks deputy, suspends top negotiator

JUBA, 24 July—South Sudanese president Salva Kiir on Tuesday sacked his deputy Riek Machar, dissolved the government, and suspended the country’s top negotiator with Sudan, according to news reaching here from Juba that quoted a presidential decree.

Machar’s spokesman has confirmed the dismissal of Machar, as reported by the state TV; while Sudan Tribune newspaper said the work of Pagan Amum, chief negotiator of South Sudan with Sudan over some outstanding issues, was also suspended, and he was “referred to investigate.”

Amum, secretary general of the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, has expressed his desire to run for the party’s presidency as well as the ambition to join the presidential race slated for 2015. He has criticized some of Kiir’s recent decisions such as the sacking of Minister of Finance Ko- sti Manie Ngai and Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor Kuol.
Abe to visit three ASEAN nations to strengthen ties with region

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Japan to be briefed by TPP countries day after its TPP debut

Sydney, 24 July — A boat carrying as many as 170 suspected asylum seekers bound for Australia has sunk off the south coast of Indonesia, with up to 60 people feared dead or missing, Australian media reported on Wednesday.

The latest mishap at sea involving boat people came less than a week after Australia slammed the door on Australia’s plans to help Japan as part of efforts to beef up the Philippines’ coast guard, according to Japanese officials.

Last year, Manila asked Tokyo for 10 such patrol ships. In a bid to help achieve peace between the Philippine government and the country’s largest Muslim rebel group on Mindanao, Abe is expected to unveil a new package of official development assistance to the Philippines at the summit. In meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore on Friday, Abe is expected to explain his economic policy and Tokyo’s position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, which Japan officially joined Tuesday. Both Malaysia and Singapore are already members of the talks, which are aimed at creating one of the world’s largest free trade areas.

Boat carrying asylum seekers sinks off Indonesia, 60 feared dead

Sydney, 24 July — A boat carrying as many as 170 suspected asylum seekers bound for Australia has sunk off the south coast of Indonesia, with up to 60 people feared dead or missing, Australian media reported on Wednesday.

The latest mishap at sea involving boat people came less than a week after Australia slammed the door on Australia’s plans to help Japan as part of efforts to beef up the Philippines’ coast guard, according to Japanese officials.

Last year, Manila asked Tokyo for 10 such patrol ships. In a bid to help achieve peace between the Philippine government and the country’s largest Muslim rebel group on Mindanao, Abe is expected to unveil a new package of official development assistance to the Philippines at the summit. In meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore on Friday, Abe is expected to explain his economic policy and Tokyo’s position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, which Japan officially joined Tuesday. Both Malaysia and Singapore are already members of the talks, which are aimed at creating one of the world’s largest free trade areas.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (006)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 Claims 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 25608/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (116)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (116) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 Claims 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AN YUE JIANG VOY NO (190)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN YUE JIANG VOY NO (190) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T 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 Claims 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Uganda building collapse leaves four dead, six injured
KAMPALA, 24 July — Four people were killed and six others seriously injured when a building under renovation collapsed on Monday morning in the Ugandan capital Kampala, according to Police spokesman.

The incident happened at Nakivubo Mews near Magoba Aracade, where constructors were demolishing the house for renovation in the busy downtown Kampala, according to Patrick Onyango, Uganda’s deputy police spokesman.

The police and the Uganda Red Cross Society arrived at the scene for rescue operations of people still believed to be trapped under the rubble. Police investigations are underway.

The injured have been rushed to Mulago Hospital, the country’s national referral hospital for treatment.

Gen Kale Kayihura, the inspector general of police who visited the scene, blamed the Kampala Capital City Authority for allowing dilapidated buildings in the city, which puts people’s lives at risk. — Xinhua

Chilly weather in Argentina kills one, blocks roads
BUENOS AIRES, 24 July — A cold front affecting Argentina since Thursday killed a homeless man on Monday in the western Province of Mendoza while a blizzard caused roadblocks in some areas.

The victim was a 40-year-old man whose body was found in the street in Mendoza’s city of San Martin, some 1,100 km northwest of Buenos Aires. Local police said the man might have frozen to death.

In the capital Buenos Aires, temperatures dipped to freezing, with a wind-chill factor of -0.3 degrees Celsius registered on Monday at 4:00 pm local time (1900 GMT). But the lowest temperatures were reported in three southern cities including San Carlos de Bariloche in Rio Negro Province, with -11 degrees Celsius, and Zapala and San Martin de los Andes, both in Neuquen Province, with -10 degrees Celsius.

