Pre-SEA Games Karatedo Test Match kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Vice-President U Nyan Tun attended the opening ceremony of Pre-SEA Games Karatedo Test Match at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (3000-A), here, this morning.

President of Myanmar Karatedo Federation Dr Win Zaw explained matters related to the test match and urged the athletes to try their best in the XXVII SEA Games applying the experiences to be obtained in the test match.

Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing the SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan in his address said that Myanmar Karatedo Federation was established in June 1989 and the federation has been taking part in the SEA Games from the 15th to 26th games without fail. Karatedo event will be put into the XXVII SEA Games to be able to have opportunity to designate it as an Olympic sport.

Based on experiences obtained from the international competitions, Myanmar Karatedo Federation will successfully hold the test match in cooperation with the contending countries. Today’s matches will foster friendly relations and understanding among SEA countries.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presented gifts to the Karatedo teams.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister U Zaw Win and the MKF President presented prizes to the winners. Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, Hluttaw representatives, Chairman of Asian Karatedo Federation Referee Committee, Secretary of SEA Karatedo Federation Mr Vincent Chang, Technical in-charge Mr Lin Chee Jim, officials of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar National Sports Committee, referees and spectators.

Karatedo teams of Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, host Myanmar A and B teams are taking part in the text match that will last till tomorrow.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents certificate of honour to an athlete in Pre-SEA Games Karatedo Test Match.—MNA

Modern recreation centre for public relaxation in Mottama

A modern recreation centre will be constructed on Mottama mountain range in Wariru Ward 2 of Mottama, a beach town of Mon State, with a view to enabling the people to enjoy relaxation.

The recreation centre will be perched on a four-acre plot between Balutahtuang Pagoda and Lwan Zedi which are the most significant ones in Mottama. A plan is underway to facilitate the recreation centre with surfing, swimming pool, skate ground, canteens, 5D mini-cinema, playground, car park and small stage, said Director U Aung Kyaw Moe of Than Lwin Aye Co that will take responsibility for construction of the centre.

“Construction of the recreation centre is aimed at enabling the visitors to enjoy panoramic views from Mottama mountain range. The centre will be built as a significant site in Mon State for tourists at home and abroad to be able to take relaxation,” he continued.

Arrangements have been made to complete construction of the recreation centre by 2014, and it is expected to start construction tasks in open season, he added.

Kyemon: 25-8-2013
Tri: TTA

Article: Thaw Zet; Photo: Aye Ko
NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

LOCAL NEWS

YANGON, 28 Aug—A preliminary agreement has reached between Chin State government and India to open tax-free markets along Myanmar and India border area, according to Chin State government.

An MOU was signed between both sides last year so as to develop border regions, alleviate poverty and improve the region.

A plan is underway to open tax-free markets in nine places at border regions between the two countries. As a pilot project, the markets will be opened in Pansawng region of Sagaing Region and Indian market. More markets will be opened at the transport accessible areas to Sagaing Region and Chin State sharing borders with India.

More markets will be opened in five places in Chin State sharing border with India. These places will be Laylat border market in Falum, Darkhai of Tunzang Township, Khinman of Kyikha region, HtaO in Thalant Township and Fartulang in Tiddim.

After putting the market into service in Pansawng in Sagaing Region, more markets will be inaugurated at Khampat and Leshi regions of Sagaing Region.

Sagaing and India trade volume scores US$ 1 billion yearly. A plan was set to raise US$ 2 billion of trade volume between the two countries, according to the statistics of the Border Trade Department. The tax-free markets in border areas will allow the merchants to trade 40 items of commodities, and these markets will be opened in open season.

Kyemon-Kyi (Yankin)

New fibre boats waiting for rowers in Meiktila traditional regatta

MEIKTILA, 28 Aug—In commemoration of the 130th PhaungdawU Pagoda Pujanyato behelmin Meiktila of Mandalay Region, the Myanmar traditional regatta will use fibre boats.

“The boats in previous competition are old and lack of maintenance. Rowers face hardships in competition by using the old boats. So, we bought two new fibre boats from South Dagon Industrial Zone. The new ones are 31 feet long that can allow six oars. Each boat is worth K 950,000, explained Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Win.

On 8th waxing of Tawthalin, the consecration ceremony will be held at the pagoda and alms will be offered to members of the Sangha. On 14th waxing, the Myanmar traditional regatta will be held in line with the tradition. On the full moon day, the alms will be offered to the Pagoda and rice offering ceremony to members of the Sangha on a grand scale. In the afternoon, winners will be awarded in the traditional regatta.—Kyemon-Chantha (Meiktila)

India-made illegal medicines seized from speed boat in Chindwin River

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—According to the information that illegal household drugs were transport along the water course of Chindwin River, members of Myanmar Police Force from Kalay, Tamu, Hkamti and Mawlaik district police forces of Sagaing Region, members of Anti-Drug Squads from Homalin, Kalay, Tamu and Monywa carried out searching of illegal trafficking of drugs among the districts.

At 11.55 am on 22 August, a team led by Mawlaik District Police Force Commander and those of Homalin Anti-Drug Squad searched the speed boat Aung Zaw Moe at Mawlaik Jetty. The authorities seized 37 items of India-made various medicines without custom duty worth K 135.3022 million in 72 polyethylene bags.

Mawlaik Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against seven illegal commodity traffickers among the districts.

The authorities seized 37 items of India-made various medicines without custom duty worth K 135.3022 million in 72 polyethylene bags.

Mawlaik Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against seven illegal commodity traffickers among the districts.

The authorities seized 37 items of India-made various medicines without custom duty worth K 135.3022 million in 72 polyethylene bags.

Mawlaik Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against seven illegal commodity traffickers among the districts.

The authorities seized 37 items of India-made various medicines without custom duty worth K 135.3022 million in 72 polyethylene bags.

Mawlaik Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against seven illegal commodity traffickers among the districts.

The authorities seized 37 items of India-made various medicines without custom duty worth K 135.3022 million in 72 polyethylene bags.

Mawlaik Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against seven illegal commodity traffickers among the districts.

The authorities seized 37 items of India-made various medicines without custom duty worth K 135.3022 million in 72 polyethylene bags.
Obama meets new five-member panel reviewing surveillance programmes

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug—President Barack Obama met on Tuesday with a five-member panel he appointed to review the privacy issues involved with US government surveillance programmes, the White House said, part of an effort to rebuild public trust after leaks by a former spy agency contractor.

Obama has faced criticism since Edward Snowden, a contractor for the National Security Agency, exposed classified programmes, which include surveillance of telephone calls and emails to journalists, raising concerns about privacy and civil liberties.

The review panel is part of an effort to expand oversight of the programmes, which Obama has defended as necessary to protect national security. Its members are Richard Clarke, a former counterterrorism adviser in the Clinton and Bush White Houses; Michael Morell, former deputy director of the CIA; Peter Swire, who worked on technology issues in the Obama and Clinton administrations; Geoffrey Stone, a constitutional law professor at the University of Chicago, where Obama worked before entering politics; and Cass Sunstein, Obama’s former regulatory czar who is married to Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the United Nations.

The group will present interim findings in 60 days to the director of national intelligence, the White House said. They are expected to give a final report and recommendations to Obama by the end of the year.

Earlier this month, Obama also said he would work with Congress to reform laws that govern the collection of phone records and add scrutiny to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.—Reuters

US, allies prepare for probable military strike on Syria

AMMAN/WASHINGTON, 28 Aug—The United States and its allies geared up on Tuesday for a probable military strike against Syria that could come within days and would be the most aggressive action by Western powers in the Middle Eastern nation’s two- and-a-half-year civil war.

Western envoys told the Syrian opposition to expect a military response soon against President Bashar al-Assad’s forces as punishment for a chemical weapons attack last week, according to sources who attended a meeting with the rebel Syrian National Coalition in Istanbul.

Amid a quickening drum beat of preparations, US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said American forces in the region were “ready to go” if President Barack Obama gave the order.

Obama—long reluctant to intervene in the Syrian conflict—worked to solidify allied support, including calling the leaders of Britain and Canada, while US intelligence agencies assembled what they are sure is final confirmation of the Syrian government’s culpability for Wednesday’s poison gas attack near Damascus.

White House spokesmen Jay Carney said it would “fan the fire” to think anyone other than Assad’s forces was behind the large-scale chemical attack, which activists said killed hundreds of people as they slept.

“There is no doubt who is responsible for this heinous use of chemical weapons in Syria: the Syrian regime,” Vice President Joe Biden said at a speech in Houston to the American Legion, a military veterans’ group.—Reuters

Military strike against Syria no good to West

MOSCOW, 28 Aug—The speculated if not anticipated military strike against Syria from the United States and its allies did not go in line with the West’s interests, a Russian expert said on Tuesday, as momentum was building for such a response to the purported use of chemical weapons in the Syria conflict.

The West has been looking for an excuse for military intervention in Syria. The latest developments show that the strike is pre-decided and it’s a matter of time only when it actually happens,” Sergei Druzhilovsky, professor in Moscow State Institute of International Affairs, told Xinhua.

