Details of Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Master Plan made public through Yangon Road Show

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 3 July — The Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Road Show took place at International Business Centre in Yangon on Thursday, with officials making a master plan presentation and explaining the tender process for the development of the US$227 million project.

According to the master plan presented by Mrs. Nina Yang, executive director of urban planning of CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, the 19.51 square kilometer-development area for phase 1 in Rakhine state will include a 2.46 square kilometer-deep-sea port, 10 square kilometer-industrial park, 5 square kilometer-integrated residential area and 2 square kilometer-associated infrastructure development area.

The Singapore-based Creative Professional Groups was hired in March for about US $2.4 million to be a lead consultant to advise the SEZ Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee (BEAC) on choosing and inviting international developers to the SEZ.

Before concluding the morning session in which three topics— master plan, port potential and market positioning—were presented, two Rakhine nationals raised questions, expressing their concerns about the project.

On possible project impacts on local people, U Aung Kyaw Than, joint secretary of the Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee, said the project will be implemented in accord with three policies focusing on ensuring emergence of an environmentally-friendly special economic zone, sustainable development and job creation for local people mainly, explaining what precautions were taken to reduce and mitigate negative impacts of the project development while formulating a master plan that was brought from several consultations with local people.

Regarding the job quota for local people, he quoted the 2014 Special Economic Zone Law that all unskilled labourers must be citizens and that the investor must appoint at least 25 per cent the workforce of skilled workers in the first two years from the start of the operation, 50 per cent in the third and fourth year and 75 per cent in the fifth and sixth year.

While taking a floor during a tea break, he asserted that two villages, (See page 2)

First Myanmar International Food & Beverage fair from 24th-26th July

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 3 July—The first Myanmar International Food & Beverage exhibition will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from 24 to 26 July at Myanmar Convention Center-MCC in Yangon, according to a press release by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI on Thursday.

The three-day exhibition is aimed at promoting food and beverage lines of products ranging from raw ingredients to finished products.

It will also cover food service, food and beverage catering equipment and supplies as well as franchising opportunities.

The exhibition will also be a good business platform for Myanmar businessmen to look for sources of new product and service, to exchange market information and trends and to look for business partnerships, said U Myo Thant, Joint Secretary-General of UMFCCI.

During the exhibition, the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association will host a seminar on “beyond trading investment opportunities” in Myanmar’s food industry, aimed at encouraging more investments in Myanmar.

Thailand’s conglomerate food and livestock manufacturer CP Myanmar will also share its experiences, and seminars related to the development of the country’s food industry will also be organized by exhibiting companies.—NLM
Since we live in a multicultural and multiethnic country, it is only through embracing harmonious relationships with each other that we will enjoy peace and stability, and achieve success with the reforms.

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—The following is the full text of the monthly radio message of President U Thein Sein.

In this radio speech, I would like to give you the monthly update on progress of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country.

Since peace building is crucial for the nation, my government is paying special attention to this task. At the same time that we are working relentlessly on peace building, I continue to meet and discuss the latest developments with ethnic leaders. Last month, I met with the Chairman of the Karen National Union in Nay Pyi Taw and we openly and frankly discussed progress on the nationwide ceasefire agreement, and preparations for political dialogue.

I consider peace building efforts a national duty because the results of peace will be inherited and enjoyed by future generations. Since all our ethnic brother and sisters live in this Union, the positive outcome of peace, the peace dividend, will be enjoyed by each and every citizen.

On June 10th, I met with Union ministers and deputy ministers to discuss reforms, strengthening democracy, and improving livelihoods. In reducing centralized government, efforts of regional governments play an important role. On one hand, for the effects to trickle down to the lower levels, a decentralized system of government needs to further develop where at the township level, the township committees and township development committees engage with the public to foster citizen participation. I directed Union ministers to tour the country and continually engage with the public and civilian groups. I encouraged regional government officials to hold similar discourse.

I encourage the public to report government corruption and dishonesty and for civilian groups to increase cooperation. In order to sustain the reform process that we have embarked on, our efforts are based on the basic principle of inclusiveness. Most importantly, each of us has encountered challenges along the way, and we have followed an inclusive path to allow mistakes to be corrected. I took action when the situation presented a danger to the well-being of the citizens. I strongly believe that only through cooperation and dialogue will we find the right solutions to the challenges our society continues to face.

I wish to give you my thoughts on the draft national education law currently being discussed in the Union Parliament. As part of educational-sector reforms, the draft law and policies are the result of year-long discussions between the Union government, state government, international organizations, and civil and other relevant organizations. Therefore, I urge international organizations, in the future, to meaningfully cooperate in a manner that is transparent, fair, and reflects the true situation on the ground.

Currently, the country is undertaking necessary border security constructions and inspections, and implementing citizenship verification in Rakhine State in accordance with the law. I would like to remind those involved to consider the opinions of local residents, and the overall well-being of the nation and Rakhine State.

At the same time that we are implementing reforms, our country is successfully reestablishing ties with the global community. At the end of June, I delivered a speech in the People’s Republic of China at a ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The Five Principles agreement was signed between the People’s Republic of China, India, and Myanmar, and is one of the important agreements of the United Nations. We will continue to pursue strategic relationships with neighboring and regional countries, and the larger global community.

Since we live in a multicultural and multiethnic country, it is only through embracing harmonious relationships with each other that we will enjoy peace and stability, and achieve success with the reforms. For all to see such positive results, I urge citizens to avoid hateful and inciteful behavior. Our society must denounce any behavior that seeks to promote hate among our citizens.

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that I continue to strive for achieving internal peace, improving livelihoods, and ensuring a brighter future for our children.

I wish you all good health.

Myanmar, the first in Mekong region to pass human trafficking law: MWAF

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Myanmar is the first country in the Mekong region to pass a law to fight human trafficking. Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin told a ceremony held in honour of Myanmar Women’s Day at the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation here on Thursday, sources said.

The Mekong region is shared by six countries—Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, China and Myanmar.

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin gave an account of the country’s active cooperation with the ASEAN Women’s Affairs Committee and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, adding that Myanmar has signed the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The union minister stressed that the federation is making efforts to undertake national-level strategic plans that will guarantee gender equality and continue to write a law that protects women against abuse and violence. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham’s wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Vice President U Nyan Tun’s wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, who are honorary patrons of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation.

The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was founded on 3 July 1996, and its birthday is designated as Myanmar Women’s Day in its honour.—MNA

Details of Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Master Plan made public through Yangon Road...

Kanti east and Kanti west villages that were included in the original project area and were supposed to be relocated, are not included in the current master plan. Moreover, he denied accusations of holding talks on the environmental impact assessment (EIA), socio-economic impact assessment (SIA) and free and prior informed consent in downtown Kyaukpyu only. The official said invitation of expression of interest process will start from 14 July to 12 August. Three developers for three packages—port, industrial park, and residential area—are expected to be selected at the end of November after four or five potential developers who will be chosen to submit a detailed master plan in September. According to him, a similar road show will be held in Singapore

Honorary patrons of MWAF Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint view documentary photos of the federation.—MNA

A foreign attendee who was present at the road show expressed his view on the role of the government in the project that will be run on a business-to-business basis, giving an example of the problems that can arise. He said that a father of four sons who possess five or six acres of farm land only will not be able to attend to the needs of his sons by giving them one acre each as nobody can live of one acre. If one of the sons was given all farmlands, the remaining three sons would have to find a job and they have to be provided with training to work in this economic zone.

The development of the Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone is expected to create more job opportunities to ensure a favourable environment for the people in Rakhine State.
President U Thein Sein felicitates US counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Honourable Mr. Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the United States of America which falls on 4th July, 2014.—MNA

President’s Office to offer Waso robes on 9 July

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 July—The President’s Office is planning a religious ceremony to offer Waso robes to Buddhist monks at the Uppatasanti Pagoda here on 9 July, officials said. Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham told a work coordination meeting held by its leading committee for organizing the ceremony at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Thursday.

