**Myanmar moves to help itself out of LDC category**

The identification of LDCs includes three criteria that are based on Gross National Income (GNI), Human Assets Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI).

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 July—Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia in collaboration with Institut Penerangan dan Promosi Tun Abdul Razak (IPPTAR) is organizing a theme song writing competition and cordially invites all Malaysians to participate. This theme song writing competition intends to recognize natural local songwriting talents and at the same time to create awareness about Malaysia’s Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015. In this relation, contestants are encouraged to reflect deeply on ASEAN’s identity and share experiences and memories in line with the theme of “People Centred ASEAN”. The competition is valid from 4 July to 31 August 2014. No entry fees are applicable.

**Malaysia invites entries for theme song for ASEAN chairmanship**

**Vessels for tourist transport operate early in Mandalay**

Mandalay to Bagan and Mandalay to Bhamo via Katha since July. “The tourist season begins in October, but we started operating vessels as tourists began to visit Myanmar before the start of the season. Our company is now operating Mandalay-Bagan and Mandalay –Ka-tha-Bhamo routes with the use of three vessels. With the increased number of arrivals when the tourist season starts, our vessels will be mainly run from Mandalay to Bagan route, said U Ne Win, manager of River Nmai Hka Travel & Tours.

It is planned to run one more vessel at the start of the season for the convenience of visitors, he added. A total number of licensed vessels operating foreign passenger transport business for Mandalay-Mingun route are 41 while there are five for Mandalay-Bagan and seven for Mandalay-Katha-Bhamo routes.

Ferries run for transport of globetrotters from Mandalay to Bagan, Bhamo and Katha.
Myanmar, Indonesia eye closer cooperation

YANGON, 22 July — Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko held talks with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi on Tuesday morning.

During the meeting, they held comprehensive discussions on enhancement of cooperation between the two nations.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint and officials.—MNA

Energy minister urges to ensure reform plan

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — Union Minister U Zeyar Aung for Ministry of Energy on Wednesday discussed the development of reform plan and future strategies in energy sector at the national-level meeting held at Yadana Hall of the ministry here.

He said that the ministry has adopted energy policy; some businesses under Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise and Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise have been operating in joint-venture businesses.

U Zeyar Aung also added that the ministry need to review and preview the project, and to focus on the direction of Public Private Partnership (PPP) reform plan. He said that the projects must be implemented with the minimum damages on the environment.

The meeting was attended by deputy ministers, departmental heads, retired technical expertise of the ministry.—MNA

Panel discussion on disability and responsible business held in Yangon

YANGON, 22 July — A panel discussion on disability and responsible business took place on Tuesday in Yangon with the participation of U Yu Lwin Aung, director-general of the Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Senior Advisor to the ILO Christopher Land-Kazlauskas, Programme Director U Nay Lin Soe of the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative-MILI and other officials.

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

In his opening remarks, U Ko Ko Gyi, leader of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, urged policymakers, businesspeople, people and the public to give helping hands to the disabled community and for responsible personnel to implement the results of meetings as soon as possible.

At the discussion, U Yu Lwin Aung explained laws and policies on disability in Myanmar, adding that the ministry has been drafting a law on the rights of people with disabilities-PWDs since 2012.

He urged local entrepreneurs to appoint people from needy families to their worksites and give them suitable positions.

Land-Kazlauskas said 15 per cent of labourers have disabilities and he urged local entrepreneurs to effectively participate in the development of disabled society that help bring more than 20 per cent of the country’s GDP. According to a survey, 56 per cent of entrepreneurs do not spend much money on those workers.

Persons with disabilities should have equal opportunities, as should other citizens, to build a developed country, but people in Myanmar think about disability in a traditional way, Nay Lin Soe, who contracted polio at the age of three, said.

He also discussed the differences between disability and impairment, causes of disability and attitudinal and physical aspects of disability as well as systemic and policy barriers for PWDs.

According to a 2009 national sample survey by MSWRR, in Myanmar, 85 per cent of PWDs are jobless, 53 per cent of children with disabilities cannot access primary school and 80 per cent of PWDs are unaware of their rights.

Yu Ya Thu, operation manager of MILI, said she faces much discrimination and other difficulties in her life and urged other PWDs’ families to create a warm community for PWDs and to give opportunities for learning starting from childhood.

A few PWDs in Myanmar are working in suitable positions in tailoring shops, hairstyling shops and some departments thanks to MILI, she added.—NLM

Union Industry Minister holds talks with foreign guests about Steel Mill, Mechanical Training School

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint received Regional Manager Mr Franz Richter and party of RHI ReFractories Asia Pacific of Australia at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The guests explained fire bricks produced from the RHI ReFractories Asia Pacific, quality of mixes, motors and functional products and use of their bricks and materials at No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan).

The union minister also held a talk with General Manager Mr Yoshizo Hatta of State Hluttaw and Union Solidarity and Development Party U Hay Lin, visited the 31st day session of the ninth regular session of the first Lower House on Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw. They also viewed round the Hluttaw complex.—MNA

Outstanding students from Mon State observe Lower House session

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — Altogether 174 outstanding students from Kyaiak Townshio of Mon State led by Deputy Speaker of State Hluttaw and Union Solidarity and Development Party U Hay Lin, visited the 31st day session of the ninth regular session of the first Lower House on Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw. They also viewed round the Hluttaw complex.—MNA

Photographs on people with disabilities working at business displayed at UMFCCI Office Tower in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Documentary photos on people with disabilities working at business displayed at UMFCCI Office Tower in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko holds talks with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi. MNA

NATIONAL

2, 22 July — A two nations.

Ito Sumardi on Tuesday Dr. Ito Sumardi.

Affairs Lt-Gen Ko held talks with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi.

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A two nations.

Ito Sumardi on Tuesday Dr. Ito Sumardi.
MP questions ground accidents at airports: Upper House

Representatives participating in discussions at Upper House.—MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 22 July—Ground accidents are quite common at airports across the country, with a parliamentarian saying that aprons in the Yangon International Airport are crowded with planes and often cause ground accidents.

At an Upper House session on Tuesday, U Nyunt Tin asked if any measures are being taken to deal with such accidents.

Malaysia invites entries for... (from page 1)

NAV PYI TAW, 22 July—Malaysia invites entries for a song competition to be held to mark the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 23 July. The best song will be used as the official theme song for Malaysia’s Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015. The winner will be rewarded with a prize of RM20,000 cash and the four runner-ups will be presented cash prizes of RM2,500 each. The entry form, the rules of competition and other information can be downloaded at http://www.kln.gov.my/aseanthemesong2015.pdf, and entry forms, song, composer and song demo are to be sent to aseanthemesong@gmail.com.

U Han Thu concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Andorra

NAV PYI TAW, 22 July—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Han Thu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Principality of Andorra.—MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union meets

YANGON, 22 July—Myanmar Parliamentary Union held a meeting on Tuesday to seek advice on capacity building of Myanmar parliamentarians and points that should be included at Union level and region/state level while conducting studies in constitutional amendment.

In his speech at the meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw, Thura U Shwe Mann, chairman of Myanmar Parliamentary Union and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House, invited suggestions from those present for capacity enhancement of Myanmar parliament and its members.

The meeting continued, with MPU Secretary U Nanda Kyaw Swa who is also the deputy speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw making clarification on work progress and those present holding general discussions.

Also present at the meeting were U Khin Aung Myint, vice chairman of MPU and speaker of Upper House, and MPU members U Mya Nyein, deputy speaker of Upper House, and speakers and deputy speakers of region/state parliaments.—MNA

Union Sports Minister, State Chief Minister awards winners of sports events in Lashio

NAV PYI TAW, 22 July—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan together with Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat enjoyed mini Marathon and cycling event organized by the state government on Monday in front of the city hall in Lashio of Shan State.

Following the events, the Chief Minister awarded to winners in Marathon event while the Union Minister presented prizes to winners in cycling event.