While UN inspectors were on the scene collecting evidence, Washington and its allies have blamed the Syrian government for the alleged use of chemical weapons against civilians in the suburbs of Damascus, a claim Syrian President Bashar al-Assad called “preposterous.”

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel told the BBC on Tuesday that the US military stands ready to strike Syria at once if President Barack Obama gives the order.—Xinhua

UN rights mission meets with Japanese officials on N Korea

Tokyo, 28 Aug—Members of a UN commission tasked with investigating human rights violations in North Korea speaks with reporters after arriving at Tokyo’s Haneda airport on 27 Aug 2013.—Kyodo News

Pakistan says Taleban unwilling to talk to Afghan gov’t

ISLAMABAD, 28 Aug—Pakistan said on Tuesday that Afghan Taleban insurgents are unwilling to talk to Karzai government and its peace negotiators at least for now.

The statement came hours after Afghan President Hamid Karzai concluded a two-day visit to Pakistan that was focused on efforts to encourage the Taleban to come to the negotiating table. Karzai’s spokesman, Aimal Faizi, said in Islamabad that Karzai had pressed for Islamabad’s help to bring Taleban leaders to the negotiating table.

Afghan government claims that leaders of Taleban are living in Pakistan and that Islamabad should use influence on them and facilitate direct talks between Taleban and Afghan High Peace Council.

Pakistan’s Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said that Taleban are not willing to talk to Afghan government or Afghan High Peace Council.

However Pakistan will try its best to persuade them to hold dialogue so as to avert outbreak of civil war in post-conflict Afghanistani, Aziz told state radio.

Taleban regime was ousted by a US-led invasion in late 2001 for harboring al-Qaeda and US and NATO-led combat troops are due to complete withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. Aziz stated that Karzai’s visit helped forge understanding and remove misgivings between the two countries.

“The two sides acknowledged that their peace and stability was interlinked,” he said.

Karzai extended his daylong visit to Pakistan by one day on Tuesday and held another round of talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on peace process in war-torn Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister’s office said Sharif told Karzai that Pakistan and Afghanistan have to work closely to bring peace in the region.—Xinhua
US security agencies say Android mobile main target for malware

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Aug —Google Inc’s Android, the dominant mobile operating system, is by far the primary target for malware attacks, mostly because many users are still using older versions of the software, according to a study by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Android was a target for 79 percent of all malware threats to mobile operating systems in 2012 with text messages representing about half of the malicious applications, according to the study from the government agencies, which was published by Public Intelligence website.

Google did not respond to a request for comment. DHS declined to comment. By comparison, about 19 percent of malware attacks were targeted at Apple Inc’s iOS software, Microsoft Corp’s Windows and BlackBerry Ltd.

Android continues to be a “primary target for malware attacks due to its market share and open source architecture,” said the study, which was addressed to police, fire, emergency medical and security personnel.—Reuters

NASA hot-fire tests 3D printed rocket engine component

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —US space agency NASA said on Tuesday it has successfully conducted a hot-fire test on the largest 3D printed rocket engine component it ever has. The 28 August test, which generated a record 20,000 pounds (about 9 tons) of thrust, is “a milestone” for one of many important advances the agency is making to reduce the cost of space missions—about 10-12 years within two vehicle generations—according to a statement from the US space agency.

Early data from the test indicated that the injector “worked flawlessly” at pressures up to 1,400 pounds per square inch (about 984,300 kilograms per square metre) and at almost 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit (about 3,316 degrees Celsius), the space agency said.

“This successful test of a 3D printed rocket injector brings NASA significantly closer to proving this innovative technology can be used to reduce the cost of flight hardware,” said Chris Singer, director of the Engineering Directorate at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Centre, in a statement.

NASA said it used a method called selective laser melting to build up layers of nickel-chromium alloy powder to make the injector with 28 elements for channeling and mixing propellants.

Nissan plans to begin selling self-driving cars by 2020

IRVINE, (California), 28 Aug—Nissan Motor Co Ltd said it will be ready to bring fully self-driving vehicles to market by 2020. The Japanese automaker said it plans to offer “multiple, commercially viable” vehicles that are capable of autonomous operation without driver input.

The self-driving vehicles will be sold “at realistic prices for consumers,” the company said at a media event in Irvine, California.

Nissan said its goal is to offer autonomous cars “across the model range within two vehicle generations”—about 10-12 years after the projected 2020 launch.

The company said it has been researching and developing autonomous vehicles “for years” with such top universities as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Oxford, Carnegie Mellon and the University of Tokyo. It is building a dedicated test track in Japan for autonomous vehicles that will be completed by next spring.

Google Inc, the Internet search leader, launched an autonomous car program in 2010 and has built and is testing several different versions, including one based on Toyota Motor Corp’s Prius.

Scientists detect magmatic water on Moon’s surface

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —US researchers said on Tuesday they have found magmatic water, or water that originates from deep within the Moon’s interior, on the surface of the Moon. The findings are the first such remote detection of this type of lunar water via the US Moon Mineralogy Mapper instrument. Earlier studies had shown the existence of magmatic water in lunar samples returned during the Apollo programme.

Scientists used the Moon Mineralogy Mapper, which is on board the Indian Space Research Organization’s Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, to image the lunar impact crater Bullialdus, located near the lunar equator. Scientists were interested in studying this area because the central peak of the crater is made up of a type of rock that forms deep within the lunar crust and mantle when magma is tapped underground.

“This rock, which normally resides deep beneath the surface, was excavated from the lunar depths by the impact that formed Bullialdus crater,” said lead author Rachel Klima, a planetary geologist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, in a statement.”Compared to its surroundings, we found that the central portion of this crater contains a significant amount of hydroxyl — a molecule consisting of one oxygen atom and one hydrogen atom— which is evidence that the rocks in this crater contain water that originated beneath the lunar surface,” Klima said.

The detection of internal water from orbit means scientists can begin to test some of the findings from sample studies in a broader context, including in regions that are far from where the Apollo sites are clustered on the near side of the moon, said the researchers. For many years, scientists believed that the rocks from the moon were bone-dry and any water detected in the Apollo samples had to be contamination from Earth.

“Now that we have detected water that is likely from the interior of the moon, we can start to compare this water with other characteristics of the lunar surface,” said Klima. “This internal magmatic water also provides clues about the moon’s volcanic processes and internal composition, which helps us address questions about how the moon formed, and how magmatic processes changed as it cooled,” Klima added.

The findings are published in the journal Nature Geoscience.—Xinhua

New York Times, Twitter hacked by Syrian group

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Aug —Media companies including the New York Times, Twitter and the Huffington Post lost control of some of their websites on Tuesday after hackers supporting the Syrian government breached the Australian Internet company that manages many major site addresses.

The Syrian Electronic Army, a hacker group that has previously attacked media organizations that it considers hostile to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, claimed credit for the Twitter and Huffington Post hacks in a series of Twitter messages.

Security experts said electronic records showed that NYTimes.com, the only site with an hours-long outage, redirected visitors to a server controlled by the Syrian group before it went dark. New York Times Co NYT.N spokeswoman Eileen Murphy tweeted the “issue is most likely the result of a malicious external attack,” based on an initial assessment.

The Huffington Post attack was limited to the blogging platform’s UK web address. Twitter said the hack led to availability issues for an hour and a half but that no user information was compromised.—Reuters

A man speaks on his mobile phone in front of the New York Times building in New York City on 21 May, 2009.—Reuters

Scientists detect magmatic water on Moon’s surface
Asian shares hit Seven-week low, oil at Six-month peak on Syria worries

Traders are pictured at their desks in front of the DAX board at the Frankfurt stock exchange on 26 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Tokyo, 28 Aug—Japanese officials warned of a possible military strike against Syria over chemical weapons attacks. The country is gearing up for a week of high volatility against the dollar and yen, which held near a one-month high on 28 Aug. Syria said it would shut down the 620-megawatt Vermont Yankee plant by 28 Aug, saying the reactor is no longer economical to operate with current low power prices and rising regulatory costs. The decision would end legal appeals and regulatory disputes and highlight the actions of Entergy’s new chairman and chief executive, Leo Denault, who succeeded J Wayne Leonard as CEO in February. Denault previously served as Entergy’s chief financial officer for nine years. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin cited a “constructive” call with Denault on Tuesday and said he hopes to work with the new CEO going forward. “The past is the past; we’re now dealing with the future and he promised to work together as a team to get the best outcome we possibly can,” Shumlin told reporters.

In New York, Entergy also faces a showdown with politicians, regulators and environmental groups in its effort to keep the two Indiana nuclear reactors running after their current licenses expire later this year and in 2015. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo opposes Indian Point’s license renewal because of the plant’s proximity to the New York City metropolitan area that is home to 19 million people. At Cuomo’s direction, state power agencies are pursuing plans to modernize the New York grid so that it can operate without the 2,037-MW Indian Point plant. Denault told Reuters the company’s current Indian Point strategy is to continue the safe, reliable operation of the plant located 40 miles north of New York City, but he remains open to talks to determine the plant’s future. Like Vermont Yankee, Indian Point also faces the double economic challenges of falling wholesale prices and uncertain capital costs to deal with changing nuclear regulatory mandates, Denault said. Entergy’s “open to a resolution with the state that makes sense for us and for the objectives of the state,” Denault said.

