NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met with townselders at Aung Mingala Hall in Hsenwi Township in Shan State (North) this morning.

At the meeting, the Vice-President urged them to join hands with the State in carrying out development tasks in the township.

The meeting was attended by the Hluttaw reps, townselders, departmental officials, culture and social organizations, ward/village administrators and officials from development supporting committee.

The Vice-President said that he settled the problems of education, health, road and bridge and agriculture during previous visit and pledged to fulfill the needs as much as he can. Although Hsenwi Township lies on border trade road, the livelihood of locals depend on agriculture and trade, the Vice-President said. He suggested to promote tourism industry in the township to create job opportunities for locals. The Vice-President also invited those present to practise good agriculture pattern in Nay Pyi Taw.

He presented K 16.35 million for students who passed matric exam for 2012-13 academic year and national race cultural troupes. Next, the Vice-President went to Kutkai where he inspected the condition of old runway of airport.

Then, he met local people at Pyidaungsu Hall in Kutkai and said that (See page 8)

Vice-President U Nyan Tun visits SME Development Centre, One Stop Service for Investment

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Vice-President U Nyan Tun visited SME Development Centre of Ministry of Industry on University Avenue in Bahan Township this afternoon.

The Vice-President heard reports on formation of the centre, mission and vision of the centre and progress of works presented by Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung and officials. The centre was established in April 2012 with the aim of effectively (See page 8)

Heavy rains in Sagaing Region, Chin and Rakhine States

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—According to the observations and analysis of meteorological conditions at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, under the influence of vigorous monsoon in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, widespread rain or thundershowers will be in Sagaing Region, Chin and Rakhine States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls during the next (36) hrs commencing this noon, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department. MNA

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**LOCAL NEWS**

## Beautifying City

### Drains dredged for proper flow of water in Mandalay

**Mandalay, 26 Aug**—Workers of Sanitation Department under Mandalay City Development Committee carried out sanitation and dredging the drains along 73rd Street between 34th to 38th streets in Chanayethazan Township and Mingala Township in Mandalay with the use of heavy machinery for proper flow of water at drains on 23 August.

As MCDC is cleaning and dredging the drains for proper flow of water, the local people are reminded against the undisciplined throwing of garbage, especially plastic bags and polyethylene bags into the drains and urged to throw them into the designated places.

**Kyemon-Thëha Ko Ko (Mandalay)**

## Agriculture

### Cultivation of monsoon paddy late, summer paddy boosts per-acre yield

**Pathêngyi, 26 Aug**—Although cultivation of monsoon paddy turned out to be late in Mandalay Region because of bad weather in the early monsoon, summer production increased in the region.

Pathêngyi, Madaya, Singaing and Kyaukse regions in Mandalay are engaged in cultivation of paddy. The remaining townships of the region put the farmlands under crops as main business.

In the last season, Mandalay Region grew 157,000 acres of summer paddy and its production boosted to over 90 baskets of paddy per acre.

In Madaya, Pathêngyi, Kyaukse and Singaing townships, summer paddy plantations were irrigated by the dams. Thus, Hsinthwèyin paddy strain could rise production with over 100 baskets per acre.

At present, summer paddy are being harvested in Yekyi, Ainggyi, Gyawgyi and Shitawgon villages in Pathêngyi Township, Yanantha and Kyauktada villages in Madaya Township. A total of 100 baskets of paddy fetches K 430,000.—**Kyemon-Thëha Ko Ko (Mandalay)**

## Disaster

### Red Cross members help flood victims

**Padaung, 26 Aug**—As heavy rain showered in Padaung Township violently, Khawa Dam was in danger of breakdown on 19 August.

The departmental officials informed administrators of Chanwaygyi, Tonkin, Kongale, KyaO, Tawma and Sanna villages of danger of embankment breakdown.

On 20 August morning, the emergency gate of the dam was opened to flow out the water from the dam. So, the villages were inundated with 2.5 feet deep water. There was no loss and damage till today.—**Kyemon-Thëha Ko Ko (Mandalay)**

## Students join Debate Contest in Mohnyin

**Mohnyin, 26 Aug**—A debate under the title “Men have more capacity than women in preserving Myanmar culture” was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Mohnyin on 1 August.

Ten ninth standard students from BEHS in Mohnyin District took part in the debate and they won the applause of the students.

Moreover, the middle school level extempore talks contest and primary level story telling and poem recitation contests were organized with the participation of 30 students.

**NLM-001**

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**Photo shows collapse of checkpoint building in Kawthoung.**
Japan mulls sending patrol aircraft for int’l antipiracy mission

MANAMA, 26 Aug—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Sunday Japan will consider sending P-3C patrol aircraft for multinational antipiracy operations off Somalia, Japanese officials said. In a meeting with Vice Adm John Miller, commander of the US Navy 5th Fleet, in Bahrain, Abe said it is very important to contribute to the international community’s efforts with the dispatch of the Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft. Miller lauded the plane’s capabilities, the officials said.

The Japanese government decided in July that an MSDF escort vessel will join a combined operation involving the dispatch of the Mari-Breeze II. It is one of the busiest shipping lanes for crude oil and Japan heavily depends on the Middle East for crude oil imports.

Abe is in Bahrain on the first leg of a six-day trip through Thursday that also includes visits to Kuwait, Qatar and Djibouti. On Saturday, Abe met with his Bahrain counterpart Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and agreed to resume a ministerial strategic dialogue between Japan and the Middle East.

In his talks with Miller, Abe also assured sending stability in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is vital to Japan and the world economy. The strait is one of the busiest shipping lanes for crude oil and Japan heavily depends on the Middle East for crude oil imports.


UN ready to support S Korea’s offer to build peace park in inter-Korean border

SEOUL, 26 Aug—UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday said the United Nations is ready to support South Korea’s President Park Geun Hye’s offer for establishment of a peace park in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Korean Peninsula into the North and the South. “UN is ready to offer full support when there is a progress after North and South Korea agree on it,” Ban told a news conference, noting that he conveyed that position to Park when they met last week.

Park made the offer in a speech on 15 Aug. Promoting a world peace park in the DMZ was one of Park’s campaign pledges before she came to power in February.

She has since voiced it on multiple occasions, including during her address to the US Congress in May and in a recent speech to mark the 60th anniversary of the armistice agreement that ended the combat phase of the Korean War.

Park has said such a project would serve as “a starting point for peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula” and “send a message of peace to all of humanity.” —KYODO NEWS

Mexico migrant cargo train ‘La Bestia’ derails, at least six dead

MEXICO CITY, 26 Aug—At least six people were killed when a cargo train nicknamed “La Bestia,” or “The Beast,” on which would-be migrants hitch rides toward the US border, derailed in a remote area of southern Mexico on Sunday, state officials said. Ambulances were unable to reach the accident scene in Huamanguillo in the southern state of Tabasco because of the difficult terrain. Images from the scene showed freight cars upturned and wheels separated from their base. Officials said eight of the 12 cars overturned and that a Honduran man was among the dead.

“This train carries a lot of (illegal) migrants to Central America.” Cesar Burelo, emergency services director in Tabasco, told local television. “(Those five) were the visible dead. It could be that as the structure of the train is removed ... more bodies could appear.”

Engineers were planning to move the overturned wagons on Monday.

Burelo said it would be difficult to determine the total number of people aboard the train at the time of the pre-dawn accident.

“It’s very likely that (surviving travelers) have left the scene.” A spokesman for Tabasco state government said the death toll had risen to six, with 22 injured. He said 16 people were being treated in hospitals in nearby Choapas, Veracruz. —REUTERS

Russia warns US not to repeat in Syria past mistakes in region

MOSCOW, 26 Aug — Russia warned the United States on Sunday against repeating past mistakes, saying that any unilateral military action in Syria would undermine efforts for peace and have a devastating impact on the security situation in the Middle East.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said its statement was a response to US actions to give it the option of an armed strike against Syria.