According to the vice president, the President’s Office has conducted the ceremony four times at the same pagoda. Union Minister U Soe Win briefed Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on arrangements for the formal procedures of the ceremony. Dr Sai Mauk Kham called for maximum security at the religious rites. MNA

Ongoing peace process discussed at Upper House

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 July—The Tatmadaw is implementing the ongoing peace process after setting up six principles, an Upper House representative of the Armed Forces told the Upper House on Thursday.

The six peace principles urge all parties to have genuine desire for peace, to respect promises made, not to exploit peace agreements for their own purposes, not to burden local people, to respect existing laws and to participate in the democratization process in accordance with the three main national causes of the Tatmadaw.

He also said that the Tatmadaw will try to retain sustainable peace through political dialogues and is working towards stability and development of socioeconomic lives of national races. He said it is important for all parties to cooperate until sustainable peace is retained and all people can live equally under one legal system. He added, however, an ethnic representative of the Upper House discussed that it is important to settle disputes and overcome the challenges through negotiations without confrontation among the national races.

It is necessary to apply the federal system that guarantees the equality and self-determination of all the national races residing in the country in order to end armed conflicts and to shape the future. He also expressed his belief that the civil war will come to an end by applying the federal system and fair distribution of power and natural resources among states and regions. Other topics discussed at the Upper House include rural development projects.

The Lower House session on Thursday focused on agricultural loans and development plans. MNA

Union FM sends felicitations to US counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 July—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Honourable Mr. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the United States of America which falls on 4th July 2014.—MNA

Union FM meets Australian counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 July—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met the Hon Ms Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Commonwealth of Australia on Thursday at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw to exchange views on promoting bilateral relations between the two countries and regional affairs.—MNA
Mawgyun people join monsoon tree planting ceremony

Mawlamyineyun, 3 July — To commemorate Myanmar Women’s Day, authorities of Mawlamyineyun Township in Ayeyawady Region held a monsoon tree planting ceremony on Seinpan circular road in Mawlamyineyun on 2 July.

Township Administrator U Maung Maung presented saplings to departmental officials and social organizations.

Participants at the ceremony grew 1500 saplings of various species.

Mawgyun Myint Aung

Tube-well sunk in rural area of Kani Township

Kani, 3 July—A four-inch diameter and 400 feet deep tube-well is being sunk in Yaylekyun Village of Kani Township in Sagaing Region.

Under the supervision of Kani Township Rural Development Department, Chindwin Golden Brother Company is taking responsibility for sinking the tube-well. The department spent K7.67 million from the special fund of the union.

The department will build a water tank and one 7.5 KW dynamo and install a 2Hp pump, said an official of the Township Department of Rural Development.

On completion, local people will be able to consume potable water.

Than Htay Aung (Kani)

Houses, schools sprayed in Natogyi for DHF prevention

Natogyi, 3 July—To combat dengue fever a team with experts from Natogyi Township People’s Hospital, Township Red Cross Society and Myittamon social welfare association sprayed several facilities in Natogyi in Mandalay Region on 1 July and sent three people who showed symptoms of dengue hemorrhagic fever from Inchaung Village to the township hospital.

Officials supervised spraying the houses, schools and buildings as part of efforts to take DHF measures.

Myittamon social welfare association donated spraying sprays for combating DHF. The health staff fumigated 153 households in Inchaung Village.

Than Aung Zaw (Natogyi)

School improvement plan discussed to provide cash assistance to schools

Bago, 3 July—A meeting on a school improvement plan took place at Bago Township Education Office in Bago Region on Wednesday, attended by over 500 teachers.

The funds are to be spent systematically for the development of schools and the accounts are to be auditable, said township education officer U Aye Thein.

The funds worth US$80 million from the World Bank’s without interest rate loan and US$20 million from AusAID Multi-Donor Trust Fund will be allotted to the schools from 2014-15 to the 2017-18 academic year. The schools that admit 100 students will get K800,000 fund. The schools with students from 100 to 200 will get K1 million, the schools with 201-300 students K1.2 million, the schools with 400 students K1.4 million and the schools with above 400 K1.6 million. The Basic Education Primary School branches will get K400,000 each. A plan is underway to also provide cash assistance to the monastic education schools and private schools.—Than Zin Win

Publications at mini book corners replaced with new ones

Taninthayi, 3 July—With the aim of raising the reading habits of local people, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aye Tin and staff of Taninthayi Township in Taninthayi Region have opened mini book corners at the Township General Administration Department, Township Immigration and National Registration Department, Township People’s Hospital, Shwe Tharyi bus terminal, Naga Shweyi tea shop and Bawdi Street bus stop.

On 1 July, they changed the publications from the mini book corners with new ones with the help of village and ward administrators.

Nan Tharyi Htein Win (IPRD)
Campaign on raising awareness on dangers of narcotic drug abuse underway

Yangon, 3 July—A wall magazine depicting the dangers of narcotic drugs was put on display at the office of the Township Information and Public Relations Department in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region on Wednesday. Departmental personnel, local people, members of social organizations and students totalling over 200 viewed round the documentary photos, works of paintings, cartoons and poems at the show.

“The wall magazine is aimed at raising awareness on the dangers of narcotic drugs for the youths,” said a teacher.

The wall magazine was displayed during office hours on Wednesday and Thursday.—District IPRD

Dragon fruits marketable along Mandalay-PyinOoLwin-Lashio route

PyinOoLwin, 3 July—Dragon fruits are yielding well in villages along Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road, with fruits for sale at the roadside shops and many passengers on their trips on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin-Lashio route purchasing dragon fruits.

The people in PyinOoLwin, Doekwin, Anisakhan, Sitha, Kangyigon and other villages along the road are engaged in cultivation of dragon fruits plantations on a commercial scale.

“In Sitha Village, a Thai citizen establishes a BMG Farm for cultivation of dragon fruits, asparagus, mango and jack fruit plantations. He has established fruit plantations in PyinOoLwin, Hupaw, Aungpan and Yangon to be able to produce value-added fruits to the markets. He also opened a Thai restaurant. He sells dragon fruits produced from his farms to the customers,” said a local farmer. Depending on the sizes of the dragon fruits, the dragon fruits can be sold from K350 to K1,000. It has two species, the white and the red.—Nanda Min Lwin

Fund for emerald green project shared to village committees

Myingyan, 3 July—A ceremony to hand over the fund for the emerald green project was held at the hall of the General Administration Department in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region on Wednesday morning. Deputy Commissioner of Myingyan District U Myint Thin Aung urged local people to raise the fund of the project without losing the capital and Head of Township Rural Development Department U Kan Chun explained purpose of handing over the fund.

Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung stressed the need to keep systematic accounts for spending the fund. He noted that the village authorities must be held accountable for the development of respective villages by spending the allotted funds responsibly. The township authorities handed over K30 million funds to village project supervisory committees.—Zaw Min Naung (Myingyan)

YeU Township gets new communication tower

YeU, 3 June—Under the arrangements of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, a communication tower and a control building are under construction in the old plot of YeU Township Communications Station near Tinteinyan Village of YeU Township in Sagaing Region as of the first week of April 2014.

The people of YeU Township use over 20,000 telephones. With the aim of ensuring convenient communications, the communication towers have been built in the township. The new tower will be installed with an engine and machinery by August, said station official U Myint Zaw. “In the past, we connected each other through a telephone of magneto telephone exchange of the township communication station. Now, most of the people use the mobile phones as the SIM cards have been allotted. On completion, the communication tower will benefit the telephone users in the five-mile radius area,” town elder U Kyaw Win of Tinteinyan Village.—Than Huik (YeU)

Free education in Lewe Township improves literacy rate

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 July—As the government is raising momentum in undertaking rural development and improving the living standard of the rural people, social organizations cooperate with the government in development of education sector.