ZURICH, 28 Aug—Positron emission tomography (PET) scanning is becoming a standard practice in oncology, but the head-on competition for market share between PET and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is causing some head-scratching. When it comes to developing treatments for the eye, the competition has already chipped away at one success story with Lucentis, a treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which had sales of $1.5 billion in the United States last year. The macula is the part of the eye that allows fine detail to be seen. But it has been a losing market share to Regeneron and Bayer’s Eylea, making success with lampalizumab —its treatment for the dry form of AMD known as geographic atrophy (GA) — all the more pressing. It wants to consolidate its place as a key player in the market. “While we have been a very oncology-focused company, ophthalmology is an area where there’s a huge amount of opportunity,” Carole Ho, Director of Early Clinical Development at Roche’s biotech unit Genentech told Reuters in an interview prior to the data being published. There are currently no approved treatments for geographic atrophy, a leading cause of blindness in adults over 55, which gradually causes vision loss in the macula, making it harder to read, drive and recognize people’s faces. More than 8 million people worldwide are affected by the disease and the numbers are expected to rise as the ranks of the elderly swell, making it a lucrative space for drugmakers. Results of the phase II clinical trial presented at the American Society of Retina Specialists in Toronto on Tuesday found lampalizumab reduced this type of atrophy by 20.4 percent at 18 months in patients with this dry form of AMD. The data also showed no unexpected or unmanageable side effects with the drug, Roche said. Although it is still early days, Deutsche Bank analyst Tim Race said the data was strong and estimated the market opportunity for the drug at over $5 billion globally, potentially making it a more meaningful for Roche than Lucentis. —Reuters

HOUlSTON, 28 Aug—Entergy Corp’s (ETR.N) decision to shut its Vermont Yankee nuclear plant begins the final chapter in a battle with politicians seeking to close the station and may shift the firm’s focus to the larger Indian Point nuclear plant in New York. Entergy on Tuesday said it will shut the 620-megawatt Vermont Yankee by the end of 2014, saying the reactor is no longer economical to operate with current low power prices and rising regulatory costs. The decision will end legal appeals and regulatory disputes and highlights the actions of Entergy’s new CEO in February. Denault, who succeeded J Wayne Leonard as CEO in February. Denault previously served as Entergy’s chief financial officer for nine years. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin cited a “constructive” call with Denault on Tuesday and said he hopes to work with the new CEO going forward. “The past is the past; we’re now dealing with the future and he promised to work together as a team to get the best outcome we possibly can,” Shumlin told reporters.

In New York, Entergy also faces a showdown with politicians, regulators and environmental groups in its effort to keep the two Indiana nuclear reactors running after their current licenses expire later this year and in 2015. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo opposes Indian Point’s license renewal because of the plant’s proximity to the New York City metropolitan area that is home to 19 million people. At Cuomo’s direction, state power agencies are pursuing plans to modernize the New York grid so that it can operate without the 2,037-MW Indian Point plant. Denault told Reuters the company’s current Indian Point strategy is to continue the safe, reliable operation of the plant located 40 miles north of New York City, but he remains open to talks to determine the plant’s future. Like Vermont Yankee, Indian Point also faces the double economic challenges of falling wholesale prices and uncertain capital costs to deal with changing nuclear regulatory mandates, Denault said. Entergy’s “open to a resolution with the state that makes sense for us and for the objectives of the state,” Denault said.

Bayer’s Nexavar gets priority review as thyroid cancer drug

FRANKFURT, 28 Aug—Bayer’s cancer drug Nexavar was given priority review status by US health care regulators for the oral drug’s use against a difficult-to-treat type of thyroid cancer, the company said on Tuesday. The US Food and Drug Administration aims to complete the priority review within six months, rather than the standard review of about 10 months, Bayer said.

Bayer and development partner Onyx Pharmaceuticals are seeking a wider use for Nexavar to include treatment of patients with thyroid cancer that returned despite previous surgery and treatment with radioactive iodine, a group with a particularly poor prospect of survival. Nexavar is already approved to treat liver as well as kidney cancer and it is also being tested on breast cancer patients. —Reuters

The logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is seen at the company’s headquarters in Basel on 5 April, 2012.—Reuters


A plant belonging to Germany’s largest drugmaker Bayer is seen in Leverkusen on 30 Jan, 2013.—Reuters
Colombia’s ELN rebels free Canadian geologist

BOGOTA, 28 Aug—Colombia’s ELN rebels freed a Canadian geologist they had held captive for seven months on Tuesday, meeting one of the demands by President Juan Manuel Santos to enable the start of peace talks with the insurgent group. Jernoc Wobert was seized on 18 January in northern Bolivar Province along with two Peruvian and three Colombian miners contracted by the Toronto-based Braza Mining gold mining company. His colleagues were later freed by the leftist ELN, or National Liberation Army, the smaller of two rebel groups fighting the government for almost five decades. Wobert was released in a rural area to a mission of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Four dead as two buildings collapse in NW India

MUMBAI, 28 Aug—At least 4 people are killed and over 35 people are feared trapped under debris on Wednesday morning as two buildings collapsed in Vadodara district of Northwest Indian State of Gujarat, local news channel NDTV reported.

According to the local police, the rescue is under way and eight people have been evacuated.

Obama calls British PM again over Syria

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug—US President Barack Obama called British Prime Minister David Cameron again on Tuesday over possible responses to the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, as both leaders are weighing military actions against the Arab nation.

The White House described the phone conversation, the second since Saturday, as part of the ongoing consultations about Syria, where the government and opposition have traded blame for the chemical attacks in the suburbs of Damascus, capital of Syria, on 21 August, in which as many as 1,300 people were reportedly killed. Obama and Cameron discussed “possible responses” to the attack and agreed to “stay in close consultation in the coming days,” the White House said.

Washington has pinned the blame on the Syrian government and vowed to hold it accountable for this “moral obscenity.” The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that Obama is considering a limited military strike on Syrian targets, involving sea-launched cruise missiles or possibly long-range bombers.

As the British armed forces are working as well on contingency plans, Cameron recalled lawmakers from their summer recess to vote on Thursday on a government motion on how to respond.

6.3-magnitude quake hits Kermadec Islands region

HONG KONG, 28 Aug—An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale jolted Kermadec Islands region at 10:55 Beijing Time on Wednesday, the Hong Kong Observatory said. The epicentre was initially determined to be at 27.6 degrees south latitude and 179.9 degrees west longitude.

Japan negotiates tariffs with US, Australia in TPP trade talks

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 28 Aug—Negotiations between bilateral negotiations on elimination of tariffs with the United States and Australia during the ongoing 19th round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks in Brunei, negotiation sources said on Tuesday. The two major farming countries had previously been expected to hold off on talks with Japan until after the current round, as the United States has not finished assessing the impact of eliminating tariffs on Japanese products and Australia is scheduled to hold a general election on 7 September. The negotiations were held by Sunday at the strong request of Japan, which only joined the TPP talks at the tail end of the Malaysia round last month, with countries seeking to conclude a deal by year-end.—Kyodo News
School sanitation tasks carried out in Patheingyi

Patheingyi, 28 Aug—Health Department of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region and UNION jointly organized School Health Week activities and gave educative talks on health at Basic Education High School in Patheingyi on 22 August.

Dentist Dr Zaw Htaik, Township Health Assistant

Ownerless cattle auctioned

Waw, 28 Aug—U Soe Hlaing, Waw Township Administrator and Township Ownerless Property Auction Committee Chairman, supervised the auctions of 43 oxen seized ownerless in the township at General Administration Department in Waw Township on 25 August. It was attended by the commander of Township Police Force, the Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee, the Staff Officer of Veterinary Department and the Staff Officer of Township Internal Revenue Department.

A total of 30 farmers participated in the auction which was brought to an end at noon.

A total of K 24,690,000 revenue would be transferred to the Bago Region government.

Mandalay District:

Mandalay, 28 Aug—A collective blood donation ceremony of seven townships in Mandalay Region was held at the Blood Bank in Central Women’s Hospital in Mandalay on 23 August morning.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint made his appearance at the ceremony and encouraged the blood donors.

Mandalay District:

Secretory U Bo Thin and committee members presented blood bags to the medical superintendent and officials who returned certificates of honour.

It was attended by Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aung Htay Kyaw and Region Hluttaw representatives from townships in Mandalay District.

Mandalay:

The chief minister attended to the needs and cordially greeted the blood donors.

Mandalay District:

Mandalay, 28 Aug—A collective blood donation ceremony of seven townships in Mandalay Region was held at the Blood Bank in Central Women’s Hospital in Mandalay on 23 August morning.

Health Care Activity

Mobile medical team provides healthcare

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Aug—A mobile healthcare team formed with Secretary of Myanma Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Thazin Nwe, Joint Secretary (2) Dr Jo Jo San, Myitta San Yay Clinic in-charge, specialist, doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists and nurses made field trip to Kyaukchet village in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 25 August.