After the prizes awarding ceremony, U Tint Hsan met his staff from Northern Shan State and urged them to make campaigns in their villages, wards and townships in Lashio by holding the games. The Union minister also inspected sports grounds in Hsipaw Township, Kyaukme District and Nawngkhtao Township. He also gave instructions on construction of sports ground and holding of sports events including truck and field event in the township.—MNA

Union FM sends felicitations to Egyptian counterpart

NAV PYI TAW, 23 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 His Excellency Mr. Sameh Shaukri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which falls on 23 July 2014.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw signs the book of condolences at the Malaysian Embassy to Myanmar in Yangon on 22 July for the demise of 298 passengers on board the flight MH 17 of Malaysia Airlines shot down in eastern Ukraine on 17 July.—MNA

Athletes participate in mini marathon in Lashio of northern Shan State.
Taungthaman Bridge attracts globetrotters to enjoy scenic beauty

Two posts from span No 159 of Taungthaman Bridge floated into the Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region recently. Despite carrying out salvage, the posts could not be used again due to decaying. Thus, one 17-foot long post and one 12-foot long post were substituted in these places.

At present, the higher water level of Ayeyawady River and heavy rains flow into the lake where flocks of globetrotters and local visitors enjoy scenic beauty from Taungthaman Lake.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture and the Mandalay Region Government are carrying out maintenance of the bridge for its durability.

Ko Lwin (Mandalay)

Teachers, students suffer from food poisoning in Yedashe Tsp

Since the afternoon, some students suffered from stomachache. On Monday, dysentery and diarrhoea happened among the students. Headmistress Daw The The Aye informed occurrence of students about the Health Departments concerned in time.

Officials of Yedashe Township Health Department and Myohla Station Hospital and Yeni rural health centre provided health care services to the students in time at the Dhammayon of Zeyathein Monastery.

The students and teachers are not in critical health conditions. Four female teachers, 30 boys, 58 girls students and 13 villagers are under health care up to 10 pm on 22 July.

Officials of Bago Region Health Department also gave necessary assistance to them.

Ko Lwin (Swa)

Bago Region Police Force donates K700,000 to Bago Region Journalists Association

A ceremony to share cash rewards to Bago Region Journalists Association was held at the police avenue on Komin Kochin Street in Bago on Monday, attended by Bago Region Minister for Planning and Economic Affairs U Kyaw Myint.

Commander of Bago Region Police Force Police Col Mya Win handed over K700,000 donated by Bago Region Police Force that received rewards given by Waw Township Mobile Team-2 to Chairman of Bago Region Journalists Association Sein Hlaiang Bo. Minister U Kyaw Myint, Commander Police Col Mya Win and Chairman of the association Sein Hlaiang Bo explained financial matters of Mobile Team-2.

Ko Lutt (Bago)

Mandalay, 22 July—

Over 100 teachers and students suffered from food poisoning at Basic Education Middle School Branch in Zeyathein Village, located in the opposite site of Sittoung River in Yedashe Township of Bago Region on Monday morning.

Altogether 228 students are pursuing education at the school where a wellwisher served them with foods with chicken curry on Sunday.

Bago Region Police Force also gave necessary assistance to them.

Ko Lwin (Swa)

Village library committee meets

Kyaikto, 22 July—

Kyaikto Township Information and Public Relations Department held a meeting with committees of the village libraries at Thuta Theingi Library in Kyaikti Village of Kyaikto Township on Monday with the aim of ensuring durability of village libraries. Head of the township department Than Maw explained raising the fund for opening the libraries in the long run and reconstitution of the village library committees.

Townsenders, supportive committee members and youths participated in discussions on maintenance of the books and publications and furniture of the library.

Kyaukt Kor IPRD

Kyaikto IPRD

Mandalay, 22 July—

As Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department on 62nd Street in Pyigyidaung Township of Mandalay broadcasts WiFi free as of June 2014, about 20 people apply the Internet daily.

Thanks to the free WiFi service, the readers and local people have easier access to information, books and publications. Likewise, District IPRD offices post WiFi free of charge to the public reading opportunities.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Philippines raises storm alert level as Matmo churns toward Taiwan

MANILA, 22 July — The Philippines raised storm alert level as Typhoon Matmo threatened to drench the extreme north of the main island of Luzon with heavy rain as it churned toward Taiwan and mainland China. Packing sustained winds of 130 kph (80 mph) and gusts of up to 160 kph, Matmo was moving at 24 kph northwest towards central Taiwan.

The storm was estimated to have ended in the Kanto-Koshin region in eastern Japan, including the Tokyo metropolitan area, the Japan Meteorological Agency said the same day. — Kyodo News

Rainy season likely over in Tokyo

High school students frolic at a beach in Tokyo’s Odaiba district on 22 July. The rainy season is believed to have ended in the Kanto-Koshin region in eastern Japan, including the Tokyo metropolitan area, the Japan Meteorological Agency said the same day. — Kyodo News

Indonesia’s likely loser in presidential race tries to delay result

Jakarta, 22 July — The likely loser in Indonesia’s presidential race made a last-gasp attempt to delay the announcement of the official election results on Tuesday, expected to declare Jakarta Governor Joko “Jokowi” Widodo as the nation’s next leader.

Most private tallies show Jokowi beat former special forces chief Prabowo Subianto by about five percentage points.

Prabowo has refused to concede defeat, demanding the result be delayed by two weeks to investigate allegations of mass cheating. He is expected to challenge the vote in the Constitutional Court, though experts say such an appeal is unlikely to succeed.

“All we are asking for is time to study (the allegations). I think we are being reasonable,” Prabowo’s aide and younger brother, Hashim Djojohadikusumo, nomenclature delayed until 9 August and said that there was evidence of enough cheating to put the outcome in his brother’s favour. Both sides have claimed victory in the closest presidential election ever in the nation with the world’s biggest Muslim community.

The Elections Commission scheduled the announcement for 4 pm (5 am EDT) after initially saying it would take place at 6 pm.

Outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has urged whoever loses to quickly acknowledge the outcome to avoid violence.

Jokowi’s team has also asked supporters not to gather in public to celebrate an expected victory.

“Admitting defeat is noble,” the president told reporters on Monday, in a clear reference to Prabowo.

Hundreds of thousands of police and military are on heightened alert across the vast archipelago of 240 million people, the world’s third largest democracy. There have been no reports of major violence.

“There are a lot of rumours of instability and unrest but cautiously I’m confident that it is implausible,” said Tobias Basuki, a political analyst at the CSIS think-tank.

Markets have rallied for the past few weeks as it started to become clear that Jokowi would be the next leader of Southeast Asia’s largest economy.

“The possibility of overturning the election result is very slim. Investors will instead focus on the presidential cabinet, which the new president should announce by October,” said Sebastian Tobing of Jakarta-based brokerage Trimegah Securities.

Indonesia’s presidential candidate Joko Widodo smiles during a talk with his supporters at the Bisnis Indonesia newspaper office in Jakarta, on 21 July, 2014. — Reuters

Cambodian opposition party agrees to end nearly year-long boycott of parliament

PHNOM PENH, 22 July — The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) on Tuesday agreed to end its year-long boycott of parliament, according to a joint agreement released after a top-level meeting.

The written agreement was distributed to journalists after a five-hour face-to-face negotiation between Prime Minister Hun Sen, vice-president of the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), and CNRP’s president Sam Rainsy at the Senate Palace.

“The two parties have agreed on a political resolution by joining to work in the National Assembly towards tackling national issues based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law,” said the joint agreement.

Taleban shot dead five civilians in eastern Afghanistan

HERAT, (Afghanistan) 22 July — Five Afghan civilians were killed in a Taleban attack on a vehicle in eastern Afghanistan Tuesday, the Taleban said.

Five civilians and injuring one other,” the provincial government said in a statement.

The written agreement was distributed to journalists after a five-hour face-to-face negotiation between Prime Minister Hun Sen, vice-president of the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), and CNRP’s president Sam Rainsy at the Senate Palace.

“The two parties have agreed on a political resolution by joining to work in the National Assembly towards tackling national issues based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law,” said the joint agreement.

In a separate incident, a local leader was shot dead along with two civilians in Rashikar Gah city, the provincial capital. Helmand Province late on Monday, according to provincial governor spokesman.

Taliban is notorious for poppy growing and is a known Taleban hotbed.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual rebel offensive against Afghan government forces and nearly 50,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country in mid-May.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual rebel offensive against Afghan government forces and nearly 50,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country in mid-May.
Ukrainian rebels to hand over MH17 black boxes to Malaysia: PM Najib

Kuala Lumpur, 22 July — The pro-Russian separatist leader has agreed to hand over the black boxes of the Malaysia Airlines plane that was shot down over the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said on Tuesday.

In a live telecast speech made just past midnight Monday, Najib said he has spoken to Alexander Yurevich Borodai, the self-proclaimed prime minister of the pro-Russian separatist “Donetsk People’s Republic” and that the latter had agreed to hand over the black boxes to a Malaysian team at 9 pm Ukraine time on Tuesday.

