Measures being taken for people to enjoy medicare system

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay replied that the Ministry of Health is implementing national health policies.

She said that arrangements are being made to allow the MBBS graduates and similar ones obtained from foreign countries to take registration at Myanmar Medical Council. People’s Hospital is providing free surgical operation on emergency patients and medical treatment to maternal patients. In addition, taking free care is being provided to children under five. Efforts are being made for people enabling them to enjoy medicare system.

Code of Medical Ethics and safety for patients are being lectured to students at universities of medicine as of 2008-09 academic year. There is no plan to hold the workshop on enactment of more laws and policies.

The 24th day session continues tomorrow. MNA

No plan to establish SEZ in Sittway

Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung.

Constituency No.1 on implementation of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Sittway of Rakhine State, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung said that the establishment of an industrial zone or a SEZ calls for infrastructures and inputs. It needs to keep pace with changes and developments.

The Communication Bill which was sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with its amendments was also approved. Hluttaw decided to submit the proposal on discussion on the disagreements of two Hluttaws to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The meeting came to an end in the afternoon.

MNA
Heavy rains delay transportation, cause landslides in Haka

HAKA, 20 Aug—The heavy rain hit Haka of Chin State, causing landslides on Haka-Gangaw-Mandalay Road. In consequence, the blockage of road delayed the transport.

Landslides occurred on Haka-Gangaw-Mandalay Road at mile post 19-7 on 16 August and mile post 12/4 on 17 August. That was why local passengers faced difficulty in transportation. “Due to landslides, the passengers wishing to go to Haka, Gangaw and Mandalay are waiting to clearance of roads by bulldozer. Motorcyclists helped them continue their trip. The passengers in cars are waiting for finishing the clearance of road. Although the road is good in summer, landslides in rainy season delay transport of local people,” said a passenger.

Engineers and workers of Public Works are assigned duties on main roads of Chin State to maintain the roads and clear the landslides with the use of heavy machinery. Kyemon-State IPRD

Spoken English Course commences at SPEI (Yangon)

YANGON, 20 Aug—The Spoken English Course No 1/2013 was opened at Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), here, on 15 August afternoon.

Principal of the institute Director U Kyaw Hsan Oo made an opening speech.

Erosion prevention undertaken at pier

MEIKTILA, 20 Aug—Officials carried out prevention of erosion at pier of the creek bridge No 54 on Thati-Meiktila-Myingyan railroad in Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region on 17 August morning.

“Maintenance is being undertaken for prevention against erosion at pier of the bridge in the rainy season. At present, we carry out maintenance at pier of bridge No 54 between mile posts 328/0 and 328/1, west of Kankaung Village. Workers of Myanmar Railways are working together with me,” said Junior Engineer (III) U Hsan Naing. Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

TAUNG Literature Course opens

NAMHSAM, 20 Aug—Under the arrangement of Namhsam Township Taung Literature and Culture Committee, the Taung Literature Basic Course No. 1/2013 was opened at the monastery of Myoma Sangharaja Sayadaw in Namhsam in Palaung Self-Administered Zone on 15 August.

The enthusiast youths, 54 students who have passed matriculation examination for 2012-2013 academic year and three monks are attending the course that will last from 15 to 27 August. Kyemon-Township IPRD

Construction

Intructions of Chief Justice of the Union explained in Hpa-an

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—A ceremony to recount experiences on fifth coordination meeting between Supreme Court of the Union and State and Region High Courts in Nay Pyi Taw was held at the hall of Kayin State High Court in Hpa-an on 15 August morning.

Chief Justice of the state High Court U Saw San Lin discussed the instructions of the Chief Justice of the Union and heard reports on judicial affairs and office works presented by district and township judges. Judges of the state High Court explained judicial matters and the State Judicial Officer office works.—Kyemon

National Sports

Spoken English Course commences at SPEI (Yangon)

YANGON, 20 Aug—Principal Mr Omer Celik of Horizon International School explained the purpose of training course. A total of 40 students who are attending the 2013-14 academic year were selected to attend the course that will be conducted from Monday to Friday weekly. The class will be from 1.30 pm to 3 pm daily. They will be supervised by English language teachers from Sports Plus Education High School and Horizon International School up to the end of the academic year. Kyemon

Duties assigned to tender-submitted companies in Chin State

KALAY, 20 Aug—Chin State government invited the tender for construction of roads in the state. Local national race companies and others over 10 companies submitted tenders for the works.

At the coordination meeting, the Chin State Prime Minister and party assigned duties to all tender-submitted companies.

Local national race companies Khawmuthum Co was assigned duty to construct the 15 miles long section from Thantlang to Narem, Royal Shine Star Co, Shwekaason Co, Aung Myat Khaing Co and Shwe Lynn Thang Co along the route of Gangaw-Lutaw section and Shatalai-Lutaw section.

Public Works will construct Haka-Matupi section and Mindat-Matupi section. Road Construction Special Group No 11 and Khawnuthum Co will take responsibility for construction of Thantlang-Rarein-Matupi section. Zayar Min Hti Htaw will build Kanpetlet-Mindat section.

Shwekaason Co and Best Luck Co were assigned duty to construct Matupi-Paletwa section. Full Strength Co, Manna Shweppyi Co and Htaik Sin Co the Haka-Thantlang-Sarschauk section, Alpha Co and BME Co the section of Thantlang-Lonle road, Aung Shwe Htoo Win Co and U KhwaLWod Co-Falam-Reed section, Chin Hill Star Co Kalay-Natshaung-Falam section.

Public Works will construct Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyikha section and Aung Shwe Htoo Win Co the Fort White-Htokhla section.

The road section must be 24 feet wide and the bend of the road 34 feet. Moreover, the uphill road in 12 feet high must be built with step. Kyemon-Ju Nai

Crime

Arms and ammunition seized in Kalaw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Arms and ammunition were seized in Kalaw Township of Shan State recently.

A combined team in Kalaw Township seized one M-16 automatic rifle, one .32 pistol, 284 assorted rounds of ammunition, eight magazines and two fuses of BA-91 grenade from the house of Sai Kaw Kham (a) Aik Kaw in Pensive Village in Kalaw Township. Kyemon-Maung Zaw

Mr Dawei University and Miss Dawei University contests were held at the convocation hall of the university on 17 August. A body-builder shows off his muscles in best posture in the contest.—Kyemon-Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)
Japan, US eye Abe-Obama summit in Russia in early Sept

Tokyo, 20 Aug—Japan and the United States plan to hold a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Barack Obama on the fringes of the summit of Group of 20 major economies in Russia early next month, a Japanese government source said on Tuesday.

The meeting, where the two leaders are expected to confirm once again plans to strengthen the bilateral security alliance, is likely to take place on 5 Sept, the first day of the two-day G-20 annual gathering of leaders, according to the source.

If realized, the summit would be the second for the two, following their first in Washington in February, which was held just months after Abe became prime minister in late December.

In the envisioned talks, Abe and Obama are expected to acknowledge the importance of dialogue in mending ties between Japan and China that have soured over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

They are also expected to agree to closely work together to prevent North Korea from going ahead with its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

Among the other topics to be discussed are construction of a new US Marine Corps air base in Okinawa Prefecture that has stalled amid local opposition, and steps aimed at alleviating the burden on Okinawa residents of hosting the bulk of US military installations in the country.

Abe and Obama are also expected to confirm cooperation between Tokyo and Washington in seeking to conclude by year-end negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a US-led free trade pact involving 12 Pacific Rim nations.

The two are also likely to discuss a possible visit to Japan by Obama as a state guest being arranged for next spring or later, according to the source.

On Monday, Japan and Russia agreed to hold a summit between Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the fringes of the G-20 summit.

Abe is expected to cut short his attendance at the G-20 summit to attend a session of the International Olympic Committee in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 7 Sept where the host city of the 2020 Summer Games will be selected.

Seven killed in Philippine SW monsoon

Manila, 20 Aug—At least seven people died and over 600,000 people were affected by heavy rain in the Philippine capital, forcing the closure of government offices, schools, banks and most private companies on Monday, and residents in parts of the city and near provinces had to leave their homes because of floods. At least three people were killed and two were missing in accidents caused by the rain and flooding, disaster and government officials said. Reuters

Residents wade through floodwater brought by monsoon rain, intensified by tropical storm Trami, in Kawit town of Cavite city, south of Manila on 19 Aug 2013. Heavy rain in the Philippine capital forced the closure of government offices, schools, banks and most private companies on Monday, and residents in parts of the city and near provinces had to leave their homes because of floods. At least three people were killed and two were missing in accidents caused by the rain and flooding, disaster and government officials said.