It drew a parallel between reports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s forces had used chemical weapons and Washington’s 2003 intervention in Iraq following accusations by then-President George Bush’s administration that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein’s government possessed weapons of mass destruction.

“We once again decisively urge (the United States) not to repeat the mistakes of the past and not to allow actions that go against international law,” the ministry said.

“Any unilateral military action bypassing the United Nations will ... lead to further escalation (in Syria) and will affect the already explosive situation in the Middle East in the most devastating way.”

Moscow said any military action would severely hamper joint US-Russian efforts for an international peace conference to end a civil war that has killed more than 100,000 people.

“The threat to use force against the Syrian regime sends the (Syrian) opposition conflicting signals,” the ministry said. “All sponsors of the opposition, which have influence over it, must seek the fastest possible agreement from Bashar al-Assad’s opponents to hold talks.”

US President Barack Obama met his security advisers on Saturday to debate options following reports of the alleged chemical attack. US naval forces have been repositioned in the Mediterranean to give Washington the option of an armed strike.

Syria’s opposition accused Assad’s forces of gassing many hundreds of people — by one report as many as 1,300 — on Wednesday. Syria said earlier on Sunday that it had agreed to let the experts visit the site.

Russia, which has suggested that Syrian rebels may have carried out the attack, also said on Sunday that assigning blame too soon over the alleged poison gas strike would be a “tragic mistake,” before a UN investigation on Monday.

Residents pass by a damaged vehicle a day after a bomb attack in central Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 25 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Bombs, shootings kill at least 47 across Iraq

BAQUBA, 26 Aug — Car bombs, roadside bombs and shootings killed at least 47 people in Iraq on Sunday, police and medical sources said, as tensions intensified between Sunni and Shi’ite Muslims across the Middle East. Sunni Muslim insurgents and the al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq have significantly increased their attacks this year.

More than two years of civil war in neighboring Syria has aggravated deep-rooted sectarian divisions and shaken Iraq’s fragile coalition of Shi’ite, Kurdish and Sunni factions.

The renewed violence, eighteen months after the last US troops withdrew from Iraq, has sparked fears of a return to the scale sectarian slaughter in 2006 and 2007. Iraqis have suffered extreme violence for years, but since the start of 2013 the intensity of attacks on civilians has dramatically increased. Bomb attacks have increasingly target-ed cafes and other places where families gather, as well as the usual targets of military facilities and checkpoints.

The biggest of Sun-day’s attacks took place in central Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad when a car bomb blew up near a housing complex, killing at least 11 people and wounding 34, police said.—REUTERS

Soldiers stand near the overturned wagons of a derailed train in Huamanguillo, in this 25 August, 2013 handout photo provided by Diario Presencia.—REUTERS

Resident employees of a Belarusian chemical plant learnt of the explosion 100 minutes later.
Archaeologists use drones in Peru to map and protect sites

LIMA, 26 Aug—In Peru, home to the spectacular Inca city of Machu Picchu and thousands of ancient ruins, archaeologists are turning to drones to speed up sluggish survey work and protect sites from squatters, builders and miners. Remote-controlled aircraft were developed for military purposes and are a controversial tool in US anti-terrorism campaigns, but the technology’s falling price means it is increasingly used for civilian and commercial projects around the world.

Small drones have been helping a growing number of researchers produce three-dimensional models of Peruvian sites instead of the usual flat maps—and in days and weeks instead of months and years.Speed is an important ally to archaeologists here. Peru’s economy has grown at an average annual clip of 6.5 percent over the past decade, and development pressures have surpassed looting as the main threat to the country’s cultural treasures, according to the government.

Researchers are still picking up the pieces after a pyramid near Lima, believed to have been built some 5,000 years ago, was fire-revering coastal soil, was razed in July by construction firms. That same month, residents of a town near the pre-Incan ruins of Yanamarca reported that informal miners were damaging the three-story stone structures as they dug for quartz. And squatters and farmers repeatedly try to seize land near important sites like Chan Chan on the northern coast, considered the biggest adobe city in the world.

Microsoft, Motorola set second round of trial over patents

The AT&T logo is seen by its store in Bucharest on 20 March, 2013.—Reuters

SEATTLE, 24 Aug—Microsoft Corp takes on Google’s Motorola Mobility unit this week in the second of two landmark cases between the companies that delve into hot disputes over the patents behind smartphone and Internet technology. The jury trial, starting Monday in federal court in Seattle, is set to resolve whether Motorola breached its contract with Microsoft to license on reasonable terms its so-called standard essential patents, covering wireless and video technology used in the Xbox game console.

The proceeding comes days after Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer unexpectedly announced his retirement. It also follows a complex trial last November that decided what the appropriate fee for Microsoft’s use of Motorola-patented technology should be. After five months of deliberation, US District Judge James Robart came down heavily in Microsoft’s favour, saying it owed only a fraction of the royalties Motorola had claimed, suggesting the appropriate rate was about $1.8 million, above Microsoft’s estimate of $1 million, but well below Motorola’s demand for as much as $4 billion a year.

Motorola cannot appeal Robart’s April ruling until after the jury decides the second phase of the case, a court filing, Microsoft said it had offered to pay Motorola $6.8 million in past royalties, based on its application of Robart’s order.

However, Motorola rejected the money, the filing said. In the forthcoming trial, starting with jury selection on Monday, Microsoft will argue that Motorola’s initial demand was exorbitant and a clear breach of its agreement to charge reasonable and non-discriminatory terms—commonly referred to as ‘RAND’—for technology that is an industry standard.

Microsoft and Google declined comment on the trial. After the result of the first trial, Motorola may have an uphill task in persuading a jury that it did not breach its contract.—Reuters

Al Jazeera accuses AT&T of wrongly terminating contract

NEW YORK, 26 Aug—AT&T unfairly terminated an affiliation agreement with Al Jazeera America, the cable network says in a recently unsealed lawsuit that highlights AT&T’s subscriber base in conservative states. Under a heavily redacted description of the alleged “bad faith scheme,” Al Jazeera notes in its complaint that “AT&T has a large subscriber base in Texas and other conservative states in the South and Southwest.

“Upon information and belief, it then began to cast around for an excuse to unilaterally terminate the Affiliation Agreement,” the lawsuit says of AT&T. Al Jazeera America launched on Tuesday, but AT&T’s U-verse pay-TV service did not carry the network, which in January bought Current TV, the network founded by former vice president Al Gore, because of a contract dispute, according to AT&T spokesman Mark Siegel.

“Al Jazeera has mischaracterized the facts,” Siegel said in an e-mail on Friday. “Due to certain breaches by Al Jazeera, AT&T terminated the agreement and will no longer carry Current TV on U-Verse.” Globally, Al Jazeera is seen in more than 260 million homes in 130 countries.

New rocket Epsilon to be launched on Tuesday

TOKYO, 26 Aug—The state-run Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said Sunday it will launch its new solid-fuel rocket Epsilon from the Uchinoura Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture at 1:45 pm on Tuesday.

It will be the first launch of a new type of Japan since the H2A rocket was launched in 2001.

The three-stage Epsilon, which is 24.4 meters long, 2.6 meters in diameter and weighs 160 tons, is a successor to the M-5 rocket that was retired in 2006. One hour after launch, the rocket will release a spectroscopic plume observer called SPRINT-A, the world’s first space telescope for remote observation of planets orbiting Venus, at an altitude of around 1,000 kilometers.

Kyodo News

Xolo Q1000S with 5-inch HD display launched

KOLKATA, 26 Aug.—The Xolo Q1000S features a 5-inch HD IPS display with OGS display technology and boasts a resolution of 720x1280 pixels with 294ppi pixel density. It runs on Android 4.2 Jelly Bean. The device is powered by a 1.5GHz quad-core MediaTek 6589T processor paired with 1GB RAM. It also comes with 16GB of internal storage which is non-expandable and measures 6.98mm in thickness.