The free education course was opened at the Dhammayon of the Ywale Pagoda in Naungbo Village of Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 1 May. The two-month course will be conducted for basic education students for the 2014-15 academic year.

With the assistance of local authorities, three retired teachers, two in-service teachers and nine volunteer teachers teach the students.

“Every Sunday, we give lectures on Buddhist culture to students. All students are clever both in education and culture. They pay respects to elder persons, honouring the Myanmar traditions. Parents of the students donated desks and tables to the school. I think, all the social associations need good morale to improve the education standard while undertaking rural development and poverty alleviation,” said retired teacher U Nyunt Tin who is a leader of the free education school.

“I was never enroll my two children due to high fees. But now I can enroll them at the free education school,” said a parent.

A total of 65 students are attending the eighth standard, 47 the ninth and 48 the matriculation classes. The Buddhist culture course is conducted on a monthly basis from 7 am to 10 am every Sunday. Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)
Japan to lift some sanctions against N Korea

BEIJING, 3 July — A senior North Korean diplomat on Wednesday said his country will speedily conduct a probe into the abduction cases of Japanese citizens and the Japanese government’s decision to lift some of its unilateral sanctions on Pyongyang.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said his government made the decision after determining that an abduction investigation committee Pyongyang is to launch Friday will be linked to leader Kim Jong Un and thus possess robust authority to probe any organ in the country.

“We have judged that (North Korea) has formed an unprecedented system involving the National Defense Commission and the Ministry of State Security, organizations that can make decisions at a state level,” Abe told reporters after a meeting between eight Japanese government officials and North Korean counterparts that was linked to Kim, will start the investigations soon.”

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official has said that once the launch of a North Korean committee with strong authority is confirmed, Tokyo will regard it as the start of the investigations and ease sanctions in return.

North Korea has conducted investigations into the abductions of Japanese nationals in the past, but Japan dismissed the results, saying they were unconvincing. In 2008, Pyongyang promised to re-investigate, but it has yet to do so.

Suga said the government expects North Korea to make a first report of the probes into the issue of Pyongyang’s abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as missing Japanese suspected of being abducted, sometime from late summer to early autumn. The North Korean committee, made up of senior officials from North Korean groups, one of them covering abduction victims and the other missing Japanese.

Suga, the top government spokesman, said the planned easing of the sanctions has nothing to do with North Korea’s call on the Japanese government to block the sale of the Tokyo headquarters building and land of the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, or Chongryon. The Supreme Court recently suspended a permit issued by the Tokyo High Court to a Japanese real estate company for the sale of the property, which has functioned as a de facto North Korean embassy in the absence of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In a meeting between Japanese and North Korean officials in Beijing on Tuesday, the two sides discussed the specifics of North Korea’s promised establishment of a new body to be launched sometime from late summer to early autumn. Abe also said North Korea will speedily conduct a probe into the abduction cases of Japanese citizens and the Japanese government’s decision to lift some of its unilateral sanctions on Pyongyang.

Japan, which has never had diplomatic ties with North Korea, made the decision in return for Pyongyang re-investigating the issue following a meeting of senior officials from the two countries on Tuesday in the Chinese capital. During the one-day meeting, Song stressed the need for direct talks to normalize relations with Japan, explained the structure of a new body to be launched for the investigation and

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announces at his office in Tokyo on 3 July, 2014, that Japan has decided to lift some of its sanctions on North Korea. — Kyodo News

China welcomes Japanese decision to roll back N Korea sanctions

BEIJING, 3 July — China on Thursday offered cautious praise for Japan’s decision to roll back some sanctions on North Korea following Pyongyang’s promise to reinvestigate the whereabouts of missing Japanese nationals suspected of being abducted decades ago. “We have noted the progress in the bilateral consultations between Japan and the DPRK,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a daily Press briefing, using an acronym for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, North Korea’s official name.

“We hope the improved relations between the two countries can be conducive to regional peace and stability,” he said. The comments followed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s decision earlier in the day to remove some economic restrictions placed on Pyongyang by Tokyo following a North Korean ballistic missile test in 2006.

Abe’s announcement came after the conclusion of meetings with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Tokyo this week in Beijing to discuss North Korean plans for reinvestigating the cases of Japanese citizens Tokyo claims were abducted from Japan.

The inquiry is part of a quad pro quo arrangement between the two countries last March during meetings in Stockholm.

Tokyo has so far agreed to remove only some of the restrictions on Pyongyang, including bans on travel between the two countries and limits on remittances sent from Japan to North Korea. Beijing, which is Pyongyang’s closest ally, has previously expressed support for Japan’s decision to engage with North Korea on the abduction issue. — Kyodo News

Korea welcomes Japan’s move to lift sanctions against N Korea

SEOUL, 3 July — South Korea on Thursday welcomed Japan’s decision, announced earlier in the day, to lift some of its sanctions against North Korea in return for launching a new round of investigations into the issue of Pyongyang’s abductions of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s. “We welcome the Japanese government’s own decision to lift sanctions against North Korea and we hope for an early settlement (of the abduction issue) which is a humanitarian issue,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Song Hyun-sik said in a press briefing.

Noh added, however, that South Korea wants “transparency” in Japan’s conducting talks with North Korea, including the procedures to lift sanctions against it.

“All of Japan’s decisions on North Korea should be made in such a way as not to undermine the framework of maintaining international cooperation, including that among South Korea, the United States and Japan,” he said. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said his government made the decision after determining that an abduction investigation committee Pyongyang is to launch Friday will be linked to leader Kim Jong Un and thus possess robust authority to probe any organ in the country. — Kyodo News

Song Il Ho, North Korea’s ambassador to Japan, speaks to the media in Tokyo, July 3, 2014. Abe also said North Korea will speedily conduct a probe into the abduction cases of Japanese citizens and the Japanese government’s decision to lift some of its unilateral sanctions on Pyongyang. — Kyodo News

N Korea vows to speedily conduct probe into abduction cases

BEIJING, 3 July — A senior North Korean diplomat on Wednesday said his country will speedily carry out its promised reinvestigation into the whereabouts of Japanese nationals who Tokyo believes were abducted by Pyongyang agents decades ago. “In an expeditious manner, we will conduct the survey and report its outcome” to the Japanese government, Song Il Ho, North Korea’s top negotiator in talks with Japan, told reporters at Beijing’s international airport, after Tokyo announced its decision to lift some of its unilateral sanctions on Pyongyang.

Japan, which has never had diplomatic ties with North Korea, made the decision in return for Pyongyang re-investigating the issue following a meeting of senior officials from the two countries on Tuesday in the Chinese capital. During the one-day meeting, Song stressed the need for direct talks to normalize relations with Japan, explained the structure of a new body to be launched for the investigation and
Chinese president arrives for state visit to South Korea

SEOUL, 3 July — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Seoul Thursday for a two-day state visit to South Korea, his first trip to the Asian neighbor since he took office last year.

Xi is scheduled to hold talks with his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye and meet with National Assembly Speaker Chung Ui-hwa and Prime Minister Chung Hong-won.

He will also deliver a speech at Seoul National University and attend economic and trade events during his stay in South Korea.

The two countries are expected to issue a joint statement on bilateral relations and regional issues during Xi’s visit. They will also sign a batch of deals on cooperation in economy, trade, finance, environment and consular affairs.

Xi and South Korean leaders will review the achievements in relations between the two countries and chart the course of bilateral ties. They will exchange views on enhancing political mutual trust, Boosting exchanges and cooperation, strengthening coordination in international and regional affairs, and maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, in a bid to further enrich their strategic cooperative partnership, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin told reporters ahead of Xi’s visit.

China and South Korea have witnessed rapid development in their relations since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 22 years ago.

China has become South Korea’s largest trading partner, largest market of exports, largest source of imports and largest destination of overseas investment, while South Korea was China’s third-largest trading partner and fifth-largest source of foreign investment in 2013.

In addition, China and South Korea are each other’s largest tourist destination country and largest source of overseas students.