In-charge physician Dr San San Hlaing and doctors provided treatment to villagers and gave talks on child care and birth spacing.

They provided vitamins, nutrients, iodine salts and food to the expectant mothers.

The doctors saw eye, dental and other patients and referred some to nearby health centre.

Fish and prawn culturing course opened

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Aug—Fisheries Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is conducting fish culturing/breeding course at Yezin Fishery Station in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The opening ceremony yesterday was attended by U Than Oo Wai, Director of Breeding Division of Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

The director delivered an address at the ceremony.

The similar courses are being conducted in 14 regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area simultaneously.

It is aimed at developing socio-economic life of fish farmers, meeting regional fish demand and increasing their incomes by disseminating fish/prawn culturing techniques.

The course is being attended by those interested in prawn and Tatmadawmen. The course will last till 6 September.

MMAL-Fisheries Department

Anti-Human Trafficking

Educative talk on human trafficking organized in Namhkam

Namhkam, 28 Aug—An educative talk on human trafficking was organized in Mantaekwin and Kyaukchet villages. —MMAL-Ko Thu

Free saplings distributed: Assistant Director U Tet Toe of Nay Pyi Taw Forest Department in Ottara District, Pyinmana Township Staff Officer U Win Bo and staff distributed 4300 saplings including teak and flowery plant saplings to the residents in Mantaekwin and Kyaukchet villages. —MMAL-Ko Thu

Health Care Activity

Take Preventive Measures against DHF
**NATIONAL**

**Debate on “British administration and immigration in colonial era” held**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— Debate on “British administration and immigration in colonial era” was held at the assembly hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Building in the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein made a speech on the occasion.

Writer Dr Myint Thein explained facts about the debate and answered queries raised by Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives U Khin Maung Latt, U Ye Myint and U Maung Aye Tun. — MNA

**Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General for Myanmar brings comfort to IDPs in Myitkyina**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General for Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party held a meeting with local people at Thida Baptist Church Hall on Aung San Road in Thida Ward in Myitkyina yesterday.

Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint and State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, state ministers, members of Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC), and townswelders were present at the meeting.

On the occasion, the Union Minister said that the country is striking for eternal peace and stability and tranquility and it has now seen progress in ongoing trust-building with KIO/KIA groups. There has come out fruitful results through peacemaking process step by step. Mass participation of people in Kachin State and their suggestions help support peace-making processes.

Afterwards, Mr. Vijay Nambiar urged the Union Government, state government and locals to foster regional peace and stability and rural development tasks and called for national reconciliation and open peace talks with positive attitudes. He pledged that UN will continue providing necessary assistance.

Mr. Vijay Nambiar then answered the queries raised by those present. — MNA

**Shan Cultural Troupe earn two gold and two silver in CLMV Performing Arts Festival**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— The performing arts festival of the 4 countries was held in Dong Ha of Quang Tri Province in Vietnam from 12 to 18 August.

Shan State cultural troupe, took part in this performing arts festival and secured two gold and two silver medals.

There are altogether 11 national races—Shan, Pa-O, Inn, Danu, Taungyoe, Lehsu, Kokang, Wa, Palaung, Akha and Lahu— in Shan cultural troups. The people from literature and culture troups in Shan State (South, North and East) have been selected to participate in the festival.

With the aim of introducing Myanmar culture to the foreign countries, the cultural troupe took the pride in securing two gold and two silver medals in the performing arts festival.

It was also attended by Dean U Than Thinzin Oo of the National Culture and Fine Arts University of Yangon, Director Daw Nan Nang Ngin of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Technician-1 (song and dance) Daw Wut Yi Hlaing of Production Department of Fine Arts as a referee, 27 cultural troupe members from Shan State totalling 30. — MNA

**Ministry of Energy issues notification**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— The Ministry of Energy today issued Notification No. 100/2013 concerning exportation of petroleum products, storage, transportation and distribution. The notification comprises six chapters, it is learnt. — MNA
Relief aids provided to Htangon fire victims

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug**—A ceremony to present relief aids to the fire victims was held at Htangon relief camp in Kanbalu Township this morning.

Chairman of Relief and Resettlement Committee U Than Win and officials handed over family kits, tarpaulin sheets and relief aids to 51 households with a population of 325 and donated stationery and books to 45 students.

The Medical Superintendent from Kanbalu Township Hospital (100-bed) and officials from Htangon Rural Health Branch are providing health care services to those victims. The Food Supply Committee is also serving them with daily meals.

**MNA**

---

Chinese Hospital Ship Peace Ark (866) makes port visit at Thilawa

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug**—As part of China-Myanmar friendship programme and medical trip, Chinese Navy’s Hospital Ship Peace Ark (866) carrying 400 health staff led by Rear Admiral Shen Hao from the Chinese Navy docked at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) in Yangon this morning via Malaysia.

They were welcomed at the terminal by Naval Training Command Headquarters Commandor Min Thein Tint, senior military officers from Defence Services (Navy), Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan, the Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar and embassy staff from the Chinese Embassy, members of the Guard of Honour and officials from Chinese Merchants Association. Rear Admiral Shen Hao and party cordially greeted the Guard of Honour and met the local media at the jetty. Then, they conducted the guests round medical wards on the board.

The 300-bed Hospital Ship measuring 4,000 squares meters covers 20 intensive care units and eight operation rooms. It is like high-class Hospitals in China and can make 40 times major operations per day. In addition, it will provide treatments with Chinese traditional therapies and the Western therapies up to 3 September.

Cultural talks, medical symposiums and sports competitions will be held in order to have amity and trusts between the navies and two countries.

**Myawady**

---

Water level of Sittoung River may fall below its danger level

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug**—The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has reached above its danger level starting from 21-8-2013 by 6:30 pm. According to the observation at 12:30 hrs M.S.T today, the water level has exceeded by 40 cm (about 1.3 ft) above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next 48 hours commencing this noon, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

**MNA**

---

Talks on census-taking, reading habits given

**KALAY, 28 Aug**—Kalay District Information and Public Relations Department organized educational talk on promotion of reading habit and census-taking at Baptist Church in Pyinkhongyi village-tract in Kalay Township on 25 August afternoon.

The department also exhibited posters and photos.

Head of District Information and Public Relations Department U Dai Kyint Pao gave talks on population data and census taking. Township Staff Officer U Nyi Nyi Zaw gave talks on promotion of reading habits to broaden their horizons.

The township staff officer presented 50 publications to the villagers who viewed the posters and photos after the talk.

**MMAL-Ju Nine**

---

Myanmar, France to nurture MBA graduates with specialized skills

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug**—Deputy Minister for Education Dr San Lwin held talks with Mrs Mare-Christine BERT, Director of Development of HEC Executive Education from France and party at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed signing an MoU between Yangon Institute of Economics and Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC), a French university.

They agreed to turn out MBA graduates with specialized skills such as finance, marketing, etc, by conducting MBA courses for senior managers, refresher courses for faculty members and sending of emeritus professor.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Ko Ko Tin of Education Ministry and party.

**MNA**

---

Shan State chief minister holds development meeting

**LAISHIO, 28 Aug**—Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and state ministers met district/township level departmental personnel, members of management committees, members of development support groups, members of social organizations, members of political parties and local people at Laishio Town Hall on 24 August noon.

The chief minister elaborated on seven socio-economic development tasks that include electrification, accessibility of drinking water, agriculture, employment, tourism development, monetary market and investment.

Laishio District Deputy Commissioner U Aung Muang Kyi reported on regional activities and township development support committee members of Tangyan and Mongyal Townships discussed the conditions of their townships. The state ministers made supplementary reports and the state chief minister made conclusions.

**MMAL-State IPRD**

---

Monthly Weather Forecast on September, 2013

Issued on 28-8-2013

The withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon condition

Southwest Monsoon is likely to withdraw from Northern Myanmar Areas between 20-25 September, 2013 and Central Myanmar Areas between 26-30 September, 2013.

Bay of Bengal condition

Two low pressure areas may form over the Bay of Bengal and one may be further intensify into the depression. Southwest Monsoon will be moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rain conditions and rainy days

Above normal rain are likely in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States, below normal in lower Sagaing Region and about normal in the remaining Regions and States.

Rainy days are expected about 22 to 26 days in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States, and about 14 to 18 days in the remaining Regions and States. —NLM

Weather forecast for 1st Dekad (10-day) of September 2013

Issued on 28-8-2013

Bay of Bengal condition

A low pressure area may form over the Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a depression. Southwest Monsoon will be strong to moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rain conditions and rainy days

Above normal rain are likely in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and about normal in the remaining Regions and States.

Rainy days are expected about 6 to 8 days in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and about 4 to 6 days in the remaining Regions and States. —NLM
Singaing’s village library gets new building

Singaing, 28 Aug—The new building of Arthit Library re-built by Myanmar Libraries Federation spending its fund was held in conjunction with the books and publications donation at the library in Meethwaybok Village of Singaing Township, Mandalay Region, on 25 August afternoon.