The Xolo Q1000S sports a 13-megapixel rear camera with BSI 2 sensor with LED flash and a 5-megapixel front-facing camera. The rear camera is capable of recording full-HD videos and also comes with image stabilisation technology. Other features of camera are scene detection and tuning, high dynamic range (HDR), low-light enhancement, face recognition, burst mode feature to capture up to 99 shots, Panorama and geo-tagging. The handset packs a 2500 mAh battery that can give up to 327 hours of standby time and about 23 hours of talk time, as per the company. Connectivity options include GPRS, EDGE, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and 3G.

Earlier this month, the company had launched the Xolo A500S. The Xolo A500S features a 4-inch WVGA display that has a resolution of 480x800 pixels and pixel density of 233 Pixels Per Inch (PPI). The device is powered by a 1.2GHz dual-core processor with 512MB of RAM and a Mali-400 MP GPU. It includes a 5-megapixel rear camera accompanied by an LED flash and a VGA front-facing camera.—PTI

US scientists claim to have built world’s most accurate clock

BEIJING, 26 Aug.—US scientists have built the world’s most precise clock, whose ticking rate varies less than two parts in one quintillion, or 10 times better than any other, according to National Institute of Standards and Technology physicist Andrew Ludlow.

The clock, made from the ytterbium-169 element ytterbium, could be used for technological advancements beyond timekeeping, such as navigation systems, magnetic fields and temperature. “The stability of the ytterbium-169 clock opens the door to a number of exciting practical applications of high-performance timekeeping,” Andrew Ludlow said in statement. However, some other said, although scientists have proclaimed that this is the world’s most accurate clock, they do not yet know as much about its accuracy. While mechanical clocks use the movement of a pendulum to keep time, atomic clocks use an electromagnetic signal of light emitted at an exact frequency to move electrons in caesium atoms.

According to UK Telegraph, the physicists built the ytterbium clocks using about 10,000 rare-earth atoms cooled to 10 microkelvins. With a degree of accuracy of about 10 billion (a factor of one part in 10 to the power of 10), they became the world’s most accurate clocks. The clocks are expected to improve the stability of clocks in the future.
Asian stocks, currencies start new week on calmer note

SYDNEY, 26 Aug—Asian stocks rose and gold hit a near-three-month high on Monday, extending a move started late last week when a steep drop in US new home sales tempered expectations the Federal Reserve will soon reduce stimulus. Trading was subdued, particularly in the currency markets, as investors awaited fresh offshore leads amid a lack of market-moving economic news out of Asia. MSCI’s broadest index in the region hit a near three-month high as the yen fell since September 2011. They were up 0.5 percent on Monday.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index. HS1 advanced 1.0 percent, Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 index. AXJO edged up 0.2 percent and Sydney’s KOSPI. KS11 put on 0.9 percent. Monday’s gains came as a welcomed relief after the MSCI index suffered a hefty 2.9 percent drop last week. Much of the heat was felt in the region’s emerging markets as investors pulled out of commodity trades in preparation for a post-stimulus world. Last week, Indosionen stocks. JKEP posted an 8.7 percent slide in its biggest fall since September 2011. They were up 0.5 percent on Monday.

Indonesia, Indosionen and Brazil have scrambled to try to stem the destabilizing outflows that have slammed emerging market assets lower, with the rupee sliding to record lows recently. Global central bankers at the Fed’s annual Jackson Hole policy conference were warned that global financial stability is at risk as ultra-easy policies that have flooded the world with cash are slowly unwound. Uncertainty about when and how these policies will be phased out meant that market volatility will likely remain high, analysts said.

Fruits, vegetables may lower women’s bladder cancer risk: US study

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug—US researchers said on Friday that a greater consumption of fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of developing invasive bladder cancer in women.

Researchers from the University of Hawaii wrote in the Journal of Nutrition that they analyzed data collected from 185,885 older adults over a period of 12.5 years. Overall, 152 women and 429 men were diagnosed with invasive bladder cancer. After adjusting for variables related to cancer risk, such as age, the researchers found that women who consumed the most fruits and vegetables had the lowest bladder risk.

The researchers said women consuming the most yellow-orange vegetables were 52 percent less likely to have bladder cancer than women consuming the least yellow-orange vegetables. The study also suggested that women with the highest intake of vitamins A, C and E had the lowest risk of bladder cancer. There were, however, no associations between vegetable intake and invasive bladder cancer in men, it said.

“Our study supports the fruit and vegetable recommendation for cancer prevention,” researcher Song-Yi Park at the University of Hawaii Cancer Centre said in a statement. “However, further investiga- tion is needed to under- stand and explain why the reduced cancer risk with higher consumption of fruits and vegetables was confined to only women,” Park added.

More Chinese go under the knife

BEIJING, 26 Aug—A growing Chinese willingness to go under the knife for cosmetic purposes cuts to core questions about the changing national psyche. Many are facing the ugly side of beauty’s pursuit — addiction, disfigurement and self-esteem problems.

Reuters

Top view of a plastic surgeon's office. Liu Zhihua reports.

The public hasn’t seen the face of the woman who’s perhaps China’s most famous cosmetic surgery recipient. That’s because Pink Baby wears a surgical mask when she appears on TV — not only to protect her identity but also because she claims to have been disfigured by more than 200 plastic surgeries since age 16.

The 31-year-old Jiangsu Province resident has become the public (although unseen) face of an increase in both cosmetic procedures and plastic surgery addiction in China, as modernity is reshaping the body of traditional beliefs concerning plastic surgery. Many are going under the knife for cosmetic purposes, as entertainment and celebrity obsession have carved a new national psyche, slicing through long-held conceptions against modifying one’s body because it’s a shrine to one’s parents.

The country ranks first in Asia and third in the world, after the United States and Brazil, in the number of cosmetic procedures conducted in 2011, the US-based International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery reports. But the figures include only operations by doctors and professionals. Many Chinese undergo procedures at illegal cosmeticology hospitals, clinics and beauty salons. Some are discovering the ugly side of beauty’s pursuit.

While many are concerned about failed procedures, few fathom the possibility of becoming addicted to plastic surgery. “I can’t stop,” Pink Baby explained. “It’s irresistible. I feel compelled to keep getting operations.” Whenever the surgeries went awry, she’d rush to undertake corrective procedures — plus entirely new surgeries. She has undergone virtually every procedure available, she claims.

Too much aluminum in third of Chinese diets

BEIJING, 26 Aug—More than 30 percent of Chinese people’s diets contain more aluminum than recommended, researchers have found. Excessive ingestion of aluminum can lead to neurological and respiratory problems and affect bone development. Some 40 percent of excess aluminum in Chinese diets is found in flour, according to research by nutritionists and food safety expert Ch. Junshi for a food safety forum.

Baking powders, such as alum, are mainly to blame, say experts. While they help make flour products look and taste better, they are overused by some Chinese food manufacturers. However, aluminum-free baking powders are more expensive, many manufacturers are reluctant to change. While the World Health Organization recommends a weekly intake of no more than 2 milligrams per kilogram of body weight, 32.5 percent of Chinese people ingest levels above this, researchers found.

Some 44 percent of the excess amount comes from flour, followed by steamed bread (24 percent) and fried dough sticks (10 percent) — a traditional snack for breakfast. People in northern China — who traditionally prefer flour-based products such as noodles — absorb four times as much aluminum as those in the south, the study found. Northern Chinese have an average aluminum consumption of 2.9 mg/kg of body weight — almost 1.5 times the recommended amount.