China’s two-way trade with South Korea totaled 274.25 billion US dollars last year, indicating an annual increase of seven percent, statistics with China’s General Administration of Customs showed. The figure amounts to South Korea’s trade volume with the United States and Japan combined. The two countries launched negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) in May 2012. To date, 11 rounds of talks have been held.

Xinhua

Indian PM may meet German Chancellor en route to Brazil this month

NEW DELHI, 3 July — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel at Frankfurt en route to Brazil to attend the BRICS summit which coincides with the football World Cup final this month, local TV channels said on Thursday.

Quoting Indian External Affairs Ministry sources, the report said that Modi would leave for Brazil between 11 and 13 July for the meeting of the BRICS grouping that comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The Indian prime minister may meet Merkel en route to Brazil.

Modi and all other BRICS leaders have been invited to watch the World Cup final.

Xinhua

Russia says return to Ukraine talks will be difficult

MOSCOW, 3 July — Reviving peace talks in Ukraine will be “much more difficult” now that Kiev has failed to extend a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Wednesday.

“In breaking the ceasefire, (Ukraine’s) President Petro Poroshenko made a dramatic mistake. It will cause more casualties. And he is now personally responsible for them,” Medvedev wrote on his Facebook page. “It will be much more difficult to revive talks. These are the rules of a war,” he said, referring to talks between the Kiev government and separatist, pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Medvedev wrote his comments before the results were known of talks in Berlin among the foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France.

The Russian and Ukrainian ministers agreed to hold three-way talks with the rebels by Saturday, in an effort to establish an new ceasefire. Medvedev also reiterated that Russia would introduce measures to “protect” its economy and mount barriers to trade with Ukraine after Kiev signed a landmark association agreement that brought it closer to the European Union on 27 July.

“Given the circumstances, it will extremely difficult to develop ties with Ukraine, impossible in some areas,” he wrote.

Reuters

Afghan president signs terror law needed to avoid blacklist

KABUL, 3 July — Afghan President Hamid Karzai signed a law aimed at curtailing the financing of terrorist groups, a government statement said on Thursday, the second of two measures needed to save its banks from being put on an international blacklist.

“After the judiciary verified that this law does not violate our national sovereignty and human rights, he (the president) ratified it,” the statement said.

Together with the anti-money laundering law that was signed last week, the legislation will help persuade the international financial watchdog that the Afghan government is serious about combating financial crimes.

Many banks have already stopped dealing with Afghanistan because of weak regulation, making it difficult for businesses to pay for imports or families to send money to children studying abroad.

In May, many Afghan banks and importers were dealt a blow when their Chinese counterparts halted to dollar transactions.

The international
Public security under threat with illegal construction

By Myint Win Thein

Activists have been lodging complaints about illegal constructions in Yangon for some time in vain as authorities failed to take effective action against them. Construction of sub-standard buildings poses a danger to the public life as people who unknowingly bought apartments in such buildings suffered financial losses and have to live under dangerous conditions.

These problems originate from the negligence of building laws by unscrupulous contractors and weak enforcement of law by some authorities. Breaching a law can lead to disrespect of other laws and encourage building contractors to commit more crimes. They should not be left unchecked for the sake of the public.

Recently, an activist who had held a press conference on illegal constructions in a township in Yangon was beaten with iron bars and injured by two unidentified men who later got away in a waiting taxi. The activist had to be hospitalized as an inpatient as he was injured on the head, arm and shoulder. The activist reported the case to the police and filed a criminal case against the attackers.

It is not only a crime against an activist but also a threat to others who believe in the rule of law. They are trying to silence the people who respect laws and demand their own rights. If such criminals cannot be exposed immediately and effective action cannot be taken against them this time, they will breach more laws and the rule of law will further be weakened. Security of the public life will be jeopardized in the near future.

Discipline

The Importance of Discipline

Discipline is essential to a useful and happy existence. This applies to the individual and to the group, of which the factory is an excellent example. Therefore, discipline is essential in any undertaking where there is to be order instead of chaos. It helps towards maximum productivity. Morale and discipline are inseparable; if the morale is good the discipline will be excellent. A mannerist who is sensible in all these things both tangible and intangible which build up and maintain good morale, the right spirit, the right attitude of mind in the men and women who work with and for him, will have little or no trouble in maintaining discipline.

There are three types of discipline:

1. The discipline associated with rigid control on the army pattern.
2. The discipline which guides and instructs.
3. The self-imposed discipline.

The military type of discipline is neither necessary nor acceptable in industry. Rigid control creates the automatism and the automaton and the automaton is not a lively thinker, neither is he likely to contribute anything more than is demanded of him. A good soldier is one who obeys orders unquestioningly. It may be necessary for the factory worker to obey orders without question from time to time, but to obey an order blindly whether it be wise or unwise is not the hallmark of a good worker or intelligent group member. After all, the army is one thing, industry is quite another matter. Discipline obtainable by fear is not a success way of conducting affairs, for it has a detrimental effect on morale of the business unit. The imposition of penalty in the heat of the moment is always dangerous, and is likely to be more than what fits the dereliction of duty.

Necessity of Rules

Rules are necessary in any organization because they guide and instruct — or should do simply and clearly. The book rules, the administrative chart, the clear definition of function — all have necessary and important parts to play in enabling an organization to function in an orderly and effective manner. They are important in helping to maintain discipline by establishing confidence, a sense of direction and orderliness, and a sense of security so essential to reasonable behavior and efficiency. Most indiscipline can generally be traced to lack of confidence, insecurity, and the accompanying sense of grievance. Discipline, above all things, should be instructive. “Punishment in any shape or form is either a means to an end or else it is completely unjustifiable.” Arbitrary personal decisions are never a solution to a disciplinary problem and should always be disowned. A man has a right to be judged dispassionately. If punishment becomes necessary it should be imposed after careful examination of all the facts and atmosphere where everyone is cool, clam and collected.

The Danger of Indiscipline

What have been described as “irrational mass dislikes” are perhaps the most dangerous elements in any situation involving indiscipline. The trade unionist can know the manager to be a decent fellow, but has tradition dislikes of “management”. For this reason, it is essential that good personal relationships in a factory are encouraged and maintained by all possible methods, such as, joint consultation, free discussion and depersonalizing of orders. Conflict, which is at the root of indiscipline, is not necessarily disruptive; it might even be progressive. Much will depend on the attitude of the management and whether the Manager has the ability to handle “conflicting forces” rationally and not emotionally; whether he has the ability to recognize and appreciate the “good” and “bad” inherent in the situation without prejudice. To make conflict useful, it must be resolved intelligently. One sure method of doing this is by putting into operation sound machinery for the ventilation of grievances and their right and just settlement — not by high-handedness, or doubtful compromise, but by some constructive method of “integration” of points of view, so that both sides may benefit from the experience, and so that both sides feel satisfied that justice has been done.

Without going further into details, the following elementary principles of justice may be summarized as a frame of conductive to the maintenance of discipline:

1. Discipline means securing normally consistent behavior in accordance with accepted rules. Therefore, rules should be easily understood, and acceptable to those who have to keep them. For this reason the code of discipline must be decided in consultation with those who are to be under its jurisdiction or concerned in its application.
2. Penalties for non-observance should be imposed without personal prejudice and in such a way that will ultimately benefit the transgressor.
3. There should be a right of appeal to a completely independent tribunal. This is fundamental justice.

The Highest Form of Discipline

The self-imposed discipline is the highest form of discipline and should be encouraged and desired. In it, all are regulated (i.e., self-regulated); and all are force. It is the result of inspired leadership, a leadership of example. It flourishes where there is a lively concern for justice and fair play and all those things which satisfy deep human needs. In it, sheer dictation from one to others is replaced by laws which all observe, because they are the rules of the game. Discipline is fundamentally a matter of good human relations, the encouragement of self-respect, pride in one’s work, the dignity of work and an unflinching sense of responsibility to oneself, to the factory group, and finally to the community outside the factory. Work becomes less a means to existence than its end. This is what the Manager has to strive for by ceasing to be an embodiment of law and a code of professional conduct in all matters, which should place him, “like Caesar’s wife, above suspicion.”