Head of Singaing Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Tin Tin Htwe explained the programmes to ensure durability of library and advantages of reading.

Next, the Township IPRD and wellwishers donated books and publications. Singaing Town-ship IPRD has been opening self-reliant village libraries one after another in the township with the aim of broadening horizon of the local people and raising reading skills. In 2008, the opening ceremony of libraries in the whole township was held. As some of libraries become ruined at present, new buildings are being constructed for the village libraries.

The training course was aimed at developing socio-economic life of the rural people across the nation and propagating the fish breeding and hatching fingerlings technology in line with the directive of the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

The ceremony was attended by Kayin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Saw Christopher, Head of Kayin State Fisheries Department Dr Nyunt Wai, Head of State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Maung Maung Soe Oo, training officials and 36 trainees.

Cash donations shared to religious building, national race culture troupes

Loilem, 28 Aug—Shan State Government held a ceremony to donate cash to the fund of Dhamma Beikman Building at Maha Ratthabhisa Maggi Pagoda in Panglong and national races literature and culture troupes, at the hall of the pagoda board of trustees on 26 August.

“Shan State government wishes to make donation to construction of new Dhammayon, and the donation was initiated by the Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and state ministers on their trip to Loilem District on 22 August for paying homage to Maha Ratthabhisa Maggi Pagoda,” said Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein of Loilem District.

Next, the Shan State government donated K 5 million to the fund of the Dhamma Beikman through Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Sai Lon who returned certificate of honour.

Officials handed over K 300,000 each to Shan and Pa-O literature and culture troupes, K 200,000 each to Palaung and Taungyoe literature and culture troupes through chairmen of the troupes.

A local spoke words of thanks.

The donations by the Shan State government amounted to K 6 million.

Fish breeding, hatching fingerlings course kicks off

Ha-kan, 28 Aug—Kayin State Fisheries Department gave lectures on fish breeding and hatching fingerlings course No 1/2013 at the hall of Hpa-an fishery camp in Taungthugon Village of Kayin State on 26 August.

Magway Region government implements plan to turn out midwives

Pakokku, 28 Aug—With the assistance of Magway Region Government, the opening of midwifery course (fourth batch) took place at the hall of Pakokku General Hospital on 26 August morning.

“Under the arrangement of the Magway Region government, the health training are being conducted for declining mortality and mother dead rates so as to disseminate health knowledge to the grassroots level,” said Pakokku Township Administrator U Aung Naing Oo.

He continued that the sharing of health knowledge contributes to development of private sector.

Next, Medical Superintendent Dr Thin Tha Aye explained the plans of the training, disciplines and aims. Region Hluttaw representative U Zaw Moe Thein presented uniforms to the trainees.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Soe Soe Thein and members, members of Women’s Affairs Organization and departmental officials.

Altogether 30 female trainees are attending the course.

Health Care Activity

Yamethin Township marks Nutrition Week

Yamethin, 28 Aug—A ceremony to mark Nutrition Week, organized by Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Yamethin, Mandalay Region, on 25 August morning.

After opening the ceremony, Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Htar Htar Win made a speech.

Township Association Chairperson Mr. Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing

Nutritious feedstuff course for animals kicks off

Ha-ka, 28 Aug—Organized by China State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, the animal nutrition course No 1/2013 was opened at its office in Haka on 26 August afternoon, with an address by Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai.

The training course is aimed at giving cheap and nutritious feedstuff to the animals for contributing to development of meat and fish production as meat and fish consumption rate rises in Chin State.

Altogether 30 farmers are attending the two-week course.

Opening ceremony of animal nutrition course No 1/2013 in progress in Haka of Chin State.

Opening ceremony of animal nutrition course No 1/2013 in progress in Haka of Chin State.

The training course is aimed at giving cheap and nutritious feedstuff to the animals for contributing to development of meat and fish production as meat and fish consumption rate rises in Chin State.

Altogether 30 farmers are attending the two-week course.

Opening ceremony of animal nutrition course No 1/2013 in progress in Haka of Chin State.

The training course is aimed at giving cheap and nutritious feedstuff to the animals for contributing to development of meat and fish production as meat and fish consumption rate rises in Chin State.

Altogether 30 farmers are attending the two-week course.

Opening ceremony of animal nutrition course No 1/2013 in progress in Haka of Chin State.

The training course is aimed at giving cheap and nutritious feedstuff to the animals for contributing to development of meat and fish production as meat and fish consumption rate rises in Chin State.

Altogether 30 farmers are attending the two-week course.

Opening ceremony of animal nutrition course No 1/2013 in progress in Haka of Chin State.

The training course is aimed at giving cheap and nutritious feedstuff to the animals for contributing to development of meat and fish production as meat and fish consumption rate rises in Chin State.

Altogether 30 farmers are attending the two-week course.

Opening ceremony of animal nutrition course No 1/2013 in progress in Haka of Chin State.

The training course is aimed at giving cheap and nutritious feedstuff to the animals for contributing to development of meat and fish production as meat and fish consumption rate rises in Chin State.

Altogether 30 farmers are attending the two-week course.
Japan raises toxic water leak severity at Fukushima plant to level 3

Tokyo, 28 Aug—Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Authority decided on Wednesday to raise the severity assessment of a recent water leak accident at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant to level 3 on an international scale.

The NRA will report its evaluation, initially rated level 1, to the International Atomic Energy Agency, an official of the NRAsecretariat said.

Level 3 on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale is defined as a “serious incident.” The Fukushima nuclear accident, triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, was rated as the maximum level 7, on a par with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.—Kyodo News

Nine killed, 50 injured in road mishap in E India

New Delhi, 28 Aug—At least nine people were killed and 50 others injured in a major road mishap in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal on Tuesday, a senior police official said.

“The mishap happened when the bus in which the victims were travelling overturned at Panagarh in the state’s Bardhaman District after the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle while negotiating a curve,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

While six people died on the spot, three others succumbed to their injuries on their way to hospital where 50 others have been admitted, some with serious injuries, the official said.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, he added.

Over 500 families displaced by flash floods in central Philippines

Manila, 28 Aug—About 547 families have been displaced by flash floods in central Philippines province of Samar as tropical storm “Kong-Rey”, or locally known as Nando, entered the Philippine area of responsibility, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Philippines’ Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said the affected families, coming from 11 villages in Samar, have been taking shelter at schools used as temporary evacuation centre.

“But again we continue to be on alert for the (further) effects of the tropical storm,” Valte said in a news briefing.

The state weather agency, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), said that Kong-Rey has maintained its strength and continues to move closer towards the Northern Philippine province of Batanes (Batanes Group of Islands). The tropical storm brings maximum sustained winds of 75 kilometer per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph, the agency said.

“Nando will continue to enhance the southwest monsoon which will bring light to moderate at times heavy rains and thunderstorms over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon,” PAGASA said in a bulletin earlier this day.

Security threats loom large ahead of Nepal’s 19 November elections

Kathmandu, 28 Aug—In Nepal’s 2008 elections of the first Constituent Assembly, 50 individuals were killed, 1286 were injured and 116 were kidnapped under 485 incidents of political and election-related violence.

Five years down the line, there is valid ground to fear that the 2013 elections of the second Constituent Assembly, scheduled for 19 November this year, will not be less violent. “Plenty of security threats exist this time around as well. The success or failure of the election depends on how the government and security forces deal with them,” Rohit Karki, an analyst with Nepal Institute for Policy Studies, told Xinhua on Tuesday.

Karki said the major obstacles may arise from the poll-opposing groups including the alliance of 33 smaller parties.

“If the alliance of fringe parties goes beyond the poll-boycott slogan and disrupts the election process, the government has to materialize its security plans considering such an unfavorable situation,” Karki said.

Providing political patronage to criminals and criminalization of politics is yet another security threat to the upcoming election, Karki said, adding that it can be tackled by exposing arms and the armed outfits of Terai plains are other key challenges of the election, Regmi said. To ensure the election, Nepal’s National Army should also be provided with some roles, said Govinda Kusum, a former secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs. “Muscle and money will be the serious threats to election. Mobilization of youth wings of various political parties and possible unhealthy rivalry among them could be yet another threat,” Kusum said.

The government is well-aware about the security challenges of election, said Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Armed Police Force Shailendra Khanal. “We have set up Election Cells in various places across the country to collect election-related information,” said Khanal, adding that the security bodies are in the last phase of finalizing an Integrated Security Plan solely targeting the upcoming elections.—Xinhua

Flood death toll rises to 13 in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 28 Aug—Flash floods have killed at least 13 people and affected about 3,000 families in Cambodia since early this month, a disaster control spokesman said on Wednesday.

Four provinces being hit by floods are Banteay Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, and Kra- tie, Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), said.

“Eleven deaths were in Kampong Thom, two others were in northern Kampong Thom,” he told Xinhua over telephone.

Besides, he said, some 20,000 hectares of rice paddies were inundated.

Floods usually hit Cambodia between August and October. In 2011, the country was hit the worst by floods, which killed up to 250 people, according to the NCDM.

Last year, the floods claimed 14 human lives.

