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Byline and photo: Maung Swe Nyein

### Tachilek-Taunggyi overnight trip

It has been long that I do not go to Tachilek, Kengtung and Taunggyi by car. In the olden days, people had to take too much time to go there due to poor transport. Recently I heard news that Taunggyi can be easily accessible by one-night trip with the emergence of better roads. I have decided to go there by car even though there might be landslides in Sand Mountain.

Tachilek sees progress of transport sector in the time of government’s reform processes. On 2 August, I left Tachilek by Loikhamkhone bus line at noon. By accident, I met Chairmar of Loikhamkhone bus line Daw Nan Than Than Htwe and two passengers from Tachilek who never use this way by car. I arrived at about 3 pm in Kengtung. Upphill road started at the end of Pankyu village.

“I’ve heard that this road is very bad. But now the road is smooth,” one passenger said. After many minutes drive, we reached the top of the mountain. “It is Yinkwe mountain. Why it is named Yinkwe mountain is that the road is constructed by separating the heart of the mountain,” Daw Nan Than Than Htwe said.

Driver U Tun Aung said, “After Yinkwe mountain, we will meet Sand Mountain. In the rainy season, there usually occur road block due to sand slide. Authorities concerned clear the blockages. After Sand Mountain, we have to pass through Sabei Mountain, Koegway uphill and Mongpyin Mountain. Then, we stopped at Sinmaung overnight. We left Sinmaung at 6 am and arrived at Taunggyi by 5 pm. People can go to Taunggyi from Tachilek overnight. ****

Kyemon (9-8-2013) Trs: MT
Monsoon football tourney commences in Sagaing

SAGAING, 10 Aug—With the assistance of Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint, the Shwe Zeyar (Cup) monsoon football tournament kicked off at the sports ground in Sagaing District Sports and Physical Education Department on 15 July afternoon.

Diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane conveyed to temporary prayer hall

YANGON, 10 Aug—Diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane have been maintained in offering gold foils and gold plates at the Aungbawdi Pagoda in Ward 20 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon Region.

On 7 August morning, the ceremony to convey the diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane to the temporary prayer hall was held at the precinct of the pagoda.

Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Agga Maha Thiri Thadhamma-Jotadhara Channyaw Sitagu U Naing Oo (Miba Yeik) and members, the Township Administrator, wellwisher U Aung Kyaw Kyaw (DII & Nito Fashion) and members of religious association conveyed the diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane round the pagoda and then into the temporary prayer hall.

Members of the Sangha conveyed the objects and kept them in the prayer hall.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the fund of the pagoda may contact 01-591409 of the pagoda board of trustees and 09-73062000 of the head office of the pagoda.

Crime

Vandals of Wunna Theikdi Stadium under interrogation

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Spectators of both sides vandalized seats at Wunna Theikdi Stadium at the match between Nay Pyi Taw FC and Yangon United FC on 7 August.


Those vandals are now under interrogation for the case.

Region Hluttaw representatives observe breeding farms in Patheingyi Township

MANDALAY, 10 Aug—Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Thein, Deputy Speaker of the region U Aung Htay Kyaw together with Region Hluttaw representatives, Director of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Yan Naing Soe, Chairman of Region Livestock Breeding Federation U Win Myint and Chairman of Region Fisheries Federation U Myat Htu and officials observed Thalun milch cows and oxen breeding farm in Kangyi Village of Patheingyi Township on 4 August.

Vice-Chairman of Thalun Livestock Breeding Co Ltd Dr Aung Khang Than briefed them on breeding of milch cows and oxen. The Hluttaw representatives visited the breeding farm.

The breeding farm of the company is being run in Kangyi Village of Patheingyi Township temporarily, and it plans to move its farm at No 681 farm of Padang Village-tract in Natogyi Township under the arrangement of Mandalay Region Government.

Next, the region minister and party visited the integrated farm of Daw San San Myint in Patheingyi Township, Yinmyaw Lake fish breeding farm of model fresh water fish and pig breeding and aquafeed production company, east of Madaya-Mogok Road in Yenanth Village of Madaya Township, layer farm of U Aik Hmuu and broiler farm of U Hsan Tun in Taunggyone Village in Madaya Township, and December milch cow breeding farm beside PyinOoLwin-2 Laslho Road in PyinOoLwin Township.

The farm owners explained progress of their works.

Livestock Breeding

Crime

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A private car Toyota Mark II driven from Insein Market and a taxi Hyundai from Pauktaw traffic light headed on in collision in front of the Insein Jail in Zaygon West Ward of Insein Township on 6 August. KYEMON-686

Paungde Buddha tooth relic conveyance to commence soon

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—The 113th anniversary Puja of sacred Buddha tooth relic is held in Paungde of Pyay District in Bago Region yearly.

The processing of the sacred Buddha relic will be held from 16 to 20 September. The tooth relic was conveyed from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 125 ME. It is being kept in Paungde for public obesiance for 116 years. The tooth relic is being conveyed on a grand scale in the town for 113 years.

At 4 pm on 16 September, the conveyance of sacred tooth relic will start from the Gandakuti chamber onto the golden throne of temporary prayer hall.

The conveyance of the sacred tooth relic will use 30 bullock carts and religious ceremonial decorations while religious associations and youths are reciting the religious verses.

The sacred Buddha tooth relic will be kept for public obesiance from 8 am to 10 pm on 18 September. During the Buddha Pujaianiya festival, three theatrical drama troupes will perform entertainments to the pilgrims and local people.

Mar Mar Soe (Kyemon)
US President Barack Obama speaks during a news conference at the White House in Washington DC on 9 Aug, 2013. Obama on Friday pledged measures to strengthen oversight and transparency of the National Security Agency (NSA)’s classified surveillance programme following two months of controversies.

WASHINGTON, 10 Aug —US President Barack Obama on Friday pledged measures to strengthen oversight and transparency of the National Security Agency (NSA)’s classified surveillance programmes following two months of controversies.

It’s not enough for me as president to have confidence in these programmes. The American people need to have confidence in them as well,” said Obama at a White House Press conference. He unveiled four measures as part of the efforts to stem the controversies over the surveillance programmes, which have been secretly conducted for years and revealed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden in June.

“But given the scale of this programme, I understand the concerns of those who would worry that it could be subject to abuse,” said Obama. The president said that he would work with Congress to pursue “appropriate reforms” to Section 215 of the Patriot Act, which allows the government to collect phone call records. He will also work with the lawmakers to “improve the public’s confidence in the oversight” of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), which grants government agencies the warrants to sweep data from individuals and companies.

The president also vowed to make public more information about the surveillance programmes, and to form a high-level group of outside experts to review the “entire intelligence and communications technologies.” “We can take steps to put in place greater oversight, greater transparency, and constraints on the use of this authority,” he stressed.

Obama’s move came ahead of his week-long vacation and after months of fierce controversies over the NSA programmes since Snowden’s leak. —Xinhua

Two of Five missing in Akita torrential rain confirmed dead

AKITA, (Japan), 10 Aug —Two of five people missing in torrential rain that has hit northern Japan were on Saturday found in critical condition and later confirmed dead, local police said.

The two men — Kazuo Hagawa, 61, and Minoru Hanegawa, 58 — were in a state of cardio-respiratory arrest when they were found, according to the police. The police are searching for the other three.

The five were missing after eight houses were destroyed by a mudflow in Senboku, Akita Prefecture, which also left a 62-year-old woman in critical condition and two other women injured.

By Friday night, Senboku had seen a record 88.0 millimetres of rain per hour, with more than 270 mm of rain falling since the morning, topping the average monthly rainfall for August. In neighbouring Iwate Prefecture, a 91-year-old woman was found dead after being buried in a mudslide in Hanamaki, while a 62-year-old man died after being swept away by a swollen river in Nishiwaga.

US eyes resumption of Osprey transport to Okinawa next week

TOKYO, 10 Aug —The US military has informed the Japanese government of its plan to resume moving Osprey aircraft to Okinawa next week after suspending shipment due to a fatal crash of a US Air Force helicopter, a government source said on Friday.

Ten Ospreys are to be transported from Iwakuni, western Japan, to the Futenma Air Station in Okinawa, where they will join two others already shipped earlier this month.

The 12 tilt-rotor aircraft are the second batch to be deployed in Japan following the arrival of the first dozen last summer. Transport of the planes was suspended after the crash of an HH-60 rescue helicopter on Monday at the US Marine Corps’ Camp Hansen in Okinawa, southwestern Japan.

The US military wants to resume the transport as early as Monday, the source said.

But the resumption could be delayed amid local opposition to the Osprey deployment because of the aircraft’s mixed safety record overseas.

WASHINGTON, 10 Aug —US and Russian officials agreed on Friday on the need to convene a long-delayed Syrian peace conference in Geneva as soon as possible, but they offered no concrete plan to bring the warring government and rebels to the table.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters after five hours of political and security meetings in Washington that officials from the two countries will meet again by the end of the month to prepare for the Syria talks.