Conclusion

To sum up, the modern conception of discipline is not the discipline of fear and threats, or even authority, but self-discipline imposed by good leaders, by example. True discipline is educational. The intelligent approach to the matter is a conscious attempt to change the attitude of people towards the giving of an instruction. This can best be done if orders are depersonalized. Mr. Manager does not give instructions on his own behalf for a change of production program but “the law of the situation”, i.e., a shortage or glut of raw materials makes it necessary for the change to be made. In this way one person is not taking orders from another person, both take their orders from “the law of the situation”, with which there is no argument and therefore no unfavorable reactions or resentment or strife. This creates understanding with willingness to carry out instructions because a feeling of participation and responsibility is generated among the people involved.

Ref: 1. The Art of Leadership by Manning Curtis
2. MANAGEMENT by Stephen P Robbins & Mary Coulter
3. The 8th Habit by Stephen R.Covey
4. Business Organization and Management by M.CSHUKLA

Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.
NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets media persons, Australian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann accepted a call by local and foreign media persons on Thursday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, the Speaker, committee members U Aung Thaung and U Htay Oo replied to the queries on matters relating to practice a proportional representation (PR) voting system in 2015 general election, stances and attitudes of the political parties and current political and Hluttaw affairs raised by the media persons.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also met a delegation headed by Hon. Ms Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Filipino counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Filipino Command-er-in-Chief of Defence Services General Emmanuel Trinidad Bautista extend-ed an honorary welcome to Myanmar Command-er-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo of the Department of National Defense in Quezon City, Manila, on Wednesday, sources said.

They discussed matters related to exchange of friendly visits for learning each other’s languages, cooperation in national disaster preparedness, and the role of the military in safeguarding national integrity and sovereignty.

The Filipino general shared his pride in Myanmar’s successful holding of the ASEAN Summit, and expressed his gratitude for its contributions to Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines in 2013.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his delegation left the Philippine air base for Bangkok on Thursday. Upon arrival at Bangkok, he was welcome by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Worapong Sangnantra and high-ranking military officers. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is visiting Thailand at the invitation of General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army and Head of the National Council for Peace and Order. They will discuss issues on friendly relations and cooperation between the two militaries.

At the Bangkok Airport, the Senior General and party were seen off by the Myanmar Ambassador and wife, the military attache and wife and officials.—MNA

Security tightened as Mandalay communal violence erupts

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Security forces have tightened security to ensure stability amid recent unrest in Mandalay, where tensions escalated on Wednesday night and continued to run high till the morning of 3 July, sources said.

Reports said at around midnight on 2 July two groups of people were engaged in a fight in Mahaaungmye Township, with seven men injured and taken to hospital.

At 11.30 pm, a 50-strong crowd hurled stones and bricks at a police station in Chanayet-hazan Township and dispersed five minutes after security forces arrived at the scene. Four suspects have been charged in con-nection with the violence, police officials said. Six men were reported to have fired air-guns at a religious building in the township, too.

According to reports, eight communal conflicts, three on 2 July and five on 3 July, broke out, leaving two people dead and 14 injured.

With regard to the incident, the Mandalay Region government held a press conference at its hall on Thursday. Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint explained that deterrent action will be taken against the offenders and charges will be arrested.

The interfaith friendship group explained its plan over the incident.

MNA

Mandalay placed under curfew

(from page 1)

in the last riots rods, swords, arms and incendiary materials were used. People must not block roads or gather on streets and must not hinder police, who are maintaining law and order, the announce-ment said.

Those who do not follow the order will be arrest-ed by the police and seri-ous actions will be taken against them in accordance with the law, the announce-ment said.

The six townships which have been placed under curfew are Aungmyethazan, Chanayethaz-an, Mahaaungmye, Chan-myathazi, Pyigyidagun and Amapur-a.—MNA

Embassy of the Republic of Singapore

Press Statement

Foreign domestic workers in Singapore

YANGON, 3 July—The Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM) would like to re-respond to recent media reports, based on an online Al Jazeera story, about the treatment of foreign domestic workers (FDWs) while they are placed with employment agencies (EAs) in Singapore.

Inappropriate “display of FDWs” at EAs’ premises or advertising them as being “available for hire at cheap or discounted prices” are unacceptable practices. MOM requires EAs to be responsible and accurate in their practices in both their clients—the employer and the FDW—and expects them to exercise sensitivity when marketing their fees or services.

MOM notes that when contacted by The Straits Times, the Filipino labour attaché in Singapore Mr Vicente Cabe was quoted as saying that based on his observations, the online article “doesn’t seem to have basis” and that while he saw some FDWs sitting on one side of a room at some agencies, waiting to be interviewed by clients. “... it seems a bit exaggerated to say that there is anything wrong with that”. MOM also visited the EAs in the two shopping centres concerned and did not find any inappropriate “displays of FDWs”.

The Al Jazeera story also mentioned that some FDWs could be seen demonstrating household or care giving chores within the premises of EAs. As some EAs have train-ning facilities in the same premises as their front offices, it is not unreasonable for FDWs to be performing such chores at the EA’s premises.

The same story also suggested that some FDWs were not treated well while in their EAs’ care. MOM’s rules are clear that EAs have to ensure the well-being of FDWs in their care.

MOM proactively audits Singapore EAs and those found to have acted in a manner detrimental to the interest of the FDWs will be dealt with in accordance to Singapore’s Employment Agencies Act. EAs are also informed, at the point of licence approval and during audits, that they are not allowed to restrict the FDWs’ movements or make them remain outside the EA’s premises against their will. MOM will send an advisory to all EAs on this matter.

Embassy of the Republic of Singapore

Yangon

3 July 2014

PYA 3 July 4, 2014 | 9
Iraq’s Maliki hopes for government deal by next week

BAGHDAD, 3 July — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who is fighting for his political life as a Sunni insurgency fractures the country, said on Wednesday he hoped parliament could form a new government in its next session after the first collapsed in discord.

Baghdad can ill afford a long delay. Large swathes of the north and west have fallen under the control of an al-Qaeda splinter group that has declared it is setting up a “caliphate” and has vowed to march on the capital.

Yet the mounting concern and pressure from the United States, Iran, the United Nations and Iraq’s own Shi’ite clerics have done little to end the par- alysing divisions between Iraq’s main ethnic and sectarian blocs.

Sunnis and Kurds walked out of parliament’s first session on Tuesday, complaining that Shi’ites had failed to nominate a prime minister; they see Maliki as the main obstacle to resolving the crisis and hope he will step aside.

Under the system put in place after the United States toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, the premiership is traditionally given to a Shi’ite, while the speaker of the house has been a Sunni and the president, a largely ceremonial role, has been a Kurd. In his weekly televised address, Maliki said he hoped parliament could next Tuesday get past its “state of weakness”.

“God willing, in the next session we will over- come it with cooperation and agreement and open- ness,” he said. “There is no security without complete political stability.”

But it is far from clear when leaders in Baghdad might reach a consensus. All the main ethnic blocs are beset by internal divisions, and none has yet decided who to put forward for its designated position. Sunnis and Kurds say they want Shi’ites to choose a premier before they announce their nominees, while the Shi’ites say the Sunnis should first name the speaker.

Each bloc has its own problems now,” said Mu- hammad Hassaan, a politician and aide to leading Sunni lawmaker Saleh al-Mutlaq.

“If the Shi’ite bloc failed to replace Maliki, he said, there was a risk Sunni law- makers would abandon the political process altogether.

“There would be no more Iraq,” he said.

Longtime Maliki ally Sami Askari said forming a government could take until the end of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month. But he played down the risk of the state collapsing, saying Maliki’s caretaker government would continue to function. “The reality is that we need to be patient,” Askari said. “We will have a government in the end — but not soon.”