Flooding in Russia’s Far East cost 260 million USD in agriculture

Moscow, 20 Aug—Floods in Russia’s Far East region have cost agriculture 8.5 billion rubles (260 million US dollars), the Agriculture Ministry said on Monday.

More than 627,000 hectares of agricultural land, or 40 percent of crop areas, have been affected by the floods, said the ministry in a statement. Nearly 28,500 people have been affected by the floods in the Amur Region, the Khabarovsk Territory and the Jewish Autonomous Region, it said.

The water level of the Amur River in the city of Khabarovsk peaked at a historic height of 642 centimetres on Sunday, which happened only in 1897, local authorities said.

By Sunday noon, more than 17,000 people have been evacuated, and 166 temporary shelters have been set up across the three regions, providing water, food and medical supplies for those victims, said local officials. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev instructed local authorities to make sure funds allocated to the flood victims could reach them. “This situation needs to be controlled,”RIA Novosti news agency quoted him as saying.

Head of Russia’s Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring Alexander Frolov said Monday in an interim conference that the flood peak was over and water level in the Far East would soon go down.

ASEAN makes progress in creating economic community

Bangkok, 20 Aug—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations said Monday it has made significant progress in achieving the group’s goal of creating an economic community by the end of 2015.

They reaffirmed their commitment to enhanced implementation of in-country measures in order to realize regional measures and ensure the timely realization of AEC by 2015, according to a statement released after Monday’s talks.

Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan told reporters that the ministers agreed to closely work to agree to the free trade pact involving 12 Pacific Rim nations.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said on Tuesday that the remaining two hostages were freed in the town hall of the southern German city of Ingolstadt as police raided the building after hours of standoff on Monday.

The man entered the building shortly before 9:00 a.m. (0700 GMT). Police cordoned off the building and contacted directly with the hostage taker.

Shots were heard when police raided the building. The remaining two hostages, including the deputy mayor’s secretariat, were freed unharmed. The offender was injured. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was scheduled to visit the Bavarian city for an election rally at 17:00 (1500 GMT). The plan was cancelled due to the incident, announced her CDU and its sister party CSU in the southern German state. —Xinhua

Smoke rises after what activists said was an air raid by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad in Salma town, Latakia governore on 16 Aug, 2013. Reuters

Hostages freed in southern Germany after police raid

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The gun man, holding three hostages, had released Deputy Mayor Sepp Missbeck earlier after negotiations.

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Website clamps down on bullying after teenage suicides

London, 20 Aug—Online social network Ask.fm said on Monday it would clamp down on bullying after complaints from child safety campaigners for a string of suicides in Britain that were linked to the website popular with teenagers. Earlier this month Hannah Smith, 14, hanged herself at her family’s home after suffering months of bullying on the Latvia-based website, which allows users to post questions and comments to each other anonymously if they want.

This was the fourth teenage suicide in Britain linked to the website in the past year and prompted some companies, including Vodafone, Laura Ashley and the Save the Children charity, to withdraw advertising from the site. Following Smith’s suicide, Prime Minister David Cameron said Internet users should boycott “vile” websites that allow cyber bullying to avoid any more deaths, while some schools urged parents to get their children off the site.

The founders of Ask.fm, Russian brothers Ilja and Mark Terebin, said on Monday there had been a full audit of the website’s safety features and that as a result, they would hire more staff to moderate comments, including a safety officer. They would also create a new function for users to flag comments by bullying or harassment, and raise the visibility of a button to stop anonymous comments, they said in a statement.

Ask.fm has attracted 70 million users since it was founded in 2010. The site made headlines in the US last week when kidnapping victim Hannah Anderson logged on just 48 hours after her rescue in Idaho to openly answer personal questions about her ordeal. “I think they’ve gone far enough to make the website safe for teenagers to use but I also think they can do a bit more. Get rid of the anonymous bit completely, because if you’re anonymous, you can bully,” Smith’s father, David Smith, told Britain’s Sky Television on Monday.

A report this month from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) indicated that online harassment, abuse or cyber stalking was experienced by almost one in five children who used social networking sites. —Reuters

Earth-like exoplanet found to complete orbit in mere 8.5 hours

Washington, 20 Aug—US researchers said on Monday that they have discovered an Earth-sized exoplanet that orbits its host star in the time it takes you to complete a single workday, or get a full night’s sleep. Located about 700 light-years away, the exoplanet named Kepler 78b is extremely close to its star. Its orbital radius is only about three times the radius of the Earth, causing it an orbital year in a mere 8.5 hours, one of the shortest orbital periods ever detected.

Most importantly, researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) were able to detect light emitted by the planet, a first for an exoplanet as small as Kepler 78b. This light, once analyzed with larger telescopes, may give scientists detailed information about the planet’s surface composition and reflective properties. While it is about the size of Earth, Kepler 78b is most certainly not habitable, due to its extreme proximity to its host star, the MIT researchers wrote in the Astrophysical Journal.

They estimated that its surface temperatures may be as high as 2,760 degrees Celsius. In such a scorching environment, the top layer of the planet is likely completely melted, creating a massive, roaring lave ocean of lava. “You’d have to really stretch your imagination to imagine living on a lave world,” co-author Josh Winn, an associate professor of physics at the MIT, said. “We certainly wouldn’t survive there.”

The researchers also determined that the planet is about 40 times closer to its star than Mercury is to our Sun. The star around which Kepler 78b orbits is likely relatively young, as it rotates more than twice as fast as the Sun, a sign that the star has not had as much time to slow down.

Kepler 78b was observed by the US Kepler Telescope, which has recently been retired from its planet-hunting mission after US engineers failed to find a fix for its hobbled pointing system. Winn and his colleagues were tasked with looking for Earth-sized planets with very short orbital periods. “We’ve got used to planets having orbits of a few days,” said Winn. “But we wondered, what about a few hours? Is that even possible? And sure enough, there are some out there.”—Xinhua

Judge dismisses suit against AOL in patent sale to Microsoft

New York, 20 Aug—A federal judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit accusing AOL Inc and some of its executives of fraud for repurchasing 14.8 million shares in 2011 without disclosing that the company would sell a $1 billion portfolio of patents to Microsoft Corp months later. Plaintiffs in the case said they suffered significant losses when they sold their shares ahead of the patent deal, after which AOL’s stock surged 43 percent in a single day.

Knowing the deal with Microsoft was imminent, lowebased AOL, its CEO Tim Armstrong and former CFO Arthur Minson to effectively buy their company’s stock at a discount price, plaintiffs said. But “the complaint’s conspiracy theory is mere speculation,” US District Judge Denise Cote said in an 18-page opinion. The lawsuit failed to provide an adequate example in which AOL executives made a material misstatement or omission prior to the announcement of the patent sale on April 9, 2012, Cote said.

It was well known in the market that AOL’s patent portfolio might be extremely valuable, Cote wrote. The company disclosed in numerous public filings that its patents were among its most valuable assets, and an activist investor in AOL, Starboard Value LP, had publicly speculated that the portfolio could be worth as much as $1 billion, Cote said. The deal also came at a time in the market for such patents was heating up. Nortel, for example, sold a patent portfolio for $4.5 billion in June 2011, Cote noted.

Press reports from the time and AOL disclosures that it was working to sell the patents “render implausible any suggestion that the public was not aware that AOL possessed an extremely valuable patent portfolio,” Cote wrote. The judge also did not accept the plaintiffs’ claim that an auction for the patents was essentially a sham, and that AOL knew long before 9 April that it would sell them to Microsoft, Cote said.

“The remaining allegations in the complaint simply provide no basis for an assertion that AOL and Microsoft reached a secret deal for the sale of the patents months before the auction was conducted,” the judge wrote. Representatives for the plaintiffs and AOL were not immediately available for comment. The lead plaintiff is Barbara Keeling, who the complaint said sold AOL stock during the class period and before the deal.—Reuters

Amazon.com back up after going down for US, Canadian users

New York, 20 Aug—Amazon.com, the website of the world’s largest online retailer, went down for about 15 minutes on Monday in a rare outage for many users across the United States and Canada. It was unclear what triggered the rare disruption. The company, whose Amazon Web Services is designed to ramp up server capacity for customers to prevent outages, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Earlier on Monday, users from New York and Toronto to San Francisco got only error messages when trying to access the popular shopping website. The news came less than a week after the website of the New York Times went down for about two hours. Amazon has $86 billion in annual gross merchandise volume, including its business through third-party sellers, according to consultants at RetailNet Group. Going by that estimate, Amazon processes some $163,622 in transactions per minute on average.—Reuters
Chinese shipbuilder reveals breakthrough technology

BEIJING, 20 Aug—One of China’s major shipbuilders has said it has developed cutting-edge propulsion technology that will bring the nation closer to its goal of modernizing its shipping and naval fleets.