In Chubut Province, a total of 133 vehicles, including 98 trucks, were stranded along National Route 3, a highway that links the cities of Comodoro Rivadavia and Trelew, due to piles of snow.

Snow also fell in Misiones Province, along Argentina’s northern border with Brazil and Paraguay, which is unused for the region. San Vicente, a town 190 km south of Misiones’ capital Posadas, was the most affected by snow. The National Meteorological Service forecast the cold spell will last until Wednesday.

Xinhua
US film, TV actors to honour Rita Moreno with lifetime award

LOS ANGELES, 24 July— The Screen Actors Guild, which represents film, television and other performers in the United States, on Monday said Rita Moreno will receive its lifetime achievement award at its annual awards ceremony in January.

Moreno, 81, has been performing for nearly 70 years as an actress, singer and dancer and won an Oscar in 1962 for her supporting role as the sassy Anita in "West Side Story," a character she informed with her own upbringing in a Bronx "barrio."

Born in Puerto Rico, Moreno is the only Hispanic to have won the four major awards in the entertainment industry—the Emmys, the Grammys, the Oscars and the Tonys—and one of only 11 artists to have done so.

"She is an extraordinary, versatile, talented and generous actor whose career is notable for its courageous choices and for the breadth, depth and quality of her many demanding and commanding roles," said Ken Howard, co-president of the guild known as SAG-AFTRA.

Moreno will be the 50th recipient of the award. The Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists merged last year to form SAG-AFTRA, which is the trade’s leading group that represents some 165,000 actors, broadcasters, dancers, recording artists and other performers.

The group’s awards show, scheduled to take place on 18 January, 2014 in Los Angeles, annually recognizes the best performances of the previous year on film and TV.—Reuters

Lady Gaga is top earning celebrity under 30: Forbes

NEW YORK, 24 July— Despite hip surgery that forced the cancellation of part of her tour, Lady Gaga still earned an estimated $80 million in the past year, propelling her to the top of Forbes list of highest earning celebrities under 30 years old.

Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber, who made headlines as much for his antics off stage as on, came in a distant second with an estimated income of $58 million. Singer Taylor Swift was third, pulling in $55 million, about $2 million less than last year when she topped the list.

The Forbes website said Lady Gaga, 27, would have earned more had she not had to cancel some 20 US shows starting in February. Gaga announced earlier this month that she will release her next album “ARTPOP” on 11 November.

"People with this disorder and their loved ones have to go through so much already, the last thing they need is to hear something as ignorant as what I said," he continued in the post, dated 21 July. “I understand.”

J Cole had performed the song with the rapper Drake, who has also apologized.

"This was a learning lesson for both of us, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to try to right this wrong," Drake posted on his website on Monday.

The lyrics drew criticism from people with autism spectrum disorder and their families.—Reuters

Madonna devastated after close friend’s death

LONDON, 24 July— Singer Madonna is reportedly devastated after death of her close pal David Collins. The singer was seen landing at the Heathrow Airport dressed entirely in black and will go to Ireland, where the funeral will take place.

Collins was an interior designer and lost his battle to skin cancer after just three weeks of it getting diagnosed. He died on 17 July.

“Madonna is beside herself with grief. David was one of her closest pals for years - she adored him,” themus.co.uk quoted a source as saying. "They’d often have a laugh around London, driving around together. She can’t believe he died just three weeks after his diagnosis,” the source added.

Collins designed the interiors of some of Madonna’s favourite London haunts, including Claridge’s - as well as the inside of her homes.

Rapper J Cole apologizes for insensitive lyrics about autism

NEW YORK, 24 July— An American rap artist who drew criticism for using a disparaging line about people with autism in a song lyric has apologized.

J Cole said he had removed the line, which referred to as “autistic” and “retarded,” from the song “Jodeci Freestyle.”

“I want to educate myself more on Autism, and I’ll gladly own my mistake and serve as an example to today’s generation that there’s nothing cool about mean-spirited comments about someone with Autism,” J Cole wrote on his blog, DreamVillain.

“People with this disorder and their loved ones have to go through so much already, the last thing they need is to hear something as ignorant as what I said,” he continued in the post, dated 21 July. “I understand.”

J Cole had performed the song with the rapper Drake, who has also apologized.

"This was a learning lesson for both of us, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to try to right this wrong," Drake posted on his website on Monday.