And 43 percent of children aged between four and six eat 2.6 times the maximum recommended amount, Guangzhou Daily reported. Research was based on 6,600 samples of 11 kinds of food. The China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment aims to reduce the average weekly intake of aluminum from 1.8 mg/kg of body weight to less than 0.8 mg/kg.
US, Malaysia vow to increase military cooperation

Kuala Lumpur, 26 Aug — US and Malaysian defence officials said on Sunday that the two countries would continue to boost military ties and eyes on more areas for cooperation.

Speaking at a joint Press conference with his Malaysian counterpart Hishammuddin Hussein, US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel said the United States is committed to strengthening the military partnership with Malaysia.

“The US is committed to continuing to assist Malaysia’s military, as it increases its capability in areas like humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peace keeping, maritime security and counter terrorism,” he said.

The United States will conduct more than 75 activities, exchanges and visits with the Malaysian military this year. “All designed to boost its capability, and help it become a more professional and flexible force,” he added.

Hagel said he and Hishammuddin discussed future areas of cooperation, such as expanding defence trade and technology collaboration as well as information sharing. Hagel is on a week-long trip to Southeast Asia, during which he will also visit Indonesia, the Philippines and attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting in Brunei.

UN experts in Syria to visit site of poison gas attack

Beirut, 26 Aug — UN weapons experts are due on Monday to inspect a site where poison gas killed many hundreds of people in Damascus suburbs, amid calls from Western capitals for military action to punish the world’s worst apparent chemical weapons attack in 25 years.

Syria agreed on Sunday to allow the inspectors to visit the site. The United States and its allies say evidence has been destroyed by government shelling of the area over the past five days, and the Syrian offer to allow inspectors came too late.

Washington has faced calls for action in response to Wednesday’s attack, which came a year after President Barack Obama declared use of chemical weapons to be a “red line” which would require a firm response.

Obama has been reluctant to intervene in Syria’s 2-1/2-year-old conflict and U.S. officials stressed that he has yet to make a decision on how to respond. A senior senator, Republican Bob Corker, said he believed Obama would ask Congress for authorization to use force when lawmakers return from summer recess next month.

Secretary of State John Kerry said in a round of phone calls to his foreign counterparts that there was “very little doubt” the Syrian government had gassed its own citizens.

The State Department said Kerry emphasized this in calls to the foreign ministers of France, Britain and Canada as well as to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Russia, a major ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, has suggested rebels may have been behind the chemical attack and said it would be a “tragic mistake” to jump to conclusions over who was responsible.

The White House said Obama and French President Francois Hollande “discussed possible responses by the international community”.

British Prime Minister David Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed that “such an attack demanded a firm response from the international community”, Cameron’s office said.

Syria watchers said the government’s decision to allow the inspections may have been an attempt to stave off intervention.

“My view is that the Syrian government’s apparent agreement to the UN inspection has been triggered by the growing possibility of military action,” said Malcolm Chalmers, Research Director at the British Defense Intelligence Agency.

But tests by reputable British, Chinese and Singaporean laboratories reveal many manuka honey products have none of the claimed active properties — some of the honey is not even manuka — prompting industry leaders to demand a crackdown on “potentially huge fraud”.

The New Zealand Manuka Factor Honey Association, which represents New Zealand manuka honey processing companies, said it is well known that New Zealand sells more manuka honey than it produces, but the industry has failed to deal with that.

The head of the association John Rawcliffe said a crackdown on the fake manuka had to happen.

He said after much delay, his organization has come up with a testing regime that will help consumers identify the real thing from a fake.

A spokesperson of the Ministry for Primary Industries said it will come up with a definition of manuka honey that is internationally agreed on and backed up by robust science.

US spy agency edges into the light after Snowden revelations

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — There was a time when the US National Security Agency was so secretive that government officials dared not speak its name in public. NSA, the joke went, stood for “No Such Agency.”

That same agency this month held an on-the-record conference call with reporters, issued a lengthy Press release to rebut a newspaper story, and posted documents on a newly launched open website — icasetherecord.tumblr.com (which stands for intelligence community on the record).

The steps were taken under pressure as President Barack Obama’s administration tries to calm a public storm over disclosures by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden that the surveillance agency and its British counterpart scoop up far more Internet and phone data than previously known.

The NSA’s moves out of the shadows were meant to show that it operates lawfully and fixes mistakes when they are detected, but not everyone is convinced that it is a first step toward openness.

Some steps toward openness were unexpected.

The government for the first time released opinions — previously labelled Top Secret — from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which never publicly airs its decisions on the electronic eavesdropping and communications collection by the NSA.

The move came despite resistance from some Justice Department lawyers and some NSA and CIA officials concerned about the amount of unredacted material going public in the three FISA Court opinions released US sources told Reuters.

In the end, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper made the decision that how much material was released from the previously secret court opinions.
**Health Care Activity**

Anti-DHF measures carried out in Insein Township

YANGON, 26 Aug—General Administration Department and Health Department in Insein Township in Yangon North District of Yangon Region organized anti-Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever campaigns in each ward in the township. Authorities in east Ywama ward and NGOs jointly carried out sanitation and sterilization measures in the ward on 20 August. Staff of Township Development Affairs Committee and Health Department participated in the activities.—MMAL-District IPRD

Fingerlings released into 10-acre farm in Putao

PUTAO, 26 Aug—Fisheries Department in Putao District in Kachin State released fingerlings into 10-acre monsoon paddy seed production farm in Htaungkahtaung ward in Putao on 22 August. The campaign is aimed at providing example to farmers in the region for integrated farming. The ceremony was attended Putao District Deputy Commissioner U Maung Oo, district/township administrative officers of Putao Township, township administrator U Soe Hlaing Tun of General Administration Department, Hlaing Tun of General Administration Department, Putao Township Administrator U Tin Myo Aung, Staff Officer of Putao Township Fisheries Department U Tin Maung Oo, district/township departmental personnel and farmers.

A total of 5000 fingerlings were released into the 10-acre farm. The ceremony was attended Putao District Deputy Commissioner U Maung Oo, district/township administrative officers of Putao Township, township administrator U Soe Hlaing Tun of General Administration Department, Hlaing Tun of General Administration Department, Putao Township Administrator U Tin Myo Aung, Staff Officer of Putao Township Fisheries Department U Tin Maung Oo, district/township departmental personnel and farmers. The US will fight for securing champion title.

In the middleweight class, Samur of Japan and John Malbrough of the US will fight for securing champion title. In the Indo-China weight category, Kristoffer Shaw of England and Pak Attack will meet in the world heavyweight championship match.

In the lightweight class, Fajri of Indonesia will fight against Jesse Fafols of the Philippines. In the middleweight class, Samur of Japan and John Malbrough of the US will fight for securing champion title. In the Indo-China weight category, Ashley Byrne of Australia will fight against Jesse Fafols of the Philippines. In the featherweight class, Fajri of Indonesia will fight against Kristoffer Shaw of England.
Dr Sai Mauk Kham urges ...

(from page 1) infrastructures in Kutkai are changing increasingly except development and pointed out to attract tourists through traditional customs and lifestyle of national races. He affirmed to establish international economic zone near Muse-Namkhham-Kutkai based on Muse border trade. A plan is underway to export value-added products of agriculture and livestock to neighboring country that possessed enormous market, he added. He also invited participation of those present for peace and tranquility and anti-logging and protection and plantation and anti-logging and protection and plantation.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun ... (from page 1) contributing to SMEs, emerging successful SMEs and transforming the SME into the heavy industries. At One Stop Service for Investment in Yankin Township, the Vice-President heard reports on tasks of cooperation work group presented by Director-General U Aung Naing Oo of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. The Vice-President urged the cooperation work group to give services to the investors.

One Stop Service for Investment was opened on 10 April 2013 for promoting foreign investments, ensuring smooth process of tasks and supervising the progress of works. It comprises Central Bank of Myanmar, Electric Power Ministry, DICA, Customs Department, Directorate of Trade, Labour Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department, Internal Revenue Department, Mines Ministry, Environmental Conservation and Forestry Ministry and Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry.