He said much of his meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry was devoted to Syria and both men agreed they needed to convene a so-called Geneva 2 conference “as soon as possible.”

Asked whether this conference would in fact ever happen, Lavrov said that Russia already had won the agreement of its ally the Syrian government to send a delegation to Geneva without any preconditions.

“John Kerry assured me that the opposition would be persuaded to come to Geneva without any preconditions on the basis of reaching agreement with the government,” said Lavrov.

A US official briefing reporters after the talks, which also included Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu, said Washington was working closely with the Syrian opposition but the onus was on Damascus.

“The test is not whether the Syrian government will come to Geneva,” the US official said. “The test is whether the Syrian government will come to Geneva prepared to negotiate the transition of full executive powers to a transitional governing body.”

Moscow and Washington have been trying since May to organize an international peace conference to bring an end to the violence in Syria that has killed some 100,000 people in two years.

US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov confer during a press briefing at the State Department in Washington before a day of talks on 9 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

US to reopen 18 of 19 foreign posts closed amid security concerns

WASHINGTON, 10 Aug —Eighteen of the 19 US embassies and consulates closed this month due to worries about potential terrorist attacks will reopen on Sunday, the US State Department said on Friday.

“Our embassy in Damascus, Yemen, will remain closed because of ongoing concerns about a threat stream indicating the potential for terrorist attacks emanating from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula,” State Department spokes-

woman Jen Psaki said.

The United States will also keep its consulate in Lahore, Pakistan, shuttered, Psaki said, adding it closed on Thursday due to a “separate credible threat.”

The United States shut about 20 of its embassies and consulates in the Middle East and Africa on Sunday after saying it had picked up information through surveillance and other means about unspecified terrorist threats.

US, Russia agree to prepare for Syria peace talks

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photo from a Kyodo News airplane shows a residential area struck by a mudslide in Senboku, Akita Prefecture, on 9 Aug, 2013, after heavy rain hit areas of northeastern Japan. —Kyodo News
Shenyang, 10 Aug — The newly discovered fossil of a “proto-mammal” unearthed in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has shed light on the evolution of the world’s earliest mammals.

Scientists believe that the well-preserved fossil of the Megacodus mammaliiformis, an herbivore with hair and fur that lived during the Jurassic era about 165 million years ago, was about 30 cm long and weighed an estimated 250 grams.

Zhou Changfu, a scientist with the Paleontology Museum of Liaoning and Shenyang Normal University, led the research program with scientists from the University of Bonn and the University of Chicago. Zhou said in an interview with Xinhua on Thursday that the rare evidence of the animal’s fur proves that it was an Inner mammal, but it is still unknown whether it had a brood pouch that enabled it to bear a newborn cub or if it had a brood pouch.

The earliest mammaliform groups are long-extinct relatives of modern mammals that coexisted with feathered dinosaurs in the Jurassic era. Prior to the discovery of the fossil, no complete fossils of the earliest mammals had ever been discovered, said the scientist. He added that the lower jaw, thoracic vertebra, lumbar vertebra and ankle joint all suggest that it had evolved from reptile to proto-mammal, Zhou said.

The fossil was unearthed from the Daohugou Biozone in Ningcheng County of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, where scientists have also unearthed other fossils of early mammals such as the Jurassic beaver, which, however, appeared after the Megacodon mammaliiformis. An article on the discovery was published in the 8 August issue of Nature.

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The earliest mammaliform groups are long-extinct relatives of modern mammals that coexist...
Sources say BlackBerry open to going private

NEW YORK, 10 Aug — BlackBerry Ltd is warming up to the possibility of going private, as the smartphone maker battles to revive its fortunes, several sources familiar with the situation said. Chief Executive Thorsten Heins and the company’s board is increasingly coming around to the idea that taking BlackBerry private would give them breathing room to fix its problems out of the public eye, the sources said. “There is a change of tone on the board,” one of the sources said on Thursday. No deal is imminent, however, and BlackBerry has not launched any kind of a sale process, the sources said. Even if it tried, BlackBerry could find it hard to come up with a buyer and the funding to go private. With the company still posting losses and bleeding subscribers, private equity firms and other buyers may not want to step up. The company’s shares have fallen more than 19 percent this year. Its market value has fallen to $4.8 billion, from $84 billion at its peak in 2008. BlackBerry, which had been pinning its hopes for a turnaround on its new line of BlackBerry 10 devices, declined to comment. The sources declined to be named because these discussions are private. BlackBerry’s openness to considering a deal marks a radical shift in thinking at the once high-flying smartphone maker.

Until recently, BlackBerry, formerly known as Research in Motion and a pioneer in providing secured emails on handheld devices, had been bent on staying independent, betting its turnaround on its latest smartphones.—Reuters

Mailings may up colon cancer screening rates in underserved

SAN DIEGO, 10 Aug — Reminding uninsured people to get screened for colon cancer by sending them letters and calling them at home increases testing rates compared to asking them at doctors’ offices, says a new study.

Researchers found uninsured people in one Texas community were twice as likely to be screened if they were offered a colonoscopy free of charge by mail and over the phone. The same people were three times more likely to opt for screening when they were offered a stool test that needs no preparation and can be done at home, compared to those who received standard treatment.

“Clearly the outreach worked and it was a lot better than usual care, but we did see a significant difference in whether we offered colonoscopy or the (fecal immunochemical test),” said Dr Samir Gupta, the study’s lead author from the University of California, San Diego.

Colon and rectal cancers are the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Approximately 52,000 people died from the cancers in 2009. Screening rates for colon cancer have increased over the past few years, but the CDC says about 22 million people aren’t up-to-date with the tests. That’s especially true for minorities and the uninsured, write the authors in JAMA Internal Medicine. The government-backed US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that people between ages 50 and 75 get screened by colonoscopy every 10 years.

During a colonoscopy, a doctor uses a long flexible tube equipped with a tiny video camera to see the interior of the colon. Alternatively, the USPSTF says people in that age group can have a high-sensitivity fecal occult blood test every year, or a sigmoidoscopy—which is similar to a colonoscopy—every five years in addition to fecal occult blood testing every three years.

For the new study, Gupta and his colleagues randomly assigned 5,970 uninsured patients in the John Peter Smith Health Network in Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas, to one of three groups in January 2011. One group of 3,898 people received usual care, which consisted of doctors asking patients while they were at the clinic for an appointment if they’d like to be screened for colon cancer. People in the other two groups received letters in English and Spanish with information on colon and rectal cancer and an invitation to get a free screening.

The participants in the outreach groups also received two automated phone messages, two phone calls from real people and help setting up appointments for screening. Within the outreach groups, 479 people were offered colonoscopies and 1,593 people were offered a fecal occult blood test known as a fecal immunochemical test (FIT) that they could complete at home.

By February 2012, 12 percent of the usual care group had been screened for colon cancer. That compared to 25 percent in the colonoscopy outreach group and 41 percent in the stool test group. Colonoscopies are usually seen as the most thorough colon cancer screening, but Gupta said the better response in the stool test group may make up for its inferiority.—Reuters

School children consumed recalled Fonterra dairy protein

Auckland, 10 Aug — Students at a high school in New Zealand consumed protein drinks containing whey concentrate which had been recalled by dairy giant Fonterra, putting them at risk of botulism. But Fonterra, which has come under fire amid a widespread contamination problem, said it had been reported and there was no health risk to the students at Palmerston North Girls’ High School. The company, which had provided the whey protein to the school from its product development center, had previously assured consumers that all products containing the tainted ingredient had been withdrawn from markets.

The school had asked for the product from Fonterra for a science project to make “smoothie” fruit drinks and it had been supplied in February. “I am disappointed and concerned to learn of this incident,” said Fonterra Chief Executive Theo Spierings. “While I realize that agreeing to provide the whey protein concentrate to the school for their project was well-intentioned, providing product from the Innovation Centre in this way should never have happened.”

The world’s largest dairy exporter has been in damage control mode since revealing at the weekend the contamination that led to product recalls in China, New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere in Asia.—Reuters

More Chinese pharmacies stop selling bear bile

Chengdu, 10 Aug — Eight Chinese pharmacy chains announced on Thursday that they have stopped selling bear bile products, as they joined a campaign launched by an animal charity to end controversial bear farming.

The eight chains, with 151 drugstores in Chengdu, capital of southwest Sichuan Province, issued the statement at an activity held by the Animals Asia Foundation (AAF). Overall, 260 drugstores of 11 chains in China have joined the AAF campaign to stop such sales.

The eight local chains included Chengdu Dahua Pharmacy, Furong Grand Pharmacy and Chengdu Grand Pharmacy. Bear bile is held in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) theory as a cure for ailments such as eye and liver problems, but the brutal practice of tapping bile from live bears has drawn much criticism in recent years from animal rights activists and the world.

