Britain supports endeavour of President in Rakhine State issue

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Aug—President U Thein Sein received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew Richard Heyn who had completed his tour of duty, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

At the call, the President explained good relations between Myanmar and Britain that had been in trouble for about 20 years, goodwill visit of the British Prime Minister to Myanmar and smooth arrangement for his goodwill visit to Britain and thanked the British Ambassador for about £40 million to undertake poverty alleviation, take census and carry out development tasks during his visit to Britain. Next, the President explained issue of Rakhine State.

The British Ambassador expressed that he is serious about endeavours of the President on the crisis in Rakhine State and supported President’s efforts.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Thane and departmental heads.

MNA

Dozens dead, stranded after flash floods in Afghanistan, Pakistan

Kabul, 6 Aug — Flash floods caused by unusually heavy rain across Afghanistan and Pakistan killed more than 160 people and stranded villagers in remote areas without shelter, food or power in one of South Asia’s worst natural disasters this year, officials said on Monday.

Mountainous Afghanistan was the worst hit, with 61 people killed and about 500 traditional mud-brick homes washed away in more than a dozen villages in Sarobi, a rural district less than an hour from the national capital, Kabul, officials said.

In the remote eastern Afghan Province of Nuristan at least 60 homes were destroyed across three districts, said provincial spokesman Mohammad Yousuf. No one was killed.

Authorities were unable to get aid to some badly affected villages by land as roads in the area are controlled by the Taliban, Yousuf said.

“We have asked the national government for help as we have an overwhelming number of locals asking for assistance, but this is a Taliban-ridden area,” Yousuf said.

At least 24 people were also killed in two other eastern border provinces, Ghazni and Nangarhar, local officials said. More than fifty homes and shops were destroyed and thousands of acres of farmland flooded.

In Pakistan monsoon rains claimed more than 80 lives, local media reported on Monday. Incidents of house collapse, drowning and electrocution all pushed up the death toll, said Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

In Karachi, the commercial capital and a southern port city that is home to 18 million people, poor neighbourhoods were submerged waist-deep in water and many precincts suffered long power outages.

Deaths were also reported in the north and west of the country.

MNA

Breastfeeding may reduce Alzheimer’s risk for breastfeeding mothers

NASA has high hopes Mars rover’s winning streak will continue

Feedstuff, animal medicines provided in Mon, Kayin States

Abe vows utmost effort for elimination of nuclear weapons

United reject second Chelsea bid for Rooney

Woods the favourite at Oak Hill after Firestone win

Dozens dead, stranded after flash floods in Afghanistan, Pakistan

Men push their bicycles through flood waters on the outskirts of Karachi on 4 August, 2013.—Reuters
Cash and vehicle donated for leprosy patients

MONDALAY, 6 Aug—A ceremony to donate books, furniture and vehicle to Yadana Pyokhin Library took place in Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay on 3 August morning.

In memory of late selected footballer of Mandalay Region Ko Toe Gyi (a) Ko Toe Myint Zaw, U Maung Myint-Daw Than Thaw Wai donated K 3 million, Ko Myo Gyi-Ma Lin Lin Kywe and friends of Mindan Ward in Chanayethazan Township a vehicle worth K 3 million.

The library was located on 36th street between 64th and 65th Streets in Uyinden Ward of Mahamyaing, Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay.

“The donation is aimed at eliminating leprosy to send the patients to Yenatha Leprosy Hospital. And, it is aimed at helping the leprosy patients across the nation to have access the hospital,” said Chairman U Ohn Ngwe.—Kyemon-002

Health care services provided to nuns

Mayan, 6 Aug—Chairperson of Yangon West District Sasana Nuggaha Association Thiri Thadhamma Theingi Daw Ohnma Lwin together with chairpersons of Township Sasana Nuggaha Associations from Myanmar National Theravada Buddhist Association and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association donated rice to nuns led by Presiding Nun Mahaganthayacanakya Pandita Daw Indacari of Shweyayanga Thiri Nunnery in Ward 5 of Mayangon Township in Yangon Region on 1 August.

Free clinics serving patients

Dr Daw Yuzana Saw Myint, Dr Daw Khin Than Nwe, doctors and pharmacists of the mobile medical team from the association gave health knowledge talks and provided health care services to about 200 nuns from the nunnery.

Kyemon-Zawgyi (Pyanyi)

Ywale Monastery in Myanmar of Ayeyawady Region.

On the early days after establishment, the clinic was opened two days only.

Now, the clinic is kept open from 8 am to 12 noon every Saturday and Dr Win Hein of Township People’s Hospital, assistant surgeons, health staff, Dr Htet Aung Khang of Social Security Clinic and officials give free health care service to local patients.

Kyemon-Nay Win Zaw (Myanmaung)

Tourism

Sittway, 6 Aug—A total of 62 men and 62 women members of dance troupe representing Rakhine State are taking training for traditional dances for entertainment programmes of the opening and closing ceremony of the XXVII SEA Games to be held in Nay Pi Taw in December 2013.

Four trainees from the central committee train themselves with the playback songs.

They take training at U Ottama Hall in Sittway every Sunday and Saturday.

Kyemon-698

Trawlers overtures in Ngaphe

Ngaphe, 6 Aug—A trawler overturned at the downhill road of the combined office in Kyaungtwi Khwetith Ward of Ngaphe at 4 pm on 3 August.

A trawler carrying bags of paddy driven by Phyo Wai Aung (a) Po Lone, from Kyaungtwi Khwetith Ward to Padan Village together with his wide Ma Khang Su Su. At the downhill road, the vehicle overturned due of out of control. In the incident, Ma Khang Su Su sustained serious injuries at left and right thighs.

So, she was transferred to Minbu General Hospital from Ngaphe Township Hospital.

Kyemon-Ngaphe IPRD

Buddhist Youth Culture Instructor Course commences

KYAUKTAN, 6 Aug—Organized by venerable Sayadaws of Tada Sub-Township and members of Dhamma Yaunggyi Missionary Association, the Buddhist Youth Culture Instructor Course was opened at Thonlawka Htihkhaung Mahaung Yadan Pyokha Pagoda Prayer Hall in the compound of Ywale Monastery in Ward 1 of Tada Sub-Township in Kyauktan Township.

Essay contest marks drug elimination

YAMETHIN, 6 Aug—Myanmar Pharmacists Association (Yamethin branch) organized the essay contest at Basic Education High School (Myoma) in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region on 1 August morning.

Altogether 150 students at high school level participated in the contest and 140 middle school students also competed in the contest.

The competition was supervised by Township Education Officer U Tin Ko Ko, Myoma Basic Education High School Headmistress Daw Aye Aye Khang, teachers, patron of the MANA (Yamethin) and Chairman U Myo Win Thein, executives and party.

Kyemon-Hlaing Than Tant (Yamethin)

Hoteliers of Inlay donate two fire engines, cash

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—Hoteliers from Inlay Hotel Zone donated two fire engines and cash to the city hall in Taunggyi on 3 August afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Hlay Aung said that as Myanmar tourism industry is booming year by year, it is estimated that about 1.2 million to 2 million of tourists may visit the nation this year. Only when the tourism industry develops, will the hotel industry be able to enjoy benefits.

He urged the entrepreneurs to serve the interest of the local people while improving their works.

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat explained systematic management for the development of hotel industry in the state and needs of entrepreneurs to contribute to the development of the local people.

The entrepreneurs from Inlay Zone donated two fire engines and K 94.6 million to the region.

The Union Minister on 4 August met the township administrator, departmental officials and entrepreneurs of hotels and tourism industry at the town hall in Kalaw.—MNA

Traditional dances in practice

STITWAY, 6 Aug—A trawler carrying bags of paddy driven by Phyo Wai Aung (a) Po Lone, from Kyaungtwi Khwetith Ward to Padan Village together with his wide Ma Khang Su Su. At the downhill road, the vehicle overturned due of out of control. In the incident, Ma Khang Su Su sustained serious injuries at left and right thighs.

So, she was transferred to Minbu General Hospital from Ngaphe Township Hospital.

Kyemon-Ngaphe IPRD
Abe vows utmost effort for elimination of nuclear weapons

HIROSHIMA, 6 Aug — At a ceremony on Tues- day marking the 68th an- niversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to try his utmost to realize a nuclear-free world and to offer better support to atomic-bomb survivors fighting radiation-caused health problems.

In his approach at the ceremony at the Peace Me- morial Park near Ground Zero, Abe also said Japan will maintain its three non-nuclear principles of not producing, possessing or al- lowing nuclear weapons on Japanese territory to avoid repeating the devastation of atomic bombing.

“We, the Japanese, are the only atomic bombed citizens in war. We bear the responsibility to stead- ily realize a world without nuclear weapons,” Abe said in front of about 50,000 participants in the annual event.

This year’s commemo- ration comes as Abe’s rul- ing Liberal Democratic Party, which won a land- slide victory in last month’s upper house election, seeks to restart nuclear power plants, sell Japanese nu- clear technology abroad and change the nation’s pacifist Constitution.

Hiroshima Mayor Ka- zumi Matsui expressed wor- ries over the government’s drive to strike a civil nu- clear cooperation deal with nuclear-armed India, saying even if such an agreement promises their economic relationship, it is likely to hinder nuclear weapons abolition.”

Calling atomic bombs “the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil,” Matsui urged the national government to strengthen its ties with na- tions pursuing the aboli- tion of nuclear weapons, noting a growing number of countries calling for such action.

Matsui made the re- mark after Japan recently declined to back a statement urging that nuclear weapons never again be used under any circumstances. The statement was prepared in April at a preparatory com- mittee session in Geneva for the next Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty review meeting.