The lyrics drew criticism from people with autism spectrum disorder and their families.—Reuters

Daniel Radcliffe turns super skinny for play

LOS ANGELES, 24 July— Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe has been sporting a skinny look for a demanding theatre role.

The 23-year-old actor, who was spotted leaving the Noel Coward Theatre on 18 July, was looking tired, pale and skinny and has sparked fears for his health, reported Us magazine.

His representative has revealed that his appearance is all down due to his role in the Martin McDonagh play The Cripple of Inishmaan, which is currently playing at the Noel Coward theatre.

"It is a very demanding role, physically. Every night’s performance, there is a large crowd at the stage door and he takes the time to sign autographs and pose for pictures at length,” the representative added.

In the play, Radcliffe takes on the role of a 17-year-old orphan who tries to escape his unhappy life when a Hollywood film crew arrives in town.

Rapper J Cole


Daniel Radcliffe turns super skinny for play

Singer Madonna

Rapper J Cole

Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for her concert in Manila on 19 May, 2012. —Reuters

Lady Gaga is top earning celebrity under 30: Forbes

Daniel Radcliffe turns super skinny for play

Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for her concert in Manila on 19 May, 2012. —Reuters

Lady Gaga is top earning celebrity under 30: Forbes

Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for her concert in Manila on 19 May, 2012. —Reuters

Lady Gaga is top earning celebrity under 30: Forbes

Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for her concert in Manila on 19 May, 2012. —Reuters

Lady Gaga is top earning celebrity under 30: Forbes

Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for her concert in Manila on 19 May, 2012. —Reuters

Lady Gaga is top earning celebrity under 30: Forbes

Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for her concert in Manila on 19 May, 2012. —Reuters
SPORTS

We won’t lose Wayne Rooney, says David Moyes

YOKOHAMA, (Japan), 24 July—Manchester United boss David Moyes on Tues- dday said Wayne Rooney is coming back to fitness af- ter a hamstring injury and moved to reassure fans the striker is not leaving the club.

Moyes said Rooney, whose departure from United’s pre-season tour with a minor hamstring tear heightened specula- tion over his future, was on course for a quick recovery. “So far as I know, he is coming back, he is jog- ging,” Moyes told reporters in Japan. “We are not go- ing to lose him.” Rooney’s return could be timely after van Persie in Japan. “We are not going to lose him.” Rooney’s return could be timely after van Persie was with- drawn over his future, was on tear heightened specula- tion over his future, was on course for a quick recovery.

The start of Moyes’ stewardship has been domi- nated by talk about Rooney, the subject of a bid from United’s rivals Chelsea. Manchester United have games in Osaka and Hong Kong over the next week before rounding off their tour with a game in Sweden. Their first Pre- mier League game is on 17 August.—PTI

Jose Mourinho says no mind-games against David Moyes

JAKARTA, 24 July— Chelsea’s Jose Mourinho on Tuesday hit back at sug- gestions he was trying to destabilize new Manches- ter United manager David Moyes after targeting strik- er Wayne Rooney.

The experienced Porto- guese campaigner said he had done nothing but praise the English champions’ in- coming boss since returning for a second spell at Stam- ford Bridge.

Mourinho said he had called Moyes a “great coach, (who) deserves suc- cess, he deserves time to work, he didn’t win tro- phies in Everton because it’s very difficult to win tro- phies there”.

“If to speak good about him is to play mind games, what do you say if I speak bad about him?” Mourinho told a briefing in the Indo- nesian capital Jakarta. “So the best thing is not to speak. If I don’t speak, nobody says anything.”

Mourinho raised suspi- cions that he was trying to make life difficult for Moy- es after speaking glowingly about Rooney and hinting a move could improve his England chances before Chelsea’s bid was made public.

Moyes, taking over from the legendary Alex Ferguson, has had trou- ble with the Rooney ques- tion in his early weeks in charge, and has repeatedly told journalists the unsettled striker is not for sale.

However, he flatly told Mourinho to “bring it on” when asked if he was a victim of mind games by the ex-Inter Milan and Real Madrid manager.

“You’re from Glas- gow you quite enjoy those kind of things, so bring it on,” said the Scot. Howev- er Mourinho, whose team plays an Indonesian All- Stars outfit on Thursday, added that Chelsea had an advantage over other teams because none of their play- ers was up for grabs.

“Many clubs are wait- ing till the last moment to make that decision (to buy or sell players) but the prob- lem is this decision affects not just one or two clubs but a lot of them,” he said.