Zhong Yuanwei, vice general manager of Chengdu Dahua, said the business endorsed the AAF campaign to shoulder its social and environmental responsibilities as well as to ensure the health of customers.

Medical practitioners, including many TCM doctors, have expressed doubt about the safety of bear bile, whose extraction process inflicts so much pain and damage to bears’ health that they are often left fatally ill.—Xinhua
S Korean fighter jets make nonstop flight to Alaska for drills

SEOUL, 10 Aug — South Korean F-15K combat jets have flown nonstop to Alaska, using in-flight refueling to take part in an upcoming US-led multinational exercise known as “Red Flag,” South Korea’s Defense Ministry said on Friday. The flight to Alaska “has become the first time for our fighter aircraft to fly non-stop by aerial refueling to participate in a joint drill overseas,” spokesman Wi Yong Seo told a news briefing.

Wi added that South Korean pilots are expected to further improve their skills by joining the multinational drills, hosted by the US Pacific Air Forces from 12-23 August in Alaska.

Red Flag aims at training pilots from the United States and other allied countries. South Korea’s six F-15K jets departed from an airbase in the southern city of Daejeon, flying over 7,000 kilometres to the Eielson Air Force Base, refueling several times.

In-flight refueling or aerial refueling refers to the process of transferring fuel from one aircraft to another during flight. South Korea has purchased 60 of Boeing’s F-15 fighter jets since 2002 in the first two stages of its fighter modernization program. The US contractor delivered the last batch of the planes in 2012.—Kyodo News

UN chief urges leaders of all Egyptian parties to avoid violence

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Aug — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday called upon the leaders of all Egyptian parties to “avoid the path of violence” in order to “prevent further loss of life among the Egyptian people.”

“The secretary-general’s immediate concern is for the leaders of Egypt, on all sides, to exercise their leadership and their responsibility to do whatever can be done to prevent further loss of life among the Egyptian people,” said a statement issued here late Friday by Ban’s spokesman. “As long as they avoid the path of violence, the secretary-general is confident that the Egyptian people, representing one of the world’s great and elaborate civilizations, will successfully find a way forward,” the statement said.

“The United Nations remains fully engaged in supporting Egypt.”

The political stalemate is under way with the ongoing standoff between the sit-in supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi and the military-backed interim government. Nearly 300 people have been killed in violence since Morsi’s removal.

“As the Eid al-Fitr Muslim holiday comes to a close, the secretary-general is deeply concerned by the continuing political stalemate in Egypt,” the statement said.

“The secretary-general rejects his commitment to support non-violent Egyptian-led approaches to meet the aspirations of the Egyptian people.”

“Since January 2011, the Egyptian people have raised their voices, through a series of massive and peaceful demonstrations that have sparked unprecedented change and debate over the future of Egypt,” the secretary-general noted.

“The secretary-general applauds the deep courage and commitment of the Egyptian people during this period in exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in support of their respective visions for moving Egypt forward,” it said. “Yet in light of current tensions and given the risk of potential violence, the secretary-general also believes it is critical importance that all sides in Egypt — those in positions of authority as well as those protesting in the street — should urgently reconsider their current actions and language,” said the statement.—Xinhua

Gunmen abduct two Turkish Airlines staff in Beirut

BEIRUT, 10 Aug — Gunmen abducted two Turkish Airlines pilots in Beirut on Friday, forcing them from an airport bus in the early hours of the morning and prompting Turkey to urge its citizens to leave Lebanon.

Lebanese media said that a group claimed responsibility for the abduction in the name of nine Lebanese Shi’ite Muslims kidnapped near the Turkish-Syrian border last year, saying the two Turks would be freed if the Lebanese captives were released. It was not immediately possible to verify the reported claim. Turkey’s foreign ministry and the airline said they were in close contact with Lebanese authorities but had no immediate information on the condition of the two airline staff.

“We announce that the Turkish captain Murat Akpinar and his co-pilot Murat Agca are our guests until our brothers … who were abduct in Azar are released,” said a statement from the group, according to a Lebanese television station and the National News Agency.

It said it held Turkey responsible for the fate of the Lebanese Shi’ites, who were among a group of 11 men abducted in May last year by Syrian Sunni Muslim rebels in the northern town of Azar, close to Turkey.

They were seized on their return from a pilgrimage to Shi’ite religious sites in Iran, their families said. Two were later released.

Turkey warned it citizens against non-essential travel to Lebanon and called on those already in the country to return home. Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said he had spoken with the Lebanese prime minister about the abductions. “As in previous such cases we are making every effort to reunite the pilots with their families safely,” Davutoglu said on his Twitter account.

Friday’s incident came days after a senior Lebanese political source said that authorities had information suggesting that families of the Lebanese detainees, or their supporters, were planning to take Turkish hostages. Lebanese media quoted a spokesman for the families as saying they had no link to the Beirut abductions. But shortly after the claim of responsibility was issued, celebratory fireworks were set off in the Bir-al-Abad district of southern Beirut where some of the relatives live.

Russia allows Snowden to work, travel through the country

MOSCOW, 10 Aug — Former US National Security Agency worker Edward Snowden is free to travel within the Russian territory wherever he wants to, Russian Federal Migration Service (FMS) said on Friday.

“The FMS’ Moscow branch would issue a permission allowing Snowden to move to another region if he applied one, said Molodyozhny. Snowden was stranded at Moscow’s Sheremetyevo Airport for six weeks after Washington revoked his passport. He faces espionage charges in the United States after disclosing a classified intelligence surveillance project code-named PRISM.

On 1 August, Russia granted him a year-long asylum, allowing him to quietly slip out of the airport.

Under the Russian law, all foreigners must register with the FMS’s territorial branch upon taking up residence. The United States on Wednesday announced the cancellation of a one-on-one summit originally scheduled early next month in Moscow, citing the Snowden case as a lack of progress in bilateral relations.—TASS

Spain reviews train safety after fatal crash

A fireman carries a wounded victim from the wreckage of a train crash near Santiago de Compostela, northwestern Spain, on 24 July, 2013.

MADRID, 10 Aug — Spain is reviewing the safety of its rail system after a train crash in northwestern Galicia last month killed 79 people, Public Works Minister Ana Pastor said on Friday.

Excessive speed and human error have been blamed for the train’s derailment at a curve on the outskirts of Santiago de Compostela.

But the accident has also raised questions over the high-speed train network’s signaling and security systems.

Speaking before a parliamentary committee, Pastor said she had hired external auditors to review the maximum speed limit across every stretch of Spain’s rail network to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

“We will review all of the protocols and systems, the table of speed limits, everything,” Pastor said.

Spain’s railway network combines lines that are exclusively high-speed with sophisticated safety mechanisms and conventional lines, such as at the site of the Santiago crash, with less rigorous automatic braking signals. Some high-speed trains use both types of rails, and drivers must switch back and forth between the two systems.

Spain has invested 45 billion euros over more than 20 years in building the world’s second biggest network of high-speed rail, which it has continued to expand despite economic stagnation and a wide budget gap.

Francisco Garzon, 52, who was driving the train that crashed on 24 July, has been charged with negligent homicide and released without bail pending trial.

Lebanese Army soldiers patrol on their vehicles the road leading to Beirut international Airport, following the kidnap of a Turkish airlines pilot and his colleague in Beirut, on 9 Aug, 2013. —Reuters

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**CHARITY**

Ambulance donated to social services association in Sagaing

Chairman of Parami Social Services Association U Tin Swe accepted the donation.

Three donors then separately donated K 0.5 million to the association.

Mandalay to host wedding fair in open season

**DEVELOPMENT**

Development undertakings inspected in Sagaing Region

**AGRICULTURE**

Farming rights certificates presented in Leshi Tsp

Committee U Aung Cho briefed on the entitlements of farmers holding the farming rights certificates.

The committee chairman and officials then presented farming rights certificates to ward and village-tract administrators.

**AUGUST 7, 2013**

To mark the 48th Anniversary National Day of the Republic of Singapore at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 9 August. —MNA

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

500 houses affected by erosion in Ngazun Tsp

A local spoke words of thanks for formation of the district. The chief minister presented cash award to the band troupe and cordially greeted the local people.

The villagers are hoping for reclaiming farmlands. Water courses conservation engineers and Myanmar river engineers are trying to change the course of river by building gravel retaining wall in Rakhadipa village. Mandalay Region Road Transport Minister U Kyaw Htun visited the site of erosion on 6 August and inspected the erosion prevention measures.

He was conducted round the site by Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department’s Mandalay Region Head U Win Hlaing and officials.

The minister asked the engineers to try to develop alluvial lands and employ appropriate techniques to prevent further erosions. He also attended to the needs for relocation of the villages.

**MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)**
**New Light of Myanmar**

**Myanmar Tradition of Rain Calling**

Sunday, 11 August, 2013

**ARTICLE**

**Future challenge for Yangon**

The commercial hub of Myanmar is speeding up its development with the high aim of translating the city of high population density into a clean and green one. First of all, downtown area and business districts have seen influx of vehicles following the scheme of replacing the overage vehicles with imported autos on the streets. Statistics shows that the number of registered cars on our road had risen dramatically and reached more than 400,000 in Yangon while there are over three million vehicles nationally.

Because of the lack of monitoring devices in Yangon, no data is immediately available about the air pollution caused by vehicular emission which is the main source of the harzard. But the plan to monitor the air quality standard of the commercial heart of the country is on the way. We all recognize that quality of air is not only good for the environment but also can contribute to better health for residents. Air pollution, generated by high volume of traffic shortens life expectancy, causing from minor respiratory problems such as sinusitis, dry throat and irritated eyes to asthma among children and chronic bronchitis and heart diseases among adults in their sixties. It is a major issue for public health in urban areas.

A retired official of occupational health department expressed his view to relieve our growing concerns over harmful emission from traffic that a layer of smog over the city has not reached its danger level as newly-imported vehicles of latest models only produce a small amount of exhaust fumes. If the level of particulate matter exceeds the WHO's guideline level of 50 micrograms averaged over a 24-hour period, it will result in adverse health consequences. WHO’s studies revealed that worldwide deaths of about 3.2 million people in 2010 were due to air pollution.

Although air pollution does not cause serious disease straight away as it requires prolonged exposure, health risks are real and chronic exposure to air pollution is not only bad for environmental health but also can increase the risk of developing heart and respiratory diseases. Nonetheless, more attentions are needed to monitor air pollution in downtown and industrial areas and heighten public awareness about environmental impact, the dangers of air pollution and how it is caused.

**Traditional medicines course opened in Kyaukme**

KYAUKME, 10 August—The first traditional medicines course was opened in Five Tigers Traditional Medicine Factory in Mwedaw village in Kyaukme Township on 7 August. A Shan language will be used as the medium of the course.

**Shan State Hluttaw**

Representative U Sai Than Maung, Shan writer U Sai Pha, Paungmu Kyittya traditional medicines practitioners U Sai Aung Kyi and U Sai Mon delivered addresses at the ceremony. A total of 20 trainees are attending the 15-day course.

**MMAL-090**

**Sunday, 11 August, 2013**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Myanmar Tradition of Rain Calling**

**Maha Saddhamma Joitika dhaja Sithu Dr. Kin Maung Nyunt**

*Yangon* tradition of rain calling among many damages and sufferings. At the advice of the learned Sayadaw monks, a grand puja [worshipping] was held for Nga Yant Min Fish King statue which was ceremonially showered with cool scented fresh water and Nga Yant Min paritta was chanted. Down came rain torrentially, flooding everywhere turning the parched land into marshy swamps breeding insects and mosquitoes, causing malaria to the people. Learned Sayadaw monks advised the Prace to move the stone statue of Nga Yant Min Fish King to the pond in the grotto of Yan Kin Hill and to perform water pouring rite only when there was drought. Since then, Yan Kin hill, Nga Yant Min statue in the grotto, and Nga Yant Min paritta for rain calling are associated and well-known in Mandalay Region till today.

Another rain calling rite is the tug-of-war (ကြက်ကြက်) which in Myanmar is not only a mere traditional sport but also a rain calling rite. Legend has it that in the reign of King Narathu [1167-1170 A.D.] there was a hermit named Shin Mahtee who was an alchemist, experimenting his formula in the grotto of a small pond in the central dry zones. People became rich. They carried many development works such as digging canals, built temples, pagodas, and Nga Yant Min paritta, invoking and inviting rain. Coincidently or miraculously, showers do come down, sometimes slowly or sometime heavy rain falls. While Manipur was a Mandalyan, he had personal experience of this rite. People do believe that this rain calling rite works.

**Kyaun Kyaw Taung hill and statues of Fish King in the pond in the grotto have historic associations. Professor Min Shin Saw, the elder son of King Alaung Sithu [1112-1167 A.D.] of Bagan dynasty, during his exile in Mandalay District, built a small temple near the pond and carried many development works such as digging irrigations, reservoirs like Aung Pin Lei Lake and Mya Nanda Lake, reclaiming agricultural lands. The entire district prospered. But there were three successive years of drought reducing the terrain into a parched land, therefore the writer wishes that the pond in the grotto have some trace of a desert in the future.

With his mercury compound ball [philosopher’s stone] the hermit touched all base metals Bagan people collected and brought to him. These metals turned into gold. Bagans became rich. They built temples, pagodas, monasteries, and did many social welfare works. Impoverished Kyaw Swa, Thawdar and family had left Bagan. They were at large. So they missed the hermit who now disappeared into the forest for solitary hermit life.

Hearing all these news, King Narathu sent out his men to bring the hermit to him. But the hermit could not be found. Then he sent soldiers to look for him. They were searching far and wide and the family. They were caught some distance away from Bagan.

(See page 9)
UNION PEACE-MAKING

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham looks into...

(from page 1)
Jung Mung Kong Baptist camp in Dukahtaung Ward where the Vice-President presented K 9.74 million for 974 IDPs through the In-charge of the camp.

The deputy minister for Border Affairs presented K 5000 each to 974 victims from the relief camps, totally amounting to K 4.76 million, the deputy minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, packets of instant noodle, the chief minister 50 bags of rice, the patron of Htoo Foundation 83 sets of clothes to 83 children victims.

The Vice-President and party cordially greeted displaced persons and then viewed care of children from the displaced people by Social Welfare Department and gave snacks to them.

At Saint Lolhan relief camp in Nankwe Village, they presented K 10000 each for 359 displaced persons, totally amounting to K 3.59 million to the in-charge of the camp.

The vice-president for Border Affairs, the patron of Htoo Foundation, the state Chief Minister, the deputy minister for Health, the chairman of Myitkyina Gems Entrepreneurs Association, the Union Minister for Mines and the organizer of Nankwe Village Union Solidarity and Development Party donated cash and kind to the displaced persons.

At Myitkyina University, the Vice-President met rector, principals and faculty members of Myitkyina University, University of Computer Studies and Technological University. Recipient-in-charge of Myitkyina University Dr Aye Ko, Principal of University of Computer Studies Dr Than Naing Soe and Principal Dr Myat Ko of Technological University reported on matters related to their institutions. The Union Minister for Education gave a supplementary report.

The Vice-President gave guidance to them.

After that, Shwe Than Lwin Co donated one set of Sky Net each to three universities and Education College. Next, the Vice-President attended to the needs of the universities.

The Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Federation donated K 10 million each to the funds of the University of Computer Studies and Technological University. At Myitkyina General Hospital, they visited the patient awards, construction of extended buildings, operation theatre and intensive care unit.

Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Federation donated K 10 million to the hospital and Shwe Than Lwin Co, two sets of Sky Net to Basic Education High School No.1, they were welcomed by students with music band. The Vice-President asked English proficiency skills of students and met two outstanding students (Lu-yay-chun) from the school and then fulfilled the requirements of the school.

Union Peace-making Work Committee and ABSDF meet media persons after Union Level Peace Talks—MNA

Union Peace-making...

(from page 16)
Congress Party, U Min Ko Naing, U Ko Ko Gyi and U Mya Aye from 88th Generation Students and the delegates from Center for Peace and Conflict Study (CPCS) and Nippon Foundation attended the peace talks as observers. After the talks, the press meet was held and the delegates from two sides answered the queries raised by the local and foreign media men.

Both sides have reached the following agreements: to make efforts for ensuring nationwide cease-fire through the accountability and responsibility by both sides; to agree to form an independent monitoring team in principle for ceasefires and local-peace making processes; to officially invite political forces, political parties and organizations and persons for their inclusiveness in the country’s political processes; to carry out continued discussions and scrutinizing by the remaining political prisoners scrutinizing committee for the release of all political prisoners; to continue holding discussions on democratic affairs, national equality and autonomy which are proposed by ABSDF; to have rights to independently hold discussions and meetings on the results of ABSDF’s political talks, political stands and processes with the people and people-based organizations in accord with the laws; to hold continued discussion on the removal of ABSDF from unlawful association list; to hold continued discussions on the removal of ABSDF members from the blacklist and the cancelation of the charged members in accord with the law; to have rights to liaise with local and foreign-based NGOs and CBOs in line with the existing laws; to have rights to engage with news agencies and media freely and independently; to continue making coordination on opening of liaison offices in Kaly, Payathonsu, Muse and Loikaw which are suggested by ABSDF for smooth operation of communication channels including local peace-making processes and ceasefires; to agree to draft Code of Conduct in principle which are to be abided by both army; to set the date for second Union-level talks in the coming November; Union Minister U Aung Min said that they offered peace talks as of 18 August, 2011. They signed a state-level ceasefire agreement with ABSDF at the 6th round of talks. They implemented the last point included in that agreement. The today’s agreement also includes holding of new round of talks in the future. Today agreement covers 12 points, he added.—MNA

Myanmar Tradition of Rain Calling

(from page 8)
The King tortured them till they revealed whereabouts of the hermit. In fact they did not know what had happened to the hermit and his experiment of the philosopher’s stone. So they could not tell where the hermit was. Thawdar escaped and was rescued by the hermit. Kyawswa died during the torture. He became nat spirit due to violent death. He lived on Mount Popa. By way of vengeance upon King Narathu, Kyaw Swa the nat spirit drove away all rain bearing clouds from Bagan sky, causing drought. Upon consultation with the 37 nat spirits of Pantheon, King Narathu was told that it was Kyaw Swa the nat spirit who was withholding rain. The King invoked Kyaw Saw the nat spirit who explained everything and asked the king to perform the rite of holding a tug-of-war contest to please him and he would then release rain upon Bagan. The king did accordingly and the public participated in the contest, playing music, singing, dancing, beating drums, offering coconut, fruits, bananas, cakes and flowers to Kyaw Swa the nat spirit, appealing him to bring down rain. Kyaw Swa the nat spirit appeared at the centre of the tug-of-war contest. Dancing merrily and releasing rain. Down came heavy showers with lightnings and roaring thunders, flooding the parched land.