IsLAMABAD, 6 Aug — Pakistan has said nuclear disarmament is feasible and should be pursued in a uni- versal manner, echoing the mayor of Hiroshima’s call for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons ahead of the 68th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city.

“We sympathize with the citizens of Hiroshima —one of the only two cit- ies in the world to have faced the horrific catastro- phe of nuclear bombing,” Aizaz Ahmad Chaudry, spokesman for the Paki- stani Foreign Ministry said in a recent interview with Kyodo News. “We acclaim the resolve and steadfast- ness of its people who have rebuilt the city from bottom up. We express our sincere best wishes for the people of Hiroshima,” he said.

“We all have to address the root cause of conflict and insecurities world over, and settlement of all outstand- ing disputes peacefully,” he said.

Tens of thousands of people were killed when the United States of Amer- ica dropped the atomic bomb — codenamed “Little Boy” — on Hiroshima on 6 Aug, 1945. Every mayor of Hiroshima has promoted the “No More Hiroshima” campaign since 1947, urging all countries to abandon nuclear testing and end the nuclear weapons threat.

“Global nuclear dis- armament is feasible if we ensure equal and undimin- ished security for all states in a world without nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament has to be pursued in a nondiscriminatory, univer- sal and verifiable manner,” Chaudry said.

Chaudry said Pakistan and India, which remain outside the Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, have entered several “nuclear confidence-building meas- ures,” including the es- tablishment of a hotline between the foreign secre- teries of the two countries, agreements on advance no- tifications of ballistic mis- sile tests and prevention of accidents related to nuclear weapons.

Residents flee as fire rages at Marathon, near Athens

ATHENS, 6 Aug — A wildfire fanned by strong winds raged near Athens on Monday, damaging homes and sending residents fleeing, fire brigade officials said. Reuters witnesses said the blaze had damaged at least three homes at a hamlet by the town of Marathon — the site of the historic 490 BC battle between Athenians and Per- sians about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of the Greek capital.

“The flames have reached homes, but we don’t know yet how many are threatened,” said a fire brigade official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

About 50-60 people were evacuated from their holiday homes in the area, according to a police official. Live tele- vision footage showed a thick cloud of black smoke billow- ing into the air as the fire con- sumed low vegetation.

More than 60 firefight- ers and volunteers, supported by dozens of fire engines, four aircraft and four helicopters, battled flames that spread on several fronts. The fire bri- gade said it would reinforce the teams on the ground.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Residents flee as fire rages at Marathon, near Athens

Pakistani says world without nuclear weapons is “feasible”

Fire in Norwegian road tunnel sends 55 to hospital

OSLO, 6 Aug — More than 50 people were sent to hospital after a truck caught fire in a tunnel in western Norway on Monday, police said.

The 11.4-km (7-mile) Gudvangen tunnel, Norway’s second longest, carries traf- fic close to the Naeroy fjord, considered one of its most beautiful and a draw for tourists from around the world during the summer season.

“Fifty-five people have been taken to hospital for checks. That’s every single person that’s been evacu- ated,” police spokesman Jo- erm Lasse Refsnes said.

Turkish police fire tear gas to quell protests against court verdict

ISTANBUL, 6 Aug — Turkish riot police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse tens of thousands of demonstrators who protested on Monday against court ver- dict in a case of military coup plot in Istanbul. The angry gathering, which was organ- ized upon Turkey Youth Union’s appeal, rallied in Kadikoy District to protest severe penalties inflicted on prominent figures, including journalists, academics and military officials.

Declaring they stand for freedom, protesters said they do not recognize the verdict. After the police inter- vention, the crowd start- ed to march to the busiest Bagdat Avenue.

For his part, Turkish main opposition leader Ke- mal Kilicdaroglu slammed the court verdict, labelling the ruling as “illegitimate.”

The ruling of the court “is not legitimate from a legal, political or moral point of view,” head of the Republican People’s Party, said in his first remarks af- ter the verdict, denouncing the authority of “Courts for Serious Crimes,” which deals with terrorism-relat- ed cases.

Residents flee as fire rages at Marathon, near Athens

Cafes shut, sports fields empty as war returns to Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Aug — In an evening in late June, Yasar al-Nuaimi draped an Iraqi flag over his shoulder and headed out to watch a soccer match being shown on television at a cafe in western Baghdad. The 20-year-old told his mother to pray for his team to win.

Later that night a bomb hidden inside a grocery bag tore through the cafe where he and other football fans had gathered to watch the Iraqi national youth team play against Egypt.

One minute the men were cheering for their team and the next screaming in terror and pain, witnesses said. “Why did they kill my young son?” Yasar’s father Ahmed said. In tears, he sat in the family home holding Yasar’s Iraqi flag, stiff with his son’s dried blood.

“He was only watching a game! They killed me and his mother too, not just him. They broke our hearts.”

Iraqis have endured extreme violence for years, but since the start of 2013 the intensity of attacks on civilians has dramatically increased, reversing a trend that had seen the country grow more peaceful. At- tacks have spread to some of the few places left for public entertainment, turn- ing Baghdad into a giant fortified prison of concrete blast walls, where once again few dare to so- cialize in public.

The attacks have raised fears of a return to full- blown sectarian conflict in a country where ruling Shi’ites and minority Sunni Muslims and Kurds have yet to find a stable way of sharing power.

More than 1,000 Iraq- iqs were killed in July, the highest monthly death toll since 2008, the United Na- tions said last week.

The past four months have seen a rise in death tolls to any in the five years before April, lead- ing the Interior Ministry to declare last week that Iraq was now once again in “open war”, 18 months after US troops pulled out. Reuters

Residents flee as fire rages at Marathon, near Athens

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Residents flee as fire rages at Marathon, near Athens
Panasonic to stop making new smartphones for NTT Doicom

NEW YORK, 6 Aug — Panasonic Corp has told NTT Doicom it would stop supplying new smartphone models from this winter, Kyodo news service said, citing sources familiar with the matter. Panasonic said in July that its mobile phone sales decreased sharply in the April-June quarter due partly to NTT Doicom’s adoption of a new marketing strategy offering bigger discounts for smartphones made by Sony and Samsung, the two most popular models in Doicom’s handset lineup. NTT Doicom, Japan’s largest mobile carrier, has said its marketing efforts this summer would be focused on two handsets made by Sony Corp’s Xperia A and Samsung Electronics Co’s Galaxy S4. NTT Doicom has effectivity been the sole marketing channel for Panasonic’s smartphones. The supply halt means that Panasonic will stop developing new smartphones, the news wire said. Panasonic will continue smartphone production at its Malaysian factory for the time being, but will discontinue the operation if NTT Doicom stops placing orders for its smartphones, the sources said, Kyodo reported. Panasonic’s cell-phone segment booked a group operating loss of 5.4 billion yen in the April-June period, the report said. Reuters

Russia may resume Proton rocket launches in September

MOSCOW, 6 Aug — Russia planned to resume launches of its Proton-M rockets, with five scheduled before the end of the year, the Federal Space Agency Roscosmos said on Monday. It will end a freeze on all scheduled launches after a Proton-M carrying navigation satellites exploded shortly after takeoff from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 2 July. According to Roscosmos deputy head Alexander Lopatin, the launches might resume in September, when “all necessary work will have been completed.” “It is possible to conduct one launch in three weeks. So there will be four or five of them (until the end of the year),” Roscosmos head Vladimir Popovkin told a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who is in charge of the space and defence industries. Popovkin said the first Proton to be launched would carry a Foreign satellite. The official said the system side of Proton construction would be supervised by the satellite makers from now on. “Increasing quality control along with resuming inspections by military representatives must bring positive results,” he said. Quality control was conducted up until 2010 by Defence Ministry representatives. Last Friday, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev reprimanded Popovkin for “improperly fulfilling his professional duties.” Xinhua

App connects bike owners with renters

Many bike share programs also have apps to locate nearby bikes. Spinlister, a new iPhone app is making a comeback in cities across the world. Spinlister, based in San Diego, California, a new app is making a comeback in cities across the world. Spinlister, based in San Diego, California, offers bike owners and renters different types of bicycles and for different purposes. “A lot of people have amazing bikes, but their bikes are just sitting in their garages,” said Marcelo Loureiro, chief executive officer of Spinlister, based in Santa Monica, California. “If you’re looking for a three to four block ride, no one can beat the city bike share. But sometimes people want to use the bike for the whole day and not be worried about docking the bike or time deadlines,” he said, adding that the average bike rental on the app is for three days. The app enables renters to find nearby bikes on a map and to filter by the type of bike they’re looking for, as well as the price, height and availability. The average daily rate for a bike on the app is $10, plus a 12.5 percent fee. The cost can be paid with a credit card using the app. The company charges the owner a 17.5 percent fee to list the bike. Loureiro said an added appeal of the app is the human connection. “When you are from a town you can ask, ‘Where’s the best path around here?’” or “Where’s the best burger in the neighborhood?” he said. Bike owners will also include perks, such as a helmet, lock, or lights for additional charge. Loureiro said city bike shares have helped encourage a bike culture and he does not consider the program as competitors. “People who never thought about biking are now starting to because of city bike shares. This means more bike lanes and more bike respect on the streets. This is all helping the culture,” he said. Renters use the app sign an agreement that they are responsible for damages and repairs such as flat tires. The company also provides insurance for owners against theft in the United States and Canada. Bike owners and renters can also review each other in the app.