“In that aspect we are lucky because we don’t have players to sell so none of my players is leaving in any circumstances.

“So that’s good for me... because many teams will be to the last moment under pressure.” England defender Ashley Cole, signed during Mourinho’s first stint at Chelsea after an infamous “tapping” scandal, said he wanted to stay at the club “as long as I can”.

“I wouldn’t say I’ve had an unfulfilled Chel- sea career. I’ve been lucky enough to win a few tro- phies. I hope to win more. Having the manager back, we can do it all together,” said the 32-year-old.

Casey Stoner fuels comeback talk with Honda tests

SYDNEY, 24 July— Twice MotoGP world champion Casey Stoner has fuelled talk of a dramatic return to grand prix motor- cycling by agreeing to do some testing for Honda in Japan next month.

The 27-year-old Aus- tralian, world champion for Ducati in 2007 and Honda four years later, retired at the end of the 2012 season saying he was no longer en- joying racing.

Stoner said he was still happy with his decision to stop racing bikes and move into the second tier of Aus- tralian V8 car racing but had agreed to test for Hon- da at Motegi, starting on 6 and 7 August.

“There are times when I miss riding my RC213V so I am really happy that Honda have asked me to do some testing in Motegi this year,” Stoner told the Australian MotoGP website (www.motogp.com.au) on home race at Phillip Island in October.

“There have been ru- mours of a wild card races for Casey but this is out of the question,” team princi- pal Livio Suppo said.

SPORTS

We won’t lose Wayne Rooney, says David Moyes

MANCHESTER, 24 July—Real Madrid president Floren- tino Perez says Cristiano Ronaldo will end his career with the Spanish giants and has denied receiving any bids for the Portuguese for- ward.

Manchester United fans long for the return of Ronaldo, whom the Eng- lish club sold to Madrid for a record 80 million pounds (then $131 million) in 2009. Perez says in Tues- day’s edition of French newspaper L’Equipe that “Real Madrid revolves around him,” adding “I can assure you he will end his sports career here. We have not received any offers for him.”

Despite scoring plenty of goals, Ronaldo has had of- f-field problems at Ma- drid and recently acknowl- edged he misses the Pre- mier League.

There is a 1 billion euro ($1.5 billion) buy-out clause in Ronaldo’s con- tract, which runs until 2015.

PTI

Casey Stoner fuels comeback talk with Honda tests

Melbourne, 27 July—Seven-time MotoGP world champion Casey Stoner returns to the sport he enjoyed most at the Australian Grand Prix at Phillip Island on Sunday.

“Casey Stoner is a good example of how to stay committed,” former MotoGP world champion Valentino Rossi said.

PTI

Federer to start 2014 season in Brisbane

The 31-year-old Swiss, who has four Melbourne Park titles among his 17 grand slams, has never pre- viously started the year in Brisbane and the announce- ment was billed as the “big- gest ... in the history” of the event, which started in 2009. Federer previously warmed up for the year’s first grand slam at the now ailing Kooyong exhibition tournament and more re- cently in Doha, Qatar.

“I’ve always hoped that I could come there,” Federer was quoted as say- ing in a media release.

“I’m not just coming for the Australian Open, es- pecially when I commit so early in advance, it’s also to win in Brisbane.”

Wimbledon champi- on Andy Murray has won the men’s event at the Pat Rafter Arena for the last two years, while Serena Williams won the women’s title last year.—Reuters

Jose Mourinho says no mind-games against David Moyes

PTI

Federer to start 2014 season in Brisbane

PTI

Casey Stoner fuels comeback talk with Honda tests

PTI
Mickelson faces huge task to seal sweep of majors

London, 24 July — Nine-times major champion Gary Player believes Phil Mickelson faces a “monumental task” to achieve a clean sweep of major wins and said it would be “eating him alive” if he was perennial nearly-man Lee Westwood.

Mickelson, who became only the second left-hander to win the British Open when he triumphed at Muirfield on Sunday, has set his sights on joining Player, Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods by landing the US Open.


reform of the railway system and the lack of railroad maintenance.

Xinhua

US tells Rwanda to stop support for M23 rebels in Congo

Washington, July 6 — The United States on Tuesday called on Rwanda to end support for M23 rebels in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, saying there was evidence Rwandan military officials were involved. It is the first response by Washington to recent M23 clashes with Congolese government forces near Goma, the largest city in the DRC’s mineral-rich eastern region, but stayed clear of directly implicating Rwandan President Paul Kagame, a US ally whose politics and fighting programmes are often heralded by donors.