Indian govt approves multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects

New Delhi, 28 Aug—The Indian government on Tuesday said that it has given its nod to at least 36 stalled multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects in a bid to spur up the flagging economy and falling currency.

Indian Finance Minister P Chidambaram said that the 36 stalled projects include oil, gas, power, road and railways sectors, with value estimated at 1.83 trillion rupees (28.4 billion US dollars).

“The message we are sending is that the investment cycle has restarted, and we are pushing it,” he told the media in the national capital.

“Disbursements would start as the approvals are being given. Clearly the signal is projects are not being stalled. Stalled projects have been un-blocked. What I say today, would be heard by banks also. The banks’ chairmen waiting to disburse funds would do it now,” the Finance Minister added. The Indian currency hit a record low, breaching 66 rupees to a US dollar in intra-day trading on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel at their base in Djibouti, eastern Africa, on 27 Aug, 2013. MSDF personnel have been engaged in an antipiracy mission off Somalia since 2009. Kyodo News

Photo taken on 27 Aug, 2013 shows the facade of Yale-National University of Singapore (NUS) College’s temporary school facilities during its first inauguration ceremony in Singapore.—Xinhua

A child plays angklung, an Indonesian traditional musical instrument, during the two-day Bamboo Music Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 27 Aug, 2013.—Xinhua

Security threats loom large ahead of Nepal’s 19 November elections

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel at their base in Djibouti, eastern Africa, on 27 Aug, 2013. MSDF personnel have been engaged in an antipiracy mission off Somalia since 2009. Kyodo News

Photo taken on 27 Aug, 2013 shows the facade of Yale-National University of Singapore (NUS) College’s temporary school facilities during its first inauguration ceremony in Singapore.—Xinhua

A child plays angklung, an Indonesian traditional musical instrument, during the two-day Bamboo Music Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 27 Aug, 2013.—Xinhua

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel at their base in Djibouti, eastern Africa, on 27 Aug, 2013. MSDF personnel have been engaged in an antipiracy mission off Somalia since 2009. Kyodo News

Photo taken on 27 Aug, 2013 shows the facade of Yale-National University of Singapore (NUS) College’s temporary school facilities during its first inauguration ceremony in Singapore.—Xinhua

A child plays angklung, an Indonesian traditional musical instrument, during the two-day Bamboo Music Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 27 Aug, 2013.—Xinhua
China will hit economic growth target, NBS spokesman

Beijing, 27 Aug—China has shown signs of stabilizing and the country is poised to hit its annual growth target of 7.5 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) spokesman Sheng Laiyun said at a Foreign Ministry conference on Monday.

China’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 7.6 percent in the January-June period of 2013, the weakest first-half performance in three years, but was in line with market expectations, Sheng said.

According to the latest data released by the NBS in July, industrial added value increased 9.7 percent year on year, with the growth rate up 0.8 percentage points from June, indicating confidence in Chinese enterprises, Sheng said. The Chinese government has unveiled a number of policies to cope with downward pressure and has created room for further economic rebalancing efforts, Sheng said.

“I do have confidence in China’s economy,” Sheng added. Sheng also expressed his confidence in China’s dealing with local government debt. An audit conducted in 2011 by the National Audit Office (NAO) found that local government debt totaled 10.7 trillion yuan at the end of 2010, more than 26 percent of GDP.—Xinhua

Palestinians suspend peace talks with Israel after three killed near Ramallah

RAMALLAH, 27 Aug—The Palestinians have officially suspended a four-day round of direct peace talks with Israel in protest of killing three Palestinian elders earlier on Monday.

The Palestinians were killed during clashes with Israeli soldiers who stormed Qalandiya refugee camp in northern Ramallah.

Hours after the incident, Yasser Abed Rabbo, an official in Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), announced in a Press statement that the Palestinian side decided to call off the round of direct peace negotiations scheduled to be held on Monday in the West Bank town of Jericho.

“We decided not to go to the scheduled rounds of talks today in protest of killing three Palestinian young men in Qalandiya,” Abed Rabbo said, adding that “the ongoing Israeli escalation of violence against our people can’t be justified and it only aims at toppling the efforts to resume the peace negotiations.”

The killing of a Palestinian young man in Jenin last week and the killing of three young men near Ramallah on Monday had aroused many Palestinians, mainly the factions and political powers that are basically against the resumption of the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, a well-informed Palestinian source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addressed a strong letter of protest to the United States Administration against the Israeli violations in the West Bank.

“President Abbas urged the United States to immediately intervene to avoid more violent consequences among the populations in the West Bank,” said the source, adding that President Abbas considered what happened on Monday “as an Israeli violation to the negotiations.”

Later on Monday afternoon, hundreds of Palestinian mourners buried the bodies of the three Palestinian young men that were shot dead by the Israeli soldiers’ gunfire. Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (119)

Claims of cargo carried on MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (119) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: TOKO KAUN KAISHA LTD Phone No: 256924/256914

No Pain No Gain

Four children injured in Russia by teenager with air gun

MOSCOW, 27 Aug—A teenager attacked a group of children with a pneumatic gun, injuring four, in Ulyanovsk in central Russia, the regional prosecutor’s office said on Monday.

“Several children were playing in a yard when an unknown person started to shoot at them late Sunday,” deputy prosecutor Vassili Zima said. The four injured, two boys and two girls aged from seven to 15, sustained minor injuries. They were taken to a hospital and received medical assistance before being released.

Police detained a 13-year-old boy suspected of carrying out the attack. The teenager confessed he attacked the group with one of the girls a week earlier, Ulyanovsk regional police’s spokesman Alexei Safirov said.

The teenager purchased a pneumatic gun with the help of an adult acquaintance and concealed it from his parents, the spokesman said.

Under Russia’s criminal code, first-time offenders aged under 14 are immune from criminal responsibility.

If found guilty, the boy can only be put on a watch list of potential offenders.—Xinhua
Obama on watching ‘The Butler’ - ‘I did tear up’

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —President Barack Obama says he teared up watching a movie about an African-American man who served for 34 years at the White House during the tumultuous time of the civil rights movement. Lee Daniels’ “The Butler” is a hit movie starring Forest Whitaker in the lead role, which is loosely based on the real life of Eugene Allen, who served Presidents Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan. Oprah Winfrey plays the Butler’s hard-drinking wife and Cuba Gooding Jr. is a friend and White House colleague.

“You know, I did see ‘The Butler,’ and I did tear up,” Obama told syndicated radio hosts Tom Joyner and Sybil Wilkes in an interview broadcast on Tuesday, a day before he speaks at the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement’s “March on Washington.”

“I teared up just thinking about not just the butlers who have worked here in the White House, but an entire generation of people who were talented and skilled, but because of Jim Crow (segregation laws), because of discrimination, there was only so far they could go,” Reuters.

Jennifer Aniston’s ‘We’re the Millers’ to cross $100 million at box office

LOS ANGELES, 28 Aug — Jennifer Aniston’s hit comedy “We’re the Millers” has been doing a first-rate Energizer bunny imitation and will cross the $100 million mark at the domestic box office later this week.

It’s been going and going since opening to $26 million on 7 August , and was at $92.7 million as of Tuesday, impressive for a movie that New Line produced for $37 million.

Also near the milestone is Sony’s raunchy Seth Rogen-Evan Goldberg comedy “This Is the End,” which opened back in June, and was at $96.7 million on Tuesday. With just a $32 million budget, it’s a big win for the studio, too.

“I think the reason for some people saw this kind of success coming for ‘The Millers,’ or ‘This Is the End,’” Exhibitor Relations vice-president and senior analyst Jeff Bock tells TheWrap.

“But I think audiences get a kick out of movies that sort of push the envelope in terms of taste, and they were genuinely funny.”

The success of those two and a handful of other R-rated comedies has been a bright spot at the domestic box office this summer.


This being Hollywood, the popularity of those films ensures there will be more of the same next summer.

There are already a handful of comedies slated for 2014, including John Favreau’s “Chef” from Open Road, starring Robert Duvall and Scarlett Johansson, and Zac Efron’s “Neighbors,” both set for 5 May.

So already Sony’s Channing Tatum-Jonah Hill sequel “22 Jump Street” (13 June) and Melissa McCarthy’s “Tammy” from Warner Bros and Sony’s “Sex Tape,” starring Jason Segel and Cameron Diaz, both scheduled to open on 2 July.

US singer Madonna waves as she leaves the new Hard Candy Fitness centre in downtown Rome on 21 Aug, 2013. —Reuters

New opening series introduced ahead of upcoming New York Film Festival

NEW YORK, 28 Aug — The Film Society of Lincoln Centre (FSLC) announced on Tuesday it will host a series to showcase classic old films in the week leading up to the 51st New York Film Festival that starts on 27 September.

The series, entitled “New York Film Festival: Opening Act,” will give audiences a rare chance to refresh their memories of some great film works by directors, such as the Coen Brothers, Claire Denis, Arnaud Desplechin, Lav Diaz, and James Gray.

“This year’s New York Film Festival lineup features both returning filmmakers and relative newcomers, with a collective body of work behind them that is formidable,” said Dennis Lim, FSLC Director of Cinematheque Programming.