Toshiba, SanDisk to build about $4 billion flash memory plant

NEW YORK, 6 Aug — Toshiba Corp (6502.T) plans to build a memory chip production factory with a total investment of 400 billion yen (about $4 billion) with SanDisk Corp (SNDK.O), the Nikkei reported. Toshiba plans to make chips of 16-17 nanometers circuit line width at the new plant to gain an edge over Samsung Electronics Co (005930.KS) by making more chips from a single silicon wafer, the business paper said. The chips made at the factory now have a width of 19nm. The new facility, expected to start production in the next fiscal year, would raise the plant’s capacity by about 20 percent from an estimated monthly equivalent of 450,000 300mm wafers, Nikkei reported. Reuters

NASA has high hopes Mars rover’s winning streak will continue

NEW YORK, 6 Aug.— The NASA rover Curiosity survived its daring landing on Mars one year ago on Tuesday and went on to discover that the planet most like Earth in the solar system could indeed have supported microbial life, the primary goal of the mission. “The stunning thing is that we found it all so quickly,” California Institute of Technology geologist Ken Edgett, with Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego, said during an encore at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, marking the rover’s first anniversary on Mars. “If you asked me a year ago, ‘What are you going to find in the first year?’ I wouldn’t have ever said we were going to find what we’ve found,” added Curiosity scientist Ken Edgett, with Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego. Now scientists hope to learn whether life-friendly niches on Mars are common and whether any organic carbon has been preserved in the planet’s ancient rocks. To answer those questions, Curiosity is heading to Mount Sharp, a three-mile high (five-km) mound of layered sediment rising from the floor of Gale Crater, where the one-ton rover touched down at 1:31 am EDT on 6 August, 2012. To land that much weight, engineers devised a complex descent system that included a never-before-seen hovering platform in the hovering platform in the process. “I’ve probably seen that video 100 times over,” Loureiro said. “I’ve probably seen that video 100 times.” The drama, which a NASA video dubbed “the seven minutes of terror,” opened with rocket burns to slow down Curiosity from its 13,000 mph (21,000 km per hour) interplanetary cruising speed and direct it into the thin Martian atmosphere. Within seven minutes, the rover dropped from seven times the speed of sound to zero, shedding a heat shield, parachutes and the hovering platform in the process. “I’ve probably seen that video 100 times in the last year and you still think about how you felt that night, still in wonderment that it really did what it did,” said NASA project manager Pete Theisinger. Reuters

Panasonic to stop making new smartphones for NTT Doicom

Panasonic Corp’s logo is pictured outside the company’s showroom in Tokyo on 1 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

Panasonic Corp’s logo is pictured outside the company’s showroom in Tokyo on 1 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

The logo of Toshiba Corp is seen at an electronics store in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on 25 June, 2013. — Reuters

The logo of Toshiba Corp is seen at an electronics store in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on 25 June, 2013. — Reuters
Breastfeeding may reduce Alzheimer’s risk for breastfeeding mothers

LONDON, 6 Aug — Mothers who breastfeed run a lower risk of developing Alzheimer’s, with longer periods of breastfeeding further reducing the risk, a new study paper unveiled on Monday. The paper, published in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease, suggested that the link may be to do with certain biological effects of breastfeeding. For example, breastfeeding restores insulin tolerance which is significantly reduced during pregnancy, and Alzheimer’s is characterized by insulin resistance in the brain.

Although data was gathered from a group of just 81 British women, researchers observed a highly significant and consistent correlation between breastfeeding and Alzheimer’s risk. They argued that this was so strong that any potential sampling error was unlikely, “Alzheimer’s is the world’s most common cognitive disorder and affects 36.6 million people,” said Dr. Molly Fox from the University of Cambridge, who led the study.

“In the future, we expect it to spread most in low and middle-income countries. So it is vital that we develop low-cost, large-scale strategies to protect people against this devastating disease,” Fox said. Previous studies have already suggested that breastfeeding can reduce a mother’s risk of certain other diseases. Research has shown that there may be a link between breastfeeding and a woman’s general cognitive decline later in life. Until now, however, little has been done to examine the impact of breastfeeding duration on Alzheimer’s risk.—Xinhua

Aqua pips Prius as July’s best-selling car

Tokyo, 6 Aug — Toyota Motor Corp’s Aqua hybrid was the top-selling car in Japan for July with sales of 28,657 units, up 9.1 percent from a year earlier, industry bodies said on Tuesday.

The Prius, another Toyota hybrid, came second with 23,067 units sold, down 30.9 percent, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association and the Japan Mini Vehicles Association said.

Minivehicles, which offer high fuel efficiency and low maintenance costs, took third to eighth place.

 Daihatsu Motor Co’s Move minivehicle came third with sales of 20,672 units, up 46.8 percent, and Honda Motor Co.’s N Box fourth with 19,736 units.

Sony rejects Third Point’s proposal to sell entertainment unit

Tokyo, 6 Aug — Sony Corp on Tuesday rejected US hedge fund Third Point’s proposal that the Japanese electronics firm sell a stake in its entertainment business. Sony’s board members “strongly believe that continuing to own 100 percent of the company’s entertainment business is fundamental to Sony’s success,” the company said in a letter sent to Third Point, which is headed by billionaire Daniel Loeb.

In May, Loeb, who owns a 7 percent stake in Sony, proposed that Sony sell around a 15 percent to 20 percent stake in its money-making entertainment business in an initial public offering to raise funds to shore up its flagging electronics operations.

Sony said it believes it has “adequate capital resources to fund its business plans,” and its priority is to raise capital without selling a portion of a “fundamental” asset should Sony need to free up more money.

New York-based Third Point has been increasing pressure on Sony, saying the entertainment division, centered on movie and music operations, is poorly managed.—Kyodo News

First taste of test-tube burger declared ‘close to meat’

The world’s first lab-grown beef burger is seen after it was cooked at a launch event in west London on 5 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

LONDON, 6 Aug — The world’s first laboratory-grown beef burger was flipped out of a petri dish and into a frying pan on Monday, with food tasters declaring it tasted “close to meat”. Grown in-vitro from cattle stem cells at a cost of 250,000 euros ($332,000), the burger was cooked and eaten in front of television cameras to gain the greatest media coverage for the culmination of a five-year science experiment.

Resembling a standard circular-shaped red meat patty, it was created by knitting together 20,000 strands of laboratory-grown protein, combined with other ingredients normally used in burgers, such as salt, breadcrumbs and egg powder. Red beet juice and saffron were added to give it colour.

The two food tasters were reserved in their judgement, perhaps keen not to offend their host at the London event, noting the burger’s “absence of fat.”

Pressed for a more detailed description of the flavour, food writer Josh Schonwald said the cultured beef had an “animal protein cake” like quality to it, adding that he would like to try it with some of the extra ingredients normally served with traditional burgers - salt, pepper, ketchup and jalapeños.—Reuters

Time Warner Cable offers unconventional deal to end CBS blackout

NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES, 6 Aug — Time Warner Cable Inc Chief Executive Glenn Britt sent a letter to CBS Corp CEO Les Moonves on Monday offering a controversial new proposal to end the blackout of CBS shows in large TV markets including New York and Los Angeles. Britt proposed selling CBS to customers as a single channel on an “a la carte” basis, an idea dismissed by CBS as a “sham.” The exchange was the latest development in a contentious public battle between the No 1 rated US broadcast network and the No 2 cable provider.

As the blackout that began late Friday stretched into its third day, rival TV providers were considering how to decide for themselves how much value they ascribe to CBS programming.” Rather than offer customers the chance to watch CBS programming, Britt said, CBS, meanwhile, called the proposal “a sham” and “a public relations vehicle designed to distract from the fact that Time Warner Cable is not negotiating in good faith.”

Time Warner said it was “disappointed” by a “lack of responsiveness” from CBS. “Our efforts to get CBS programming back for our customers are sincere, and we have offered two proposals to accomplish that, while CBS has offered nothing in return,” the company said in a statement. Media companies like CBS sell packages of channels to operators, a common practice in the cable industry. Cable cable channels such as Showtime also went dark in the dispute with Time Warner Cable because the company negotiates its programming deals in one bundle. Letting customers cherry pick the channels they want could cut revenue of media companies. Needham & Co estimated in July that the cable industry including media content providers could lose 50 percent of its revenue, about $70 billion, if the a la carte was widely adopted.—Reuters

Sony is world’s No 2 car maker after Toyota

Hayato Sato, 6 Aug — Sony Corp on Monday unveiled the world’s first laboratory-grown beef burger, in a break with the traditional cow, chicken and pig in the fast food industry. The burger was created by knitting together 20,000 strands of laboratory-grown protein, combined with other ingredients normally used in burgers, such as salt, breadcrumbs and egg powder. Red beet juice and saffron were added to give it colour.

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Chemical leaks reported at train derailment site in US Louisiana

HOUSTON, 6 Aug—A train carrying highly flammable and corrosive materials derailed late on Sunday in the US state of Louisiana, leading to leaks from several railcars, local media reported on Monday.

The derailment took place in Lawtell, about 100 km west of Louisiana’s capital city Baton Rouge, local news website NOLA.com reported. At least 26 cars of the 76-car Union Pacific train went off the tracks.

Authorities said that 14 of the 26 derailed cars contained “regulated substances” that are harmful or toxic. Union Pacific spokeswoman Raquel Espinoza told reporters that one car was leaking sodium hydroxide, which can cause injuries or even death if it is inhaled or touches the skin. Another car was leaking lube oil.

Heat advisory issued for Houston area, 43 degrees Celsius expected

HOUSTON, 6 Aug—A heat advisory has been issued for the US’s fourth largest city Houston on Monday as temperatures are expected to peak 43 degrees Celsius in the coming days.

Houston Weather Department issued the advisory on Monday morning, saying Houston would see a dangerous combination of heat and humidity in the day, resulting in heat indices between 41 to 43 degrees Celsius on Monday afternoon.