Kyaw Swa the nat spirit sang gleefully, “Yes, farmers and peasants, cheer up, keep going your agricultural activities.”

“I’ll bring down showers, dig up canals, tanks and reservoirs to store rain water.”

“Grow paddy, grow all crops, grow all vegetables.”

“Donate your yields to Three Gems [the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha]”. Donate to the poor, the needy. I shall always help you.”

Before that rite was performed Kyaw Swa the nat spirit was known as Moe Kaung Kyaw Swa meaning Kyaw Swa the rain holder. After that rite was performed he became Moe Kaung Kyaw Swa meaning Kyaw Swa the rain giver. In upper Myanmar, whenever there is scarcity of rain or drought, it is customary to hold a tug-of-war contest to invoke Moe Kaung Kyaw Swa spirit, appease him and beg him to release rain. They believe and experience rain does come after the rite or sometimes even during the performance.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoys singing songs of students at Myitkyina BEHS No 1.—MNA

Union Peace-making...
Prizes, refreshment given to students

**HRD**

**Milk fed to students at Sagaing BEPS No 7**

**SAGAING, 10 Aug**—With the contributions of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and wellwishers, the plan is being implemented to turn out schoolchildren of Basic Education Primary Schools in Sagaing Township to become highly-qualified healthy and fit youths in the nation.

Head of Township LBVD Dr Hthein Min and wellwishers U Khin Maung Nyo and wife Daw Myint Oo of Industrial Corporation of Japan will give refreshments to farmlands through Sanyu-drug Minywa-Kokko drain in order to build embankment and sluice gate sites for construction of the embankment and sluice gate, the local people.

Headmistress Daw San Kyin made a speech. Well-wisher U Kyaw Min Aung explained the purpose of awarding the outstanding students and feeding the schoolchildren. Officials then presented prizes to the winners in respective standards. Later, a total of 103 students of the school were fed refreshments. —Kyemon

Japanese, Myanmar experts inspect sites for construction of embankment, sluice gate

**Thanatpin, 10 Aug**—District Assistant Director U Myint Soe and party of Bago Region Irrigation Department, Region Hluttaw representative U Aye Soe and party inspected the sites for construction of the embankment and sluice gate in Kokko Village of Thanatpin Township on 8 August afternoon.

The field trip of the experts was aimed at building the embankment to prevent inflow of seawater and the sluice gate to supply water to farmlands through Bago-Sittoung Canal. Sanyu Corporation of Japan will demand technology, heavy machinery and fund from the Japanese Government, and the embankment and sluice gate will be built in cooperation with Myanmar experts, said Assistant Director U Tin Tun.

The government dug Minywa-Kokko drain that benefits over 10000 acres of farmlands in the region. On completion of Kokko embankment and sluice gate, the local farmers can extend their farmlands on more than 10000 acres of area in Thanatpin Township, said Region Hluttaw representative U Aye Soe. —Kyemon-Ko Ye Hlut (Minywa)

**School health activity performed in Myanmar**

**Myanmar, 10 Aug**—Staff of Township Health Department, Township Traditional Medicine Department, Education Department and Administrative Body made field trips to basic education schools in Myanmar Township of Ayeyawady Region and carried out school health activities in August this year.

Doctors, nurses of Township Health Department, traditional medicine practitioners of Township Traditional Medicine Daw Than Than Swe and personnel performed medical checkups at 70 students at Basic Education Primary School (Yantaikkon) in Ward 2 of Myawady Township.

**Animal vaccines provided in Mon State**

**Myawady, 10 Aug**—Mon State Animal Care and Welfare Association and Mon State Veterinarians joined hands in providing animal health care from 4 to 8 August in flood-ravaged Kyaiikmaraw, Ye and Bilin townships of Mon State.

They injected vaccines to 3479 animals. In Kyaiikmaraw Township, they donated 7300 eggs and 28 packets of sausage to flood victims. These relief supplies were distributed to Kyaiikmaraw Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department. In addition, veterinarian team gave talks on prevention against natural disasters, control of animal diseases, breeding of milch cows, artificial mating, pig blue ear disease and foot and mouth disease to the local people.

**Opening of new office and prize presentation for students in progress at Waw Township WVO.**

**New WVO Office opened in Waw Township**

Mawlamyine, 10 Aug—The opening of new office for Waw Township War Veterans Organization, Waso robe offering ceremony and prize presentation for outstanding students of war veterans were held at the new office on Bo Teza Street in Ayechanthaya Ward of Waw Township on 9 August morning.

It was attended by Region Hluttaw representative U Maung Yu, Chairman of Waw Township National League for Democracy U Tin Htwe, Chairman of National Unity Party U Tun Hlaing, the Chairman of Thanatpin Township WVO, departmental officials, members of social organization and WVO members and their children.

At first, Chairman of Township WVO Captain Thant Zin Oo (Rtd) extended greetings.

After that, the chairman presented cash awards to the outstanding students. Kyemon-Waw Win Maung, head of Township WVO, they donated 7300 eggs and 28 packets of sausage to flood victims.

**HRD**

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According to an official of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, a total of 10100 students of basic education schools have been fed milk in Pabedan Ward of Sagaing Township this year.

Kyemon-District IPRD

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Kyemon-Nay Win Zaw (Myawady)
Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Keat Chhon (R, front) and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jiangao (L, front) sign a loan agreement. —Xinhua

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sar Kheng said on Friday that he had ordered an investigation into a bomb blast early Wednesday and a rocket grenade shell discovery early Thursday in the capital.

“I have ordered a thorough investigation into the two cases. I think that there may be a third party created these issues in order to cause social unrest,” he told reporters, adding that the identity of the perpetrators remained unknown.

“The doers have bad deeds, aiming to cause social unrest and instability,” he said.

At 01:05 am on Wednesday morning, an improvised bomb, planted by unidentified men near a trash bin outside the fence of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court, went off, but caused no injury. On the following morning, two M381 rocket grenade shells were dumped on the window sill of a house in the capital.

These incidents happened just 10 days after the general election, in which the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) of Prime Minister Hun Sen won the victory, but the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) rejected the results, claiming serious irregularities during the poll.

The initial unofficial results showed that the CPP won 68 of the 123 parliament seats, with the CNRP taking the remaining 55 seats.

Sar Kheng confirmed Friday that soldiers and armored vehicles had been deployed on the outskirts of Phnom Penh in order to ensure security and stability as CNRP leader Sam Rainsy has repeatedly warned to lead mass protests against the election results.

Xinhua

Vacation exodus peaks in Japan, roads, trains congested

Tokyo, 10 Aug — The annual rush of tourists during the Japanese “Bon” summer holidays peaked on Saturday, with roads and railway stations crammed with people heading for their hometowns and other destinations. Almost all reserved seats on shinkansen bullet trains from Tokyo were booked for the morning on the Tokohu, Yamagata, Jōetsu, Niigata and Akita lines.

Expressways were also congested, with vehicles backed up for 43 kilometres on a section of the Tomei Expressway in Kanagawa Prefecture and for 33 km on the Chuo Expressway in Yamanashi Prefecture, according to the Japan Road Traffic Information Centre.

Domestic flights departing from Tokyo’s Haneda Airport to regional areas were booked close to capacity, with the reservation rate at 93 percent for Japan Airlines Co and 92 percent for All Nippon Airways Co, according to the airlines.

Kyodo News

Kansai Electric loses over 1,000 business clients after rate hike

Osaka, 10 Aug — Kansai Electric Power Co has lost over 1,000 large-lot users, such as companies and local governments, since April when it raised the electricity rate for business, according to the utility.