At Mingaladon Industrial Zone, departmental officials reported on matters related to the zone. The Vice-President stressed the need to systematically build the industrial zone and invite investors in line with the Investment Laws and then viewed lens and accessories production of Myanmar Asia Optical International Co Ltd.

Mingaladon Industrial Zone was established by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and Mitsui Co Ltd. As of 2006, the department cooperates with Kepventure Pte Ltd of Singapore in implementing the zone. So far, 18 industries are being run at the industrial zone.

On arrival at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thawunna, the Vice-President heard reports on preparations for the XXVII SEA Games and security measures by Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Huai and attended to the needs.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon views activities of social organizations in Lashio

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presents cash to national race cultural troupes. After performing entertainment to those present, then, the Vice-President presented K 5 million award to Lehsu cultural troupe.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presents gift to a mother at maternity ward.

Patron of Shan State WAO Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt made a speech and presented membership cards and helped the members on with brooches.
Fire victims in Kanbalu provided with relief items

KANBALU, 26 Aug.—A ceremony to take advice from inter-faith was held at Myole monastery in Htango Village in Kanbalu Township of Sagaing Region this morning. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win supplicated on religious matters, peaceful coexistence among inter-faith and prevention of violence to the Sayadaws. The Sayadaws from Mezaligon and Myole monasteries gave admonition. Then, the deputy minister, Sagaing Region Border Affairs Minister Col Kyi Naing and Region Finance Minister U Tin Win donated alms to the Sayadaw. Patron of victim care association from Mandalay U Thein Win presented K 30,000 for fire victims through Village Administrator U Myo Min Tha and relief committee chairman U Aung San. Islam leader U Maung Maung and townswelder U Myint Thein explained matters on peaceful coexistence of inter-faith. Sagaing Region Police Commander Police Col Nay Dun clarified security measures and rule of law and the deputy minister made a concluding remark.

The deputy minister also attended a ceremony to present relief items to fire victims at the relief camp in the same village in this afternoon. It was also attended by the chairman of district/township management committee, departmental officials and fire victims. Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Kyi Naing presented 10 bags of rice and Region Police Commander Police Col Nay Dun edible oil donated by the region government to fire victims. The deputy minister gave encouragements to the fire victims and attended to the needs.—Aung Nyen Win (Township IPRD)

Publication of the actions of the ministries concerned in response to complaints sent to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee

1. Regarding the complaint that Asia World Company is charging K 300/toll per Light Truck at Aung Zeya bridge in Hmeinmay Township in Yangon and the amount is more than that of toll at Thandlay and other bridges, the Construction Ministry replied that it has set the amount of toll depending on the grades of bridges—defined as project-level bridges and ordinary bridges—on Union Highway in Yangon Region. Twanay, Paunhaing, Dagon No.2, Aung Zeya and Shweppithaya bridges are project-level C grade bridges and Bayintnaung is just ordinary one, D grade bridge.

2. The cabinet meeting 42/2012 held on 22 December 2012 fixed the toll rate for Light Trucks at project-level C grade bridge K 300 and ordinary D grade bridge K 100, in settling toll rates for project-level and ordinary bridges in regions and states.

3. Though the K 100/toll is to be charged at Bayintnaung Bridge, ordinary D grade bridge, the toll is reduced to K 50 for Saloon and Van vehicles under two and three tons as large numbers of vehicles are using the bridge.

4. The rate Asia World Company charges at Aung Zeya Bridge is in compliance with the rates set by the Construction Ministry and not overcharging.

5. The Ministry of Rail Transportation replied the complaint that Thanlyin Bridge in Yangon Region is owned by Myanma Railways and according to grade levels of the Construction Ministry, it is project-level B grade bridge and the toll for a Light Truck vehicle is charged K 300.

6. The Myanma Railways put the Thanlyin Bridge toll collection business out to tender annually, notifying private businessmen through state-run newpapers. Under the supervision of Yangon Region government, highest bidder is chosen for the toll collection. Currently, the MR has signed a year’s contract from 1-11-2012 to 30-9-2013 with the operator that is charging K 300 toll per Light Truck vehicle.

7. Regarding the complaint that a foreigner spouse of Myanmar citizen needs the clearance letter of a departmental head to applying for stay permit visa, the Immigration and Population Ministry replied that Myanmar embassies in foreign countries issue six kinds of visas to foreigners wishing to enter Myanmar. The complaint said so because the applicant thinks he needs to have clearance letter from the departmental head to apply for visa. If a foreigner spouse of Myanmar citizen has entered Myanmar with entry visa (social) wishes to extend his stay permit, he can do so for unlimited times and does not need to seek the approval of any departmental head.

8. For those who were born in Myanmar and later changed their nationalities (or) official spouses of Myanmar citizens, they are given 28-day entry visa (social) if they apply for entry visa at Myanmar embassies in foreign countries. If they want to extend their stay permits for various reason, they need to apply to immigration department through township immigration department concerned according to their address. If the documents are complete, the head office of immigration department allows three-month stay for the first time application charging USD 36 and for the second time application, it allows six-month stay charging USD 90 and stay permits can be extended unlimitedly.

9. Regarding the suggestion about Immigration and Population Ministry’s issue of visas to foreigners, the ministry replied that except for those holding entry visa (social) and entry visa (travel), other visa holders are granted single journey special re-entry visa and multiple journey special re-entry visa with the approval of the Immigration and Population Ministry according to the coordination of ministries concerned. Re-entry visa is not issued to those with entry visa (social) and entry visa (travel) and if they want to re-enter Myanmar after leaving, they can apply for re-entry visa at Myanmar embassies concerned.

10. Regarding the suggestion that in-charge should be assigned in time of the absence of the head of immigration department in North Dagon Township head to avoid unnecessary delays in applying for new citizenship scrutiny card, the department is required to check whether office records about the citizenship scrutiny card applicant are right now. The procedures for applying citizenship scrutiny card have been released and under the new procedures, at least the township head of immigration department (staff officer level) needs to check the background of the applicant if he belongs to a national race, the region/state head of immigration department (director level) if he belongs to mixed blood.

11. As the township head of immigration department has concurrently assigned duties at township level local authority, he needs to leave his workplace for duty. On such occasions, the assistant head of immigration department and staff take responsibility for checking the documents of applicant and filling the forms, but the departmental procedures oblige the township level head of immigration department to check and approve the nationality of the applicant, said the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

12. Further complaints and enquiries about the actions of the ministries concerned can be sent to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee.

Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee.
Magway Region Chief Minister presents prizes to outstanding students

**MAGWAY, 26 Aug—** The prize presentation to outstanding students by the Magway Region Chief Minister was held at the convocation hall of Magway University yesterday morning.

It was attended by Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw and region ministers, region level departmental officials, members of social organizations, school heads and teachers, students and parents.

Students of Magway Basic Education High School No. 1 opened the ceremony by singing the National anthem.

Minister delivered an address at the ceremony. The Chief Minister also presented prizes to students with best pass rate in the matriculation examination for 2013 academic year and outstanding students who passed the matric exam with flying colours. On behalf of the students, one distinction winner spoke words of thanks. Later, the students entertained the attendees with the song.—Kyemon-Tin Tan Oo

Environment

**Plan underway to establish community forests around Indawgyi Lake**

**MOHNYIN, 26 Aug—** The third module of the Community Forest Establishment Technology and Management Capability Enhancement Course concluded at Bilu Village of Mohnyin Township on 3 August.

**Eel breeding course commences in Nyaunglebin**

**NYAUNGLEBIN, 26 Aug—** With the aim of alleviating poverty and developing rural development and enabling the local farmers to earn secondary income, the eel breeding course on a manageable scale was opened at the office of Nyaunglebin Township Fisheries Department in Bago Region on 22 August.