Najib had previously stated that Malaysia wants custody of the black boxes, which record flight data.

The black boxes were among one of three issues that Najib and Borodai touched on, according to Najib.

The other two were that the remains of 282 people who are currently in Torez would be transported by train to Kharkiv to be handed over to repre-

sentatives from the Netherlands. Kiev had agreed that the Dutch should lead the investigation. Some two-thirds of the total 298 people on board the Boeing 777 were Dutch nationals.

Najib said Borodai also agreed that independent international investigators will be guaranteed safe access to the crash site.

“...must stress that although agreement has been reached, there remain a number of steps required before it is completed. There is work to be done, work which relies on continued communication in good faith. Mr Borodai and his people have so far given their cooperation,” he said.

The Malaysian leader also made a remark apparently in response to questions why, unlike western countries, his government has not been strident in pin-
ning the blame on the trag-
edy on Russia, who does not seem to be pushing hard enough to persuade successionists to cooperate in the investigation and recov-
ery of victims.

Najib said, “In recent days, there were times I wanted to give greater voice to the anger and grief that the Malaysian people feel and that I feel. But sometimes, we must work quietly in the service of a better outcome.”

The incident is a per-
sonal tragedy for Najib who lost his step-grandmother on board the flight. Sri Siti Amirah, 83, was married to Najib’s maternal grandfa-
ther as his second wife.

Flight MH17 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, crashed over the east Ukraine region of Donetsk on Thursday, an area that has seen some heavy fighting between the Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists, killing all on board.

Kyodo News

China urges cooperation in MH17 crash investigation

BEIJING, 22 July — China on Tuesday called on all parties involved to cooperate with the interna-
tional investigation into the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a Press release that Chi-

na believes the UN reso-
lution on this issue will be fully implemented.

China, a permanent member of the UN Secu-
city Council, voted in fa-
vor of Resolution 2166 at a meeting of the Council a few hours ago. The resolu-
tion, passed unanimously, condemns “the strongest est terms” the downing of flight MH17 on 17 July in Donetsk, resulting in the deaths of all 298 people on board.

Hong said the unani-

mous passage of the reso-
lution is conducive for all parties to enhance mutual understanding, strengthen cooperation and push for progress in the internation-
al investigation.—Xinhua

Obama: Russia must press Ukraine rebels to allow plane probe

WASHINGTON, 22 July — US President Barack Obama piled pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday to force pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine to stop blocking an international investiga-
tion into the downing of a passenger jet last week.

In what has become a dramatic escalation in the worst East-West crisis since the Cold War, Obama denounced the Russian role in eastern Ukraine in some of his strongest language yet and pointedly appealed to Putin to cut ties with the separatists or risk, greater international isolation.

“Now’s the time for President Putin and Rus-

sia to pivot away from the strategy that they’ve been taking and get seri-

ous about trying to resolve hostilities within Ukraine,” Obama said in remarks on the White House South Lawn.

With investigators blocked from the crash site and most of the bod-

ies of the victims removed, Obama said Russia should compel the separatists to let the investigation go ahead.

US officials declined comment on whether Aus-

tralia, which lost 28 people in the Malaysian plane, should rescind Putin’s in-
vitation to a G20 summit scheduled there in Novem-
ber. Prime Minister Tony Abbott is under some pressure to bar him entry. A senior US official said this was a decision for the host coun-
try. Some Republicans criticized Obama for being too weak toward Russia.

Republican Senator Lind-

sey Graham tweeted: “The people who appreciated President Obama’s speech the most were the Russians. Talks loud. No stick.”

Nearly 300 people died when the Malaysian Airlines plane came down. US officials have said it was their assessment that it was shot down by the separ-

atists with a Russian-made SA-11 surface-to-air missile.

To bolster their case, US authorities are consid-

ering releasing an unclas-

sified intelligence assess-

ment to provide as much material as possible tying the shootdown to the sepa-

ratists with Russian-sup-

plied hardware.—Reuters

Japan urges Russia to stop assisting separatists in Ukraine

TOKYO, 22 July — Japan urged Russia on Tuesday to “immediately stop” assisting pro-Moscow separatists in Ukraine whose involvement is suspected in the downing of a commercial plane last week over the eastern part of Ukraine.

“Assistance from outside has caused deterioration of the situation. It should stop immediately,” Foreign Min-

ister Fumio Kishida said at a news conference, without naming Russia, which has close ties with separatists.

Kishida demanded that Russia use its influence over the separatists to cooperate in an international investiga-
tion into the crash of the Malaysian Airlines plane, which killed all 298 people aboard, and to hold dialogue with the Ukrainian government to end the conflict.

He said Japan “welcomes” a UN Security Council resolution adopted on Monday demanding a “full, thor-

ough and independent international investigation” into the incident.

The resolution called for pro-Russian armed groups to allow unrestricted access to the crash site.

“We would like to strictly request that (all UN mem-

bers) abide by the resolution,” he said.

Asked what kind of contact Japan will make to deal with the incident, the foreign minister said, “We would like to cooperate in a specific way as we promote communications with countries concerned.”

Speaking at a separate news conference, Chief Cab-

inet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said there is a high possi-

bility that the plane was shot down, and the international community should strictly condemn such an act.

“Those involved must bear a heavy responsibility,” Suga said. “The world must cooperate in ascertaining the cause of the incident and recovering the bodies.”

Kyodo News
Sri Lanka nabs large heroin haul from Pakistan

COLOMBO, 22 July — Sri Lanka seized a major heroin haul smuggled from Pakistan, the customs department said on Tuesday. The heroin was seized when 12 boxes imported from Pakistan were checked at a customs yard by officials. The Customs Department said that 100 kg of heroin had been detected inside the machines imported from Karachi in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka has been a transit point for heroin smuggled from Pakistan and parts of India which is then sent to other countries or to local dealers. In March this year the Customs Department had seized 36 kg of heroin at the customs yard after an attempt was made to smuggle it into the country.

The heroin had been hidden in two boxes and were brought to Sri Lanka from Pakistan. The boxes were labelled as hardware items but when the boxes were opened customs officers found heroin in hidden among bolt nails.

Last year a massive heroin haul was seized from a container truck from Pakistan at the same yard. The container was said to contain grease tins but when the tins were checked customs officers had found over 120 kg of heroin inside.—Xinhua

Japanese FM says willing to talk with S Korean counterpart

SEOUL, 22 July — A body found more than a month ago in a South Korean plum orchard has been identified by authorities as that of a businessman who headed the family that owned the operator of a ferry that capsized in April, killing more than 300 people. Police told reporters on Tuesday that DNA and fingerprint evidence from the body found on 12 June in the south of the country showed it to be that of Yoo Byung-un, the target of South Korea’s largest manhunt for more than two months.

Failure of authorities to apprehend Yoo had become a further political headache for President Park Geun-hye, whose government came under heavy criticism for its handling of the ferry disaster in which most of the victims were children.

The Sewol’s 15 surviving crew members, including the captain, are on trial on charges ranging from homicide to negligence. The disaster prompted an outpouring of grief and anger after some crew were caught on video abandoning ship while children, following instructions, stayed in their cabins.

Yoo, 73, who was also a photographer and co-founded a church, was accused of embezzlement, negligence and tax evasion. Authorities had offered a reward equivalent to nearly half a million dollars and had arrested several of Yoo’s family members.

Woo Hyoung-ho, police chief in Suncheon, told a televised news conference in the small southern city that a book written by Yoo was found at the site, along with an empty bottle of a shark liver oil product made by a Yoo family company.

He said that the police could have conducted forensic tests more quickly had they immediately identified the two items.

“We didn’t know at that time it was a book written by Yoo,” Woo said. “We admit we were not perfect.”

Another police official said the announcement had been delayed as forensic investigation on DNA takes 40 days. The time of death was unclear as the body had decayed by more than 80 percent. The body was transferred early on Tuesday from Suncheon to the National Forensic Service in Seoul.

“I was roaming around the field and a person was dead ... but the body was decayed,” Park Yoon-seok, a resident who found the body, told cable news network YTN.

Malaysia Airlines flies over Syrian airspace —Flightradar24

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 July — Malaysia Airlines re-routed a Kuala Lumpur-London flight over Syrian airspace on Sunday after its usual route over Ukraine was closed, flight tracking data showed on Monday.