The number of clients who canceled their contracts in- cludes those who renewed the company’s earnings as they comprise about 1 percent of some 117,000 business customers. If more clients leave, it could start having an impact on earnings. Those who left Kansai Electric appear to have switched to other power suppliers such as the Tokyo-based Enet Corp, funded by Tokyo Gas Co and Osaka Gas Co among others.—Kyodo News

Xinhua

Regional

Father, son back to communal life after 40 years living in jungle

HANOI, 10 Aug — An 82-year-old man and his 41- year-old son were brought back to communal life last Wednesday after 39 years of living in the jungle in Vietnam’s central Quang Ngai Province, about 730 km south of Hanoi, reports said.

Ho Van Thanh, the father, and his son, Ho Van Lang, were found to live deep in the forest in Tra Phong commune, Tay Tra District of Quang Ngai Province. “The old man was severely exhausted, with one leg paralyzed, while his son who was sitting nearby spoke nothing and was confused,” local Tien Phong (Vanguard) newspaper reported Friday, quoting Ho Minh Lam, Thanh’s nephew, who brought back the father and son to the village.

“When we arrived, my uncle was very weak, with one leg paralyzed. He told me, in a faint voice, that he had been sick for about six months. My cousin showed fear upon seeing us,” Lam was quoted as saying.

Lam said that a few days ago, he had a dream about his uncle and cousin returning to the village and both appeared to be healthy. “According to our customs, it is a bad sign that something wrong would happen soon. So I decided to tell all of my relatives and the village’s leaders about my uncle and cousin living in the forest, and ask them for help. The local police joined me in rescuing them,” Lam said.

Truong Ngoc Dong, chairman of Tra Phong commune people’s committee, was quoted as saying that back to 1959, Ho Van Thanh and his wife, Ho Thi Phuong, and their two children came to settle in Tra Khe commune in Tay Tra district.

Later Thanh joined the army of the Military Zone 5. One day in 1972, he came home for a family visit when a bomb fell on a shelter near his house, killing 26 people inside, including his mother and his two sons. After the accident, Thanh and his wife moved to live in the nearby Tra Xinh commune, where they had another two sons.

Thanh died of the death of his mother and sons, Thanh went mad and in 1974, he brought his two- year-old son, Ho Van Lanh, to hide in the jungle leaving behind his wife and the other six-month-old son, Ho Van Tru.

Xinhua

Vietnamese legislative chief pledges to facilitate cooperation with Thai friendship legislators

HANOI, 10 Aug — Chairman of Vietnam’s National Assembly Nguyen Sinh Hung has pledged that Vietnam will facilitate the Vietnamese and Thai friendship legislators to continue their close cooperation.

Hung made the statement at a meeting with Puijit Srenwarakan, chairman of the Thailand-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Friday, the state-run news agency VNA reported. During the meeting, Hung expressed his pleasure with the outcomes of the working of Parlia-mentary Friendship Groups of Thailand and Vietnam, hailing their specific coop-eration activities as practi- cal to the ties between the two lawmaking bodies.

Hung also expressed his delight at the two countries’ establishment of strategic partnerships, describing it as an important step forward in deepening the two countries’ ties in a practical manner in the interests of both countries and for peace, stability and development in the region.

Hung proposed the Thai National Assembly to support Vietnam within both bilateral and multilateral cooperation framework, facilitate Vietnamese business operations, and create favorable conditions for Vietnamese nationals in Thailand.—Xinhua

Xinhua

Members of China’s 15th peacekeeping team to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) pose for a group photo after returning to X’ian, capital of north-west China’s Shaanxi Province, on 9 Aug, 2013. The 218-member team, 118 of whom have returned this time, served in the peacekeeping missions in the DRC for 8 months. Another 270 peacekeepers will return later this month.

Xinhua

Kansai Electric loses over 1,000 business clients after rate hike

Osaka, 10 Aug — Kansai Electric Power Co has lost over 1,000 large-lot users, such as companies and local governments, since April when it raised the electricity rate for business, according to the utility.

The number of clients who canceled their contracts in- cludes those who renewed the company’s earnings as they comprise about 1 percent of some 117,000 business customers. If more clients leave, it could start having an impact on earnings. Those who left Kansai Electric appear to have switched to other power suppliers such as the Tokyo-based Enet Corp, funded by Tokyo Gas Co and Osaka Gas Co among others.—Kyodo News

Xinhua

Phnom Penh, 10 Aug — Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng said on Friday that he had or- dered an investigation into a bomb blast early Wednesday and a rocket grenade shell discovery early Thurs- day in the capital.

“I have ordered a thorough investigation into the two cases. I think that there may be a third party created these issues in order to cause social unrest,” he told reporters, adding that the identity of the perpetrators remained unknown.

“The doers have bad deeds, aiming to cause so-
cial unrest and instability,” he said.

At 01:05 am on Wednesday morning, an improvised bomb, planted by unidentified men near a trash bin outside the fence of the Phnom Penh Mu-

nicipal Court, went off, but caused no injury. On the following morning, two M381 rocket grenade shells were dumped on the window sill of a house in the capital.

These incidents happened just 10 days after the general election, in which the ruling Cambodian Peo- ple’s Party (CPP) of Prime Minister Hun Sen won the victory, but the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) rejected the results, claiming serious ir-

regularities during the poll.

The initial unofficial results showed that the CPP won 68 of the 123 parlia-

mentary seats, with the CNRP taking the remaining 55 seats.

Sar Kheng confirmed Friday that soldiers and armored vehicles had been deployed on the outskirts of Phnom Penh in order to ensure security and stabil-

ity as CNRP leader Sam Rainsy has repeatedly warned to lead mass pro-

tests against the election results.

Xinhua
Second Time Invitation for Open Tender
Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation Limited
With the intention to be obvious of modern development of business in line with the international standards, required for the country and its citizen, and the development of employment opportunities, the open tender for leasing and operating, with Annual Management Service Agreement for 15 years term, of the whole building of the under mentioned Commercial Centre, built by Forest Joint Venture Commercial Centre Co., Ltd, a subsidiary company of Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation Limited is, for second time, invited to all local private entrepreneurs:
1. The building to be leased and its address
   Forest Joint Venture Commercial Centre
   No. 422-426, corner of Botataung Pagoda Road and Strand Road, Botataung Township, Yangon Region
2. Tender form and terms can be bought for K 100,000 (Kyat One Hundred Thousand Only) at the above mentioned address within office hour from 9 - 8 - 2013 to 30 - 8 - 2013.
3. Detail information and tender terms can be inquired at the address under the above para (1), and telephone number: 01 -201839.
   Tender Working Committee
   Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation Limited

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (351)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (351) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of h.p.t where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Transnational highway to boost China-Vietnam tourism
NANNING, 9 Aug —A transnational highway linking a city in south China and a Vietnamese tourist destination is expected to enhance the tourist industry in the two countries.
The 400-km-long highway, which opened earlier this week, connects Chongzuo City in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Vietnamese city of Ha Long, shortening bus travel time between the two locations to 7.5 hours.
Chongzuo attracts a great number of tourists with its beautiful transnational waterfalls and charming ethnic culture, while Ha Long is adjacent to Ha Long Bay, a famous tourist destination in Vietnam.
Lu Quan, deputy manager of the Business Management Department of the Guangxi Yunde Group, the operator of the highway, said it was the first transnational highway to link the two cities, and that it will facilitate transportation for visitors from both countries.—Xinhua
**Jennifer Aniston in no rush to get married**

**LOS ANGELES, 10 Aug**—Jennifer Aniston is tired of addressing rumours that she and fiancé Justin Theroux have called off their wedding.

Aniston, 44, and Theroux, 41, got engaged in August last year and the absence of a wedding almost a year after the engagement has led to many tabloid stories, reported *E!News*. But Aniston, who plays the role of a stripper in upcoming comedy *We’re The Millers*, is irritated to be at the centre of such stories.

“... Well, there was no wedding planned! Let me just say this about that. Do you realize that the majority of all those tag rags are loaded with absolute false information?...” Aniston said.

“They like to create the stories, because it’s not interesting, the story of we’re really happy and in love and feel like we’re married and eventually we’re going to get married when we find the time,” she said. “I don’t think there’s a rush.”

Aniston says her personal life is not so entertaining unless it is coloured by a scandal. “It’s a drag that they sort of have to paint this horrible negative picture and it’s just to sell magazines. And it’s a bummer because it’s not true. I was supposed to have it (the wedding) in March I think. I’d like to be a part of this plan!,” Aniston said.

PTI

**Lady Gaga leaks lyrics of upcoming single**

**LOS ANGELES, 10 Aug**—Even before releasing her new single *Applause* from her upcoming album *Artpop*, pop star Lady Gaga has shared its lyrics for her fans online.

The 27-year-old took to Twitter to share the song’s lyrics, reports ace-showbiz.com.

“I stand here waiting for you to bang the gong/ To crash the critic saying: is it right or is it wrong?”

Gaga tweeted.