Head of Bago Region Fisheries Department U Kyaw Min explained the purpose of conducting the training course.

Talks on protection of girls against violence given in Taikkyi

**TAIKKYI, 26 Aug—** A talk on protection of girls against violence, organized by Township Women’s Affairs Organization, was held at Myoma Basic Education Middle School No. 3 (Branch) in Shansu Ward of Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region, on 23 August morning.

Chairperson of Township WAO Daw Nu Nu Wai made a speech.

Higher Grade Pleader Daw Ohnma Naing gave lectures on the laws protection of girls against violence and penalties. Secretary of Township WAO Daw Thein Tin Thein Phyu human traffickers and matters related human trafficking in persons. Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw San Kalyar Khaing reading for broadening horizon of the young people and consideration on dos and don’ts through the benefits from reading so as to avoid violence.

The talks was attended by members of Township WAO, teachers, ward administrator and members, students totalling about 200.—Kyemon-Tha Nyunt

Livestock Breeding

**Chicken meal factory to emerge in Mandalay soon**

**MANDALAY, 26 Aug—** Livestock Breeding Development Co will build an advanced chicken meal factory in Kapaing Village of Pathetning Township in Mandalay District with the technological assistance of an Indian company.

The factory can produce meat from 3000 to 5000 broilers per day on 10.50 acres of land and it will satisfy the demand of the local consumers with fresh chicken.

CP broilers and domestic broilers markets are flourishing in Mandalay.

The domestic breeders come from Yamethin, Taungtha, Myingyan, TadaU and Meiktila townships by car. Each broiler can be sold at K 3000 at the farm and K 7000 at the Mandalay market.

During the period of Taungpyone Festival, price of chicken rose to K 8000 per viss.

CP broilers are sold at K 4000 per viss in PynOoLwin Township and K 6000 per viss in Mandalay market. Avian influenza news from China affected decline of price of chicken in Mandalay market. In 2012, the breeders faced loss in chicken trading due to higher prices of feedstuff.

Kyemon-Tha Ko Ko

**Development of meat and fish sector lectured**

**MOHNYIN, 26 Aug—** Head of Bago District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Maung Oo gave lectures on control of farming cattle and Staff Officer Dr Win Oo of Mohnyin Township LBVD breeding of milch cow, DYL pig and insemination and nurturing of pasture land at Basic Education Primary School in Ywathitung Village of Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, on 22 August morning.

Pamphlets on prevention against rabies disease were distributed to those attendees and gave animal medicines to 33 pigs.

NLM-001
Majority want slower pace of life in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 26 Aug—A recent survey shows that Singaporeans are generally optimistic about the future, but the majority of them also want a slower-paced life, a less competitive education system and fewer foreigners, local media reported on Monday.

The findings of a survey of 4,000 citizens conducted in January as part of the Our Singapore Conversation also showed that they are even willing to trade off economic growth for that, the Straits Times said in a report.

Some 65 percent of the respondents said that they were optimistic about the future five years ahead, and 78 percent said that the government was managing Singapore well.

The respondents were picked randomly in proportion to the demographics of Singapore society, and the interviews were conducted face to face. When asked to pick among competing national priorities, respondents showed more consensus than observers expected. That consensus pointed to a desire for an easing of Singapore’s pace of growth and development.

Over 60 percent said they preferred the preservation of green spaces over infrastructural development, compared to the 19 percent who picked infrastructural development; 53 percent wanted the preservation of heritage spaces over infrastructural development, while only 27 percent went the other way. Asked to choose between “saving for the future” and a “more balanced approach” from the government to ensure that in terms of quality of life, we are not always obsessing about saving for the future, they said “everyday life is more rewarding too.”

But they noted that where they stood on these compromises were a reaction to what they felt was already “in place” now.

“Because all the hard factors like infrastructure, a high employment rate and a competitive education system are already in place, they are yearning for more,” she said. “People can ask for more work-life balance only if you have work.”

Paulin Straughan, a sociologist at the National University of Singapore, said Singaporeans want a “more balanced approach from the government to ensure that in terms of quality of life, we are not always obsessing about saving for the future. They want everyday life to be rewarding too.” But she noted that where they stood on these compromises were a reaction to what they felt was already “in place” now.

Language promotes world peace, says India-based Japanese translator

NEW DELHI, 26 Aug—Tomoko Kikuchi, a Japanese translator who has been living in India over the past 21 years, says languages break international barriers, increase people-to-people contacts and promote world peace.


The one-volume manga, the story of a family of survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, has won international acclaim since it was published in 2004 and has been translated into English and adapted as a movie and radio drama. Kikuchi’s Hindi version of the comic book was released in India by the Japan Foundation and the Indian publisher Vani Prakashan on 6 Aug, the 68th anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing.

Kikuchi says when people of each other’s country read translated books they get to know more about each other’s country, culture and values. This, she says, would erase hatred and promote peace and brotherhood.

“If a child gets knowledge about different countries at an initial age, they get connected to that country and see them as a friend,” she said. Kikuchi, who hails from Fukushima Prefecture, took her first Hindi lessons in Japan and moved to India after falling in love with the Indian language. She successfully completed a PhD programme in Hindi literature at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and has translated three books from Japanese to Hindi. —Kyodo News

Australia unveils India Country Strategy

CANBERRA, 26 Aug—Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has outlined Australia’s blueprint for future engagement with India through the Australia in the Asian Century Country Strategy for India. “Australia’s relationship with India has perhaps the greatest potential to grow out of all of Australia’s significant bilateral relationships in Asia,” Rudd said in a Press release.

There are 450,000 people of Indian descent in Australia, the fourth largest migrant community in Australia.

“Without a greater symbol of the ties we share with India than the contribution and successes of the Indian diaspora who have made Australia home,” Rudd said.

With a current population of 1.2 billion, India is projected to overtake China as the world’s most populous nation by 2028. The India Country Strategy launched on Saturday outlines a vision of where Australia’s relationship with India should be in 2025 across community, business and government.

It outlines a plan for deepening cultural understanding by increasing fluency of Hindi in Australian schools and working with the significant Indian community in Australia.

The strategy aims to achieve a threefold increase of two-way trade by 2025, with India becoming one of Australia’s top five trading partners. India is currently Australia’s 10th largest trading partner, with bilateral trade worth 17.5 billion AU dollars (15.79 billion US dollars). India’s growing middle class, estimated to reach 606 million by 2030, is creating new opportunities for Australian exporters. —Xinhua

Japan foreign minister visits Chernobyl to apply insight to Fukushima

CHERNOBYL, 26 Aug—Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida visited Chernobyl, site of the 1986 nuclear disaster in Ukraine, on Sunday to observe the nuclear power plant and areas surrounding it.

Kishida is expected to apply the lessons of the post-disaster work being conducted there to Japan’s ongoing efforts to deal with the aftermath of the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan, triggered by the massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

“I directly saw that the battle to contain the accident still continues 27 years after the disaster. Ukraine’s experience and knowledge serve as a useful reference for workers coping with the Fukushima nuclear crisis,” Kishida told reporters accompanying him.

Japan and Ukraine signed an agreement in April last year to cooperate in dealing with nuclear disasters.

The foreign minister viewed the No. 4 reactor at the Chernobyl plant, which exploded in April 1986 and is now enclosed in a concrete sarcophagus, from a distant point guided by the head of the plant.

He also visited a deserted town near the plant from which around 50,000 people evacuated following the disaster.

—Kyodo News

11 people rescued as boat capsizes in southern Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 26 Aug—At least 11 people have been rescued after a motorized boat they were on board capsized in rough sea in southern Philippines over the weekend, authorities said on Sunday.

Two persons were pulled out of the waters off Davao town in Mindanao’s Surigao del Sur province on Saturday, said Martin Gamba, spokesperson of the Caraga police regional office.