Flightradar24 posted a flight map on its Twitter account on Monday showing the change in the flight’s route. Flight tracking data showed this flight had previously crossed over eastern Ukraine.

After Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down last Thursday by a ground-to-air missile in eastern Ukraine, airlines began to avoid the airspace above where the Ukrainian military has been fighting Russian-backed rebels.

On Friday and Saturday the Kuala Lumpur-London flight, MH4, had taken a different route over eastern Turkey, tracking data showed.

The change in route on Sunday highlighted the challenge that airlines face in finding congestion-free passageways on congested routes between Asia and Europe.

Hundreds of flights routinely crossed over Ukraine before Thursday’s incident, and it is not unusual for international airlines to overfly war zones such as Syria or Afghanistan.

The US Federal Aviation Administration, whose regulations are among the world’s strictest, “strongly discourages” US operators from flying to, from or over Syria, according to a May 2013 notice on its website.

Malaysia Airlines said the MH4’s flight plan was in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization’s (ICAO) approved routes.

“As per the notice to airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Syrian Civil Aviation Authority, the Syrian airspace was not subject to restrictions,” Malaysia Airlines said in a statement. “At all times, MH4 was in airspace approved by ICAO.”

Reuters
From Comfort Zone to Combat Zone

**Kyi Mun**

The Dictionary Meaning of Comfort

1. Comfort means the state of being physically relaxed and free from pain; the state of having a pleasant life with everything that you need.
2. A feeling of not suffering or worrying so much. Comfort Zone, here, means status quo, routine job, a passive state of being with no further progress.
3. The term Comfort Zone is characterized by the following four characteristics:
   - **Complacency**: a feeling of satisfaction or self-satisfaction with what you have achieved which makes you stop trying to improve or change things. *e.g.* There are grounds for complacency in today’s competitive environment.
   - **Apathy**: Lack of energy and a feeling that you do not want to do anything. A tendency for a situation to stay unchanged for a long time.
   - **Inertia**: Lack of knowledge or information about something. Here, Ignorance means not knowing the difference between:
     - Right & Wrong
     - Good & Bad/Evil
     - Cause & Effect
     - Means & End
     - Seed & Fruit
     - Light & Shade

These are the factors that keep you from succeeding. They are hindrances in your pursuit of progress and advancement. If you want to move forward, you have got to remove them from your daily life. They are, in fact, the factors of failure. The earlier their elimination from your life, the better for your elevation in life!

If you can eliminate the four factors of mediocrity or failure, you are ready to enter into the Combat Zone. The better you can abandon the hindrances of progress, the better will be your chances of living and moving and having your being in the Combat Zone of the courageous. **Combat Zone**

Now, let’s see what the Combat Zone means. The Combat Zone means a life of FAITH, FOCUS and FIGHT. There are four characteristics of Combat Zone. But, first of all, let’s examine what COMBAT means.

The Dictionary Meaning of Combat

Combat means fighting or a fight. It also means fighting something to stop something unpleasant or harmful from happening or from getting worse.

The 4 Characteristics of the Comfort Zone

- A Burning Desire
- An Indomitable Spirit
- An Unyielding Effort
- Insight Wisdom

**A Burning Desire**

The love of the Prince Minn Kusa for Pupa Wadi was no ordinary love. It was a very passionate love, a tremendous love, a great love born out of the very depth of his being. He was determined to sacrifice his life if he did not get Papa’s love in return. At last, his burning desire was crowned with success.

Another example of a burning desire was that of Henry Ford. One day he invited his senior managers and engineers. He requested that he would like to have the engine for his Ford Model T to be cast in one block of steel. Up to that time, the Ford engine was cast in two blocks of steel combined into one engine.

The engineers unanimously replied that it was impossible to achieve. But Mr. Ford insisted that he wanted it done in one block of steel. He gave the engineers six months’ time to transform his dream into reality, and dismissed them out of his sight.

At the end of six months, the engineers reported their inability to accomplish their mission. But Mr. Ford was not discouraged. He persisted in his determination to design the engine in one block of steel. He said: “I want it and it’ll get it, period. Now, go and do it. I’ll give you another six months’ time.”

Before the end of the 2nd six months’ period, the engineers were able to design the engine in one block of steel as desired by Mr. Ford. This example proved the power of a burning desire, born out of a resolute, made-up mind.

**An Indomitable Spirit**

Sarah was a she-sparrow, who in his estimation was a true heroine. She felt a burning desire, born out of a resolute, made-up mind. The sea complied with the Garuda’s command. So, the she-sparrow was reunited with her children. Isn’t it a tremendous manifestation of an indomitable mind?

**An Unyielding Effort**

It is said that every effort, every endeavour is born of courage. The more courage you have, the more diligence you practice. A courageous, committed painstaking effort has stamina and staying power. The acme of an unyielding effort was epitomized by the last stage practice of the Gotama Buddha who resolved not to rise from his sitting in deep meditation, declaring that:

> “Let me be all bones, Let me be all skin, Let me be all sinews, Let me die; but I’ll Not rise until I attain Buddhahood.”

This is, I think, one of the finest examples of an unyielding effort.

**Insight Wisdom**

Insight means seeing through. It also means the ability to see and understand the truth about people or situations. Wisdom means all-knowing or knowing the truth, only the truth, nothing but the truth. It also means the ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have. An excellent example of Insight Wisdom is: “We wish to see our son carrying the gold pots on his shoulders.”

Conclusion

So, in the Combat Zone, you have to always cultivate the four factors of success to their ultimate highest accomplishment. In the Combat Zone, you have got to be an active doer, an able achiever, and a willing servant leader of very high caliber.

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

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**GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (22-7-2014)**

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<td>Euro Buying K1308 - Selling K1321</td>
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Agricultural loans disbursed for cultivation of monsoon paddy

DABAYIN, 22 July—Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank disburses agricultural loans to local farmers as of 6 June 2014.

The bank gives K100,000 per acre to farmers in Dabayin Township of Sagaing Region.

The bank plans to disburse K9 billion for farmers from two wards and 56 village-tracts of the township.

Up to 21 July, the bank has delivered K3.68 billion to farmers from 23 village-tracts. The remaining farmers will get the loans in August before cultivation of the monsoon paddy.

KK (Dabayin)

Villagers to get health care services at full capacity

KYUNHLA, 22 July—Aimed at providing health care services to rural people, rural health centres and branches were upgraded in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Rural health branches were upgraded to the rural health centres in Magyigon and Yayyein villages, Konsi, Mawka, Nanhat, Hekin, Aungpin, Taputaw, Pyinpin, Mynthau and Kyaukpadaung villages were facilitated with rural health centres.

These villages are located in the west of Thaphanseik Dam. Local people faced poor transport in the rainy season. Thanks to the rural health centres and branches, the people will enjoy health care services of health staff all the year round.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)

People urged to join hands with police to eradicate narcotic drugs

KYAUKPADAUNG, 22 July — The entire people should cooperate with the Myanmar Police Force in control of trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and stimulant tablets among the youths, said Commander of Kyaukpadaung Township Police Force Police Major Thein Win at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Kyaukpadaung of Mandalay on Monday.

No 18 Anti-Drug Squad (Mandalay) and township police force officers gave educative talks on danger of narcotic drugs to ward/village administrators, bus terminal officials, responsible persons of lodges and representatives of social organizations, totalling 120 at the Township GAD Office, 80 students of private schools at the Dhammayin in Thiri Mingala Ward, local people at South Myoma Ward, Station Ward and Lutitay Ward.

Ko Nay (Kyaupadaung)

Buildings near Mandalay moats to be limited under 46 feet high

Mandalay, 22 July—The Mandalay Region Government held a meeting on limitation of height of buildings along the moats in Mandalay at its office in Mandalay recently.

The meeting decided to construct the building with the height of 46 feet in maximum along the moats. The structures behind these buildings can be constructed higher and higher systematically. The limitation was based on observations and reviews of the experts at the meeting.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

MRCCI meets Thai entrepreneurs for producing, trading of commodities

Mandalay, 22 July—Members of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other entrepreneurs held a meeting with entrepreneurs from 20 companies from Bangkok and Chiang Mai of Thailand at the hall of Sedona Hotel in Chanayet-hazar Township of Mandalay on Monday.

They discussed mutual cooperation in businesses. "Vice Chairman of the Chamber U Soe Myint and Economic Counsellor Mr Boon Intiratana of Thai Embassy introduced the entrepreneurs one another.