China Shipbuilding Industry Corp said its Wuhan Institute of Marine Electric Propulsion finalized its integrated electric propulsion technology in mid-July. It said the in-house development will help the nation wean itself off the long-standing dependence on imported parts in manufacturing ships.

Most surface vessels in China use mechanical transmissions and are propelled by a motor or an engine, said the institute. Many Western countries have adopted integrated electric propulsion, in which gas turbine generators produce electricity that powers electric motors. “Chinese ships usually use steam engines, multiple-stroke diesel engines or gas turbine engines,” said Wang Dan, deputy editor-in-chief of Modern Ships magazine. “Chinese navy ships that need to reach fast speeds would have ‘combined diesel or gas’ propulsion systems.”

The development of integrated electric propulsion may resolve engine problems that have long haunted the nation and its navy. One of the major issues has been a lack of domestic companies that can make gas turbine engines to support long distance voyages. Without domestically developed gas turbine engines, the Chinese navy has been forced to import foreign engines for its ships, said a military expert who did not want to be named. And until an electric propulsion engine is more widely available in China, most ships must run on an engine fueled by diesel and gas.

“Compared with other drive methods, integrated electric propulsion has many advantages. It can save more space and is easier to control. The engine will then reduce a ship’s weight and noise,” Wang said. “It also enables ships to cruise at a faster speed and for a longer time.” The new technology is also easier to operate and maintain, he said.

“Now with the achievement made by our technicians, we are seeing an opportunity to narrow the gap with Western naval powers,” the institute said.

The institute said the British navy’s HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier and the United States navy’s Zumwalt-class destroyers, which are all under construction, will use the new electric propulsion technology, which means we must accelerate our development (of the technology) if we don’t want to fall behind in building advanced ships.”

The HMS Queen Elizabeth, which is scheduled to commence sea trials in 2017, will be the first carrier in the world to adopt integrated electric propulsion. Wang said it is important for China to improve its vessels’ propulsion systems and invest more to develop reliable gas turbine engines for battleships before integrated electric propulsion can be put into wide use.

China in recent years has made a great deal of effort to modernize its naval and shipping fleet and to design new propulsion engines. China Shipbuilding Industry Corp said in February that one of its research institutions received State approval and funding to formally begin research on core technologies for nuclear-powered ships.

Nesting endangered bird
found near Mekong River
in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 20 Aug—Conservation group WWF said on Tuesday it has discovered Giant Ibises—Cambodia’s national bird—has been found nesting in the Mekong Flooded Forest in the country’s northeast, creating hope that the endangered bird can be saved from extinction.

“The discovery of the Giant Ibises nest on the Mekong is extremely significant because it provides hope for the species’ survival,” said Sok Ko, Forestry Administration official and Bird Nest Project officer at WWF-Cambodia.

The nest was found in mid-July by a local villager, a few kilometres inland from the Mekong River, making it “the first documented nest site for this species in Cambodia,” said the WWF.

The Giant Ibises are an important biodiversity area located between Kratie and Stung Treng towns in northeast Cambodia. Following the villager’s report, WWF officials visited the site in O Chralang Village and encountered an adult Giant Ibis, sitting on two eggs. The bird’s breeding season runs from June to November and according to Sok Ko, his team agreed to work with local villagers to protect the nest until the chicks have hatched and left it.

Technical adviser at WWF-Cambodia Gerry Ryan said, “Giant Ibises don’t like to be disturbed and are very shy—they tend to live far from human settlements.” Found only in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, the Giant Ibises or Thaumatibis gigantea was included on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources’ Red List of Threatened Species in 1996 as critically endangered species.

About 90 percent of the estimated 345 birds live in Cambodia, with the population rapidly declining, according to experts.

A radiation monitor indicates 131.00 microsieverts per hour near the No 4 and No 3 buildings at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Koriyama, Japan.  Photographer: Toru Hanai/Bloomberg

Tokyo, 20 Aug—The operator of Japan’s crippled Fukushima nuclear plant said Tuesday it believes about 300 tons of highly contaminated water has leaked from a storage tank designed to hold overflows from the site.

The leaked water contains 80 million becquerels of radiation per liter, a Tokyo Electric spokesman said by phone. The company will give further details at a media conference at 0330 GMT (11:30 pm Monday EDT).

A becquerel is a measure of the release of radioactive energy. The Fukushima shi

A private money trader counts Indian Rupee currency notes at a shop in Mumbai on 1 Aug. 2013.—Reuters

India, Brazil, other emerging economies hit by currency rout

In India, the rupee’s sell-off threatens to drive Asia’s third-largest economy towards a full-blown crisis. “Our primary concern is that the policy authorities still don’t ‘get it’—thinking this is a fairly minor squall which will simmer down relatively quickly with fairly minor actions,” Robert Prior-Wandesforde, an economist at Credit Suisse in Singapore, wrote in a note on the Indian currency on Monday.The partially convertible rupee has continued to weaken despite the central bank’s dollar sales and its latest cures on outflows from companies and individuals, announced last Wednesday, which have dented India’s stock and bond markets.—Reuters

Lilly defends blockbuster Alimta with unusual ammo

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug—Eli Lilly and Co, now facing a separate “method-of-use” patent challenge in court, is set to and during use of the mediation, it usually has to copy the language of the branded drug’s label. Ben Hsing, a partner in the law firm of Kayo Scholar in New York, said in a recent interview.

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Egyptian authorities arrest Muslim Brotherhood leader

CAIRO, 20 Aug—Egyptian authorities escalated their crackdown on deposed President Mohamed Morsi’s Islamic Brotherhood by arresting the Islamists’ organization’s top leader, state media reported on Tuesday.

Mohamed Badie, 70, was detained at a residential apartment in Nasr City in northeast Cairo “after information came to the security apparatus locating his place of hiding,” the state news agency reported.

The Interior Ministry’s Facebook page showed a picture of Badie, with dark rings under his eyes, sitting in a car between two men in black body armour, with a caption confirming his arrest.

“Carrying out the decisions of the public prosecutor to arrest and bring forward the ‘general guide’ of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohamed Badie, and through collected information and observation of movements, it was possible for the criminal search apparatus under the direction of Cairo’s security (services) to arrest him,” according to the caption.

Badie was charged in July with inciting the murder of protesters. Together with his two deputies, he is due to stand trial on 25 August.

Interior Minister Mohamad Ibrahim told the Al Masry Al Youm newspaper that Badie was arrested in the early hours of Tuesday.

The military removed Mursi from power on 3 July after mass protests against his rule. Mursi, who was freely elected but alienated many Egyptians during his year in power, is in detention at an undisclosed location.

Egypt’s public prosecutor pressed new charges against Mursi of inciting violence in a move coinciding with a court ruling on Monday that toppled military strongman Hosni Mubarak—arrested after his overthrow in 2011—can no longer be held on a corruption charge.—Reuters

Xi demands all-out efforts to help flood victims

BEIJING, 20 Aug—Chinese President Xi Jinping has demanded all-out efforts in putting people’s lives first as the country’s northeast combat bats the worst floods in more than a decade. Xi asked local authorities and armed forces to guard against risks and save people’s lives.

Since 14 Aug, persistent downpours have caused the worst floods since 1998 in Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces, also the heartland of China’s grain production.

By 4 pm Monday, 85 people were confirmed dead and 105 were missing. Some 3.74 million people have been affected, with direct economic losses totaling 16.14 billion yuan (2.6 billion US dollars).

Although the floods have passed their peak, the outlook remains grim for autumn.

Premier Li Keqiang has also urged local authorities to relocate people and help them during the post-flood reconstruction.

Official data showed floods have forced the relocation of 360,000 people, toppled more than 60,000 houses and affected 787,200 hectares of farmland. During 16-19 Aug, Vice Premier Wang Yang visited Heilongjiang Province, the nation’s biggest grain-growing province, demanding scientific approaches to achieve bumper harvests amid the floods.

Authorities should prepare for the worst to prevent dykes and reservoirs from being breached, he said. —Xinhua

EU mission to monitor Gibraltar border amid British-Spanish row

BRUSSELS, 20 Aug—The European Commission has decided to send a “fact-finding mission” to Gibraltar to investigate the dispute between Spain and Britain over border checks on the Spanish side.

The mission is to be sent as soon as possible, according to a phone conversation between European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Monday. Barroso also urged Spain and Britain to solve the dispute “in line with their common membership in the European Union.” On Sunday, dozens of Spanish fishing boats confronted British police vessels.