Residents of Baghdad were increasingly frustrated with the familiar sight of offi- cials squabbling while the country burns.

“I’m so angry with all these politicians,” said Dhamee Sattar Shafiq, a university statistics profes- sor, shopping in a mixed neighbourhood of Sunnis and Shi’ites.

“This country is head- ed for disaster and these men are just working for their own causes.”

Down the road, Na- jaa Hassan, a 54-year-old carpenter, was similarly irritated. “Democracy has brought us many problems that we really don’t need,” he said.

Outside the capital, fighting flared again. Medical sources and witnesses said at least 11 people, in- cluding women and chil- dren, had been killed when Iraqi helicopters attacked Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad.

Witnesses said the heli- copters were targeting a municipal building where militants were sheltering, and that the air strike also hit three nearby houses.

“We have received 11 bodies and 18 wounded from the helicopters’ bom- bardment. Some children are in critical condition,” said Hamid al-Jumaili, a doctor in Shirqat’s hospi- tal. — Reuters

Saudi Arabia deploys 30,000 soldiers to border with Iraq — al-Arabiya TV

During clashes in Shuafat, an Arab suburb of Jerus-alem , said. Monday, nearly three weeks after they were ab- ducted in the occupied West Bank.

Israel says Palestin- ian Hamas militants killed them. The Islamist group has neither confirmed nor denied the allegation.

A senior official of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah movement told Reuters the missing teenager’s family had identified the corpse, found in the wooded out- skirts of Jerusalem. The family was not immediately available for comment.

Palestinian teen killed in possible revenge attack

JERUSALEM, 3 July — The discovery of a body in a Jerusalem forest on Wednesday raised suspi- cions that a missing Pal estinian youth had been killed by Israelis avenging the deaths of three abducted Jewish teens.

Rock-throwing Palestin- ians clashed with Israeli forces in Jerusalem after the news, but no serious injuries were reported.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanuah, in a statement, urged police to “swiftly investigate who was behind the heinous murder and its motive”. He called on all sides “not to take the law into their own hands”.

Palestinian residents in Shuafat, an Arab suburb of Jerusalem, told Reuters they had seen a teenager forced into a vehicle outside a supermarket on Tuesday night. They identified him as Mohammed Abu Khu- dan, 16.

An Israeli security source said Israel suspect- ed the youth had been kid- napped and murdered, possi- bly in retribution for the killings of the Israeli teens, whose bodies were found on Monday, nearly three weeks after they were ab- ducted in the occupied West Bank.

Israel says Palestin- ian Hamas militants killed them. The Islamist group has neither confirmed nor denied the allegation.

A senior official of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah movement told Reuters the missing teenager’s family had identified the corpse, found in the wooded out- skirts of Jerusalem. The family was not immediately available for comment.

“The Israeli govern- ment bears responsibility for Jewish terrorism and for the kidnapping and murder in occupied Jerusalem,” the Fatah official, Dmitry Dili- tian, said.

Israeli Internal Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonov- itch said it was too early to draw conclusions as to the motive.

“We know of a boy who apparently was abduct- ed and we see a link to the discovery of a body. This is still under investigation by the forensic labs and de- tectives,” Aharonovitch told reporters.

On Tuesday, the three Jewish seminary students were buried in a funeral at- tended by tens of thousands of mourners. While the teenagers were laid to rest in the city of Modin, several hundreds Israeli demonstra- tors, some chanting “Death to Arabs”, blocked the main entrance to Jerusalem.

Cries for revenge have echoed throughout the dec- ades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

They can be heard at the emotionally charged fun- erals of Palestinians killed by Israeli, and the phrase “May God avenge his death” is often invoked at the burials of Israelis slain by Palestinians.

But deadly Israeli vig- ilante attacks, in declared retribution for Palestinian assaults, have been rare in recent years.

More common are the so-called “Price Tag” inci- dents in which mosques and Palestinian property are torched or damaged — a reference to ultranationalist Jews to making the government “pay” for any curbs on Palestin- ian land. — Reuters
Intelligent cars draw investors to tech stocks

PARIS, July 3 — Technology and telecoms firms could be the big winners in a connected car market that may be worth $50 billion over the next decade, luring investors away from traditional automakers.

Chip-makers or tech giants such as Infineon and Google are among a variety of companies involved in the rapid development and testing of intelligent cars from those that drive themselves to those allowing a driver to use mobile phone apps through the dashboard.

A number of carmakers are embracing the trend, with Nissan Motor Co, Volkswagen AG’s Audi and Toyota Motor Corp working with outside tech firms to test self-driving car technology.

However, it is the tech and telecom firms — from US bellwethers to small European companies — that are seen benefiting the most, fund managers and analysts say. “It’s a whole new market emerging,” said Christian Jimenez, fund manager and president of Diamant Bleu Gestion.

“The best way to play it for investors in the long term is to buy names such as Microsoft or chip makers such as Infineon, not (automakers) Peugeot and Renault”. If the new market grows to $50 billion as forecast by French bank Exane BNP Paribas that would be roughly half the size of German carmaker BMW’s revenues last year.

Internet giant Google Inc is leading the charge among tech companies, trying to break into the century-old industry as it works on its own prototypes of fully autonomous vehicles.

It may be a few years before driverless cars hit the road but Google is already shaking things up in the sector, saying last week that the first cars running its Android Auto — a voice-enabled software allowing drivers to navigate maps and send messages while behind the wheel — will hit showrooms later this year. Apple is also in the race, with its new CarPlay — which integrates iPhone functionality — allowing drivers to use applications directly via the dashboard to view maps, make calls, listen to music and send and receive text messages.

Only about 10 percent of vehicles have built-in connectivity today, but the number is expected to rise to more than 90 percent by 2020, according to the British consulting firm Machina Research.

“This is not a distant dream, but a five-year race where there is money to be made, or lost,” Exane BNP analyst Stuart Pearson said in a note to clients, predicting that the market for connected car services would grow by an estimated 30 percent a year through to 2020.


“Intelligent cars draw investors to tech stocks: next decades, even if we continue to consume more and more fossil fuels and emit more and more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, an amount that is increasing as the developing world modernizes, said atmospheric scientist Michael Gunson of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

Roughly half of the carbon is re-absorbed by forests and the ocean, a process that is not well understood. "Understanding the details of those processes will give us some insight into the future and what’s likely to happen over the next decades, even if we continue to consume more and more fossil fuels and emit more and more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, an amount that is increasing as the developing world modernizes, said atmospheric scientist Michael Gunson of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif."

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"It’s really the fate of carbon dioxide once it’s in the atmosphere that we’re trying to put our finger on,” Gunson said.

The $468 million mission is designed to last at least two years. Reuters
**US blacklists 4th Japanese gang Kudo-kai**

**Washington, 3 July** — The US Treasury Department designated a major Japanese yakusa crime syndicate and its leaders on Wednesday as subject to economic sanctions, in addition to three other Japanese gangs that have already been blacklisted.

The department said it has frozen any assets held by the Kudo-kai, its President Satoru Norumura and Chief Fumio Tanoue with whom the US persons have cooperated.

The Kudo-kai, which is based in Fukuoka and has some 300 members, is reportedly the most violent yakusa syndicate, the department said. The department has already singled out Japan’s largest yakusa crime syndicate, the Yamaguchi-gumi, and two others Sumiyoshi-kai and Inagawa-kai for similar sanctions.

**Afghan company launches bus service in Kabul**

KABUL, 3 July — A local Afghan private company, Life Star has launched bus service in the Afghan capital city Kabul to provide transport services to the citizens, a local television channel Tolo reported on Thursday.

“Life Star Company began transport services with 80 buses in Kabul on Wednesday,” Tolo reported in its news bulletin.

Chairman of the company, Mohammad Yusuf Mohmand in his remarks at inauguration ceremony said with launching the bus services job opportunity for some 200 people had been provided.