They focused on production and trading of automobile, tyres of motorcycles, spare parts, tractors and parts, industrial-used rubber products, hydraulic cylinder, pumps, construction tiles, fire extinguishers, key and security measures, bicycles and parts and foodstuffs.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Stimulant tables worth about K500 million seized in Mandalay

Mandalay, 22 July—Member of No 17 Anti-Drug Squad and police of No 7 station together with witnesses raided a stationary vehicle on 28th street between 76th and 77th streets in Hemazala Ward of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 17 July afternoon.

They seized 99,000 stimulant tablets weighing 9.9 kilos worth K495 million.

No 7 police station of Mandalay filed a lawsuit against head of Shwetaung-mann bus terminal Kyi Pya (escaped), driver Hsan Ko Aung and other persons totalling six under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Youth reproductive health knowledge shared to villagers

Daw Nant Thida Cho Sin and party of Mandalay Region made field trips to the villages.

They gave talks on control of HIV/AIDS infection and youth reproductive health on 19 and 20 July.

During their trips, they explained seven future tasks adopted by Annual General Meeting of the association this year.

Ko Nay (Kyaupadaung)

Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women’s Affairs Organization
Fight against domestic violence stalls in patriarchal Turkey

ISTANBUL, 22 July — Beaten, burned and threatened by her husband, Hayat has repeatedly turned to the Turkish authorities for help. But she still lives with the man who tells her she belongs either to him, or in his graveyard.

She says she has reason to be afraid. Last year, 13 women in Turkey were murdered by their partners whilst their names were not on state protection, according to official figures. Whenever Hayat reported abuse, either her husband was released by police after a few hours, or she was offered shelter which would have meant her children being taken away. “Go speak to a hundred women, you’ll hear pretty much the same story. It’s like a pre-destined misery that we’re born to live through,” Hayat, the only name she gives so as to protect her identity, told Reuters.

Turkey, which aspires to join the European Union, has drafted new legislation to try to bring women’s rights in line with European standards. A law sent to parliament just last month will toughen sentencing for sexual assault. Officials say the number of shelters has doubled in the past three years and victim support centers have been set up, allowing women like Hayat to receive protection and remain with their children.

But activists and lawyers say there are still not enough, and that an increasingly conservative and authoritarian political culture under Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan’s government, means progress is, to a large extent, halting.

Turkey ranked 120th of 136 nations in the World Economic Forum’s 2013 Gender Gap Index, down 15 places since 2006, while a 2011 UN report indicated domestic violence rates were almost twice those in the United States, and ten times higher than in some European countries.

“There is a real concrete, open threat to our rights. They want to take them from us, and we don’t want to give them back,” said Zelal Ayman, an activist with Istanbul-based Women for Women’s Rights (WWHR).

She points to Erdogan’s strident views on everything from abortion to the number of children women should have, the sort of meddling in private life that may bolster his standing among his pious core supporters but which alienates a more Western-leaning, secularist strain of Turkish society.

In a 2010 speech, he said he did “not believe in the equality of men and women”. Two years later, he likened abortions to the killing of civilians in a military airstrike; activists say abortions all but stopped, since many health workers became too frightened to carry them out.

Erdogan, who has loyal support among religious conservatives in the mostly Sunni Muslim Though constitutionally secular nation, is expected to win a presidential race next month which could hand him even greater powers.

Dozens of Turkish police detained over wiretapping

ISTANBUL, 22 July — Dozens of high-ranking police officers were detained in Turkey on Tuesday accused of involvement in spying and illegal wire-tapping during a probe into corruption in Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan’s inner circle, broadcaster CNN Turk said. At least 76 officers were detained in 22 provinces around the country on suspicion of forming a criminal organization and illegally bouncing phones, the news channel said.

Other local media said most of those detained had held key positions during last year’s corruption investigation, which led to the departure of four cabinet ministers and the detention of prominent businesses close to Erdogan. Other local media said most of those detained had held key positions during last year’s corruption investigation, which led to the departure of four cabinet ministers and the detention of prominent businesses close to Erdogan. Police in Istanbul declined to comment.

Seven killed in clashes between army and militants in Libya’s Benghaz

BENGHAZI, Libya), 22 July — Islamist militants attacked a military base in the eastern Libyan city of Benghaz on Monday, triggering fierce clashes involving helicopters and jets that killed at least seven people and wounded 40 others after days of escalating violence.

Benghazi’s clashes followed a week of fighting between rival militias for control of Tripoli International Airport in the capital that has prompted the North African country to appeal for international help to stop Libya becoming a failed state.

Tripoli was calmer on Monday, but in Benghaz, militants linked to Islamist group Ansar al-Sharia attacked an army camp and were repelled by troops and forces loyal to renegade retired general Khalifa Haftar, who has been carrying out a self-declared war on Islamist fighters, security sources said.

“They came to take over one special forces camp, but the special forces and Haftar’s forces fought back, using helicopters and military aircraft in their attack,” one source said, adding if they were identified for security reasons.

Since the 2011 civil war that toppled autocrat Muammar Gaddafi, Libya’s fragile government and new army have been unable to assert authority over rival brigades of former rebels fighting for political and economic influence.

Ansar al-Sharia is listed by Washington as a foreign terrorist organization, and has entrenched itself in Benghaz, where it has often been blamed for assassinations and attacks on soldiers.

Nigeria Boko Haram attack causes over 15,000 to flee

MADUGURI, Nigeria — More than 15,000 people have fled an area around the northeastern Nigerian town of Damboa after a spate of lethal assaults by Islamist Boko Haram fighters during the weekend, the emergency services said on Monday.

Suspected Islamists raided Damboa on Friday and Saturday, shooting dead more than 40 residents and burning houses, part of a pattern of killing that has forced tens of thousands to flee this year.

They also attacked six nearby villages.

Boko Haram, which is fighting for an Islamic state in Nigeria, has ceaselessly targeted civilians this year in rural parts of Borno state, where its fighters fled after a military offensive dislodged them from the cities.

Abdulkahir Ibrahim, a spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Borno, said the agency had recorded 15,204 people who had fled Damboa and the six villages — Kimba, Madaragra, Mandafuma, Chikwar Kir, Bomburatai and Sabon Kwata.

Addressing press in the capital Abuja on Monday, Defence spokesman Major-General Chris Olukolade appealed to donors to lend Boko Haram fighters who had taken over Damboa and the surrounding areas, when asked about reports that the military had fled and the insurgents had hoisted their black flags in the town.

“We are not conceding any portion of this country to any terrorist group,” he said. “Our patrols are active and they are stepped up their activities to reverse any insecurity there.”

Whether or not Boko Haram controls significant territory, its ability to strike with impunity is destabilising Africa’s biggest economy and making it an unattractive investment destination. Around 200 school girls kidnapped by the rebels in April remain in captivity, despite a vocal campaign calling on President Goodluck Jonathan’s forces to rescue them.

A military operation in the northeast last year initially succeeded in breaking up a de facto area in the northeast that had been controlled by Boko Haram.

But the rebels melted away into the hilly border area near Cameroon.

From there they have launched deadly reprisal attacks that are increasingly targeting civilians, after they formed vigilante groups to help the government kick out the militants.

Several bombs across the country since April, including three in Abuja and one in the commercial capital Lagos, in the southwest, have shown they can now bring their insurgency to any part of Africa’s top oil producer.

The picture taken on 21 July 2014 shows the wreckage of a plane at Tripoli International Airport, Libya. The airport has been under constant attack by Islamist fighters since 13 July with the death toll reaching 47. — XINHUA
China to launch HD observation satellite this year

BEIJING, 22 July — China will launch Gaofen-2, a high-definition Earth observation satellite, to space this year, according to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND).

As one of China’s major science and technology projects, the Gaofen satellite series will help in geographic and resources surveys, environment and climate change monitoring, precision agriculture, disaster relief and city planning.

Launched in April last year and still in service, Gaofen-1 provided data on the Lushan earthquake in Sichuan; floods in north-east China; and smog in north and east China during the test period. It also provided Pakistan with image data after an earthquake which happened on 24 September.

Gaofen-1 was the first of five or six satellites to be launched for high-definition Earth observation before 2016. It is also the first low-orbit remote-sensing satellite designed to be in use for longer than five years.

Equipped with better technology, Gaofen-2 will be able to see a one-meter-long object in full colour.