She also reminded her fans to get a taste of the song when it releases on 19 August, tweeting: “8.19.”

The singer has been teasing her fans with hints about the track.

“Give me that thing/ Put your hands up, make ‘em touch,” she had earlier posted on her official website.—PTI

**Miley Cyrus names her new album**

**Bangerz**

**LONDON, 10 Aug**—Singer-actress Miley Cyrus’ new album will be called *Bangerz*.

The singer announced the album title on Twitter, reported Contactmusic.

“If you don’t know why my record is called BANGERZ you’ll know as soon as you hear it. Nothing but BANGERZ,” she tweeted.

The 20-year-old singer announced last month that she would make a special announcement on Twitter as soon as she reaches 13 million followers and the singer announced the name of her new album once she reached the figure.

“Can’t wait to announce my album title. Miley to 13 million,” she had written.

PTI

**Meryl Streep to star in The Giver**

**LOS ANGELES, 10 Aug**—Oscar-winner Meryl Streep is set to be the new addition to drama *The Giver*, featuring Jeff Bridges, which is an adaptation of Lois Lowery’s dystopian children’s novel of the same name.

The film is a co-production between The Weinstein Company and Walden Media and is being directed by Philip Noyce, reported *Deadline*.

Streep, 64, is in talks to play the chief elder, the authoritarian charged with keeping order in a society that seems utopian. They have eliminated pain and strife by converting to Sameness a plan that has also eradicated emotional depth from their lives. Jonas, a 12-year-old, is selected to be the receiver of memories, who stores all the memories before the sameness. Bridges, 63, plays the lead role of the previous receiver. PTI

**Bruce Willis wanted USD 1 million per day for The Expendables 3**

**LOS ANGELES, 10 Aug**—Sylvester Stallone reportedly replaced Bruce Willis from The Expendables 3 because the actor demanded a fee of USD 1 million per day.

Stallone publicly slammed Willis and announced Harrison Ford as his replacement. He also took to Twitter to express his anger against the *Die Hard* star, tweeting “GREEDY AND LAZY... A SURE FORMULA FOR CAREER FAILURE.”

Willis, 58, was reportedly offered USD 3 million for four days of shooting in Bulgaria but he demanded more, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

“He said he’d drop out unless he got USD 4 million. A million dollars a day. Stallone and everybody else involved said no,” said a source close to the production said.

The 20-year-old singer announced the album title on Twitter.
Craig Reedie named to take over WADA presidency

MOSCOW, 10 Aug—The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Friday nominated British Olympic official Craig Reedie to rein the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Reedie, an IOC vice president and member of WADA’s executive committee, is going to succeed John Fahey, a former Australian finance minister who steps down at the end of the year.

Reedie, 72, will be put up for election at the World Conference on Doping in Sport in Johannesburg from 12-15 November. The vote is expected to be a formality. It is understood that WADA presidency rotates between government representatives and IOC members.

Djokovic, Nadal advance to Montreal semi-final showdown

MONTREAL, 10 Aug—Novak Djokovic and Rafa Nadal advanced to a mouthwatering semi-final showdown at the Rogers Cup after they crushed their quarter-final opponents in ruthless fashion on Friday.

Djokovic, the world number one, was flawless in a 6-1, 6-2 demolition of French seventh seed Richard Gasquet while Nadal was equally emphatic in a straight sets win over Australian qualifier Marinko Matosevic.

Serbia’s Djokovic and Spaniard Nadal will face off for the 36th time after the 11th seed Milos Raonic and local wildcard Vasek Pospisil compete in an all-Canadian semi-final. Djokovic was imperious against Gasquet as he produced his best performance since returning from a month off after losing the Wimbledon final. Unleashing his full repertoire of big serves, crushing ground strokes and plenty of touch, Djokovic barely raised a sweat as Gasquet was emphatically dispatched in just 52 minutes.

The crowd then got more entertainment when Djokovic returned to the centre court for what has become his customary celebration dance as the stadium roared its approval. “It’s a great feeling when you’re playing this well and you beat a quality player like Gasquet,” Djokovic told reporters. “I’m going to try to memorise what I’ve done today and how I felt and hopefully take it on the court tomorrow ... same kind of feeling.” Nadal was always in control of his quarter-final against a fatigued Matosevic, who had come through two qualifying matches on top of his three main draw victories.

The 12-time grand slam champion never looked like being seriously challenged under the lights and he let rip with a procession of thundering forehand winners on the way to a 6-2, 6-4 victory which booked his place in another Masters semi-final against Djokovic. “It is always exciting to play against Novak in a great tournament, a Masters 1000.” Nadal said in a courtside interview. “It will be a great match and I’ll try my best as I always do.”

Bayern win Bundesliga opener against Monchengladbach

BERLIN, 10 Aug—Tribute winner Bayern Munich won the first Bundesliga match under coach Pep Guardiola as Arjen Robben, Mario Mandzukic and David Alaba sealed the 3-1 triumph over courageous Monchengladbach on Friday.

The Bavarians started with a 3-1 win over Monchengladbach at the Olympic Stadium to kick off the 51st Bundesliga season.

The hosts wasted no time to take over with the starting whistle while Monchengladbach staged a well-positioned defence to focus on counter attacks. Nonetheless, the visitors were unable avoid an early deficit when Arjen Robben utilized a neat lob into the path by Franck Ribery to slot home from penalty area with 12 minutes into the game. Monchengladbach lost control of things, as Bayern were able to double the lead just three minutes later through Mario Mandzukic, who made use of a rebound from very close range to beat goalkeeper Marc Andre ter Stegen.

Bayern dominated but yet Monchengladbach were not hapless as Manuel Neuer had to deny Max Kruse shot on target with a reflex. However, minutes later Neuer looked lost when his teammate Dante cleared the ball into his own goal to reduce the lead to 2-1 six minutes before the break. The record champions had chances to restore the lead through Mandzukic and Toni Kroos but ter Stegen saves left the door open for the Foals.

Bayern Munich dominated over Monchengladbach to win the final 5 – 1.

World waits for showman Bolt to strut his stuff

MOÇAINTO, 10 Aug—Usain Bolt of Jamaica reacts after running the final leg for the Racers Track Club to win in the men’s 4x100m relay at the London Diamond League ‘Anniversary Games’ athletics meeting at the Olympic Stadium in east London on 27 July, 2013.

Rio de Janeiro, 10 Aug—A planned friendly tournament between Brazil and Argentina later this year has been scrapped, local media reported on Friday. The so-called Superclassic of the Americas, played home and away over two legs, had been tentatively earmarked for 19 September and 3 October.

The decision came after Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari reportedly told Brazil’s Football Confederation (CBF) he saw little point in a tournament that did not include foreign-based players.

Brazil has a loaded international calendar in the second half of 2013 with confirmed friendlies against Switzerland, Australia and Portugal. The CBF are soon expected to confirm fixtures for another four FIFA-approved dates in 2013.

Brazil’s Fernando (C) blocks France’s Bafetimbi Gomis (L) from scoring as goalkeeper Julio Cesar looks on during their international friendly soccer match in Porto Alegre on 9 Jun, 2013.

Brazil’s Fernando (C) blocks France’s Bafetimbi Gomis (L) from scoring as goalkeeper Julio Cesar looks on during their international friendly soccer match in Porto Alegre on 9 Jun, 2013.
Edinburgh Int’l Festival kicks off, Chinese production of Shakespeare captures attention

LONDON, 10 Aug—The Edinburgh International Festival opened Friday evening and a production of Shakespeare by a Chinese theater group grabbed audience’s attention.

Susie Burnett, head of communications for the Festival, told Xinhua on Friday afternoon, “The production of Shakespeare’s ‘Coriolanus’ by the Beijing People’s Art Theatre has really captured imaginations. We have had to put extra seats on for it.”

Burnett said “Coriolanus” was playing at the Edinburgh Playhouse, a 3,000-seat venue. “It has really grabbed peoples’ attentions,” said Burnett. She added that many of the Festival’s productions opened this weekend.

The start of the festival was marked with the unveiling of a media installation by a Republic of Korea artist outside the main Festival venue in the city center in the early evening.

Korean artist Hyung Su Kim flicked the switch on his installation “Media Skins” outside the Usher Hall, the most prestigious venue at the Festival. Using visuals captured through satellites of a number of places worldwide, Kim has created a kaleidoscopic film. The film has an original soundtrack based on the traditional Scottish song “The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond” and the traditional Korean song “Arirang.”

He was inspired by Scottish physicist, mathematician, astronomer and inventor David Brewster who invented the kaleidoscope in 1817. Other Festival highlights include several modern dance masterpieces from the LA Dance Project, masterminded by Benjamin Millepied who choreographed and starred in the hit film “Black Swan.”—Xinhua

Kvitova stunned, Radwanska, Li, Serena through in Toronto

TORONTO, 10 Aug—Defending champion Petra Kvitova suffered a shock exit when unseeded Romana Sorana Cirstea beat the Czech 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 on Friday to move in the semi-finals of the Rogers Cup. Cirstea was joined by top seed Serena Williams, who thumped Magdalena Rybarikova 6-1, 6-1 and set up a semi-final clash with third seed Agnieszka Radwanska who overcame her own ineffective serving to beat Italy’s Sara Errani 7-6(3), 7-5.