“We call upon Rwanda to immediately end any support for the M23 (and) withdraw military personnel from eastern DRC,” State Department spokesman woman Jen Psaki said. The call comes two days before US Secretary of State John Kerry chairs a special session of the UN Security Council on Africa’s Great Lakes region. M23 began taking parts of eastern Congo early last year, accusing the government of failing to honour a 2006 peace deal. A UN report in June this year said the M23 recruited fighters in Rwanda with the aid of sympathizing Rwandan army officers, while elements of the Congolese army have cooperated with the Rwandan Hutu rebel group FDLR. The report prompted the United States and European states to suspend military assistance to Kigali.

Psaki said the latest concerns over M23 follow credible evidence from Human Rights Watch that said the rebels were to blame for executions, rapes and forcible recruitment of men and boys while receiving support from Rwanda.

The rights group acknowledged on Tuesday erroneous testimony in the report but said it stands by its findings. A statement by the group said the report contained an error based on testimony of one of the witnesses interviewed. “It said the Rwandan soldiers had served with the peacekeeping contingent in Somalia and Darfur.” —Reuters
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman sign two parliaments’ cooperation agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received Chairman of National Assembly of Vietnam Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung and party at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 4 pm today.

At the call, they frankly discussed promoting bilateral cooperation between the two parliaments, potentials to make more investments of Vietnamese entrepreneurs in Myanmar, and cooperation in various sectors including tourism industry.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office.

The signing ceremony was attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

After the signing ceremony, both sides held discussions about progress in foreign investment in Myanmar including from Vietnam, commodity flow and trade between Myanmar and Vietnam, as well as promoting trade sector by 2015.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Chairman of National Assembly of Vietnam Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung.—MNA

KIO opens Technical Advisory Team to step up peace process

MYITKYINA, 24 July—Technical Advisory Team formed under the agreement reached during the peace talks between KIO and the government in May opened its office in Myitkyina today, marking a step towards permanent peace in Kachin State.

At the ceremony to unveil the signboard of the office, U Swong Lut Gum, the leader of the negotiation team of the KIO, said the team was formed in preparation for systematic peace process and would carry out measures step by step for holding political dialogues with the government while seeking advice from experts.

U Aung Min, Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace Making Working Committee, stressed the need for drawing a framework or roadmap which is acceptable by all including the government and all armed ethnic armed groups and can lead to the peace and for holding all inclusive national peace conference to reach a national peace accord.

He expressed his hope for holding talks between technical teams of both sides and for holding Union level peace talks to bring the eternal peace to Kachin State and to the country.

Kachin State Chief Minister U La Jun Ngan Hsai expressed thanks to those who have been participating in the peace process, calling for cooperation in bringing peace to Kachin State.

After the ceremony, Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Chief Minister U La Jun Ngan Hsai and ministers met with 13 prisoners including U Baran Shaung who have been released from the prison under amnesty granted by the President and presented cash assistance to them.

The prisoners who have been released from the Myitkyina Prison will return home tonight with the arrangement of Kachin State Government.

MNA

MEH Ltd signs MoU for amending previous agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—A ceremony to sign MoU between Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd of Mining Enterprise No 1 (1) and Wanbao Mining Ltd for amending previous agreement was held at the department, here, this morning and Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung gave a speech.

Then, Managing Director U Kyaw Hsan of Mining Enterprise N0 1, Managing Director Maj-Gen Zarni Win of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd signed MoU with President Mr Chen De Fang of Wanbo Mining Ltd.

The ceremony was attended by Union ministers U Hla Tun, U Win Shein, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung and Dr Kan Zaw, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, the chairman and managing director of MEHLtd, deputy ministers U Thant Shin, Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Than Tun Aung, Forest and Mine Minister of Sagaing Region U Than Hike and the president and vice-president of Wanbo Mining Ltd.—MNA

Myanmar, ROK eyes agriculture sector development

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received Director-General for Development Cooperation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Ms. OH, Youngji and Ms. Yim Jinseon of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) at the ministry, here, yesterday evening.

They held discussions on provision of assistance to projects being implemented for development of agriculture sector in Myanmar and full contribution to establishment of a Post-harvest Technology Application Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

After the meeting, the Union Minister and the Korean delegation visited a educative farmland irrigated by Ngalaik Dam in Pobba Township and a 65-acre research farmland in Zabuthiri Township and observed thriving 440-acre Palathewal summer paddy plantation in Pyinmana Township.—MNA