US CDC says it ‘may never know’ how bird flu mishap occurred

US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Thomas Frieden testifies before the hearing on “Review of CDC anthrax lab incident” on Capitol Hill in Washington on 16 July, 2014. — Reuters

WASHINGTON DC, 22 July — The CDC disclosed on Thursday that it “may never know” how a deadly strain of bird flu was cross-contaminated with a fairly harmless form of bird flu, an unexpected mishap at the US CDC’s substandard laboratory that occurred last month.

That’s because most of the materials used in the experiment to culture the virus were discarded shortly after they were used by the scientists performing the work, which occurred in March, CDC spokesman Tom Skinner told Reuters.

The CDC disclosed the bird flu incident as part of an internal investigation into the agency’s mishandling of live anthrax in June, potentially exposing dozens of its own lab workers to the pathogen.

While no humans fell ill as a result of the bird flu breach, CDC Director Dr Thomas Frieden has called it “the most distressing” in a series of safety breaches at the agency because of the public risk posed by the virus.

Researchers at a high-security CDC influenza lab learned of their mistake in May. The contaminated bird flu samples had been sent to poultry researchers at the US Department of Agriculture, who noticed their chickens all died.

It took another six weeks before the incident was reported to top brass at the CDC in early July, triggering an outside inspection of CDC labs that concluded on Friday.

Federal investigators are trying to piece together how it was that the laboratory never reported the incident up the chain of command.

Skinner said a key regulatory violation occurred when the CDC failed to properly document what it sent to the high-security biocompartment lab at the USDA.

“We thought we were sending H9N2, a far less dangerous form of bird flu,” Skinner said. “We didn’t know it was cross-contaminated.”

Skinner said cross-contamination often can occur if improperly disinfected instruments come in contact with a growth medium, the material used to grow up the organisms, or if in infected growth medium is inadvertently used.

“The mediums and all of the materials that were used to grow this particular virus — all of that material likely has been discarded. We may never know exactly how cross contamination occurred,” he said.

Skinner said outside investigations from the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) concluded its investigation into the bird flu mishap on Friday.

Frieden has pledged to make sweeping changes to improve safety measures at CDC labs handling dangerous bacteria and viruses. It has shut down the two labs involved in the anthrax and bird flu incidents and has suspended the transfer of samples from high-security labs until their safety procedures are reviewed.

The agency is also assembling a group of outside experts to advise on biosafety.

That panel could be announced later this week, Skinner said.

Yahoo to buy analytics startup

San Francisco, 22 July — Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) will buy mobile analytics startup Flurry to beef up a fast-growing mobile advertising business that still lags Google Inc’s (GOOGL.O) and Facebook Inc’s (FB.O) in scale.

Six-year-old Flurry uses analytics to help target ads at consumers by monitoring activity on more than half a million apps on some 1.4 billion mobile devices around the world, Yahoo said in a statement on Monday.

The startup provides information to help marketers and brands more easily reach their desired audiences, Yahoo said.

Yahoo did not cite a price tag, but a source familiar with the matter said the Internet company is paying several hundred million dollars. Tech blog re/code earlier reported that rough amount.

Flurry will operate much as before after the acquisition closes, and its team will remain in their current locations, Yahoo added.

Yahoo is trying to re-vitalize a stagnant online advertising business as Chief Executive Marissa Mayer marks her second anniversary at the Internet company. — Reuters

Apple asks suppliers to produce up to 80 million large-screen iPhones

Bangalore, 22 July — Apple Inc has asked suppliers to manufacture between 70 million and 80 million of its two forthcoming large-screen iPhones by the end of the year, its largest initial production run of iPhones, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Its forecast for the iPhones with 4.7-inch (11.9-cm) and 5.5-inch (14-cm) displays is much larger than the initial order last year of between 50 million and 60 million for iPhone 5S and 5C models, the people told the Journal.

Foxconn and Pegatron Corp plan to start mass producing the 4.7-inch iPhone model next month, and Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, whose parent is Foxconn, will begin making the 5.5-inch version exclusively in September, the people said.

Both iPhone 6 screens will be larger than the 4.0-inch (10.2-cm) panels on Apple’s existing iPhone 5S and 5C models.

The new phone models are also expected to feature metal cases similar to the iPhone 5S and likely come in multiple colours, the people said.

Both iPhone 6 screens are expected to use in-cell touch panel technology, built into the screen and allowing for thinner construction than with standard touch panel films, that was introduced with the iPhone 5, sources told Reuters in March. — Reuters
Ten killed in air strike north of Baghdad

Baghdad, 22 July — Ten people were killed, including a mother and three children, in a government air strike on a militant-controlled town north of Baghdad on Monday, hospital sources and witnesses said. The attack targeted the town of Hawija, 230 km (140 miles) from the capital, which is controlled by Sunni Muslim insurgents from the Islamic State and other groups opposed to Iraq’s Shi’ite-led government.

A tribal leader and former army officer said the dead were all civilians, and also included an elderly couple. He blamed the deaths on the militants for locating a base in the centre of the town.

Hawija has also seen infighting between the insurgents, with jihadist Islamic State fighters clashing in June with the Naqshbandi militants, made up of former army officers as well as loyalists of Saddam Hussein’s former ruling Baath party.

The army, backed by Shi’ite Muslim militiamen and volunteer fighters, has been trying to push back the Sunni insurgents since they took over the northern city of Mosul on 10 June and swept south towards the capital.

The army’s attempt to regain the city of Tikrit stalled last week in the face of insurgent defense and it has yet to recapture significant territory.

Further north, the Islamic State has been consolidating its control, driving Christians out of the city of Mosul with a weekend ultimatum to either convert to Islam, pay a religious levy to the hardline Islamists, or face death by the sword.

On Monday, Islamic State fighters took over Saint Behnam monastery 30 km (20 miles) southeast of Mosul, ordering a monk and his assistant to leave, a church official and a Christian resident in the area said. Also on Monday, gunmen from the Shi’ite militia Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq seized 22 men from a village in Diyala Province near the town of Baquba where they believed Sunni insurgents were operating, a colonel in the Baquba police force said.

Three foreign advisers killed in near Kabul airport

Kabul, 22 July — A Taleban suicide bomber detonated himself on Tuesday outside Kabul International Airport, killing three foreign advisers and an Afghan interpreter, police said.

The nationalities of the foreign advisers were not immediately clear.

The explosion comes days after one of the most audacious militant attacks in a year on the airport, which is used by both civilians and the military.

A Taleban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for Tuesday’s attack. “In this successful attack up to 15 invaders soldiers were killed or wounded and many vehicles were damaged,” he added.

Kabul airport is home to a major operational base for NATO-led forces that have been fighting the Taleban for 12 years. Security includes soldiers and police, guard towers and checkpoints.

Militants often fire rockets into the airport, causing little damage, but frontal attacks on the heavily guarded facility are rare and represent an ambitious target for insurgents.

Israel keeps up Gaza assaults, Kerry presses for truce

Gaza/Jerusalem, 22 July — Israel kept up its assaults in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, killing three Palestinians in as many air strikes, as US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in the region with a mission to seek a ceasefire in the 14-day-old conflict “as soon as possible.”

The deaths in Khan Younis, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahia raised the Palestinian toll to 539 killed, including nearly 100 children and many other civilians, since the offensive was launched on 8 July, Gaza health officials said.

Israel’s death toll also rose to 29, with two soldiers killed in the past day of fighting, the Israeli military said. The total includes two civilian killed by rocket fire.

Violence also spread to the occupied West Bank, where medics said soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man while dispersing protesters throwing stones at a military jeep.

Israel said a Palestinian Shot at a car and seriously wounded an Israeli in the Nablus area on Tuesday.

Kerry arrived in Cairo on Monday and, during talks with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said the United States would provide $47 million in humanitarian aid for Gaza.

Washington is “deeply concerned about the consequences of Israel’s appropriate and legitimate effort to defend itself,” Kerry said. “No country can stand by when rockets are attacking it.”

“But always, in any kind of conflict, there is a concern about civilians — about children, women, communities that are caught in it,” Kerry said.

A senior State Department official said on Kerry’s flight to Cairo that Washington’s goal was to “achieve a cessation of hostilities as soon as possible,” but that the process would be difficult with the sides far apart on terms for a truce.

Kerry plans to stay in Cairo until Wednesday morning and has no current schedule end to his regional trip, which may include talks with officials from Qatar, a Gulf state which has relatively close ties to the Islamist Palestinian group Hamas and hosts its leader, Khaled Mashaal.