Fourth seed Li Na of China also advanced with a 7-6(1), 6-2 win over Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia and will meet Cirstea in the last four. After playing respectably in the first set, 2011 Wimbledon champion Kvitova could not keep the ball in the court. She doubled faulted on break points in six different games and ended the game with just 12 winners and 55 unforced errors. Kvitova said that after winning her third round match on Thursday that she could not get to sleep and therefore lacked energy. By the second set, she looked lack-laden. “The serve was really bad after this, and I didn’t find energy from my legs,” she told reporters. “So that’s why it looks that bad.” The sixth seeded Czech added that fatigue contributed to her 10 double faults overall with the problem with her serve initially physical but before it became a mental one. Williams, who has only lost 10 games in three matches this week overpowered Rybarikova with big serves and lethal returns. “I’m definitely feeling pretty good, playing much better than I have in the past month,” said Williams.

Radwanska and the fifth seeded Errani embarked on a marathon quarter-final reminiscent of their three-hour clash at the WTA Championshipships in Istanbul. They played much the same style of match in Toronto, with both steady off the ground and neither able to dictate with their service game with 11 successive breaks of serve in the first set alone. “For both of us the serves is never the key, that’s why we are always playing long rallies and matches,” said Radwanska. The Pole decided to hit with more power towards the end of the first set, easily taking the tie-break 7-1 with some hard and deep shots.

The pair traded breaks to 5-5 in the second set but then Radwanska broke Errani for the eighth time of the match to go ahead 6-5 then served out with four winners including an ace. “I was trying to focus really hard in the last few points because I knew it could really turn around for her,” said Radwanska. “I was looking at the clock and saw two hours already and I said ‘Enough I have to end this now.’”

Li tossed away her strategy of playing a steady game against the hard hitting Cibulkova after the first set and began to go for her shots more. “(At the) beginning of the match, I was feeling more control the ball, but that was totally wrong because she’s the hitter,” said Li, who reached last year’s final in the second set just try to continue to hit the ball.”—Reuters

Serena Williams of the US signs hands after defeating Magdalena Rybarikova (R) of Slovakia during their women’s quarter-finals tennis match of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto, on 9 Aug, 2013. -Reuters

Rail tracks are under maintenance between Mawhun and Kardu railway stations in Mohyn Township for convenience and safety of trains and passengers.—NLM-001

Serena Williams of the US signs hands after defeating Magdalena Rybarikova (R) of Slovakia during their women’s quarter-finals tennis match of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto, on 9 Aug, 2013. —Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(11-8-2013 Sunday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
2. Physical Exercise
3. Dance & Song of National Races
4. Documentary
8:00 am
7. News/International News
8:25 am
9. (38) Phyar Mingalars
9:00 am
10. News/International News
9:20 am
11. Mono Classical Songs
9:40 am
12. TV Drama Series
10:00 am
13. News
10:15 am
14. TV Drama Series
11:10 am
15. Gitadagale Pwintbaohn
12:00 pm
12:25 pm
17. Round Up Of The Week’s International News
12:35 pm
18. Myanmar Movies

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-8-2013)

12-8-13 09:30 am) MST
1. Local News
2. Sitga International Buddhist Academy (SIBA) Part 1
3. World News
4. Pictures Decorated With Seashells and Gemstones
5. Local News
6. Let’s Explore the Customs of Mindat
7. World News
8. Beautiful Mon Choral Dance
9. Local News
10. Continuation in traditional trade
11. World News
12. Temple Seals
13. Local News
14. Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations (Part 1)
15. World News
16. Welcome to the Southern Most Part of Myanmar
17. Local News
18. The Long Lasting Royal Tradition
19. World News
20. Travologe in Poppa
21. Local News
22. Myanmar Movie: A Joker’s Heart
23. Local News
24. To The Land of Countless Temples (Episod-e-1)
25. Bagun Trip
26. World News
27. Channay Yeikha Meditation Centre (Chaw Dwin Gone)
28. Local News
29. Food Trip (Episode-6)
30. World News
31. Choral Dance (Duel)
32. Local News
33. Aesthetic Chitlin
34. World News
35. Have a Jaggery...after your meals...
Waxing of Wagaung 1375 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Sunday, 11 August, 2013

5th Waxing of Wagaung 1375 ME

YANGON, 10 Aug—The Union level peace talks between Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and party and Chairman of All Burma Students’ Democratic Front (ABSDF) Yebaw Than Khe, Vice-Chairman Yebaw Myo Win and General Secretary Yebaw Sanny and party were held at Myanmar Peace Center at No 10 on Shweli Street in Kamayut Township, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min said that peace talks are being held as a new political platform, wishing ABSDF to join the peace talks. He said that there can be a political rivalry and he would continue coming up with the differences, accepting agreements reached.

Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Work Committee Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace-making Committee U Thein Zaw, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min discussed arrangements for more talks through mutual trust and understanding, and holding the talks in the presence of the people instead of resorting to armed struggle line and aspiration for openly and honestly building the trusts in line with the wish of the people.

After that, Chairman Yebaw Than Khe and Vice-Chairman Yebaw Myo Win of ABSDF disclosed expectation for success in coming talks based on achievement already in place and commitment to coping with remaining differences.

Then, the delegates from two sides exchanged and discussed the twelve-point agreement. The leaders of two sides signed the agreement and exchanged the notes.

It was attended by Union Peace-making Work Committee Vice-Chairmen U Aung Min and U Thein Zaw, Committee members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi and U Zeyar Aung, State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, the Kayin state advocate-general, the state security and border affairs minister, the senior military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), members of Myanmar Peace Center, Chairman Yebaw Than Khe, Vice-Chairman Yebaw Myo Win, General Secretary Yebaw Sanny and CEC members from ABSDF, U Aye Tha Aung and U Win Kam Hlyam from United Nationalities Alliance, U Zin Aung from Myanmar New Society Democratic Party, U Kaung Myat Htut of Myanmar National (See page 9)

Union Peace-making Work Committee, ABSDF hold Union level peace talks

Members of Union Peace-making Work Committee and All Burma Students’ Democratic Front (ABSDF) pose for documentary photo after the peace talks.—MNA

Byline: Maung Nway Thit;
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

Union Peace-making Work Committee,
ABSDF hold Union level peace talks

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint accepts cash donation for flood victims

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin accepted K 20 million donated by Mr Ross Cormack, Representative of Ooredoo Telecom Company.—MNA

Everybody has right to enjoy freedom of worship in Myanmar

YANGON, 10 Aug—It is known to all that everybody has the right to enjoy freedom of worship in Myanmar and the Ministry of Religious Affairs is working hard to see to it that all religions enjoy equal status, said Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint at the opening ceremony of Jehovah’s Witnesses office in Inya Road, Kamayut Township, here, this morning.

Then, the Chairman U MA Raj of Jehovah’s Witnesses explained the purpose of the ceremony and the Union Minister and officials visited the building.—MNA

Artificial Turf hockey pitch cleared

YANGON, 10 Aug—Men’s and women’s Hockey event of the XXVII SEA Games will be held at Artificial Turf Hockey Pitch of Myanmar Hockey Federation in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon. Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik inspected clearance of the pitch today.

Than Swe (Pabedan)

Display of trophies, medals, awards in sports events to uplift sporting spirit of Myanmar athletes

The trophies secured by athletes in the sports competitions in the golden era of Myanmar sports arena will be put on display at the hall of Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, said an official of the Ministry of Sports.

In an interview by the Myanma Alinn, Director U Htay Aung of the Ministry explained that the championship trophies including Merdeka Cup secured around 1970, trophies, medals and prizes will be displayed in coming September with the aim of uplifting the sports spirit of the athletes who will take part in the coming SEA Games.

A plan is underway to showcase many medals, trophies and awards secured in the sport events including Merdeka Cup, track and field, weightlifting and shooting events.

Although early arrangements had been made to display the medals and trophies from the Defence Services Museum at the Nay Pyi Taw National Museum, the Nay Pyi Taw National Museum is yet to complete till today. Therefore, these awards will be put on display at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium for uplifting the sporting spirit of the athletes ahead of the SEA Games.

In the period of Peninsula Games, Myanmar walked on the golden path by securing a variety of medals and awards in the football, weightlifting, gymnastics, swimming and track and field events. The display of the medals and awards is aimed at enabling the youths and Myanmar athletes to enjoy images in the golden era of Myanmar sports arena.

Myanma Alinn: 7-8-2013
Trs: TTA

Byline: Maung Nway Thit;
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)