Experts warned in this extreme heat there is concern of heat stroke or heat cramps, especially when doing something active, like running or yard work. Those who are very young, very old, and obese or suffer from poor circulation are especially susceptible to heat-related problems.—Xinhua

Audit of Syria refugees finds organized crime and child soldiers

GENEVA, 6 Aug—Many Syrians who have escaped their country are now desperate to escape from UN-run refugee camps, where women are not safe and teenage boys are recruited as soldiers to fight in the conflict, according to an internal UN report.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR is trying to cope with a massive humanitarian crisis, as 1.9 million Syrians have sought refuge abroad, mainly in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and the Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

The report, an self-evaluation of UNHCR’s work in Syria entitled “From slow boil to breaking point”, admits the United Nations could have done much better and “a far more substantial and coherent strategy is needed”.

Organized crime networks are operating in the biggest refugee camp, Za’atari in Jordan, which is home to 130,000, it said. The camp is “lawless in many ways”, with resources that are “constantly stolen or vandalized”.

Preparations for a new camp needed to learn the lessons from Za’atari, including to “ensure the safety of women and girls”.

US to keep working together with Japan following chopper crash

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug—A State Department spokeswoman said on Monday the United States will keep working together with Japan in the wake of the crash of a US military helicopter in Okinawa but declined to elaborate on the incident.

Our relationship with the government of Japan is a very close one and we will continue to work together on a variety of issues,” Marie Harf told reporters.

But Harf declined to go into details about how the accident could affect bilateral ties and the US plan to increase the Osprey military aircraft in the southern Japan prefecture amid local opposition due to its history of crashes, including a fatal accident.

“I would have to refer you to US forces in Japan for any details on that,” she simply said.

The helicopter crashed in a mountainous area within the premises of a US military base in Okinawa on Monday. The accident site was 2 kilometres from a residential area.

The Japanese Defence Ministry said three of the four crew members aboard the HH-60 rescue helicopter had been confirmed safe but no other details were provided.

After the accident the US military said it has postponed the deployment of 10 more MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft to Okinawa for the time being.

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 5 Aug, 2013, shows fire retardant being dropped on the site where a US military helicopter crashed in a forest area within the US Marine Corps’ Camp Hansen in Okinawa Prefecture.—Kyodo News

Chemical leaks reported at train derailment site in US Louisiana

Chemical leaks reported at train derailment site in US Louisiana

However, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal provided a different version of the leaks in a press release. He said that three cars were leaking as of late Sunday.

One was leaking lubricant oil, while a second was leaking Dodecanol, a tasteless, colourless alcohol that can cause mild skin irritation. The third was leaking a highly corrosive substance called caustic soda or lye.—Xinhua

BP cites new fraud allegations in Gulf oil spill settlement

HOUSTON, 6 Aug—BP said on Monday it has uncovered new allegations of fraud in the settlement programme that has given billions of US dollars to Gulf Coast businesses and residents after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, US media reported. BP cited the allegations in a federal court filing in the city of New Orleans on Monday.

The company also renewed its request for a judge to temporarily suspend settlement payments because of the fraud issues, local media NOLA reported.

BP has made similar allegations before. It launched a hotline last month for people to report allegations of fraud relating to its multi-billion-dollar settlement with Gulf Coast businesses and residents that lost money in the Gulf oil spill. BP said it has spent 14 billion dollars on response and cleanup to help restore the environment so far. The company has also paid more than 300,000 claims totalling over 11 billion dollars to help restore the Gulf economy.

The company initially estimated the settlement deal would cost about 7.8 billion dollars. That grew to 8.5 billion dollars. In March, BP said in a regulatory filing that “no reliable estimate can be made of any business economic loss claims.” The Deepwater Horizon was drilling BP’s Macondo oil well in the Gulf on 20 April, 2010, when it caught fire and exploded, killing 11 workers and triggering one of the worst environmental disasters in the nation’s history.—Xinhua

A child holds up balloons with images of former Southern African President Nelson Mandela as he participates in a celebration to mark Mandela’s 95th birthday at the Angel de la Independencia monument in Mexico City on 18 July, 2013.—REUTERS

Johannesburg apologizes to Mandela for billing blunder

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Aug

The City of Johannesburg apologized to Nelson Mandela and his family on Monday for mistakenly posting a non-payment notice on the former South African president’s house warning him his electricity was about to be cut off.

The city, which has faced a barrage of complaints from residents for bungled bills, said the notice demanding payment of 6,468.48 rand ($660) was supposed to have been delivered to a different house.

“The city wants to convey an apology to the Mandela family for any inconvenience caused by this unfortunate incident,” it said in a statement.

Mandela, 95, has spent two months in a Pretoria hospital battling a lung infection that has left him in a critical condition. The location of Mandela’s home is one of South Africa’s worst-kept secrets. It is frequently visited by media and well-wishers who leave messages for a speedy recovery on painted stones outside the residence.—REUTERS

Syrian refugees walk at the Domiz refugee camp in the northern Iraqi Province Dohuk on 3 July, 2013.

Refugees can live outside the camp if they are “sponsored” by a Jordanian citizen, but many refugees are paying up to $500 to middlemen to get out, the report said.

In the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, Domiz camp is critically overcrowded and living standards are “unacceptable” in many parts of the camp. There is currently no agreed strategy in place to deal with the existing refugee population in Northern Iraq or any future influxes into the territory,” the report said, adding that UNHCR and NGOs held “directly opposing views” about work to help refugees living outside the camps.—REUTERS

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A tasting event of Japanese tea grown in Shizuoka Prefecture is held at a supermarket in Vladivostok in the Russian Far East, on 5 Aug, 2013, as the sale of the Japanese tea began.—KYODO NEWS

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 5 Aug, 2013, shows fire retardant being dropped on the site where a US military helicopter crashed in a forest area within the US Marine Corps’ Camp Hansen in Okinawa Prefecture.—Kyodo News

Syrian refugees walk at the Domiz refugee camp in the northern Iraqi Province Dohuk on 3 July, 2013.
Three killed at Pennsylvania municipal meeting

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug—Three people were killed in a shooting on Monday evening during a municipal meeting in US state of Pennsylvania, local authorities said. The incident broke out at about 7:30 pm local time during a regular monthly municipal meeting in Ross Township's building, about 10 miles north of Philadelphia, CBS reported.

Local officials confirmed three people were dead following the shooting, reported by the Pocono Record, a print and online newspaper in Pennsylvania. Two of them died at the scene and the other had been airlifted to area hospital but died later.

The paper also said one of its reporters was at the scene and reported that the alleged gunman had a pistol with a scope and shot two of them died at the meeting. Some others were also wounded in the shooting, it said, adding that at least three are still in critical condition.—Xinhua

Bolivia’s coca cultivation drops by 7 pct in 2012

LA PAZ, 6 Aug—Coca cultivation in Bolivia, the world’s third largest coca producer after Peru and Colombia, dropped by 7 percent in 2012 thanks to the government-led eradication efforts, according to a UN report released on Monday.

Cultivation of coca in Bolivia fell by 2,530,000 hectares in 2012, following a 12 percent drop in 2011, according to an annual survey compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Bolivian government.

The report has offered “serious” documentation of Bolivia’s anti-drug policy, Bolivian President Evo Morales said.

Morales said the shrinking crop points to the effectiveness of the government’s strategy which involves reducing coca crop surpluses by enhancing alternatives for farmers and strengthening counter-narcotics enforcement programs.

UNODC representative in Bolivia Antonio De Leo, who presented the report, said the figures in the report were based on the close and large-scale monitoring of Bolivia’s traditional coca-growing zones and national parks, including air surveillance and field visits. He credited the decrease to strengthened eradication measures by the Bolivian government.

Xinhua

Highest temperature to hit China’s South

BEIJING, 6 Aug—High temperatures are expected to continue to plague most parts of south China in the coming days, according to forecasters.

The China Central Meteorological Centre said high temperatures are reaching severe levels, with the hottest days to hit China’s south. The region may experience high temperatures above 37 degrees Celsius, whilst 7 provinces and municipalities including Hunan, Hubei and Chongqing may experience temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius.

Since July, a summer heatwave has been sweeping across south China and the China Central Meteorological Centre has continued to issue a high temperature alert for 12 days.

However, rainstorms will hit China’s Sichuan Province and some parts of Gansu and Shaanxi provinces. The average rainfall in Sichuan is expected to be around 200-300 millimeters.

Cambodia’s final poll results to be released on 14 Aug

PHNOM PENH, 6 Aug—The National Election Committee (NEC) will release the official results of the general election on 14 Aug if there are no complaints by political parties, according to NEC’s schedule on Monday.

“The official results with set allocation and elected candidates will be released on 14 Aug if there are no challenges from political parties, but the results will be issued on 8 Sept if there are any complaints,” said the NEC’s schedule.

It said the official final results will be released on 10 Aug. Cambodia held a general election on 26 July. According to the initial unofficial results issued by the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), the CPP of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen has won 68 out of the 123 parliamentary seats, with the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) of recently-pardoned leader Sam Rainsy taking the remaining 55 seats. But the CNRP, claiming serious irregularities, rejected the results and called for an independent investigation committee with the United Nations as a “referee.” Deputy Prime Minis- ter and Interior Minister Sar Kheng said on Monday that it doesn’t conform to Cambodian law to invite the UN to join the committee.

“It is impossible to create a committee out of thin air,” said Kheng in effect, he told reporters. “It is also impossible to reject the NEC’s role, which was created by law and was given confidence by the National Assembly.” On Sunday, Sin Suosdey, chairman of the National Election Committee (NEC), said that the NEC could have survived 55 seats. But the CNRP, claiming serious irregularities, rejected the results and called for an independent investigation committee with the United Nations as a “referee.” Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sar Kheng said on Monday that it doesn’t conform to Cambodian law to invite the UN to join the committee.