An Israeli official said Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza said the sides may agree to a five-hour humanitarian truce on Tuesday to allow civilians to stock up on vital supplies.

Ban was scheduled to fly to Israel on Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and also to meet Palestinian officials in the West Bank.

An Israeli official reportedly presented a ceasefire plan last week. Israel accepted, but Hamas rejected it, saying the group had not been consulted.

Kerry, in Washington, who declined to be named, said he wanted Kerry to get Egypt to apply pressure on Hamas.

Russia’s Putin, Dutch PM discuss probe into plane crash — Kremlin

Moscow, 22 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke to Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the phone in the early hours of Tuesday to discuss an international investigation into the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine, the Kremlin said.

It was the second time in three days that Putin has spoken to Rutte about the crash, in which 298 people died, of whom 193 were Dutch citizens.

The Kremlin said the “direct and full access of experts to the tragedy site” for further investigation by the United Nation’s International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was discussed.

“In this light, the need for immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the conflict zone was stressed again,” the Kremlin added.

Later on Tuesday, Russian ambassador to Malaysia Lyudmila Vorobyeva called for the investigation into the downing of MH17 to be led by the “international community” and not Ukraine.

Topical stories
South Korea trains collide, killing one and injuring dozens

SEOUL, 22 July — Two passenger trains collided in South Korea on Tuesday, killing one person and injuring dozens, a hospital official and police said, in the latest in a string of accidents that has rattled the country.

A commuter train and a tourist train collided in Taebaek, a resort area about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of Seoul. A police official said more than 70 people had been injured, but declined to confirm any deaths.

In April, a ferry capsized on its way to the resort island of Jeju, killing more than 300 people, most of them children, a disaster that provoked grief and outrage.

That was followed by a fire at a shopping mall that killed eight and a fire at a hospital for the elderly that killed 21. Nearly 200 people were injured in two subway accidents in Seoul this year.

South Korea, Asia’s fourth-largest economy, has developed into a vibrant and technically advanced democracy, but faces criticism that regulatory controls and safety standards have not kept pace.

Japanese foreign minister postpones visit to US

TOKYO, 22 July — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has postponed a planned trip to the United States from Wednesday for talks with Secretary of State John Kerry, Japanese government sources said on Tuesday.

Kerry is in the Middle East trying to secure a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and will be in Cairo until Wednesday morning and his return date is unknown, Reuters news agency reported on Monday in a dispatch from the Egyptian capital.

Asked about the trip to Washington, Kishida said at a news conference, “I don’t have an immediate plan to visit the United States. That’s all.” Kishida hopes to hold talks with Kerry at an early date to discuss the Ukraine crisis, including the Downing of a plane over eastern Ukraine last week, and North Korea, among other issues, the sources said.

Ukrainian spokesman says suicide bomber attacked checkpoint

KIEV, 22 July — A spokesman for Ukraine’s military operation in the country’s east said on Tuesday a suicide bomber driving a minibus packed with explosives had attacked a Ukrainian checkpoint during the night.

A spokesman for the anti-terrorist operation against separatists who have rebelled in eastern Ukraine told 112 television channel: “A checkpoint was attacked by a suicide bomber in a van packed with explosives.” He gave no further details.

Vancouver’s SkyTrain shutdown strands thousands

VANCOUVER, 22 July — Vancouver’s light-rail system the SkyTrain was out of operation for five hours on Monday noon, leaving thousands of passengers stranded in the train cars. The spokesperson for the region’s transport authority, Translink, said the five-hour shutdown was due to a “technology issue,” without giving further details.

Jiana Ling described the incident as “unfortunate” in a statement, but added: “We’re still at 95 percent reliability on the system, which is quite high.”

There was no immediate official estimate of the number of passengers affected Monday, but it is thought to have been in the thousands as commuters were escorted off trains and out of stations.

Four days prior to the incident, SkyTrain lines ground to a halt at the height of rush hour, stranding passengers for three hours. SkyTrain President Fred Cunnings said the accident was the result of a “computer problem.” SkyTrain was built in 1985 and is the main public transportation in Vancouver, carrying passengers across the city and to nearby towns.

- Xinhu
‘Iron Man’
Robert Downey Jr highest-earning actor

New York, 22 July — Robert Downey Jr, the star of Disney’s Marvel superhero film franchises “Iron Man,” and “The Avengers,” is Hollywood’s highest paid actor for the second consecutive year, with estimated earnings of $75 million, according to Forbes.com.

The 49-year-old star made most of his money from June 2013 to June 2014 from “Iron Man 3,” which made $1.2 billion at the box office and assured him the top spot again in the annual ranking.

“As Iron Man, he’s the driving force behind four of Marvel’s biggest hits, including ‘The Avengers,’” Forbes.com said.

Former wrestler Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, 42, who starred in “G I Joe: Retaliation,” and the “Fast and Furious,” films, jumped into second place this year from fifth in 2013 with earnings of $52 million, followed by “Hangover” star Bradley Cooper, 39, with $46 million.

“His work in the lucrative ‘Hangover,’ franchise has given him the ability to take risks with smaller films like ‘Silver Linings Playbook,’ and ‘American Hustle,’” Forbes said about Cooper.

‘Fargo’ TV miniseries gets second season on FX with new cast

Beverly Hills, (California), 22 July — “Fargo,” the Emmy-nominated television mini-series inspired by the Coen brothers’ cult film, has been renewed for a second season that will feature a new storyline and characters, cable network FX said on Monday.

The inaugural 10-episode series filmed in Canada received 18 Emmy nominations and is front-runner for the best TV miniseries award. It also earned acting nods for Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Allison Tolman and Colin Hanks.

“It is a new cast of actors, which is kind of heartbreaking from my standpoint given how much I loved the actors,” FX Networks chief executive John Landgraf told the summer meeting of the Television Critics Association. “Fargo” earned more Emmy nominations than any single show in the history of the basic cable network, owned by Twenty-First Century Fox Inc, and this year was the second-ranked show in the number of total nominations for the 25 August Emmys, behind HBO’s medieval fantasy “Game of Thrones.”—Reuters

US rapper Nas has London crowd spellbound with “Illmatic”

The New York-born hip hop star took to the main stage as the sun began setting on Saturday in East London’s Victoria Park, giving the performance as one of a series to celebrate the anniversary of his debut record, widely considered one of the greatest rap albums of all time.

“I never sleep, ’cause sleep is the cousin of death... I think of crime when I’m in a New York state of mind,” Nas rapped to the crowded through an unusually hot and humid London air.—Reuters

Beyonce debuts teaser trailer of ‘Fifty Shades of Grey’

Los Angeles, 22 July — Pop star Beyonce has hinted about her involvement with ‘Fifty Shades of Grey’ by posting a teaser of the erotic movie ahead of its official trailer launch.

Beyonce took to her Instagram to post the short teaser which featured a lot of heavy breathing. It is not clear whether Beyonce has contributed to the soundtrack or merely posted the short video as a fan. Her ‘Haunted’ was heard during the film’s launch at CinemaCon in March.

And the new clip below has a remix of Beyonce’s ‘Crazy In Love’ but there are no shots of film’s leads Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson, reported Deadline.

The film is an adaptation of E.L. James novel of the same name. The movie adaptation has been directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson and is slated to land in theatres on 11 February.—Reuters

Los Angeles, 22 July — Scarlett Johansson and her fiancé Romain Dauriac reportedly will tie the knot in a few weeks. The star of ‘Avengers: Age of Ultron’ was overheard talking about her wedding plan at a dinner held by Martha Stewart at her East Hampton estate on 19 July, reported Ace Showbiz.

In addition to Johansson and her journalist beau, the dinner was attended by Matt Lauer, Nathan Lane, Barbara Walters, Susan Lucci, Christopher Meloni, Dan Abrams, Andrew Saffir and Daniel Benedict, Thom Filicia, Gucci Westman and David Neville, Dylan Lauren and Rachel Zoe among others.

Johansson, 29, and Dauriac got engaged last September. The couple is now expecting their first child together.

The actress is also gearing up for the premiere of her new movie “Lucy”. Written and directed by Luc Besson, the science fiction flick tells the story of Johansson’s titular character who has superhuman abilities.

PTI
New York, 22 July—
An iconic piano featured in Rick’s Cafe Americain in the 1942 Hollywood classic “Casablanca” is expected to be the highlight of a sale of film memorabilia in New York in November, Bonhams auction house said on Monday.