“These series, which will continue as an annual event, gives some context to the diverse festival slate but is also an occasion for us to show a wide range of terrific movies, from modern classics to cult favorites to genuine rarities,” Lim said.

The lineup of the series includes James Gray’s “Little Odessa”, Hirokazu Kore-eda’s “Maborosi”, and Abdellatif Kechiche’s “Games of Love and Chance”, among others.

Xinhua

Madonna top-earning celebrity, trumping Spielberg, Winfrey

NEW YORK, 28 Aug — She’s still the Material Girl.

Pop diva Madonna 55, is the world’s top-earning celebrity, according to a Forbes list released on Monday, raking in an estimated $125 million in the past year, mainly from her $305 million-grossing MDNA tour, but helped by sales of clothing, fragrance and various investments.

Director Steven Spielberg, who had a big hit last year with “Lincoln,” was a distant second with earnings of $100 million in the year ended June 2013, most of which came from his catalog of past hits such as “ET” and “Jurassic Park,” which continue to bring in big bucks.

“Madonna’s success, at age 55, just goes to show the incredible power of a successful music career,” Forbes reporter Dorothy Pomerantz said, noting that 27-year-old pop singer Lady Gaga has often been said to be channeling Madonna’s four-decade-long career.

“The young star is certainly emulating Madonna when it comes to raking in money,” Forbes said, with her $80 million in earnings largely from the singer’s “Born This Way Ball” world tour, placing Gaga 10th on the list.

Forbes compiles its annual list of celebrity earnings using input from agents, managers, producers and others to calculate its estimates for each celebrity’s entertainment-related earnings. The figures do not reflect tax deductions, agent fees or “the other expenses of being a celebrity.”

Madonna’s top spot compares with her previous peak of $110 million in 2009, but falls short of the $165 million taken in by Oprah Winfrey in the previous year.

Forbes said. Talk show queen and media mogul Winfrey took a big pay cut this year according to Forbes, falling to No 13 on the list with earnings of $77 million. —Reuters

Jennifer Aniston and fiancee Justin Theroux attend a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 9 Aug, 2013. —Reuters

Singer Michael Bublé welcomes baby with wife Luisana Lopilato

LOS ANGELES, 28 Aug — The Argentinean actress wife of Canadian Grammy-winning singer Michael Bublé gave birth to a boy on Tuesday, the singer said on Twitter.

The first child together for the singer and Luisana Lopilato was born in Vancouver, British Columbia.

“Overjoyed and filled with gratitude at the arrival of our son Noah Buble,” the singer best known for songs “Haven’t Met You Yet” and “Save the Last Dance for Me,” wrote on Twitter, also posting a photo of the family on the Instagram photo-sharing website.

Bublé, 37, and Lopilato, 26, announced in January that they were expecting a child, posting a video with the ultrasound of a fetus on YouTube.

The couple were married in 2011. Lopilato has starred in such Spanish-language telenovelas as “Queridas, la historia” and “Rebelde Way.”

US President Barack Obama waves before departing a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 9 Aug, 2013. —Reuters

US singer Madonna waves as she leaves the new Hard Candy Fitness centre in downtown Rome on 21 Aug, 2013. —Reuters

Jennifer Aniston poses for photographers as she arrives for the UK premiere of “We’re the Millers” in Leicester Square in central London on 14 Aug, 2013. Reuters

New opening series introduced ahead of upcoming New York Film Festival

NEW YORK, 28 Aug — The Film Society of Lincoln Centre (FSLC) announced on Tuesday it will host a series to showcase classic old films in the week leading up to the 51st New York Film Festival that starts on 27 September.

The series, entitled “New York Film Festival: Opening Act,” will give audiences a rare chance to refresh their memories of some great film works by directors, such as the Coen Brothers, Claire Denis, Arnaud Desplechin, Lav Diaz, and James Gray.

“This year’s New York Film Festival lineup features both returning filmmakers and relative newcomers, with a collective body of work behind them that is formidable,” said Dennis Lim, FSLC Director of Cinematheque Programming.

“These series, which will continue as an annual event, gives some context to the diverse festival slate but is also an occasion for us to show a wide range of terrific movies, from modern classics to cult favorites to genuine rarities,” Lim said.

The lineup of the series includes James Gray’s “Little Odessa”, Hirokazu Kore-eda’s “Maborosi”, and Abdellatif Kechiche’s “Games of Love and Chance”, among others.
Bayern’s Schweinsteiger doubtful against Chelsea

BERLIN, 28 Aug—Bayern Munich midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger is doubtful for their Super Cup game against Chelsea on Friday in Prague after straining his ankle in a 1-1 Bundesliga draw at Freiburg on Tuesday.

“He strained his ankle,” coach Pep Guardiola told reporters. “Tomorrow there will be a medical check. I hope he can play on Friday but we do not know that yet.”

The Germany international, who had foot surgery in the close season and raced to be fit in time for the Bundesliga start, limped off in the 78th minute after going down unchallenged.

“It does not look good,” said captain Philipp Lahm.

Champions League winners Bayern, who take on Europa League champions Chelsea, are already without their Spain midfielder Thiago Alcantara who had surgery on his right ankle this week. Holding midfielder Javi Martinez is just returning to full fitness after an abdominal injury.—Reuters

Ivanovic plays with heavy heart, advances at US Open

NEW YORK, 28 Aug—Former world number one Ana Ivanovic made a strong start at the US Open on Tuesday but said she was playing with a heavy heart after hearing about the drowning death of a child

Ivanovic showed the positive effects of working with a new Serbian conditioning and coaching team she took on after Wimbledon as she works her way back after a disappointing stretch in her career.

The 25-year-old Serb, who rose to the top ranking in women’s tennis in 2008 after winning the French Open, had dropped to 22 in the rankings in 2011.

Ivanovic ranked 15th heading to Flushing Meadows.

“J ust been a very sad news,” Ivanovic, the 13th seed at Flushing Meadows, told reporters after her 6-2, 6-0 rout of Anna Tatishvili of Georgia.

“It was very hard because it was almost like my relative. We grew up, and I knew him since we were kids. It’s very, very sad.”

On the court, Ivanovic showed the positive effects of working with a new Serbian conditioning and coaching team she took on after Wimbledon as she works her way back after a disappointing stretch in her career.

The 25-year-old Serb, who rose to the top ranking in women’s tennis in 2008 after winning the French Open, had dropped to 22 in the rankings in 2011.

Ivanovic ranked 15th heading to Flushing Meadows.

“I was really playing well and I had a few tough losses,” Ivanovic said about a hardcourt build-up that included a three-set loss to Victoria Azarenka in Carlsbad, a third-set tiebreaker loss to China’s Li Na in Toronto and a three-set loss France’s Alize Cornet in Cincinnati.

“I’m very confident with the game and the way I was playing,” she said, adding she was concentrating on conditioning and making her serve and forehand more dominant.—Reuters

Barkley and Townsend named in England squad

LONDON, 28 Aug—Young midfielders Ross Barkley and Andros Townsend were named on Tuesday in the England squad for World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Ukraine.

Everton’s Barkley, 19, and Tottenham Hotspur’s Townsend, 22, received their first senior call-ups and Southampton forward Rickie Lambert was given another chance after scoring twice at the end of last season.

“I was playing really well and I had a few tough losses,” Ivanovic said about a hardcourt build-up that included a three-set loss to Victoria Azarenka in Carlsbad, a third-set tiebreaker loss to China’s Li Na in Toronto and a three-set loss France’s Alize Cornet in Cincinnati.

“I’m very confident with the game and the way I was playing,” she said, adding she was concentrating on conditioning and making her serve and forehand more dominant.—Reuters

Ivanovic ranked 15th heading to Flushing Meadows.

“I was really playing well and I had a few tough losses,” Ivanovic said about a hardcourt build-up that included a three-set loss to Victoria Azarenka in Carlsbad, a third-set tiebreaker loss to China’s Li Na in Toronto and a three-set loss France’s Alize Cornet in Cincinnati.

“I’m very confident with the game and the way I was playing,” she said, adding she was concentrating on conditioning and making her serve and forehand more dominant.—Reuters

Germany’s Bastian Schweinsteiger holds up the trophy after winning the final match against Manchester City at the Audi Cup friendly soccer tournament in Munich on 1 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Falham’s Brede Hangeland (R) tackles Queens Park Rangers Andros Townsend during their English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage, London, on 1 April, 2013.—Reuters

Bayern Munich’s Bastian Schweinsteiger holds up the trophy after winning the final match against Manchester City at the Audi Cup friendly soccer tournament in Munich on 1 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Kondogbia set to leave Sevilla, expected in Monaco

PARIS, 28 Aug—France midfield Geoffrey Kondogbia is set to leave Sevilla after he told them that another club had agreed to pay his 20 million euros ($26.79 million) buyout clause, the La Liga side said on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old, who made his international debut with France two weeks ago after winning the Under-20 World Cup in July, could join French Ligue 1 club Monaco according to media reports.