The latest conflict over the territory, situated on the southwest coast of Spain, began earlier this month after authorities from Gibraltar dumped around 70 large concrete blocks in the sea.

The move was thought to be designed to prevent Spanish fishermen from overfishing in Gibraltar’s territorial waters. Spain saw the matter as a direct affront and responded with tighter border controls, causing delays of between three to four hours. Last Monday, British Prime Minister David Cameron called the beefed-up controls by Spain “politically motivated and disproportionate.”—Xinhua

US yet to pay damages for taxi robbery by Marines 7 years ago

NAHA, (Japan), 20 Aug—The US government has yet to pay compensa-

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tion to a 71-year-old former taxi driver diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after he was robbed by two US Marines while driving a taxi in Okinawa Prefecture in 2006, the man’s lawyer said Monday.

The bilateral Status of Forces Agreement calls for the United States to pay damages to law-abiding acts perpetrated by its off-duty soldiers in Japan. The lawyer, Tsutomo Arakaki, said such compensation is typically paid within a period of one or a year and a half.

The man filed for damages in November 2008 and in April 2009 with Japan’s Defence Ministry serving as a point of contact for the US military, but the procedure has stalled on the US side for an unknown reason, he said.

A press conference in Naha, Okinawa, said his client “became incapable of driving and sustained a great deal of emotional distress.” He added that leaving the victim’s applications unprocessed for a prolonged period of time is “unreasonable and abnormal.” The Naha District Court ruled in 2009 that the United States pay about 28 billion yen in damages. The same court sentenced the soldiers to two years and 10 months in prison the previous year.

The bilateral agreement also stipulates that if damages paid by the US government fall short of those claimed by the court, the Japanese government can pay the balance.

On 14 Aug, the lawyer asked the Defense Ministry to pay the compensation if the United States continues to be nonresponsive.—Kyodo News

Australian navy helping stricken refugee boat

Canberra, 20 Aug—Australia’s navy began rescuing 105 people from a crowded asylum-seeker boat on Tuesday after it ran into difficulties about 120 nautical miles north of Australia’s Christmas Island territory in the Indian Ocean. The rescue comes in the middle of Australia’s campaign for the 7 Sept election, where border protection and tough policies to deter asylum seekers are important issues.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said it received the call for help from someone aboard the boat early on Tuesday.

The Australian navy’s HMAS Parramatta had since arrived at the scene and was conducting a rescue operation after reporting the boat had founderd, AMSA said. There were no reports of fatalities.—Reuters

Sri Lanka transfers 29 Indian prisoners

COLOMBO, 20 Aug—The Sri Lankan government has transferred 29 Indian prisoners to India under bilateral agreement between both countries, the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo said on Monday.

The High Commission said that 31 sentenced prisoners under detention in Sri Lanka were found eligible for transfer to India pursuant to the bilateral agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners between India and Sri Lanka signed in June 2010. “As stipulated in the agreement, to facilitate the social rehabilitation of sentenced prisoners in their own country, cases of these prisoners were duly processed by the Government of Sri Lanka and forwarded to the Government of India for completion of required formalities on the Indian side,” the High Commission said. That High Commission said that on completion of all formalities, the prisoners were transferred back to India in two batches. “The High Commissioner acknowledged the assistance rendered by all concerned departments of the Government of Sri Lanka and expressed hope for continued cooperation in this area,” the Indian High Commission said.—Xinhua

British Princess Diana attends a gala performance in London in this 16 December, 1985 file photo. Britain's Princess Diana attends a gala performance in London in this 16 December, 1985 file photo. British police said on 17 August, 2013 they were assessing new information about the deaths of Diana and her friend Dodi Al Fayez in a Paris road crash in 1997.—Reuters

A visitor poses for a photo in front of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington on 16 August, 2013. The monument is on track to be fixed by on 28 August in time for the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Workers have been removing a disputed inscription from the side of the monument.—Reuters

"New Light of Myanmar" WORLD

New Light of Myanmar
Medical equipment donated to Panlon Township Hospital

HOPANG, 20 Aug—Medical equipment were donated to 16-bed hospital in Panlon Sub-Township in Hopang District in northern Shan State at a ceremony held at Township General Administration Department in Hopong on 15 August. Secretary of ‘Wa’ Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Deputy Commissioner of Hopang District U Than Htut Oo delivered an address at the ceremony.

Chairman of ‘Wa’ Self-Administered Zone Leading Body U Khun Tun Lu and party donated wheel chair, suction, oxygen container and trolley worth K 1.4 million to the hospital. Townselder U Khun Sein and Secretary U Than Htut Oo made donations to Township Health Officer Dr Myint Oo. Police Lt-Col Maung Maung Oo of District Police Force and Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Lwin made donations to Medical Superintendent of Panlon Township Hospital Dr Aung Myo Oo.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Nutrition development activities launched in Lewe

LEWE, 20 Aug—Nutrition development week in August was launched in Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at No (6) Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 August.

It was jointly organized by Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Women’s Affairs Organization.

At first, Township Administrator U Hla Shaung delivered an address at the ceremony and the Township Health Officer elaborated on nutrition development activities. Nurse Daw Hla Hla Wai explained nutrition development tasks in pregnancy. Anti-malaria inspector U Thein Ngaing elaborated on anti-malaria and anti-DHF efforts. Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Chairperson Daw Cho Cho and members administered tonics to under-5 children and expectant mothers.

MMAL-Zaw Myo Ngaing

Social services group established in Singu Tsp

SINGU, 20 Aug—The opening ceremony of Lawkhaba Social Service Group in Letpanha village in Singu Township in PyinOoLwin District in Mandalay Region was held at the office on 15 August.

Ambulance donors U Lwin Ko and U Zaw Oo formally opened the signboard of the group.

Village-tract administrator and group chairman U Aung Khang Nyein delivered a speech at the ceremony.

Secretaries U Aung Thin, U Aung Ko Latt and U Aung Ko Myat briefed on functions of the association.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees U Kyaw Sein spoke words of thanks.

The chairman of the association and officials presented certificates of honour to 65 donors at the ceremony—MMAL-433

Educative talks on health organized in Amarapura Tsp

MYITNGE, 20 Aug—An educative talk on health knowledge was organized in Basic Education High School of Myitnge in Amarapura Township on 17 August as part of activities in School Health Week on 12-17 August.

Headmistress Daw Phyu Phyu Win of Myitnge Basic Education High School made a speech at the ceremony. Myanmar Railways Hospital (Myitnge) Region Medical Officer Dr Myint Aung gave talks on DHF. Assistant Surgeon of Amarapura Township Hospital Dr Tin Ko Ko Soe gave talks on HIV/AIDS.

Amarapura Township Health Officer U Ye Wint explained PICTS-Programme (The Union) and free TB treatment. Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, teachers, health staff and students participated in the activities.—MMAL-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

Prizes awarded to distinction winners and schools with highest pass rate

MAHLAING, 20 Aug—Outstanding students who passed matriculation exam in 2012-2013 fiscal year with distinctions were awarded at Panhlaing Shweswah Hall on 17 August.

The ceremony was organized by Township Education Supervisory Committee.

Schools with highest pass rate and distinction-winners were presented prizes at the award presentation ceremony.

Mahtlang Township education officer Daw San Yi explained education activities in the township.

Pyiithu Hluttaw

Wellwishers donate vehicles to social services group

MANDALAY, 20 Aug—Wellwishers donated two vehicles to Kissanamahi Social Service Association of Kissanamahi ward in Chanayetazhan Township of Mandalay Region on 13 August.

Chairman U Moe Min Aung of the Association said the association provided social care to all the people regardless of religion or race. He praised the support of the residents of the ward for the success of the association.

U Aye Ko and wife Daw Nge of Kyan Dau Aung eatery and U Thein Aung and Daw Swe Swe Win of Aung Publishing House and Oil Mill handed over documents related to the vehicles.

Chairman U Moe Min Aung and Vice-Chairman U Win Htine accepted the documents and returned certificates of honour.

MMAL-040

Agriculture

Combined farming course opened in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 20 Aug—A combined farming course No (1/2013) was opened at the lecture hall of Thayetgon fishery station on 14 August morning.

The course is aimed at developing farming and fishery so as to contribute to rural development and poverty alleviation.

The region social affairs and livestock breeding minister delivered an address at the ceremony. The course would inform the farmers of the profits of combined farming and convince them to breed farm in their farmland. It is being attended by 40 farmers and will last two weeks.—MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)
Knowledge is fortunate

Knowledge is the basis of rational thinking which brings about a variety of prosperity. Knowledge can help a person distinguish between good and bad or right and wrong, meaning it really overthrows the whole life of a person.