The upright piano is one of two from the film in which actor and singer Dooley Wilson sang “As Time Goes By,” the signature song for lovers played by Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

The instrument from the Casablanca cafe owned by Bogart’s character Rick is expected to sell for seven figures when it goes under the hammer as part of the sale by Bonhams and Turner Classic Movies (TCM) on 24 November in New York. The piano that was shown in flashback scenes in Paris in the film fetched $602,500 when it was sold at auction in 2012.

“We have some great pieces from Casablanca,” said Catherine Williamson, the director of entertainment memorabilia at Bonhams. All of the 30 “Casablanca” items in the sale are from a private collector. In addition to the piano, the auction will include interior and exterior doors from the Casablanca nightclub where Bogart and Bergman meet again and rekindle their romance.

Signed photographs by the film’s cast members, the final draft of the original screenplay and passports and papers created for the movie will also be sold.

The auction will also include a gown worn by actress Rita Hayworth in 1946’s “Gilda” and Barbra Streisand costumes from the films “On a Clear Day You Can See Forever,” “The Way We Were” and “Yentl.”

—Reuters

After 13-year struggle, US faces counter-terror fatigue — panel

WASHINGTON, 22 July —
After 13 years of struggle, Americans are showing a growing public fatigue and waning sense of urgency over terrorism, an attitude that threatens US security, members of the panel that investigated the 11 September attacks said in a report on Tuesday.

A decade after issuing the official account of the 11 Sept attack, on New York and Washington, the former members of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission issued a new report warning that, while the world has changed dramatically, the threat from terrorism remains and has “entered a new and dangerous phase.”

“Many Americans think that the terrorist threat is waning — that, as a country, we can begin turning back to other concerns. They are wrong,” the report said. “The threat remains grave and the trend lines in many parts of the world are pointing in the wrong direction.”

“Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups are gaining strength throughout the greater Middle East,” it added. “While the various al-Qaeda spinoffs are primarily focused on regional conflicts, they hate the United States and will not forgo opportunities to strike at the US homeland.”

The panel, headed by former Republican New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean and former Democratic Representative Lee Hamilton, said foreign fighters returning to Europe from Syria and Iraq pose a “grave threat” to the United States and Western Europe.

Of the 10,000 foreign fighters that have travelled to Syria, more than 1,000 hold European passports, which in most cases would enable them to enter the United States without a visa, the panel said. More than 100 US citizens also fought in Syria.

“When these battle-hardened, radicalized fighters return to their home countries, they will pose a serious terrorist threat to both the United States and Europe,” it said.

The group also noted that “The 9/11 Commission Report” issued a decade ago called for reducing the fragmented oversight that resulted in the Department of Homeland Security reporting to 88 committees and subcommittees of Congress.

“Incredibly, it has increased to 92,” the report said, noting that “Congress has proved resistant to needed reforms.”

The report said US counterterrorism capabilities have improved significantly since the 11 September attacks and people in government are tracking the evolving threat, “thinking one step ahead in order to prevent the next attack.”

“Our serious concern now is that public fatigue and waning urgency will undermine these accomplishments. We cannot afford that,” the report said.

—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-7-14 07:00 am—24-7-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Charity in Myanmar: Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-2)
* World News
* Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
* Local News
* Simple and Peaceful Life: …… Changes
* World News
* Inlay Lake: The Challenges
* Local News
* Chinlone and the Dreams of the Player
* World News
* Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-3)
* World News
* In The Studio: Zip Zap & Air Air
* Local News
* Those Who Never Give Up: Shwe Min Thar Foundation
* World News
* Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Noni)
* Local News
* Simple and Peaceful Life: Dhamma School
* World News
* The Eel Business: Fisherman the eel culture
* Local News
* Architecture: A Visit to Hlaung Htan Cave A Miraculous Place
* World News
* Myanmar Street Food
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-2)
* World News
* Myanmar Puppet

Bon Odori, a traditional summer folk dance festival in Japan, is held at the observatory on the 58th floor of Japan’s tallest building Abeno Harukas in Osaka, western Japan, on 17 July, 2014. —KYODO NEWS
Atlanta opener

Querrey edges doubles partner Johnson in Atlanta opener

ATLANTA, 22 July — Sam Querrey put aside his partnership with doubles team mate Steve Johnson to start his Atlanta Open with a 7-6, 7-5 win on Monday.

The two Americans will play doubles at the tournament and drew each other in singles for the first time in their careers.

The big-serving Querrey struck 20 aces but Johnson hung tough against his older, more accomplished opponent, pushing the opening set to a tiebreak before losing it 7-3.

Querrey broke Johnson in the second set to cruise to victory, the first step in a long run-up to the year’s final grand slam at Flushing Meadows starting 25 August.

The opening day was a light one but Israeli Dudi Sela avenged a loss to Donald Young in his previous Atlanta Open four years ago, thrashing the American 6-3, 6-0.

Atlanta native Young struggled with serve and was broken five times to disappoint home fans.

Juventus sign Frenchman Evra from Man United

Rome, 22 July — French left back Patrice Evra is leaving Manchester United after eight-and-a-half seasons to join Serie A champions Juventus, the Italian club said on Monday.

Juventus confirmed that they had agreed a 1.2 million-pound ($2.05 million) fee for the 33-year-old, who signed a two-year contract. Juventus will pay a further 300,000 pounds to United if they qualify for the 2015-16 Champions League.

The move means the chance of Champions League football this season for Evra, who would have missed out on Europe’s top club competition had he stayed at Old Trafford after their seventh-place finish in the Premier League.

“After a great deal of thought I have decided the time is right for me to leave Manchester United,” Evra told United’s website (manutd.com).

“It is the biggest decision of my career as this club is, and will always remain, in my heart.

“This club is steeped in history and I feel privileged to have become a part of that … An immense thank you to Sir Alex Ferguson for making it all possible, for giving me the privilege to be a captain, to be inspired by the legend of Manchester United and to understand that nobody is bigger than the club.”

Born in Senegal and raised in France, Evra began his professional career in Italy when he signed for Serie C side Massara as a 17-year-old in 1998. He moved to Monza in Serie B the following season, returned to France to play for Nice and then Monaco before joining Manchester United in January 2006.

He went on to win five English Premier league titles at Old Trafford, plus the Champions League and Club World Cup in 2008.

Italian clubs are making a habit of signing ageing players from the English Premier League. AC Milan signed Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien, 31, during the January close season and Evra’s former United team mate Nemanja Vidic, 32, has also moved to Serie A, joining Inter Milan.

Evra’s move has come at an uncertain time for Juventus following last week’s shock resignation of coach Antonio Conte, who won three successive Serie A titles in as many seasons in charge.

Sporting director Giuseppe Marotta said Conte’s departure had nothing to do with clashes over transfer policy, after reports that Juventus were willing to sell top midfielders Paul Pogba of France and Chelane Arturo Vidal.

The hugely popular and volatile Conte was immediately replaced by former AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri, whose deadpan personality could not be a greater contrast to his predecessor.

Allegri won the Serie A title with Milan in 2011 but was sacked midway through last season after a dreadful start that left them languishing in mid-table.

Last week, Juventus confirmed they had signed Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata for 20 million euros ($27.06 million) while Fabio Quagliarella was sold to neighbours Torino.

Evra’s departure from Old Trafford following those of Vidic and Rio Ferdinand leaves new United manager Louis van Gaal short of experience in defence.

They signed 19-year-old England left back Luke Shaw from Southampton for 30 million pounds but Van Gaal will be looking to add at least one established central defender to his squad before the new season. —Reuters

Colombia celebrates James Rodriguez goal voted World Cup’s best

BOGOTA, 22 July — Colombians Monday celebrated the selection of a goal by national footballer James Rodriguez as the best of the 2014 Brazil World Cup.

World football body FIFA announced on Monday on its website that the player’s goal against Uruguay was “voted as the Goal of the Tournament by over four million FIFA.com users.”

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos was the first to congratulate Rodriguez and the rest of the team.

“Our national team gives us one more reason to be happy. The first goal at (Rio de Janeiro’s) Maracana (Stadium) by James Rodriguez is the best of the 2014 World Cup. Congratulations!,” Santos posted on Twitter.

Rodriguez had earlier won FIFA’s Golden Boot for scoring the most goals of the tournament (6).

The second-best goal of the cup was scored by Holland’s Robin van Persie, a header at Spanish goalkeeper Iker Casille in a match that the Dutch won 5-1.