Monaco have already splashed around 150 million euros to sign European greats including Radamel Falcao from Atletico Madrid and FC Porto pair James Rodriguez of Colombia and Joao Moutinho of Portugal.

Sevilla said on their website (www.sevillafc.es) Kondogbia was unilateral ally rescinding his contract, which means he has agreed personal terms with the club willing to pay his clause.

“French midfielder Geoffrey Kondogbia is already ready history at Sevilla FC,” the Spanish side said.

Kondogbia, a versatile midfielder with excellent passing skills, joined Sevilla last year from French second division club Lens. He made an immediate impact and eventually played 31 league games.—Reuters

PAOK Saloniki’s Giannios Skondros (C) is tackled by Schalke 04’s Atsu Uchida (R) during their Champions League soccer match in the city of Thessaloniki on 27 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

France’s Geoffrey Kondogbia challenges Uruguay’s Nicolas Lopez (R) during the final match of the FIFA Under-20 tournament in Istanbul, on 13 July, 2013.—Reuters

Bayern Munich’s Bastian Schweinsteiger holds up the trophy after winning the final match against Manchester City at the Audi Cup friendly soccer tournament in Munich on 1 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

New Light of Myanmar Thursday, 29 August, 2013

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar

14 New Light of Myanmar
Ghana's political parties play soccer to pledge peace before court verdict on election

ACCRA, 28 Aug—Ghana’s political parties played here a football match with former national football team players on Tuesday to pledge peace and unity before the Supreme Court makes on Thursday the final verdict on the 2012 presidential election petitions.

Participating in the “Political Tolerance Soccer Gala” were more than 40 members from at least seven political parties, including the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the main opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Despite of the great disparity, the two teams still won applause for the professional players and the politicians at the Accra Sports Stadium.

“We are here because every one of us believes in peace and peace building. Our same dream is a stable, united, peaceful, Ghana to move forward and showcase democracy for Africa.” NDC’s national chairman Dr Kwabena Adjei told Xinhua.

“This football game is to send a signal to the whole world that we can live in peace. We can also contest one another in politics and still be peacefully,” said Hassan Ayariga, the flag bearer of the People’s National Convention (PNC).

In December, the presidential election was held peacefully and led to the swearing in of President John Dramani Mahama.

But the NPP went to court seeking to overturn the election claiming irregularities and defects in what it claimed irregularities and the breaking of the law during the election.—Xinhua

Federer and Djokovic cruise, Stosur stunned at US Open

NEW YORK, 28 Aug—A teenage American girl with a squeaky voice and an incredible tale of survival stole the spotlight at the US Open on Tuesday with a stunning upset win over the former champion, Sam Stosur.

While Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic and the rest of the sport’s old order calmly went about their business, 17-year-old Victoria Duval became the toast of New York.

Making her second appearance in a grand slam event against the Australian who beat Serena Williams in the final just two years ago, the pint-sized Duval clawed and fought her way to a 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 first-round win.

It was a remarkable performance and made all the more astonishing because of her background.

When she was seven years old, Duval was taken hostage by robbers at her aunt’s house in Haiti, a terrifying incident that convinced her parents, both doctors, to move back to the United States.

“It’s not a good memory, so I try to forget as much as I could about it. I don’t remember too much of it anymore, which is great,” she told reporters.

In 2010, her father was buried alive in the Haiti earthquake. He survived by digging himself out but suffered serious injuries, including broken legs, broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Duval took to tennis instantly and has quickly risen through the American junior ranks but Tuesday’s win was by far her biggest.

With her family watching from courtside and chants of “U-S-A!” echoing around the Louis Armstrong Stadium, Duval had to battle all the way to beat the vastly more-experienced Stosur.

“I think I’m very much of a child at heart ... (but) on the court, you have to be a warrior because that’s just the sport we are in,” she said.

Stosur paid tribute to Duval, saying she deserved the win, but said she had contributed to her own downfall with a whopping 56 unforced errors.

“I’m not going to be a sore loser and say she didn’t do anything,” said Stosur. “But, you know, I think I certainly helped her out there today, that’s for sure.” Federer and Djokovic blasted their way into the second round with ruthless efficiency, crushing their hapless opponents in straight sets. —Reuters
A&I Ministry allows six groups of pesticides

With regard to the question on long standing of honest judge raised by MP Daw Le Le Win Shwe of Tamway Constituency, Judge of Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt explained matters related to the case of Judge U Min Thaw Htwe from Ayadaw Township and punishment for his malpractices, and actual situation over civil case 26/2012 submitted by Daw Than Than Aye.

In today’s session, approval was sought from the Hluttaw that one Pyithu Hlutaw committee was renamed, terms of 18 committees extended, reallocation and assignment of committee members, reallocation and appointment of commission members.

Today’s Hlutaw session came to an end in the afternoon. MNA

Amyotha Hlutaw approves Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill

MANILA, 28 Aug.—The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill was approved at today’s Amyotha Hlutaw Session.

Secretary of Amyotha Hlutaw Relief and Victims Care Committee Major Myint Sein submitted its report (1/2013) on providing cash and kind to flood victims in Kayin and Mon States, at today’s Amyotha Hlutaw Session.

Regarding the bill, MP U Saw Maw Tun of Bago Region Constituency No.3, MP Daw Le Le Win Shwe of Region Constituency No.3, MP Daw Than Than Aye of Region Constituency No.1 and MP U Phone Myint of Region Constituency No.2 discussed that non- profit media are carrying out the publishing in national races languages in the rural areas that have no access to print media. It is not economically viable as market size is very small. The Section 27 should be abolished in consideration of rural people’s knowledge.

The 28th session will continue on 30 August. MNA

Myanmar, China focus on cooperation in media sector

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug.—A Chinese journalist delegation led by Ms Zhang Xia, Editor-in-Chief of Overseas Edition of China Daily from All-China Journalists Union, called on Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe at the Ministry of Information at 10 am today.

They discussed efforts for development of Myanmar’s media sector, progress of public service media, and potentials for cooperation in media sector between Myanmar and China.

The Chinese delegation met member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Oo at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 11 am and enquired about present undertakings of the committee. After visiting Gems Museum and Water Fountain Garden in Nay Pyi Taw, they paid homage to Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda in Uttarathiri Township.

ADB, Japan to assist in improving statistics collection in Myanmar

MANILA, 28 Aug.—The government of Myanmar will use a $1.2 million Technical Assistance grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to strengthen institutional, strategic, and technical capacity for collecting better statistics to chart the country’s development and progress.

The grant will fund strengthening the institutional and legal framework by updating the country’s statistics law, bringing statistics collection up to international standards, and improving collection, compilation and timely dissemination of national data.

The grant will assist in compiling quality economic statistic based on international standards, strengthening technical skills of government statisticians and implementing training of trainers through short and long-term training programs. A training unit will also be established in the Central Statistical Organization to meet basic training needs of the staff.

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development is the executing agency for the technical assistance to be implemented over a period of two years until August 2015. The JFPR was set up by the Government of Japan in 2000. As of 31 December 2012, the cumulative JFPR funds made available totaled about $561.5 million. ADB had approved 154 grant projects ($413.5 million equivalent), and 111 technical assistance projects ($110.6 million equivalent).

Moe Thu

Union Chief Justice leaves for PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug.—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Oo left Yangon this afternoon for the People’s Republic of China to attend a meeting of the Supreme Court of the Union and the Supreme Court of the People’s Republic of China.

The Myanmar delegation was off at the Yangon International Airport by Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court U Win Swe and the judges.

The Chief Justice of the Union was accompanied by Judge of Mandalay Region High Court Daw Khin Thin Wai and officials.

Myanmar Airways introduces Embraer E-190 jets for domestic flights

YANGON, 28 Aug.—For the convenience of foreigners desirous to pay visit to Myanmar cultural heritage sites—Mandalay, NayangU and Heho—Myanmar Airways and World Ticket Co from Denmark would introduce Embraer E-190 jet to ply Yangon-NayangU-Mandalay-Heho-Yangon and Yangon-Heho-Mandalay-NayangU-Yangon routes starting from 1 October.

With online service, air tickets are available at Myanmar Airways (Head office) and Sun Far Travels & Tours Co, Ayarwaddy Legend Travel & Tours Co, Unique Asia Travels Tours Co Ltd, Columbus Travels & Tours Co Ltd. Nice Fare Travel Co Ltd as of 1st September and visit WT Website https://sms.worldticket.net/myanmaairways/mw-airline/selma.html.

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug.—The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill was approved at today’s Amyotha Hlutaw Session.

With the question on long standing of honest judge raised by MP Daw Le Le Win Shwe of Tamway Constituency, Judge of Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt explained matters related to the case of Judge U Min Thaw Htwe from Ayadaw Township and punishment for his malpractices, and actual situation over civil case 26/2012 submitted by Daw Than Than Aye.

In today’s session, approval was sought from the Hluttaw that one Pyithu Hlutaw committee was renamed, terms of 18 committees extended, reallocation and transfer, and assignment of committee members, reallocation and assignment of commission members.

Today’s Hlutaw session came to an end in the afternoon. MNA