This is the second local private company that has been launching bus services in Kabul city.

Mohmand also said that similar services will be launched in Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat cities soon to solve transport problems there.—Xinhua

**Cambodia arrests two suspects in human kidney trading case**

PHNOM PENH, 3 July — Cambodian police said on Thursday that two locals have been arrested for kidney trafficking and the suspects have confessed to their involvement.

Police Lt Col Keo Thea said the suspects were arrested on Tuesday night in the capital following a complaint filed by one of five people whose kidneys were sold through them, one of whom was only 15 at the time the removal procedure was carried out in Thailand.

Rumors of such organ trading have spread for years, but Thea said it is the first such case to be uncovered by his unit, set up to stamp out human trafficking and ensure protection of children.

He said the two suspects, 29-year-old Yem Aissas and her stepfather Nhem Phalla, 40, who run a small coffee shop in the city, confessed to having brokered the sale of the kidneys for between $10,000 and $13,000 to Cambodian patients.

Most of the five who sold their kidneys told police they received up to $5,000 for them, but the 15-year-old, who has since turned 16, claimed he got only $3,000.

According to Keo Thea, after arriving in Thailand, the kidney donors were given fake documents by a Thai dealer, and their surnames changed in order to match them with the patients in need of a kidney transplant.

The suspects, due in court later Thursday to hear charges, face from seven to 20 years in jail if found guilty.—Kyodo News

**Chinese woman charged in plot to steal US corn technology**

The conspirators dug up corn seedlings from fields and also stole mature ears of corn and also unlawfully obtained packaged corn seed, according to court documents.

At one point in 2012, Mo Hailong and other suspected co-conspirators attempted to ship about 250 lbs (113 kg) of corn seed via Federal Express to Hong Kong, according to prosecutors.

The plot also included hiding stolen corn seed in boxes of microwave popcorn packed in a return flight from Chicago to Beijing, China, court documents state.

Mo Hailong is director of the international business of the Beijing Dabeinong Technology Group Co, a part of DBN Group, which is run by Shao Gen-huo. DBN operates 67 different subsidiaries, including a corn seed subsidiary called Beijing Kings Nower Seed, according to Nicholas Klinefeldt, US Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa.

Mo Yun is married to the founder and chairman of a Chinese conglomerate that runs a corn seed subsidiary. She and her brother, Mo Hailong, who also goes by the name Robert Mo, worked together and with others from China to steal the valuable corn seed from Iowa and Illinois, according to US law enforcement officials.

Mo Yun was arrested on Tuesday in Los Angeles, while Mo Hailong was indicted and arrested in December. His trial is set for 1 Dec Both are charged with conspiracy to steal trade secrets in US District Court in Iowa.

The investigation began after DuPont Pioneer security staff detected suspicious activity in fields where the company was testing new types of seed, and notified authorities.

Both Monsanto and DuPont develop and sell genetically altered seeds that are coveted by many farmers because they help farmers fight insect and weed problems, and can yield more in adverse growing conditions. But the seed technology is patented and the seeds are higher priced than conventional seeds.—Reuters

**DPRK man defects to S Korea in western border island**

SEOUL, 3 July — A man of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) defected on Thursday to South Korea in a South Korean western border island, an official at Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The official told Xinhua on the phone that an unarmed DPRK man, presumed to be a civilian, arrived at the shore of the Baengnyeong Island at about 7 am on board a non-powered wooden boat.

When South Korea’s Marines on guard duty there detected him, the man expressed his willingness to defect to South Korea, and he was now under investigation by relevant authorities, the official said.

The Baengnyeong Island is just south of the disputed western sea boundary, called the North-limit Line, which the DPRK has never recognized as it was drawn unilaterally by the United States during the 1950-53 Korean War.

In recent years, South Korea has seen a series of defection from the DPRK in east and west waters. On 31 May, a DPRK fishing boat went adrift in east waters, before three more boats are found later. Among the nine fishermen, three remained as they wished it. In August 2013, a DPRK civilian swam across the inter-Korean west sea boundary and reached the Goydong Island. In November 2011, 21 DPRK civilians sailed on a wooden boat and defected to South Korea.

Xinhua
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES—FIRMS SELECTION)
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electric Power
Credit No: 5306-MM
Assignment Title: Environmental and Social Management Consultant for Thaton Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant
Reference No.: MEPE-CS-5

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for environmental and social management consulting services. The environmental and social management consulting services (“the Services”) are in support of the Project’s investments in new gas-fired power generation capacity and include the following scope:

1. Execution of an Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) due diligence audit at the Natural Gas Turbines Power Plant in Thaton, Myanmar;
2. Preparation of an EHS Management System (MS) for the Thaton Power Plant and support towards its international accreditation;
3. Advisory services to Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) and the Thaton Power Plant management regarding implementation of the Project’s Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP, which has been prepared as part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the site investments), the EHS-MS and EHS requirements by the contractor for installation of the new power generation units in Thaton.
4. Advisory services to MEPE regarding establishing environmental and social safeguards capabilities within its organization.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of 24 months, starting in November 2014. The MEPE now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. The interested consulting firms should have at least 10 years of experience in the area of environmental and social advisory services to the power sector, relevant references for gas fired power stations are advantageous.
2. A strong record in environmental and social impact assessments; environmental due diligence audits; development and supporting accreditation of environmental, health and safety management systems;
3. At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 8 years; and
4. Experience of working in the Client’s country or similar country environment.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policies.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by July 15, 2014.

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise
Attn: Win Myint, Chief Engineer
Building-27
Ministry of Electric Power
Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 095-67-410-556
Fax: 095-67-410-557
E-mail: gtceoffice@gmail.com

Further information and a copy of the detailed ‘Terms of Reference’ are available at the address below during office hours 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

The consulting services (the “Services”) include:

- Environmental and Social Management Consulting Services (the “Consulting Services”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services.
- The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of 24 months.
- Further information and a copy of the detailed ‘Terms of Reference’ are available at the address below.

Record amounts of rain hit southwestern Japan

Tokyo, 3 July — The heaviest rainfall in half a century hit parts of Kyushu in southwestern Japan on Thursday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. According to the agency, some houses in Nagasaki were damaged by heavy rain. The agency issued a warning of heavy rain for the three northern Kyushu prefectures of Fukuoka, Saga and Nagasaki.

In the prefectural capital of Nagasaki, some houses were inundated below and above floor level, with roads also flooded. There were also landslides in parts of the city.

Kyodo News

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Ed Sheeran scores first No 1 album on US Billboard chart

LOS ANGELES, 3 July — British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran’s scored his first top album on the weekly US Billboard 200 chart on Wednesday as “x” easily lapped the competition selling 210,000 copies, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

“x” is the 23-year-old’s second album and sales have been helped by the success of the single “Sing,” which was produced by Pharrell Williams and features the “Happy” singer as well.

The No 2 album this week, “In the Lonely Hour” from fellow British singer-songwriter Sam Smith, sold 67,000 copies.

The last time two British solo artists were No 1 and 2 on the US album chart was in 1993, when albums by Eric Clapton and Sting were in the top spots, Billboard said.

Rapper G-Eazy’s “These Things Happen” sold 46,000 copies to debut at No 3 on the chart. Last week’s top album, pop singer Lana Del Rey’s “Ultraviolence,” fell to fourth, while the soundtrack to the animated Disney film “Frozen” was fifth — its 28th consecutive week in the top five.

Two other new releases in the top 10 this week were rockers Mastodon’s “Once More ‘Round the Sun” at No 6 and veteran jam-rock band Phish’s “Fuego” at No 7.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TEAMWORTH NO.2 VOY NO (19)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV TEAMWORTH NO.2 VOY NO (19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2014 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: MS COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (129)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (129) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

I have become smarter in love now:
Jennifer Lopez

LONDON, 3 July — Songstress Jennifer Lopez has admitted that her failed marriages and relationships have made her smarter about love. The 44-year-old star, who was married three times and recently ended her relationship with boyfriend of two years Casper Smart, says she still believes in love but is now smarter about the choices she makes, reported Contactmusic.