“It is impossible to create a committee out of thin air,” said Kheng in effect, he told reporters. “It is also impossible to reject the NEC’s role, which was created by law and was given confidence by the National Assembly.” On Sunday, Sin Suosdey, chairman of the National Election Committee (NEC), said that the NEC could have survived

Washington Post to be sold to billionaire Jeff Bezos

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug—The Washington Post Co on Monday announced it has agreed to sell its flagship newspaper to Amazon.com founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos, ending the Graham family’s control of one of the leading news organizations in the United States after four generations.

According to the Washington Post, Bezos will pay 250 million US dollars in cash for the Washington Post and affiliated publications to the Washington Post Co, which owns the newspaper and other businesses, Seattle-based Amazon will have no role in the purchase: Bezos himself will buy the news organization and become its sole owner when the sale is completed, probably within 60 days. The Washington Post Co will change to a new, still-undecided name and continue as a publicly traded company without The Washington Post thereafter. “The deal was driven by Bezos’ personal desire to own a major news organization and a desire to make the Post a bigger presence in the digital age,” said Bezos.

The Washington Post Co, which owns the Washington Post newspaper, reported a $22 million loss in the first quarter of 2013, according to a company’s filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The sale comes as newspapers around the world have struggled to adapt to the rise of digital content and the overall decline in print news consumption.

Xinhua

Kenya’s wildlife agency pursues life imprisonment for poachers

KIATLE, (Kenya), 6 Aug—Kenya’s Wildlife Services (KWS) is pushing for life imprisonment for poachers of elephants and rhinos as a deterrent measure to protect the two endangered species, an official has said.

KWS Director William Kiprono said on Monday the killing of wildlife especially the elephants and rhinos in the county are alarming and required stiff penalties to the perpetrators.

Kiprono said the killing of the two endangered species for their valued tusks is an economic sabotage and punitive measures have to be meted on criminals involved in the vice.

“The only way to protect these endangered species — elephants and rhinos is to send poachers to complete their remaining years of their life in prison. This will deter others from engaging in poaching,” said Kiprono in Kiale when he met with local security agencies to map out strategies to tame poaching of elephants at Nasolot Game Reserve. Kenya is enacting a bill that will show poachers fined between 120,000 US dollars and nearly 200,000 dollars.

“The pending bill will allow a poacher fined up to $200,000 dollars is not stiff punishment for economic saboteurs such as poachers. We are pushing for a life imprisonment,” said Kiprono.

The officials said the organization is receiving overwhelming support from stakeholders in the tourism sector to come up with stiff penalties to poachers.

Xinhua

Tourists enjoy the coolness at the No 1 bathing beach in Qingdao City, east China’s Shandong Province, on 5 Aug, 2013. As the searching weather continues in recent days, tourists and citizens swarm into bathing beaches in Qingdao.—Xinhua
NATIONAL

Public satisfaction high on the agenda:
Union SWRR Minister

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presents cash and kind to a victim.

World Breastfeeding Week 2013 activities marked

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung delivers opening speech at the ceremony.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee meets D-G of IRD

NATIONAL

Ensure nationwide ceasefire through common aspiration

A common aspiration wins everything sooner or later. A group or an organization with common aspirations is able to complete its mission sooner. Common aspiration is strength and unity is prosperity.

It is armed conflicts which have been in existence in the country for over 60 years as a chronic disease. With coordination and cooperation between the government and national race armed groups through a peace dialogue, there will soon be a nationwide ceasefire coupled with stability and peace.

Even major wars that had erupted globally could be put to an end through a dialogue. Conflicts are usually triggered by different ideological concepts. When differences could be put into common perception, wars would end and peace would prevail.

Likewise, as armed conflicts in the nation could be brought to an end through peace talks, a nationwide ceasefire will follow very soon. All citizens were overcome with joys over the peace process while international community was in support of Myanmar’s democratization.

President U Thein Sein had already mentioned that the new government offered peace to national race armed groups in August 2011. Accordingly, the Union Peace-making Work Committee held a series of peace talks with ethnic armed groups. As a result, altogether 13 ethnic armed groups had entered ceasefire agreements with the government, and the agreement signed between the KIO and government in Myitkyina in May had brought almost conflicts to an end in Kachin State.

This has stood as evidence that peace is highly regarded by not only the government but national race armed groups and the people. Peace means everything to all the national brethren. As a common aspiration could overcome any difficulties we firmly believe that our peace-making process will soon meet with success. And the wishes of national brethren will surely be fulfilled.

Relief aid for flood victims in Myawady

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Aug — In her address in meeting with officers and staff from departments and training schools at San Thida Hall in Myitkyina of Kachin State on 3 August, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin stressed the importance of winning public satisfaction while carrying out public services in accord with new era and new system.

Next, the Union minister visited Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts, Vocational Training School, Office of the head of Kachin State Relief and Resettlement Department and warehouse.

On 4 August morning, the Union minister together with Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Nga Hsai attended the cash assistance presentation ceremony in Myitkyina, Bhamo, Mohynin and Putao Districts at the Town Hall in Myitkyina and handed over K$1.357 million to youth centres, self-reliant primary schools and Homes for the Aged. At the ceremony to provide internally displaced persons in Kachin State with cash and kind, the Union minister said that K$1.85 million worth of foodstuff, clothing and medicines and US$500, out of cash donations of wellwishers, would be presented to victims.

Then, the Union minister, the chief minister, the state minister for social affairs, the director-general and a responsible person of Arche Nova presented cash and kind for victims through responsible persons.

Afterwards, the Union minister accompanied by UN agencies, INGOs and peace groups proceeded to a relief camp at Jan Maung Kaung relief corp in Myitkyina where they comforted victims and presented foodstuff and school uniforms to them.

At Maung Na relief camp and Thagara monastic education school relief camp in Wainmgaw, U Aung Zaw Myint and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family presented cash and kind for victims.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Aug — Labour Attaché of Myanmar Embassy in Thailand Deputy Director U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin handed over 250,875 bath worth of blankets, mosquito nets and various kinds of clothes donated by families of Myanmar Embassy and Labour Attaché for flood victims in Myawady in Kayin State to U Aung Moe Khaing, in charge of passport issuing office of Labour Department in Myawady, and party at Myawady Friendship Bridge yesterday.

Plans are underway to deliver the relief supplies to flood victims, it is learnt.

Myawady

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Aug — Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee U Aung Thaung and party met with the director-general of the Internal Revenue Department, officials and three advocates at the Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Hall (I-7), here, yesterday afternoon.

They discussed matters related to stamp duty of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of the Committee U Win Myint and members and Advocates-General U Ko Ni, U Hla Tun and U Maung Maung Soe.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Aug — Ceremony to launch Breastfeeding Week 2013 and Nutrition Week in Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWYA) was held at the meeting hall of MMCWA, Dekkhinathiri Township here this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung delivered an opening speech and presented iodated salts, vitamins and pieces of clothes to expectant mothers.

After that, MMCWA President Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung delivered an address. Officials from the Health Department gave talks on nutrition. Then, vitamin A pills were fed to the children under five.

It was also attended by Vice-Presidents Daw Khin Than Win and Daw Thet Thet Swe, CEC members, officials from the Ministry of Health, representatives from UN agencies, patrons of the Ministerial associations, the Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson, Township MCWA and members, pregnant women and the mothers of the children under five.

MNA
**LOCAL NEWS**

**COMMUNITY-BASED TEAK PLANTATIONS ESTABLISHED IN MEIKTILA**

Meiktila, 6 Aug—Community-based forest plantations were established in Mindegon and Talingon villages in Kaphyu village-tract in Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region for setting-up of rural holdings. The teak saplings were distributed by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry to the households in the villages for establishment of rural plantations. A total of 800 teak saplings were distributed by Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U Tun Aung Lin and officials were planted in Mindegon and Talingon villages. “The teak plantation could contribute to greening of the area and generate income for development of the village,” U Thein Win of Mindegon village said. MMAL-District (IPRD)

**MYANMAR WUSHU TEAM LEAVES FOR MANILA**

Yangon, 6 Aug—Myanmar Wushu team left here yesterday for Manila to participate in the seventh Asian Youth Wushu championship on 5-12 August. Assistant Director of Sports and Physical Education Department Secretary of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Tun Tun Oo led the team which is composed of 20 members as manager. The Wushu tournament will be participated by 30 countries in Asia. MMAL-Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

**FOUR-DISTRICT FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP KICKS OFF IN BAGO**

Bago, 6 Aug—Commander of Bago Region Police Force Cup four-district football championship kicked off in Okthar Stadium in Okthar Myothit in Bago on 3 August. Among the spectators were Deputy Commander of Region Police Force Police Lt-Col Zaw Khin Aung and police officers and teams from Bago, Toungoo, Thayawady and Pyay Districts.

Commander of Region Police Force Police Col Mya Win delivered an address at the ceremony and inspected the teams. Toungoo District team beat Bago District team 5-3 in the debut. MMAL-Than Zin

**EDUCATIVE TALK ON DRUG HELD IN NAWNGHKIO**

Nawnghkio, 6 Aug—An educative talk on drug was organized in Nawnghkio Township Hall on 30 July. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Saw Naung, Commander of Myoma Police Station Police Captain Myo Tint Khaing and In-charge of Kyaukmine Traffic Police Corps Police Inspector Soe Win gave talks on anti-narcotics and anti-human trafficking efforts.

It was also attended by Township Administrator U Moe Htet and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, and 350 attendance of local people.—MMAL-Soe Soe (Nawnghkio)

**TALKS ON TRAFFIC RULES GIVEN IN SITTWAY**

Sittway, 6 Aug—Traffic police in Sittway organized an educative talk on traffic rules at No (2) BEHS of Rakhine State on 2 August. Police officers of traffic police corps gave talks on traffic rules, causes of traffic accidents and traffic accidents in Rakhine State.