Knowledge can find its way to everybody regardless of race, status and age. One can come a long way in his life if he is fully equipped with knowledge. But, his single mistake can ruin the life of two or more others if he is lack of knowledge.

With knowledge one can be visionary, rational and prosperous, and can also be a force to be reckoned with. And there is nothing he couldn’t do, nobody’s heart he couldn’t win and no honor he couldn’t earn. With those attributes, he can overcome a series of difficulties and troubles and thence live a life of comfort. Knowledge means a great deal to him.

Even though one happens to strike a fortune he could be in danger of overplaying his hand and suffer financial reverses if he is without knowledge of properly managing his fortune. This reflects how tough it can be for a person to come up with a vision and lead a better life without knowledge.

Knowledge accumulation requires hard work plus constant learning. Pursuit of knowledge is an endless mission. The more work plus constant learning. Pursuit of knowledge the more he could be in danger of overplaying his hand and subsequently live a life of comfort. Knowledge means a person.

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Knowledge can help a person distinguishes which brings about a variety of prosperity.
Technical presentation seminar on steel bridges held

**YANGON, 20 Aug**—The Malaysia-Myanmar ICT Opportunities: Seminar and Industrial Business Meeting was held at Parkroyal Hotel, here, this morning.

Malaysian ICT companies and service companies explained information and communication technological services in respective sectors.

Responsible persons of Myanmar Computer Federation explained ICT infrastructure being constructed in the nation. Myanmar is turning out about 10,000 ICT technicians including about 6,000 from Universities of Computer Studies yearly. At present, investors have good opportunities for investment in the various sectors of the nation as ICT demand is high.

Malaysian and Myanmar ICT entrepreneurs held talks in respective sectors. Malaysian Foreign Trade Corporation plans to hold about 188 times of business meetings between Malaysian companies and Myanmar entrepreneurs.

Moe Thu

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**NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug**—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Enno Drofenik as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Enno Drofenik was born in 1971. He studied law and Jurisprudence at the University of Vienna in Austria and obtained a Master degree of law in 1993 from that university. In 1997, he joined the Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs and served in various capacities at Austrian Embassies and Missions abroad since 2010. He is Director at the office of the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs of Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs.—MNA

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**CONSULTATIONS FOR ADB-FUNDED INITIATIVES IN MYANMAR TO BE DRIVEN BY STAKEHOLDERS**

MANILA, Philippines, 20 Aug—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing a $225,000 grant to help civil society in Myanmar develop a strategy for participating in the shaping of ADB-funded projects and programs in the country.

“We have a unique opportunity to put ADB’s project consultation and participation process in the hands of civil society from the start, allowing them to drive the way they engage the design of ADB-financed projects. This reflects lessons from other countries, and ADB’s respect for the complexity of re-engagement in Myanmar,” said Laine Thomas, Social Development Specialist in ADB’s Southeast Asia Department.

Historically, civil society organizations (CSOs) have not always been able to operate openly to Myanmar, but their participation is crucial to the success of ADB’s work, as it gives voice to those affected by ADB-funded programs and helps them influence the design, implementation and monitoring of projects. It can also help lessen negative impacts on communities affected by resettlement or environmental concerns, and ensure ADB’s safeguards are followed. This grant will identify key stakeholder groups and equip them with the skills needed to maximize their participation in ADB-supported consultation process. It will also look at ways to bring government and CSOs together to discuss development challenges and potential solutions.

Since Myanmar began a series of economic and social reforms in January 2012, ADB has provided more than $5.4 billion in technical assistance grants to help the country cope with an influx of tourists, update the country’s electricity laws, and assess the state of post-shock education. ADB has also undertaken sector-specific assessments, including in-depth looks at transportation and energy in the country. It resumed operations in the country in January 2013.

ADB’s interim strategy for Myanmar focuses on improving connections between urban and rural areas closing the development gap with regional neighbors and boosting growth through key infrastructure investments, particularly in transport and energy. ADB will also work with communities to improve livelihoods in rural areas where the majority of people live.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.

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**Zagawah**
Local News

Volunteer

Singaporean Red Cross Society donates modern ambulance

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Aug—Under the arrangement of Myanmar Red Cross Society, Singaporean Red Cross Society donated an ambulance to Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Emergency First Aid Camp to be opened near mile post 285 in Theegon of Meiktila, in the first week of August.

As a cooperation programme between MRCS and Singaporean Red Cross Society, the ambulance was donated to the camp. The donation is aimed at transporting patients from the accidents on the expressway to nearest hospitals as quickly as possible after providing first aid to them. The ambulance has been facilitated with modern devices and it will be about K 30 million. The vehicle will be used separately in transport of patients from traffic accidents on the expressway,” said Staff Officer (Grade II) U Nay Oo of Meiktila Red Cross Brigade.

At a time when traffic accident occurs from mile post 276 of Pyawbwe-Meiktila area in Meiktila District to mile post 318 in Pyinsi Village of Wundwin-Myitha area, may contact 09-2201962, Staff Officer (Grade II) U Nay Oo, 064-23037 and 064-25474, Township Red Cross Brigade Office.

Kalay, 20 Aug—Kalay Township Information and Public Relations Department and the village library committee jointly organized the multiplier librarian course at the library in Kyeyawtaung Village of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region on 16 August.

It was the first training course in 2013. Altogether 16 trainees from Kyangtaik Village, five from Hsedaung Village and two from Thaphanein Village are attending the course.

In previous years, similar courses were conducted in PyindaungU, Myaungbl, Htoma, Hraukkyaung, Kokko and Kanyi villages.—Kyemon-Wan Yan Kha (Tekkaho)

National Sports

Traditional cane-ball contest kicks off in Sagaing

SAGAING, 20 Aug—Sagaing Gems Entrepreneurs Association (Hsinmyashin) held the traditional cane-ball contest in conjunction with the sports ground opening ceremony in front of the association office on 16 August morning.

Win Win Kyaw, Shwechu, Ye Man, Htet Ahkar, Naing Shwe, Meeyahtar, Sanpya Maung, Po La Pyae, Pyanhlwlar, Ma Myint Win Swe, Soe Moe Myo Thant and Tabindaing teams from Sagaing and Mandalay are taking part in the contest.

The contest is aimed at turning out the outstanding players and raising sporting spirit.—Kyemon-Myo Win

Coord meeting on control of malaria disease held

TANINTHAY, 20 Aug—With the aim of eliminating malaria disease, a meeting on control of malaria disease was held at the hall of the People’s Hospital in Taninthayi of Taninthay Region on 16 August morning.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Daw Than Aye explained future tasks to control malaria.

Leader of Taninthay Region Malaria Control Team Dr Tin Tun Oobriefed the attendees on plans of the disease control, coordination in once every three weeks for assessing the weak and strong points in implementing the disease control tasks and plan to make field trips to grassroots level.

After that, the departmental officials, members of NGOs and INGOs participated in the discussions.

Officials then replied to queries raised by those present.

Kyemon-Htin Win

Distinction winners honoured at Yekyi BEHS

YEKI, 20 Aug—A ceremony to present prizes to the students who passed the matriculation examination for 2012-13 academic year was held at Tezar Thiri Hall of Yekyi Basic Education High School in Pathein District of Ayeyawady Region on 18 August.

On the occasion, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Soe Mya made a speech.

Next, U Kyi Than of Ayeyawady Foundation spoke on the occasion.

A y e y a w a d y  F o u n d a t i o n donated K 9 million for prize presentation ceremony to Township Administrator U Ye Htut Naing.

Officials presented prizes to 203 outstanding students who had passed the matriculation examination with flying colours.

On behalf of the winners, Lu-Yay-Shun Ma Pwint Phyu Phyu of Yekyi BEHS spoke words of thanks.—Kyemon-697

Health Care Activity

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Aug—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-614444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844)—MNA

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India train accident death toll rises to 37

NEW DELHI, 20 Aug—The death toll from a train accident in the eastern Indian state of Bihar on Monday has risen to 37, police officials said.

Most of the victims were women and children, who were crossing train tracks at a railway station in Bihar’s Khagaria District when another train sped by on the adjacent track mowing them down.

“Today there was a huge congregation of people at the railway station and they were heading towards a nearby temple to offer prayers. As there is no alternative path for the pedestrians, the pilgrims were walking on the tracks and were suddenly trapped by a fast moving train,” a Mansi police station official said.

Following the incident, a mob of people beat the train driver to death and set fire to some trains, media reports said. Around 25,000 people were at the railway station when the accident occurred.