“I believe in love more than ever, but I think I’ve gotten a little bit smarter about it. I like to think I’ve grown up a little bit, and I think all that is reflected on the album. You hear that, you hear a stronger Jennifer maybe than you have in the past,” she said. —PTI

Shakira shakes her way to Brazil for World Cup closing show

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 July — Colombian pop singer Shakira will make her third consecutive World Cup appearance at the closing ceremony in Rio de Janeiro’s Maracana stadium before the final match on 13 July, tournament organizers FIFA said on Wednesday.

Shakira will perform her song “La La La (Brazil 2014)” alongside Brazilian percussionist and singer Carlinhos Brown.

“I have an intricate relationship with football for obvious reasons, and I truly understand what the World Cup means to so many people, myself included,” Shakira said in a statement from FIFA.

Mexican-American guitarist Carlos Santana, Haitian-American hip-hop artist Wyclef Jean and Brazilian singer Alexandre Pires will perform the official anthem of the 2014 World Cup “Dar Um Jeito,” Portuguese for “We Will Find a Way.”

The closing ceremony will also feature a samba performance from one of the Rio de Janeiro schools that participate in the city’s famous Carnival celebrations.

Reuters
**US Storm Arthur to Pack Hurricane Winds by 4 July Holiday**

Several towns and villages on North Carolina’s Outer Banks and coast re-scheduled Independence Day festivities and fireworks plans as the storm picked up speed moving north at 7 mph (11 kph).

Farther up the coast, the resort town of Ocean City, Maryland, said it was moving its 4 July fireworks display to Saturday because of the storm. North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory declared a state of emergency on Wednesday for 25 eastern counties to help prepare for possible damage. A voluntary evacuation order was issued for low-lying Ocracoke Island, a popular summer tourist destination reached only by ferry or plane.

“It doesn’t look like it is going to be anything too bad,” said Hyde County Emergency Management Director Jerry Shantz. “We might get a little water from flooding.”

The National Park Service ordered the evacuation by 5 pm (2100 GMT) on Wednesday of visitors from the narrow barrier islands of the Cape Lookout National Seashore on North Carolina’s central coast.

In the more populous Cape Hatteras National Seashore to the north, where up to 200,000 visitors crowd North Carolina’s Hatteras and Ocracoke islands, the park service began closing campgrounds, lighthouses and beaches at noon (1600 GMT) on Wednesday.—Reuters

**Cousteau’s grandson surfaces after record underwater stay**

Cousteau’s grandson Fabien Cousteau is pictured on his first dive outside the marine laboratory Aquarius in this undated handout photo obtained by Reuters on 2 July, 2014.—Reuters

Cousteau’s grandson, Fabien Cousteau, of famed French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, emerged from the turquoise waters off the Florida Keys on Wednesday morning, after a record-breaking 31-day stay underwater with a team of scientists and documentary filmmakers.

The younger Cousteau, 46, along with two “aquanauts,” took the 60-foot (18-metre) dive to Aquarius, a 43-foot-long (13-meter-long) laboratory submerged near a coral reef off Key Largo, on 1 June following years of preparation and delay.

“This expedition’s main goal was to reach as many people around the world... to impassion future generations to care about the oceans, to cherish them, to be curious about them in a way that existed during my grandfather’s era,” Cousteau told a news conference after surfacing. While Cousteau’s goal was to attract more students to marine science, despite a successful trip, the expedition did not collect as much data as expected, in part because of the storm.

“Some of our field cables got disconnected,” Cousteau said in the interview with Reuters. “I never imagined happening.”

Shantz said he was able to collect six months worth of data in 17 days. The previous record for living underwater was held by Cousteau’s grandfather, who in 1963 spent 30 days in a similar facility in depths of about 30 feet (9 meters) in the Red Sea.—Reuters
Barcelona, Liverpool hold ‘productive’ talks on Suarez

LONDON, 3 July — Barcelona and Liverpool held ‘productive’ talks in London on Wednesday over the possible transfer of disgraced Anfield striker Luis Suarez but no deal was finalised, British media reported.

Barcelona appear to be leading the race among clubs linked with the 27-year-old Uruguayan, who was expelled from the World Cup and handed a nine-match competitive international ban as well as a four-month sanction from any soccer activity for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini.

The BBC quoted a senior Liverpool source as saying Wednesday’s talks had been productive and would continue.

“There are sensible expectations on both sides. Further talks and discussions will take place but no deal has yet been finalised,” the source added. Sky Sports television reported a similar outcome.

The meeting between the Merseyside club officials and a delegation led by Raul Sanllehi, Barcelona’s director of football management, had been scheduled to discuss the future of last season’s Premier League top scorer.

In order to prise Suarez away from Liverpool, the Spanish club will either need to meet a release clause, reportedly around 70-80 million pounds ($118-$134 million), in his revised contract or possibly offer a player-plus-cash deal.

Should the Merseysiders opt for the latter agreement, Barcelona’s Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez — a Liverpool target in the past — appears to be the Anfield side’s preferred choice as Suarez’s replacement.

Reuters

Students to enjoy six football festivals in 2014

The Myanmar Football Federation and No 3 Department of Basic Education will jointly organize the Grassroots Football Festival on the turf pitch in Thuwunna of Yangon on 6 July.

A coordination meeting on holding the festival was held at the hall of MFF on Thursday afternoon.

Secretary of the work committee for the festival and MFF Technical Director (Youth Development) U Win Thu Moe explained arrangements for holding the football tournaments.

FIFA 11 for Health Project, National Coordinator MNL Chief Executive Officer Mr J Singh briefed the participants of the meeting on project phase (2) of the FIFA.

Each festival will be held with the participation of 200 students of No 3 BED. A plan is underway to organize six football festivals this year. As such, over 1,200 students from Yangon Region will take part in the tournaments. Similar football festivals will be held for students of No 1 and No 2 Departments of Basic Education.

Po Thaw Zin; Photo: Soe Nyunt

Colombian kid Rodriguez the main man in Brazil

Colombia’s James Rodriguez celebrates after scoring his second goal during the 2014 World Cup round of 16 game between Colombia and Uruguay at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 28 June, 2014.—Reuters

Salvador, 3 July — Racing towards the camera after scoring direct from a corner at Colombia’s top youth tournament in 2004, excited scouts could see James Rodriguez was a kid at ease in the limelight.

A good job too, as a decade on at the World Cup the attacking midfielder’s stunning strikes and terrif ic displays have made him among the hottest footballing properties on the planet.

His rise has been meteoric. With barely a hair on his chiselled chin the 22-year old has won league titles in Argentina and Portugal and last year swapped clubs for 45 million euros ($61.3 million) when he left Porto for me ga-rich Monaco.

If that fee did not grab fans’ attention then five goals in four games in Brazil, including the tournamen t’s best against Urugu ay which flew in off the crossbar from 20 metres, certainly have, sparking comparisons with Lionel Messi and Neymar.

The haul, along with two assists, has made Rodri guez Colombia’s top scor er at a World Cup and a hero back home as the team reached their first ever quar ter-final in the tournament.

Fitting statistics for a man occupying the number 10 shirt since Cohen’s Brazil — one superstar is gone, another one has to step up. And that is Rodri guez,” Valderrama said.

Operating on the left or behind the strikers, Rodriguez’s reading of the game is intelligent and instinctive. Comfortable as creator and scorer he has shown his ability in the air and on the ground at the World Cup, not to mention his dance moves as he cele brates goals with a cheeky smile and a little bit of rumba. He captained Colombia’s Under-20 side to the quarter-finals of the Youth World Cup and impressed on his full national debut, taking the man-of-the match award in a 2-1 victory over Bolivia in October, 2011.—Reuters