The remains were rescued in succeeding hours as maritime police from Carrascal town and local mining companies helped in the search and rescue, Gamba said.

The survivors were immediately rushed to local hospitals, Gamba said.

The latest boat accident came as the country was reeling from a deadly collision between an interisland ferry and a freighter in central Philippines that has so far killed 80 people. —Xinhua

Photo taken on 25 August, 2013 shows flooded oil wells at Daqing Toutai Oilfield Exploitation Company in Daqing City, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province. The recent flood of Songhua River has forcibly overtaken 500 oil wells of the company to shut down. —Xinhua

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Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (far L) visits the decommissioned Chernobyl nuclear power plant in northern Ukraine on 25 Aug, 2013. —KYODO NEWS

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Japan Post to launch elderly support services

Tokyo, 26 Aug.—Japan Post Co will begin support services for the elderly utilizing its mail delivery network from October in the fast-graying country, people familiar with the plan said Monday.

Under the envisioned program, postal workers are expected to visit houses of the elderly to check on their health status or act as personal shoppers for them on a monthly basis. The move marks a further diversification of services with Japan Post already involved in banking and insurance, they said. Japan Post is planning to launch the new services at 103 post offices in six of the 47 prefectures in Japan, and eventually expand it throughout the country by April 2015, they said. The company is expected to announce the plan later Monday. Japan Post Group, which is aiming to get listed around spring 2015, is trying to strengthen its business by utilizing its nationwide network of around 24,000 post offices as well as banking and insurance businesses.—Kyodo News

Residents thresh cobs to prepare different typical food for the Corn Festival 2013 in the city of Suchitoto, El Salvador, on 25 Aug. 2013. The Corn Festival was created in 1989 as an initiative of the Suchitoto congregation to give thanks for the harvests and the received favors during the year. Xinhua
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE **

**MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (335)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (335) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE **

**MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (13)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (13) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING COMPANY PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

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**Father fears 2007 movie inspired missing son to flee into Oregon woods**

**OLYMPIA, (Washington), 26 Aug—** An Arizona teenager who appears to have vanished into the remote woods of Oregon may have been inspired by the 2007 movie “Into the Wild,” based on the true story of a young man who ventured into the Alaskan wilderness and died there, his father said on Sunday.

Missing 18-year-old Johnathan Croom’s 2000 Honda CRV was found a week ago on a road near the small town of Riddle, Oregon, with his identification and money inside it, his father, David Croom, said in a telephone interview from a search site.

The father said he became concerned that his son may have gone missing after he failed to return last Monday to resume classes at Mesa Community College in Arizona, after driving to visit a friend in Washington state.

Croom said his son sent a text message to a friend more than a week ago saying: “I’m going adventur-ing.” Croom described his son as a happy young man with an electric smile who had — in the past six months — grown fascinated by the true story of Christopher McCandless.——Reuters

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**The Butler** extends No 1 ranking into 2nd weekend**

**LOS ANGELES, 26 Aug** —Popular US talk show hostess and businesswoman Oprah Winfrey has proven she is a real draw as her latest film “Lee Daniels’ The Butler” ruled the North American box office for the second straight week.

The emotional civil rights epic starring Winfrey and Forest Whitaker is on track to take in 17 million US dollars worth of ticket revenue in the second weekend of release, distributor The Weinstein Company said. The drama, based on the real life story of a black White House butler who served eight presidents, is projected to gross 52.27 million dollars during 10 days of business.

“We Are the Millers,” a screwball comedy starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Sudeikis, also held up well this weekend, taking in an estimated receipt of 13.5 million dollars to finish at the second place. The Warner Bros release is expected to rake in 91.7 million dollars through 19-day screenings.

This week’s third and fourth slots were occupied by the pair of new releases, “Mortal Instruments: City Of Bones,” a Sony/Screen Gem adaptation of “The Mortal Instruments” fantasy book series, debuted and ranked the third, with an estimated tickets revenue of 9.3 million dollars from three days’ screenings. The film, debuting Wednesday, is on pace for a tickets revenue of 14 million dollars by Sunday.

“The World’s End,” the latest Edgar Wright directed comedy starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost, will garner 8.9 million dollars in receipt to finish the fourth. The R-rated comedy was released by Focus Features. Rounding out the 10 most popular films in North America this weekend, as estimated by studios, were “Planes” (8.5 million US dollars), “Elysium” (7.1 million), “You’re Next” (debuting at 7 million), “Percy Jackson: Sea Of Monsters” (5.2 million), “Blue Jasmine” (4.3 million) and “Kick-Ass 2” (4.3 million).——Reuters

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**Celebrities**

**Celebrated US actress Julie Harris dies at age 87**

**MASSACHUSETTS, 26 Aug—** Julie Harris, the diminutive actress who won Tony and Emmy awards for her stage performances and was also honoured for her work in television and film, died on Saturday at age 87, a Massachusetts funeral home said.

Bill Collins, a funeral director at the Nickerson Funeral Home in Chatham, Massachusetts, confirmed the death of Harris, who lived in nearby West Chatham.

Aside from her widely acclaimed theatre work, Harris was known to television audiences in the 1980s for her role in the prime-time soap opera “Knots Landing,” in which she played a country music singer and the mother of another key character.

Harris was also nominated for an Oscar and appeared in more than 30 films, including “East of Eden” in 1955, in which she played James Dean’s love interest.

She was born in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Her father was an investment banker and her mother a nurse. Harris attended the Yale School of Drama for one year before leaving in 1945 to begin acting on Broadway. After appearing in a number of productions, she was catapulted to fame at age 24 for her role in Caron McCullers’ American stage hit “The Member of the Wedding.”

Later in her career, Harris for many audiences would come to epitomize 19th century American poet Emily Dickinson, in her performance of William Luce’s 1976 one-woman play “The Belle of Amherst.”——Reuters
Bayern Munich’s Thiago Alcantara suffers injury

BERLIN, 26 Aug—Bayern Munich’s new arrival Thiago Alcantara suffered an injury to be sidelined for seven weeks, the club said in an official statement on Sunday.

Bayern’s midfielder Alcantara suffered a torn ligament in his right leg in their hard earned 2-0 victory over Nuremberg on Saturday.

Thus, the Spanish international will undergo a surgery to miss the action on the pitch for at least seven weeks. He will miss out several Bundesliga matches, the UEFA Champions League group stage and the second round of the German Cup.

The injury of Alcantara is a big setback for coach Pep Guardiola, as the midfielder was his desired candidate for the upcoming season. The 22-year-old new arrival suffered a kick on his leg and had to be replaced by Thomas Mueller at the second half.

The former Barcelona midfielder was signed this summer to stay with the German record champions Bayern Munich until 2017.—Xinhua

Benfica defeats Gil Vicente 2-1 to win first victory in Potugal League

LISBON, 26 Aug—Benfica earned a 2-1 win over Gil Vicente on Sunday as they secured their first victory in the Portuguese Zon Sagres League in the five-minute extra time of the match. Markovic scored at the minute 90+2 and Lima at the minute 90+3, making it possible to win a game, which everyone thought to be lost for the home side.

The match, which had Paulo Baptista as a referee, was full of energy and high tension, especially when the home side suffered a goal from Gil Vicente at the 69th minute from Diogo Vicente, after a claramous fail by Maxi Perreira of Benfica.

It was a difficult game for Benfica but they were able to win after all, thanks to the extra time given. Benfica started the game with a bad omen, Gaitan was the first to miss the goal which hit the right goal post. Salvio did the same and Lima also failed in a goal by kicking the ball right up the post. This was the first match broadcasted by Benfica TV, the exclusive broadcaster for the club’s Portuguese Premier League home matches.—Xinhua

New boys Cardiff hand Man City chastening lesson

CARDIFF (Wales), 26 Aug—Frazier Campbell scored twice in eight minutes to inspire Cardiff City to a shock 3-2 win over Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday as they enjoyed a memorable first top-flight home match in 51 years.