“Senior police officials are here to control the situation, and relief and rescue work is being carried out. We have sent nearly 20 injured people to hospitals,” the police official said.

The death toll is likely to rise further, according to reports.

Death toll in knife attack on bus rises to three

ZHENZHOU, 20 Aug—Another victim died in hospital on Tuesday morning after being attacked by a knife-wielding man on a bus in central China’s Henan Province on Monday, bringing the death toll to three.

The government of Anyang city confirmed that the three victims were all children, the youngest of whom was a 10-month-old baby girl.

The other two were boys aged 10 and 18, respectively.

They were among 15 people injured by a mob who used a knife to assault passengers on the bus en route to Biegou Township, Anyang County on Monday afternoon.

The attacker is still on the run. The incident happened at about 3:05 pm on Monday, when there were 33 passengers on the bus.

Two of the victims died on the way to hospital. Sources with the Anyang City People’s Hospital and the Anyang County No 2 People’s Hospital said among those who remained treated, the oldest was 67 and the youngest 18.

More than 400 policemen were sent to hunt for the suspect on Monday. According to witnesses, the attacker was a man of 1.65 metres tall, with crew cut hair and aged around 27.

KARIBAL, 20 Aug—The Taleban-led militancy and conflicts have left seven dozen Afghans dead in Afghanistan over the past two days, officials confirmed on Monday.

In the bloody battle which erupted in the western Farah Province on Sunday and over Monday, according to an official, 72 Taleban militants and 11 police had lost their lives.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying they had killed 72 Taleban fighters and over Monday, according to reports.

Rajasthan is facing serious challenges like terrorism endangering the very survival of the country, terrorism a huge challenge for any nation, and that we want good relations with all neighbours including India,” he said.

Talking about relations with India, he said Pakistan and India will have to joint their heads together so that they can address common issues like poverty and ignorance. He said the national is fully prepared to defend the motherland along with its valiant armed forces.

Pakistani PM calls on peace talks with militants

ISLAMABAD, 20 Aug—Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday invited the militants for dialogues to end the bloodshed in the country in his first televised address.

“The government is determined to tackle the problem of terrorism either through dialogues or with full might of the state and all state institutions are on the same page on the issue,” Nawaz Sharif told the nation on Radio and Television networks.

He said the government has more than one option to tackle the problem but wisdom demands that there is no loss of innocent lives. He invited those treading the path of terrorism to dialogue to end the vicious cycle of bloodshed.

The prime minister expressed the resolve of the government to eliminate the menace of terrorism, improve economy, address power crisis and pursue good neighbourly relations with all countries of the region, including India, for regional peace and prosperity.

“Pakistan is today facing serious challenges like terrorism endangering the very survival of the country and worst kind of load-shedding that has paralyzed the economy,” he said.

Fertility treatment aid to be limited to women up to 42 from 2016

TOKYO, 20 Aug—The health ministry decided on Monday to limit public financial aid for fertility treatment to women up to 42 years old from fiscal 2016, preceded by a two-year transition period in which such aid will be extended.

Each treatment costs 300,000 yen on average, of which the aid covers 150,000 yen, which is reduced to 75,000 yen if frozen eggs are used. The aid is offered for a total of five years, limited to three times in the first year and up to twice a year after the second.

Workers clean up ash from the Sakurajima volcano on streets in Kagoshima City in Kagoshima Prefecture on 19 Aug, 2013, the day after a 1,117-metre volcano had a major eruption.

Regulators promise greater scrutiny of New Zealand dairy industry

Wellington, 20 Aug—New Zealand food safety officials announced on Tuesday that they will step up their regulatory oversight of the dairy industry after two international alerts involving New Zealand products this month.

“Our dairy sector trades with New Zealand’s reputation is built on the strong assurances our regulatory system provides, and the quality of New Zealand’s products,” MPI acting director-general Scott Gallacher said in a statement.

The interim measures included stepping up the regulatory presence in manufacturing premises, improving and expanding testing across dairy production, and running simulations to test the industry’s ability to track product through their supply chains. The MPI would also cap the time for the risk management plans that dairy producers drew up for their dairy chains. The MPI would also cap the time for the risk management plans that dairy producers drew up for their dairy chains.
China, Mexico vow to boost strategic partnership

Jose Antonio Meade, Secretary of Communications and Transportation Gerardo Ruiz Esparza and Secretary of Tourism Claudia Ruiz Massieu Salinas.

China will work with Mexico to enrich bilateral cooperation in politics, trade and mutual investment in order to achieve common development goals.

China, Thailand convene first strategic dialogue

Bangkok, 20 Aug—Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zezhu held talks with Thai officials on bilateral ties and China-ASEAN relations in the First China-Thailand Strategic Dialogue held in Bangkok on Monday.

In the meeting co-chaired by Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, both sides noted with satisfaction the progress made in high-level visits, trade and investment, tourism, culture and education between the two countries since the adoption of the Joint Action Plan on China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation (2012-2016).

They agreed to maintain the momentum of cooperation under the MOU on Cooperation on Sustainable Development and to enhance cooperation in such areas as high speed train, water resources management, green energy as well as education and human resource development.

The two sides vowed to step up efforts to further promote trade and investment in order to achieve the MOU target of $100 billion U.S. dollars by 2015 set by the leaders of the two countries, prompting an early convening of the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Commission on Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation. They also pledged to fully implement the MOU on Agricultural Trade Cooperation and expand trade in agricultural products.

They shared the view that RMB should play a greater role in the business transactions between China and Thailand.—Xinhua

New Y ork history

Fully assembled Chevrolet Cruze cars reach the end of the assembly line at the General Motors Cruze assembly plant in Lordstown, Ohio in this file photo from 22 July, 2011. General Motors Co will recall 292,879 Chevrolet Cruze cars in the United States due to a defect that can cause loss of the brake assist function in models with the 1.4-liter turbocharged engine and six-speed automatic transmission, it announced on 16 Aug. 2013. The recall affects 2011 and 2012 models.—Reuters

19 charged in largest gun bust in New York City

New York, 20 Aug—Nineteen people have been detained and 254 guns seized in what New York City mayor Bloomberg called the largest gun bust in the city’s history.

“New York is the safest big city in the nation, but year after year, illegal guns flow into our city from out of state. We don’t have common-sense laws that keep guns out of the hands of criminals,” Bloomberg said.

According to the most recent available gun trace data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire

 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (215)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (215) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (352N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (352N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2013 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: MS EVER GREEN SHIPPING

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS SEAPIONEER SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921
Jennifer Lopez returning as judge on American Idol season 13?

Los Angeles, 20 Aug — Jennifer Lopez’s boyfriend Casper Smart has accidentally revealed that the singer is heading back to the judging panel of American Idol.

There have been speculations about her return on the Fox reality show’s 13th season but a formal announcement is awaited, reported E! News.

When asked whether she is returning on the show, Smart said, “Yes”. Apparently Smart thought that Fox had already made the announcement.

“Returning to American Idol makes sense for me this season as the show’s schedule will allow her to focus on new film and TV projects at the same time. And, of course, her twins are starting school this year and she will have time for her family,” a source told the website.

The deal is yet to be finalized and if Lopez returns on the show, she will join returning judge Keith Urban. Fox Network President Kevin Reilly had confirmed that they had approached Lopez. Names like Jennifer Hudson, Kelly Clarkson, Clay Aiken, Adam Lambert and Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am, are doing the rounds as possible replacements for Mariah Carey, Randy Jackson and Nicki Minaj. American Idol returns on January 2014.

Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis planning to get married?

Los Angeles, 20 Aug — Actor Ashton Kutcher is reportedly planning to pop the question to his actress girlfriend Mila Kunis soon.

The 35-year-old actor is smitten with Kunis, 30, who he has known for 16 years and plans to get married with her as soon as his divorce from Demi Moore comes through, reported Contactmusic.

Kutcher was previously married to Hollywood star Demi Moore and the couple are now in the process of getting a divorce.

“They plan to get engaged soon. Being with StacyAnn Ferguson to Fer- gie Duhamel.

The 38-year-old singer, who is married to actor Josh Duhamel for five years, requested for the name change last month, reported TMZ online.

Fergie, who is pregnant with her first child, was asked to publish a notice in a local newspaper for four weeks which she dutifully did.

After completion of all the formalities a judge gave her consent to the Fergali- gious singer’s request.

Fergie officially changes her name

Los Angeles, 20 Aug — Veteran actor Dick Van Dyke, best known for his hit television comedy of the 1960s, survived a car fire un- scathed on Monday when a passerby pulled him from the smoldering vehicle before it burst into flames on the side of a Los Angeles-area free- way. A spokesman for the California Highway Patrol confirmed that the 87-year-old performer was the driver seen slumped over the steering wheel of a Jaguar that was reported to be on fire on the shoulder of the Ventura Freeway.