The event is aimed at disseminating traffic rules education to students and parents.—MMAL-Zaw Naing Tun (IPRD)

**SHWETAUNG TOWNSHIP GETS NEW TRANSFORMER**

Bago, 6 Aug—A new transformer is being put in place in Shwetaung Township in Pyay District for supply of more electricity to the township.

The installation is being carried out by electrical staff under the instruction of Township Electrical Engineer U Ye Yint Tun. The 4 KVA transformer is to supply more electricity to 101 houses in Kyunikani ward in Shwetaung. Township Administrator U Thet Zaw Oo, Region Hluttaw representatives, ward/village electrification committee members inspected the installation and provided necessary assistance.

Residents in the wards welcomed the move as they enjoy more electricity. Township (IPRD)

**27 HOTELS RESERVED FOR ATHLETES IN SEA GAMES**

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Aug—Hotels and Tourism Directorate has prepared 1595 suites of 27 hotels for sports teams to participate in the coming SEA Games, according to an official of the directorate.

Currently, Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone has 41 hotels with a total of 2640 hotel rooms. A total of 5940 athletes will participate in the event with 26 sports in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Myanmar will host the XXVII SEA Games for the first time in history in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and Ngwehsaung beach in coming December. The hotels under construction would be completed ahead of the games and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is providing hospitality courses to the staff of the hotels.

Under-construction hotels in Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are racing with time to complete ahead of the games, engineer U Han Thein of Myat Nan Yon Hotel Construction.

MMAL-Karan Kha

**NATIONAL SPORTS**

**SHAN STATE CHIEF MINISTER MEETS LOCAL PEOPLE, TRADERS IN MUSE**

Muse, 6 Aug—Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, accompanied by state peace-making committee members, met local people, members of traders associations, members of poverty reduction support groups, and departmental personnel at Muse-Namhkam traders association office on 30 July.

The Chief Minister called for cooperation of the people in development and peace efforts.

He said that peace is a prerequisite for development of the country and urged the local people to adapt their mindset to transition of the country.

Township administrators reported the chief minister on regional development and poverty alleviation tasks.

The State chief minister praised Muse as the trade gateway to China and the place where 70 percent of border trade took place.

He also called on merchants and departmental personnel to make preparation ahead of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

MMAL-District (IPRD)

**AGRICULTURE**

**TRACTORS EMPLOYED TO NATOGYI TO PLANT DAMAGED FARMS**

Natogyi, 6 Aug—Agricultural Mechanization Department reinforced 25 tractors to Natogyi in Myingyan District in Mandalay Region on 3 August to re-plant farmlands affected by flood.

A total of 5913 acres of farmlands were affected by the flood in Natogyi and crops were destroyed.

Township-level organizations will conduct field surveys and re-plant the farms damaged by the flood as soon as possible.

The department has sold seven medium-sized tractors and 15 power tillers in installment.—MMAL-Than Aung Zaw

**HRD**

**EDUCATIVE TALK ON DRUG HELD IN NAWNGHKIO**

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**DEVELOPMENT**

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**SAGAING, 6 Aug—** A literary talk organized by Kamlinlet social service association and free library established by the students from Sagaing University was held at the Dhammayon office in Shwegyin Township, Sagaing District, at the Dhammayon literary talk organized by members of Women’s District Level Extempore Talks, Debate, Poem and Tale Contest held in Katha

**KATHA, 6 Aug—** The District Level Extempore Talks, Debate, Poem and Tale Recitation Contest was held at Aung San Hall of Katha Basic Education High School No 1 on 1 August morning. District Education Officer Daw Hla Hla Myint made a speech. Secretary of the Organizing Committee U Myo Myint (Headmaster of BEHS in Gyotang) explained the rules of the competition. The extempore talks and debates were held at the hall in the morning. The poem and tale recitation followed in the afternoon. After the contest, the outstanding winners were selected for the district level stage.—Kyemon-Katha District (IPRD)

**Village library put into service in Thazi Township

**THAZI, 6 Aug—** A ceremony to open Pyinnya Padetha library, built by Save the Children and local people, was held in Hsinywa Model Village of Otwin Village-tract in Thazi Township of Meikhtila District on 4 August morning. Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Min Maung Hpa Hla Myint Hlaing, Village administrator U Wai Zin Aung and Save the Children officials presented prizes to the outstanding winners. After that, Project Officer U Aung Zaw Kyaw explained the mission and objectives of the Save the Children. Then, wellwishers donated cash and books to the library.

**Relief aid provided to victims of landslide

**KATHA, 6 Aug—** A ceremony to provide relief aid to families from landslide areas in Tonkyi Village-tract of Katha Township in Katha District near Ayeyawady River was held at the village on 2 August afternoon. It was attended by Administration U Aung Min Hlaik, local associations and township Support Committee.

**Township Support Committee finally constituted in Thanatpin

**THANATPIN, 6 Aug—** The election for members of the Thanatpin Township Support Committee in Bago Region was held at the hall in Thanatpin on 3 August afternoon. Township Administration U Min Aung Hlaik, local associations and township Support Committee elected seven representatives to the committee, duty and functions of the committee, elected the reliable persons.

**Illegale teak doors seized at Baydagonpoint Checkpoint

**THAYAWADDY, 6 Aug—** Illegale teak doors were seized at Baydagonpoint Checkpoint in Thayawaddy Township, Bago at about 2:30 pm on 3 August. While police from Thayawaddy Police Station and Staff Officer U Min Myint Thu of the township Forest Department were searching a car driven by Zaw Win, 35, of No. 54 in Kyunlaw street in Sanyang Township, Yangon Region in accompany with U Cho, 54, from the same ward, they found the illegal teak doors in the car. The teak doors were being temporarily kept at Thonze Police Station.

**A box curler is being built by Township Development Affairs Committee on 2nd Aunghtisna street in Ward 3 of Pyapon for proper flow of water spending K 720,000 for prevention of flood in rainy season.—Kyemon-540**
Syrian rebels capture military airport near Turkey

ASSAM, 6 Aug — Syrian rebels captured a major military airport near the border with Turkey on Thursday, consolidating their hold on a key supply route north of the city of Aleppo, opposition activists said.

The reported capture of the Minnig Military Airport, situated on the road between Aleppo and the Turkish city of Gaziantep, after an eight-month siege, marks an important symbolic victory for the opposition, following a string of defeats in President Bashar al-Assad’s forces in central Syria, the sources said.

“The airport has been fully liberated. The remnants of the Assad gangs are now being chased,” said a statement issued by nine brigades that took part in the operation, including the al-Qaeda-linked Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the hardline Islamist Tawhid Brigades.

Mohammad Nour, an activist with the Sham News Network, an opposition monitoring group, said the airport had mostly fallen to rebels in the last two months. He added that around 70 soldiers had been holding out in a small section containing the command headquarters, which was destroyed on Monday after a suicide bomber drove an armoured personnel carrier into the building.

“Most of the remaining defenders were killed in the suicide attack. The remainder fled on three tanks, one of which the rebels destroyed,” Nour said.

Assad’s forces tried last month to prevent the fall of the airport by launching an armoured offensive from Aleppo, backed by Hezbollah guerrillas based in the northern countryside, but they were turned back after the rebels received consignments of new weapons, including anti-tank missiles, the sources said.

Free Syrian Army fighters take cover near sandbags in Ashrafieh, Aleppo on 5 August, 2013.—Reuters

Storms cause power outage in Czech Republic

BRITAIN and France extend closures of Yemen embassies

PRAGUE, 6 Aug — Strong winds and storms have hit the Czech Republic, leaving some ten thousand homes without power, with the Central Bohemian the hardest hit, Czech national power company said on Monday.

The storms hit at first southern and western Bohemia on Sunday afternoon, moved to Moravia during the evening and night.

“The state of emergency was temporarily declared for the Central Bohemia and Pardubice regions,” Ladislav Kriz, spokesman of the CEZ, said.

The storms broke down 30 high voltage facilities in eastern Bohemia and 9

Video from Asiana crash rescue effort shows girl overlooked

San Francisco, 6 Aug — A video obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper shows that the supervisor directing the firefighting effort at an airport crash site was not told that a teenage girl was on the ground until after she was mistakenly run over and killed by a fire truck.

“The girl was seen by a camera mounting on the roof of the vehicle,” the paper said on Monday.

The video, which the Chronicle obtained from an undisclosed source, was taken from a camera mounted on the roof of a San Francisco Fire Department battalion chief and turned over to investigators who are probing the death of Ye Meng Yuan, a 16-year-old passenger who survived the initial crash-landing but later died on the runway.

The battalion chief who arrived at the crash scene and took charge was not immediately told that crash survivor Ye Meng Yuan was on the ground, leaving him powerless to prevent her death, the Chronicle reported. The newspaper did not post the video online but published still frames of the footage.

More than 180 people were injured in the crash of Asiana Flight 214 last month, which had 307 passengers aboard when it hit a seawall in front of the runway, lost its tail and caught fire after skidding to a halt.

Three passengers died.

Yuan’s family has retained an aviation attorney who is investigating claims against the City of San Francisco. Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White called the death a “tragic accident.”

Moments after the crash, two firefighters spotted a person on the ground curled up in fetal position, the Chronicle has reported. They maneuvered their vehicle around her and notified supervisors.

At that point, at least two other firefighters looked at the girl and mistakenly concluded she was dead, the Chronicle said. They then left Yuan to attend to other survivors.

However, fire department commanders then ordered another vehicle into the area to spray fire retardant foam.—Reuters

Passengers evacuate from Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 aircraft after a crash landing at San Francisco International Airport in San Francisco, California on 6 July. 2013 in this photo courtesy of passenger Eugene Anthony Ny Rs. Rah released to Reuters on 8 July, 2013. — Reuters

Colombia arrests 18 suspected major crime gang members

BOGOTA, 6 Aug — Colombian authorities over the weekend arrested 18 alleged members of a major criminal gang in operations in several cities throughout northwest Antioquia Department (State), the National Police said on Monday.