There was no such joy for fellow Welsh side Swansea City who were beaten 1-0 by Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane as the north London team kept up their perfect start to the season thanks to a second Roberto Soldado penalty in as many games.

In Cardiff, Edwin Dzeko had given the big-spending and ambitious visitors the lead on 52 minutes but Aron Gunnarsson levelled for the Premier League newcomers eight minutes later when following up a Joe Hart block.

Despite struggling to get the ball, Cardiff went ahead in the 79th minute when Hart failed to clear a corner, allowing Campbell to nod the ball home and he repeated the feat from another corner on 87 minutes.

Alvaro Negredo pulled one back for Manchester City in stoppage time, but despite a couple of half-chances they were unable to snatch a point at the death.

“I spoke to my players about how proud they should be, because they deserve to be here and deserve to be playing against those top, top players,” Cardiff manager Malky Mackay told Sky Sports. “It wasn’t so much passion but discipline, discipline to do your job, to be organised, to do your job for the guy next to you.

I feel happy to be able to stand in this ring. He hit me with a dangerous punch in the first round,” said Murata, who has been receiving instruction from Cuban Ismael Salas, who has worked with several world champions in the past.

Asked how he would have rated his own fight, Murata quipped to the fans gathered to see him, “Can I give it about 80 percent?” drawing rapturous applause.

The 27-year-old became the second Japanese to win Olympic gold before turning pro in April this year.

The late Takanori Sakurai won gold in the bantamweight class at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics but lost a 15-round decision against Lionel Rose in 1968 in his only world title bout.

NZ amateur Ko no closer to going pro after Canada triumph

TORONTO, 26 Aug—Lydia Ko’s successful defence of her Canadian Open title on Sunday will make her “think” more about turning professional, but the trophy and $300,000 in foreign-gone prize money would not hasten her decision.

New Zealand’s 16-year-old golf sensation said Ko became the first amateur to defend an LPGA title with a commanding five-stroke win at Royal Mayfair Golf Club in Edmonton, but second-placed Frenchwoman Karine Icher will take the winner’s cheque. Ko has had four other top-10 finishes on the tour this season, giving up hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money, but said in February this year she would take another two years before going pro.

“You know, I’ve always said I’m thinking about it and that’s the same answer right here,” Ko told reporters after winning her second LPGA title on Sunday with a sparkling final round six-under 66. “Nothing has changed within the last 72 hours. I’m happy at the moment.—Reuters

London Olympic medalist Ryota Murata (R) lands a blow on Akio Shihata, the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation middleweight champion, sending his opponent down in the first round of his pro debut nontitle match at Ariake Colosseum in Tokyo on 25 Aug, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Murata TKOs Shihata in 2nd round of pro debut

TOKYO, 26 Aug—London Olympic champion Ryota Murata scored a second-round stoppage of Akio Shihata, the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation middleweight champion, in his pro debut nontitle match in Tokyo on Sunday.

Murata stunned Shihata with a right jab that sent his opponent down in the first round and the referee waved an end to the bout at 2 minutes, 24 seconds after another crushing right in the second at Ariake Colosseum.

“I feel happy to be able to stand in this ring. He hit me with a dangerous punch in the first round,” said Murata, who has been receiving instruction from Cuban Ismael Salas, who has worked with several world champions in the past.

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Tokyo Olympic medalist Ryota Murata (R) lands a blow on Akio Shihata, the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation middleweight champion, sending his opponent down in the first round of his pro debut nontitle match at Ariake Colosseum in Tokyo on 25 Aug, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Bayern Munich’s Thiago Alcantara

Fifteen-year-old Lydia Ko of New Zealand tees off on the 12th hole during the third round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship LPGA golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California, on 6 April, 2013.—Reuters

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Benfica’s Lazar Markovic

BRIDGWATER, England, 26 April, 2013.—Bayern Munich’s Thiago Alcantara suffers injury

Fifteen-year-old Lydia Ko of New Zealand tees off on the 12th hole during the third round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship LPGA golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California, on 6 April, 2013.—Reuters

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OBITUARY

Hajee Khatim Hl Hlaing (Ma Theingi Maung) - Daw S. Win Tin	In Memoriam

MUSLIM EDUCATION

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No plan to raise monthly cash award for honorary title winners

Deputy Minister U Win Oo. With regard to the question whether there is a plan to maintain telegraphic cables and posts of Myanma Railways raised by U Tin Hla Shwe of Okpo Constituency, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than replied that as Myanma Railways is using I-Coms because block lines and magentro telephones could not be used. After scrutinizing the cables and posts, unusable cables will be taken out from the lines.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun responded that if the government wants to raise monthly cash award for honorary title winners in conformity with the current situation, the honorary titles and medals committee must submit report to the President and then take necessary measures. At present, there is no plan to raise the monthly cash award for them, he said.

Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial, Legal and Information Technology

Complaint and Appeal Scrutiny Committee submitted the Write Application Bill 2013 and the Bill Committee read the report on the former bill. The session came to an end at noon.

Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khin.—MNA

Rural development strategic plan under implementation

Yangon, 26 Aug—A consultation meeting with donor countries, development partners, INGOs, NGOs, business partners and government organizations and NGOs was invited to take part in the government’s rural development tasks, said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Than.

Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint said that a consultation meeting was held on 17 August with the active participation of INGOs, NGOs, business partners and government organizations. The meeting brought about 17 critical suggestions. Based on these suggestions the ministry has set up three immediate priority areas. There are:

(a) Supplying of safe drinking water at all the villages across the country.
(b) Undertaking rural electrification, and
(c) Implementing and assisting food security measures.

Moreover, the Union minister also pays serious attention on its main duties of construction and maintenance of rural road and bridges, undertaking rural sanitation, undertaking of rural housings for IDPs, carrying out rural livelihood supportive activities, and co-raising dairy cows, pigs, goats, chicken and duck.

He urged the donor countries, development partners, INGOs and NGOs to join hands with the ministry in implementation of the rural development strategic plan and invited suggestions from those present. The attendees took part in the discussions.

Union Minister U Soe Than reviewed the discussions of those present.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Soe Than, U Aung Min and U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Myat Oh, departmental officials, donor organizations, INGOs, NGOs, experts and media persons.—MNA

Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill approved

Deputy Minister of Ministry of Immigration and Population.

Printing and publishing are transferred to the accounts of Ministry of Immigration and Population.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Tin Oo Lwin.—SNA

The collected money from income tax are handed over to the accounts of Ministry of Finance and that from issuance of recommendations to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that from renewal and issuance of passports to Ministry of Home Affairs, he added.

_My question emphasizes how to use the income obtained from issuance of visa. In fact, embassy is facade of the State. The reply of the deputy minister means the embassies are not entitled to spend such income. I think the principles should be amended._ said MP U Win Oo.

Deputy Minister U Win Than.—SNA

Work coord meeting held for International Day of Democracy-2013

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Aug—A work coordination meeting to organize International Day of Democracy-2013 was held at the meeting hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, this morning.

Chairman of the central committee for holding International Day of Democracy-2013 U Hluy Oo delivered an address.

He urged those present to cooperate among them to accomplish their tasks for successfully holding the International Day of Democracy-2013 that falls on 15 September.

Next, Deputy Director-General of the Hluttaw Office U Kyi Thein presented reports on preparations being carried out, and the work committee chairman, on their respective work progress.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks of the chairman of the central committee.

The International Day of Democracy-2013 with paper-reading sessions would be held at Thabin Hall of Hluttaw Complex on 15 September.—MNA

Water level of Thanlwin River may fall under its danger level

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Aug—According to the observation at 12:30 hrs MST today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an rose 36 cm (about 1.2 ft) above its danger level starting from 1:30 pm on 20 August and it may fall under its danger level during next three days, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

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