Van Dyke said a group of motorists who stopped to render assistance, one of them apparently an off-duty fire- fighter, saw him huddled in the driver’s seat while he was trying to place a call for help and pulled him out of the car to safety. “They thought I had passed out so they yanked me out of the car,” Van Dyke re- counted in an interview with the celebrity news website TMZ.com, saying he had not initially realized that his car was burning.

“It just started making a noise, and I thought I had a flat at first, then it started to smoke, then it burned to a crisp,” he said smiling. He added that he was unhurt and got out of the vehicle “long before” it went up in flames. Still, he counted himself lucky to be alive.” Not only that, there was a fireman, a nurse and a cop just happened to be passing by. Somebody’s looking after me.”

The actor’s publicist, Bob Palmer, said the car, a “brand new” Jaguar, inexplicably caught fire after Van Dyke heard an unusual noise while driving and pulled over to the shoulder of the freeway. He quoted Van Dyke, who had been on his way to a dental appointment, saying afterward, “The only thing I’m embarrassed about is that I could never figure out that darned car.” Fire- fighters were “quickly able to extinguish the flames and evaluate the driver’s medical condition. He did not require transport to a medical facil- ity,” Los Angeles city fire department spokesman Erik Scott said. Palmer said the ac- tor was back at his home and was fine. A six-second video clip posted on Twitter by Van Dyke’s wife, Aline, showed the performer’s charred vehi- cle on the freeway and a brief glimpse of the actor talking to officials at the scene. Van Dyke appeared unharmed in the video clip. A caption ac- companying the clip said: “Van Dyke’s melted car ... He’s fine thank God!!” The tall, lanky actor, whose air of affability and gift for physical comedy helped make “The Dick Van Dyke Show” one of the most beloved sitcoms in US television history, re- ceived a lifetime achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild in January.

Actor Dick Van Dyke escapes unhurt from car fire on Los Angeles freeway

Actor Dick Van Dyke Life holds his award backstage after receiving the life achievement award at the 19th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California on 27 Jan, 2013.— REUTERS

Priyanka Chopra: Give the daughters of India a chance

New Delhi, 20 Aug — Priyanka Chopra, the ambassador of the just- launched NDTV-Vedanta Our Girls, Our Pride cam- paign, spoke today about her experiences as a child helping her parents conduct health clinics in rural Uttar Pradesh.

Priyanka’s parents, both army doctors, con- ducted the health camps from out of an ambulance helped by a nurse. Priyanka and her brother Siddharth. Priyanka, whose job it was to package up the pre- scribed medicines, said at the launch of the NDTV- Vedanta campaign in Delhi: “Since then, I’ve seen so closely what happens in a lot of rural India and, now that I’ve come to know, in a lot of urban India as well—the mindsets that people have towards the girl child, how they’re looked upon as a burden.”

Priyanka, who de- scribes the campaign as one close to her heart, has already worked with UNICEF against female foeticide and infanticide in 2008. She said: “Our fu- ture is in the hands of our children and our girls are a huge part of that. We are one of the youngest nations in this world and I think it’s high time that we take charge of this nation.” Pri- yanka said this about the Our Girls, Our Pride cam- paign: “With this initiative we aim to change the lives of many girls and provide them with basic necessities to be able to lead a quality life.” She urged Indian par- ents to give their daughters a chance.—PTI

Jennifer Lopez's boyfriend Casper Smart accidentally revealed the news.—PTI

Fergie requested for the name change last month.

Ashton Kutcher has known Mila Kunis for the past 16 years.—PTI

Mila brought Ashton back to who he really is.

He’s not playing the field, he’s focused on en- joying Mila and the happi- ness she brings,” a source said. “She doesn’t get jealous- ous like Demi used to. He calls her because he wants to and when they’re apart they talk constantly,” the source added.—PTI

Winners of the “Queens of Twins” beauty contest Melissa Czirok and Cindita Czirok (3rd L and 3rd R) pose with runner-ups Abigel Repcik and Angela Repcik (2nd R and 1st R), and the third placed Dora Papp and Juditi Papp (1st L and 2nd L) during the 14th National Twins Festival in Ercsi, central Hungary, on 19 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA
Raikkonen will not drive for Red Bull in 2014

LONDON, 20 Aug—Kim Raikkonen will not drive for Formula One champions Red Bull next season after talks broke down, his manager said on Monday. The Finn is out of contract at Lotus at the end of the season and was a leading contender to replace Mark Webber at Red Bull when the Australian moves over to endurance racing next year. Fellow Australian Daniel Ricciardo, from Red Bull’s junior team Toro Rosso, now looks most likely to get the 2014 seat alongside world champion Sebastian Vettel. Raikkonen, second in the current standings behind Vettel, said staying at Lotus was just one possibility for 2013 world champion Raikkonen who spent two years in rallying after being forced out of Ferrari in 2009. He has shone on his return to F1 with an unfashionable team. "We are pretty confident Kimi will be in F1 in 2014," he said. "There are options—and that is plural—out there and I will continue to talk to teams. I am hopeful we will sort something out in the not too distant future.” Raikkonen, second in the current standings and third last year, has even been linked in the media with a return to Ferrari to replace the underperforming Felipe Massa but the Italian team have played down the speculation. The F1 rumor mill even suggested Ferrari’s number one driver Fernando Alonso could be heading to partner Vettel next season after his manager was seen entering the Red Bull motorhome at the Hungarian Grand Prix last month. Ferrari issued a rare public rebuke to Alonso after he told reporters “The one the others have” when asked following Hungary what kind of car he wanted for his birthday.—Reuters

Lotus F1 Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen of Finland holds up his trophy after placing second in the Hungarian F1 Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit in Mogyorod, near Budapest on 28 July, 2013.—Reuters

Lotus’s Stewart out for season with broken leg

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug—Three-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Tony Stewart has ruled himself out for the rest of the season due to the broken right leg he suffered in a car crash earlier this month. Stewart, who suffered a broken tibia and fibula in an August 5 sprint car race in Iowa, will be replaced on his Stewart-Haas team by veteran driver Mark Martin and Austin Dillon for the remainder of the 2013 campaign.

"Obviously, I’m disappointed to be out but the team is in very good hands with Mark Martin and Austin Dillon," Stewart, 42, said in a statement. "Mark is someone I’ve looked up to my entire career and I have a tremendous amount of respect for him. Austin is a great young talent, and he showed that Sunday at Michigan.”

Dillon, who finished 14th at Michigan after replacing Stewart in the Stewart-Haas No 14 Chevrolet, will also drive for the team in the October 20 Talladega event. Martin, who has piled up 40 wins in the Cup ranks over the past four decades, was released by Michael Waltrip Racing on Monday and will fill in for Stewart this weekend at Bristol and in 11 other races.

Stewart, who has also won titles in Indy cars and stock cars, was NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion in 2002, 2005 and 2011. —Reuters

Sao Paulo will be ready for World Cup

SÃO PAULO, 20 Aug—FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said on Monday he has no doubt Itaquerao stadium in Sao Paulo will be ready in time for next year’s World Cup. Earlier this year Vettel warned Sao Paulo could be taken off the tournament’s schedule if construction work was not stepped up at the venue. “I remember that during the Confederations Cup we had an emergency meeting because we were afraid about when this stadium would be delivered,” Valcke said. “And I can tell you that, yes, the stadium will be delivered on time and, yes, it will be ready to organize the opening game of the World Cup and also for test events here before this opening game.”

Sao Paulo was Valcke’s first stop of a four-day tour that will also include inspections of stadiums in Curitiba, Manaus and Rio de Janeiro.

Towering Isner emerges as America’s hope for Flushing Meadows

CINCINNATI, 20 Aug — Long before Andy Roddick retired at the US Open last year American tennis had been searching for someone to one to wave the Stars and Stripes at Flushing Meadows. That man has stepped forward this summer with towering John Isner and his booming serve looking ready to make some noise when the final grand slam of the season gets underway on 26 August.

Roddick exited the sport to great fanfare last September taking his final bow on the same Arthur Ashe Stadium court where he had claimed his one and only grand slam title. This year it will be a full decade since Roddick became the last American man to host the trophy and the search continues in earnest for the next in an illustrious line of homegrown winners that also includes, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors. The search has been tough — last week’s world rankings did not include a single American in the top 20 for the first time since the classification began in 1973.