The members of the gang known as Los Ura-benos were arrested in different locations, including Macao, Vegachí, Yali, Zaragoza and Puerto Ber-río, all in Antioquia, the NP said in a statement.

The NP confirmed the 18 suspects were detained on charges of homicide, extortion and drug trafficking.

Among the arrested is a gang leader identified as Alirio Ravira Quinto, alias “Pedro,” and the criminal ring’s finance chief, Ignacio Andres Arroyo, alias “Cachetes,” according to the NP statement.—Xinhua

Co-crash victim Joanne Hayes-White called the girl, who was mistakenly run over and killed by a fire truck, “out of an abundance of caution.” Moments after the plane crash, two firefighters spotted the girl on the ground until after she was mistakenly run over and killed by a fire truck.

Police troopers secure a street leading to the British embassy in Sanaa on 5 August, 2013.—Reuters

Britain and France extend closures of Yemen embassies

SANA’A, 6 Aug — Britain and France extended the closure of their embassies in Yemen on Monday after a US warning of a possible militant attack in the region, and the Arab state said it was stepping up security at ports and airports.

Britain, which had said last week that it would close its embassy in Yemen on 4 and 5 August, said on Monday the mission would remain closed and reopen on Monday the mission would reopen on 4 and 5 August, said on Sunday, said the mission would reopen on Sunday.

The US State Depart-

ment said at the weekend that 19 US embassies and consulates in the Middle East and Africa would remain closed until Saturday “out of an abundance of caution”. It said several would have been closed anyway for most of the week due to the Eid Muslim celebra-
tions. It had initially closed 21 US diplomatic posts for the day on Sunday.

Yemen has also shut its embassies in Yemen and Saudi Arabia to the public and stopped up secu-

Strong winds have uprooted hundreds of trees and fallen trees have blocked a number of roads and over 20 rail tracks, causing delayed transport.

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

(Invitation for Open Tender)

(6/2013)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No | Tender No | Description | Qty | Remark |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
(1) | IFB -051(2013-2014) | 3.3 KV High Tension Auto Transformer (Type Motor Starter Complete Set) | (1) Set | US $ |
(2) | IFB -052(2013-2014) | Spares for Komatsu Dozer | (15) Items | US $ |
(4) | IFB -054(2013-2014) | 20” Factory Made Hot Bends | (8) Items | US $ |
(5) | IFB -055(2013-2014) | 10” Steel Ball Valves and Pipe Fittings | (1) Lot | US $ |
(9) | IFB -059(2013-2014) | Over Running Clutch for Geofco Rig | (2) Nos | US $ |
(11) | DMP/L-026(2013-2014) | 7:00 x 16 & 7:50 x 16 Tyres | (2) Items | Kyat |
(12) | DMP/L-027(2013-2014) | Electronic Cards for Mud Pump | (2) Items | Kyat |
(13) | DMP/L-028(2013-2014) | Insert Bowl For ZP-375 Rotary | (1) Pair | Kyat |

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) 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**

MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.P.I.L 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**

MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ANNARWON MOR LOGISTICS & GENERAL SERVICES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV BANG SAOTONG VOY NO (155)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG SAOTONG VOY NO (155) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.8.2013 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**

MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV TRUONG MINH STAR VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRUONG MINH STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) 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**

MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S TRUONG MINH INT'L JOINT STOCK CO

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**TRADEMARC CAUTION NOTICE**

**T.C. Pharmaceutical Industries Co., Ltd.**

A company organized under the laws of Thailand and carrying on business as and having its principal office at 288 Ekachai Road, Bangkok Sub-District, Bangkok District, Bangkok 10150, Thailand is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark:-

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Used in respect of: Tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, artificial coffee; flour and preparations made from cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery items; honey, treacle, yeast, baking-powder; salt, mustard, vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice; salad dressings.

-- Maritime officials said Malaysia to stop search for shipwreck victims, seven confirmed dead

Kuala Lumpur, 6 Aug — Malaysian maritime officials said on Monday that they would end the search operations for more than 30 Indonesians missing in Malaysian waters as there is little chance to find any survivors. Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) official Amran Daud was quoted by the state news agency Bernama as saying that the local rescue centre made the decision after “analysing various aspects, including that the air monitoring got no new signs that the remaining victims could be found in safe situations.”

The boat carrying some 44 Indonesian nationals, believed to be illegal immigrants, sank off Malaysia’s southern Johor state on the way to Indonesia’s Batam Island on Thursday evening after being hit by strong waves. The victims were heading home for the upcoming Eid al-Fitr celebration at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Only four passengers were rescued by local fishermen and maritime officers Friday after drifting more than 10 hours at sea. Amran said the rescue efforts which involved 130 rescuers had failed to find any survivors since Saturday. By Monday afternoon, seven bodies were found, he said.

Boat accidents are not rare in the southern Malaysian waters as many Indonesian illegal workers and their families commute between the two countries. At least one was killed and several went missing after a boat overturned in the area in July. —Xinhua
Lindsay Lohan bans alcohol at home

LOS ANGELES, 6 Aug—Actress Lindsay Lohan seems so determined to cut out alcohol from her life that she has reportedly asked everyone to remove bottles from where ever she goes.

Shah Rukh Khan: Acting is the most difficult thing to do even after 20 years

GURUWAR, 6 Aug—Superstar Shah Rukh Khan feels that the kind of roles he portrays onscreen, be it an action hero or a hopeless romantic, needs a strong conviction to impress his fans.

Victoria Beckham, Mel C plan Spice Girls get together

LONDON, 6 Aug—Former Spice girls — Melanie Chisholm aka Mel C and Victoria Beckham are planning to meet their other bandmates and party together.

Nicole Scherzinger broke up with her boyfriend last month

LOS ANGELES, 6 Aug—X Factor judge Nicole Scherzinger is still in love with ex-boyfriend Lewis Hamilton, according to their common friend Jahmene Douglas.

The Spice Girls took an indefinite break in 2008 and performed for the last time at the 2012 Olympics Closing ceremony.
**SPORTS**

**MADRID, 6 Aug—Cristiano Ronaldo spiced up the forthcoming friendly between Real Madrid and Chelsea when he took a swipe at his former boss Jose Mourinho, who moved from the Bernabeu to Stamford Bridge in June.**

The Portuguese former World Player of the Year was responding to comments Mourinho made in an interview over the weekend, taken as a slight towards the forward in the Spanish media.

Mourinho said that aged 30, he had trained ‘the true Ronaldo, not the other one, Ronaldo the Brazilian’ in his time as assistant at Barcelona.

“Some things in life are not worth commenting on and this is one more for obvious reasons,” Ronaldo told a news conference in Los Angeles, where Real are on a pre-season promotional tour.

“I prefer to remember the good things from coach-es. I don’t spit on the plate from which I eat and I don’t speak about people who say bad things about me.”

“We are going to face Chelsea, not their coach. It is another warm-up game and we hope to win it so we can start La Liga in the best manner possible.”

Real have won all their pre-season warm up games to date under new coach Carlo Ancelotti and take on Chelsea on Wednesday, with Ronaldo having played in a newer more advanced striker role on the pitch.

“The coach has different strategies and different positions for everyone,” the 28-year-old said.

“It is good for me to try and play in different posi-tions and I am comfortable with it. We’ll see where I end up playing during the season.”

Two of the hottest tops-ics surrounding Real in the run up to the start of the new campaign are the club’s multi-million euro interest in signing Totten-ham Hotspur’s Gareth Bale and talks over a contract ex-tension for Ronaldo.

“It’s not my place to talk about new players,” Ronaldo said when asked about Bale, who according to media reports could eclipse Ronaldo’s world record transfer fee of $125 million if the move went ahead.

“‘It’s not my place ei-ther to talk about the num-
bers that are being men-tioned for his transfer. I have my opinion but I am not going to say in front of the cameras.’”

Real president Floren-tino Perez has said he wants Ronaldo to retire at the Ber-
nabeu, but there appears to be little progress towards extending his current deal which runs until 2015.

“I am happy here and all I want to do is train and prepare well,” Ronaldo said. “The contract renewal hasn’t been resolved yet, but I shouldn’t talk about it because it isn’t the right moment.”—Reuters

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**Wednesday, 7 August, 2013**

**Sloane Stephens of the U.S. hits a ball during practice at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto, on 5 August, 2013.—Reuters**

**SPORTS**

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**Vinci, Stephens get through in Toronto**

**Toronto, 6 Aug—Serena Williams has already achieved her stated goal of winning a second French Open title this year but the top-ranked American is still not satisfied with her season despite having more fun than ever on tour.**

Six other titles have been won this year by the 31-year-old but compa-triot Sloane Stephens upset her in the semi-finals of the Australian Open and Sabine Lisicki stunned her in the fourth round of Wimbledon.

“You know I’m not there yet with the way my year has gone,” Williams told a small group of report-ers on Monday at the Rog-ers Cup where she is the top seed. “Everybody is like ‘You’ve had a good year and I’m like, who?’”

Williams said she is not satisfied unless she wins every big tournament that she enters, particularly the slams which account for 15 of her 53 career titles — a signifi-cant percentage.

“That’s me,” she said. “I work really hard to do the best, especially in grand slams.” This season, how-ever, her form on non-grand slam events has been daz-zling, proof that she is as beautiful is the small tour-na-ments that make you as a player and make you win the grand slams.”—Reuters

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**Serena having fun, but still not satisfied**

**Toronto, 6 Aug—**

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Williams said she is not satisfied unless she wins every big tournament that she enters, particularly the slams which account for 15 of her 53 career titles — a significant percentage.