That changes on Monday though when Isner will move from 22 to 14 in the world and he underlined his US Open ambition forcing world number two Spanish Rafa Nadal to grind out a 7-6, 7-6 win in the final of the Western and Southern Open on Sunday. While it is far too early to put Isner’s name in the same sentence with any of the greats of American tennis the 27-year-old is looming as the big dangerman in Flushing Meadows.

His game is on the rise. He’s improving a lot, and he’s moving fast,” said Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro, the 2009 US Open winner. “His serves are unbelievable, and nobody wants to play against him.”

Since retiring in the second round at Wimbledon with a left knee injury Isner has been in brilliant hardcourt form putting together a 16-4 match record while picking up his seventh career title in Atlanta followed by runnerup finishes in Washington and Cincinnati.

Along the way to Sunday’s final Isner knocked off three top 10’s, world number one Novak Djokovic, number seven Del Potro and number 10 Milos Raonic.

“Nobody likes to play against a great player, and nobody likes to play against a player who you will not have the chance to be on rhythm for most of the time," said Nadal. “John is this kind of player that, in my opinion, he should be fighting for the Masters, for the top 10. Of course, with his serve, advantage is huge. So if he’s playing well mentally and he’s making the right decisions in important moments, he’s a player that it’s very difficult to stop.”

Certainly, if nothing else, Isner has raised expectations heading into the US Open but remains reluctant to shoulder the added burden of being the next great American hope leaving that duty to four-time US Open champion Serena Williams.—Reuters

John Isner of the US hits a return ball to Rafael Nadal of Spain during their championship match at the Men’s Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on 18 Aug, 2013. —Reuters
BiH army helicopters drop water to fight against forest fire

SARAJEVO, 20 Aug.—Helicopters from Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on Monday dropped water over raging forest fire in southern part of the country.

The helicopters were operated in the area of Jablanica, where a raging forest fire has swallowed up hundreds of hectares of forest land.

The move came as the latest efforts to put out the wildfire which began in late July. No deaths or injuries were reported. Under the request of the Security Ministry, BiH Air Force has partied pated in the operations to fight against fire since August 3, local media reported.

Helicopters have dropped almost 1,000 tonnes of water with a flight time of over 60 hours since early August, the reports said, adding that the fire was still not under control. Hot weather has fueled forest fires in mountains since early summer in BiH while firefighters were struggling with the lack of equipment and difficult terrains.—Xinhua

Israel allows 270 trucks into Gaza amid closure of Rafah crossing

Gaza, 20 Aug.—The Israeli authorities allowed 270 trucks carrying agricultural products and construction materials into Gaza via Kerem Shalom crossing on Monday, Gaza commercial liaison officer Raed Fattouh said.

Fattouh noted that it included 20 trucks of gravel belonging to the private company Rafaqat, which transported limited quantities of cement, iron bars and gravels to limited quantities of construction materials and construction projects.

“The Israeli authorities had also pumped limited quantities of gasoline and cooking gas,” he added. Israel has been imposing a tight blockade on Gaza after Islamic Hamas movement had violently seized control of the area since June 2007.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian authorities closed down Rafah border crossing with the Gaza strip, the main crossing point of the coastal enclave, until further notice, the interior ministry of Hamas government announced on Monday.

It said the Egyptian side “officially informed us that the border crossing between Gaza and Egypt is closed in both directions due to the hard security condition in northern Sinai.”

Reuters

MotoGP set to return to Brazil after a decade away

SÃO PAULO, 20 Aug.—MotoGP will return to Brazil for the first time in a decade next year subject to an upgrade to the Nelson Piquet track in Brasilia, promoters Dorna announced on Tuesday.

“Grand Prix motocycling last place in the country in Rio de Janeiro in 2004 and its return is subject to approval by the MotoGP safety commission and the agreement of the governing International Motocycling Federation (FIM),” said the MotoGP safety commission.

“It is the lowest point of the MotoGP calendar for many years," Dorna chief Carmelo Ezpeleta said after meeting with local promoters and government officials at the circuit.

“We have given our go-ahead, South America will go from having no rounds in the 2013 calendar to two in 2014 with Argentina also hosting a race at the new Termas de Rio Hondo circuit,” Ezpeleta said.

Reuters

First batch of Thai evacuees from Egypt return home

BANGKOK, 20 Aug.—The first batch of 345 Thais evacuated from strife-ridden Egypt arrived in Bangkok on Monday on a government-chartered flight.

A Thai Airways International’s special flight from Dubai, where the evacuees were taken to on Sunday, landed Monday afternoon at Bangkok’s Don Mueang airport. The Transport Ministry arranged Bangkok and inter-provincial buses to take the evacuees to destinations in the capital and other provinces.

Later on Monday, a second batch of Thai nationals will return to Thailand from Dubai on another chartered flight by the national flag carrier. In addition, a Thai Air Force C-130 transport plane will bring back about 66 Thais.

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Union ministers discuss Myanmar’s affairs with Quintana

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Aug—Mr Tomás Ojea Quintana, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar met with Union Ministers Dr Pe Thein Khin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aye Myint and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, here, separately today.

They held talks on the implementation of National Health Plan in the rural areas, IDPs’ easy access to health care in Rakhine State by the Ministry of Health, progress in Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Union FM meets Director of Brazilian Cooperation Agency

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Aug—Ambassador Fernando Marroni Abreu, Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and party paid a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening.

They discussed matters on enhancing technical cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of Brazil.

Union Attorney-General receives foreign guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Aug—A delegation led by Mr John W Hancock of Thailand-based International Baker & McKenzie Law Firm called on Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin at his office, here, this morning.

At the call, the guests said that arrangement has been made to open Law Firm branch in Yangon in September and investment will be invited.

In the afternoon, the Union Attorney-General received Senator Legal Adviser Dr Mark West and party of East West Management Institute of USAID.

During the meeting, Senator Legal Adviser Dr Mark West informed the Attorney-General of the Union that they have heard undertakings for the rule of law and reforms carried out by the Office of the Union Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General of the Union answered the queries on the functions of the Office of Attorney-General of the Union and Regions/States Advocate-General’s Offices.

Appointment of Serbian Ambassador agreed on

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Aug—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Miodrag Nikolin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

Mr. Miodrag Nikolin was born in 1954, in Zrenjanin, Republic of Serbia. He was graduated from the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade in 1977. He worked as an intern of the then Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1981 to 1982. Since then, he served in various capacities at different departments of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Diplomatic Missions in Yangon. He is currently serving as Ambassador, Diplomatic adviser at the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environment Protection.

Appointment of Polish Ambassador agreed on

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Aug—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Zenon Kuchciak as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Zenon Kuchciak was born in 1960 in Poland. In 1986, he has obtained a Master Degree in Political Science at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986 and served in various capacities at the different departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and at the Polish Diplomatic Missions abroad. He was Ambassador of Poland to Uzbekistan from 2001 to 2005. He is currently serving as Deputy Director/Ambassador at the Foreign Service inspectorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Byline: PyinOoLwin Chit Swe

As part of efforts for supplying irrigation water to farmland across the country, the government has built new dams and reservoirs and renovated and maintained the old ones, including the Aingma diversion weir in Minbu (Saku) Township in Minbu District.

The irrigation facility built over the Mann Creek is over 80 years old and it is 580 ft long and 10 ft high. There are 116 shutters and nine sluice gates at the diversion weir.

When Mannchaung Reservoir located about 30 miles upstream of the Mann Creek was completed in 1999, the number of farmland to which Aingma Diversion Weir irrigated has increased from 28965 acres in rainy season and 132 acre in summer season in 1996 to 34758 acres in rainy season and 5136 acres in summer season in 2013.

However, the water from the diversion weir did not reach 1431 acres in northern most part of it due to damaged part of the irrigation system which was constructed about eight decades ago.

Therefore, the over-30-mile-long northern main canal, the 18-mile-long southern main canal, 14 channels, nine minor channels were renovated, drains silted in the irrigation system were dredged and irrigation infrastructures were renovated in the 2012-13 FY. The irrigation system of the diversion weir is being upgraded.

Upon completion of the upgrade work, the diversion weir is expected to irrigate 36189 acres, benefiting the population of 42940 from 95 villages. The first renovation of the irrigation facility in 80 years would help local farmers enjoy high per capital income and would prevent flood in the rainy season.

Local farmers are delighted to see irrigation water flowing into their farmland and ready to engage in double cropping which would improve their livelihood. Besides, the upgraded irrigation facility is sure to turn the region to greener and to supply drinking water sufficiently to the people and cattle as well. The facility will surely play an important role in implementing rural area development and in making efforts for reducing poverty in rural areas.

Myanma Alinn: 11-8-2013

Trt: AMS