“That’s me,” she said. “I work really hard to do the best, especially in grand slams.” This season, however, her form on non-grand slam events has been dazzling, proof that she is as beautiful as ever. From 2005-2010, seven of Williams 12 titles came at the grand slams. Since the start of 2011 only three of her 16 crowns came at the majors.

“It’s more or less even-ting, but I am okay just winning grand slams,” she said. “What makes tennis beautiful is the small tour-na-ments that make you as a player and make you win the grand slams.”—Reuters

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**United reject second Chelsea bid for Rooney**

**London, 6 Aug—**

Manchester United have re-jected a second offer from rivals Chelsea for unsettled forward Wayne Rooney, the Premier League champions said on Monday.

The Europa League winners tabled an improved bid for Rooney, having had an initial cash offer rebuffed last month. “A bid was re-ceived yesterday and imme-diately rejected,” a United spokesperson told the BBC.

“Manchester United, and our position remains that he is not for sale.”

Rooney left United’s recent pre-season tour of the Far East due to a hamm-string injury, hours after ar-riving in Bangkok.

The England striker has also now been ruled of Tuesday’s pre-season friendly at AIK Stockholm because of a shoulder prob-lem he picked up in a be-hind-closed-doors match at the weekend.

According to recent media reports, Rooney has been ‘angry and confused’ with his situation at United after comments from new manager David Moyes that suggested he was a backup in attack to Robin van Per-sie. The former Everton player has been the subject of transfer speculation since retired manager Alex Fer-guson said at the end of last season that the 27-year-old had asked to leave the club.

Rooney joined United for 27 million pounds in August 2004 and has made 402 appearances for the club, scoring 197 goals and winning five league titles and the Champions League. He has two years left on a contract that, according to media reports, earns him a basic salary of 250,000 pounds a week.—Reuters
Colombian president confident of peace deal with FARC

BOGOTA, 6 Aug—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Monday said he was confident peace talks between his government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group will lead to a peace deal before he has to decide whether he is going to run for reelection in May next year.

“Ideally, we will have finished these negotiations before I have to decide whether I am going to run for reelection or not,” Santos told reporters. “Let’s see if we succeed in getting a peace deal before he has to decide whether he is going to run for reelection or not.”

And the two sides have some nice momentum building.

The two sides have some nice momentum building.

Santos repeated his ad- ministration’s stance against entering into a cease-fire with the rebels while negotiations continue in Havana, Cuba, opting to maintain military pressure on the insurgents.

“For the most important is that the balance of power is in our favour and it would mean handing the rebels an unnecessary advantage,” said Santos, adding it would “give them the best of both worlds, armed and political.” Santos said that he continues to be “optimistic about the peace process aimed at ending five decades of armed conflict.”

“If they don’t make peace now, they will have missed the train for forever. A peace process some other year will be very difficult, because the rebels are getting old, their ideology is waning. The time is now, it’s now or never,” said Santos.

Santos said the peace talks, which the government wants to wrap up by the end of the year, “are going well and with the usual ups and downs.”

Santos said earlier that the peace process, which began in November, “is a real opportunity” to end the long-running conflict and mark a change in the country’s history.—Xinhua

Woods the favourite at Oak Hill after Firestone win

ROCHESTER, (New York), 6 Aug—The PGA Championship has often been the most unpredictable of all four majors but this week, at Oak Hill Country Club, Tiger Woods will start out as a heavy favourite after coating his 79th PGA Tour victory on Sunday.

Though the American world number one has not claimed a major title since his remarkable playoff vic- tory at the 2008 US. Open, his runaway triumph at Firestone Country Club on Sunday suggested that every component of his game is in top order.

Granted, Woods was competing at one of his fa- vorite venues but, by firing a brilliant nine-under-par 61 on Friday, he distanced him- self from an elite field before romping home by seven shots to win the event for a record eighth time.

It was his fifth PGA Tour victory of the year and the 10th time he has piled up as many wins in a single season.

“Any time you can go into a major tournament, or any tournament, with a win under your belt it’s nice,” Woods told reporters at Firestone. “It validates what you’re working on and you have some nice momentum going in there.”

While Woods was a dominant figure at Firestone, with the quality of his iron play particularly impressive, he will once again come un- der the spotlight after failing to add to his career tally of 14 majors over the past five years.

He has often played his way into contention over the first two rounds only for his game to fade over the week- end with his driving and putting the main contributors.

Has his title drought sharpened his appetite to win more as he strives to get closer to the rec- ord 18 piled up by his childhood idol Jack Nicklaus?

“No, it’s the same,” said Woods, a four-times winner of the PGA Championship. “Those are the events that we try and peak for and try and win.”

“There’s four of them a year and each and every maj- or, I always want them. I’ve been successful 14 times and hopefully (Oak Hill) will be 15.”

Woods has been in- stalled as the tournament fa- vorite at 7-2 by British book- makers William Hill.

However, unpredictabil- ity has been the predominant theme going into all the ma- jors in recent years and this week’s PGA Championship paired East Coast at Oak Hill in Rochester, New York, is no exception.

Eighteen different play- ers have combined to win the last 20 majors and that trend could continue with players such as Englishmen Luke Donald and Lee Westwood and Americans Matt Kuchar and Brandt Snedeker aiming for their first grand-slam crowns.

In general, golfers and fields are getting closer,” said former world number one Donald who has recorded eight top-10s in the majors, including a tie for third at the 2006 PGA Championship.

“It’s becoming tougher to win these days. There’s a lot of great talent out there and technology has probably brought golfers a little bit closer. It’s all about finding that right time when it (win- ning a major) happens.”

Oak Hill’s heavily treed and thick, as long and thick of rough as I’ve seen in a long time,” said British Open champion Phil Mick- elson who played a practice round at Oak Hill a week ago.

Reuters
MPs call for amending law and rules of Myanmar’s Mining Law

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—MPs have urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to form a team comprising personnel from Ministry of Mines, Myanmar Mining Federation, mining entrepreneurs and experts to rewrite law and rules of the Mining Law to improve the mining sector.

U Maung Ko, the representative from Pyigyidaw Constituency, has also suggested Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the new law and rules as soon as possible if the new law and rules can serve the interests of the country and the people.

Speaking during a discussion during a reading session on “Federal” on the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung said the ministry has signed the profit-sharing agreements with private business firms in accordance with the rule and regulations of the Myanmar Mining Law.

With the assistance of mining entrepreneurs, experts and Aus-Aid World Bank, the amended law has been sent to the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union to review. People have generally assumed that respective Union and plans are underway to form a team to rewrite the law and rules of the law, he added.

To write the new law and rules, the suggestions of the Public Account Joint Committee would be taken into account, he said.

During the discussion, Auditor-General of the Union U Thein Htike said that he assumed that paragraphs 38, 40, 41, 44, 45 and 46 of the report of the Public Account Joint Committee are inaccurate and not correct.

That Mining Law may be amended after being reviewed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. People have generally assumed that respective Union and plans are must issue the bylaws. That assumption is totally wrong. The Section 97 (a) states that when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacts a law, it may authorize the Public Account Joint Committee to issue rules, regulations and by-laws concerning that law to any Union-level organization formed under the Constitution, Who will authorize it?

It needs to remember that the enactment of law can be carried out only when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw authorizes to issue those rules, regulations and by-laws. That’s why, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw may issue laws, rules and notifications again.

Union A&I Minister inspects thriving crops plantation under irrigation system in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected supply of water to a 900-acre irrigated farmland in Ottarathiri Township, here, from Setseyo diversion weir which is filled water to the brim and called for effective utilization of irrigation water this morning.

Next, the Union minister together with Representative of KOICA Dr. Shin Man Shik (KOICA Headquarters) observed thriving crop plantations. On their arrival at a research farmland, which have been put under Korean quality paddy strain, irrigated by Ngalike dam, the Union minister and party viewed round the thriving plantation and held discussion on bilateral cooperation in paddy research development.

Next, the Union minister oversaw a 40-acre groundnut plantation of Alliance Star Co., Ltd and the first batch of combine harvesters and power tillers, the second batch of farm equipment, tractors, mini backhoes and excavators that arrived here following the cooperation between Alliance Star Company of ROK and Kukje Company of the ROK and held discussions on the farm machinery that will arrive in third batch.

Then, the Union minister and party observed the harvest of summer paddy with the use of combine harvesters at a 440-acre paddy plantation in Ahlyinlo village in Pyinmana Township. The Representative of KOICA presented foodstuff to farmers as gift.

“National Races’ Rights Protection Bill” clarified

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—Clarification on the “National Races’ Rights Protection Bill” and paper reading session “Federal” was held at Thabin Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint formally delivered speeches on the occasion.

After that, Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U T Khun Myat explained the preparations for National Races’ Rights Protection Bill.

Nay Pyi Taw:

Foodstuffs, personal goods to flood victims

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—Due to heavy rains, some villages were flooded in Kyonkoe Sub-Township of Kayin State.

Flood victims have been evacuated to relief camps at Basic Education Primary School, Dhamma Thukha Monastery and BEHS in Kyungalay Village.

Yesterday afternoon, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win and officials comforted the flood victims at the relief camps and presented foodstuff and personal goods to them.

Lashio-Hsenwi motor road flooded

LASHIO, 6 Aug—About 100-foot long section of Lashio-Hsenwi Road AT bridge was under 2 feet of water due to heavy rains in the flooded Nathnyaw Creek in Shan State yesterday.

Tamadawmen from the local battalion, Myanmar Police Force, militia and departmental organizations took measures for public safety.

At 10 am today, transportation returned to normalcy as flood water receded.

—Myanmy